

## Columbus Bonsai Society Newsletter - September 2006

Okay, so we didn't have elections at the August meeting. Since we are having a road trip for September we will have the election at the October meeting. That being said, have you renewed your membership yet? Many of you have not. Please renew your membership now or at the meeting prior to the elections. Memberships officially expire in September and you have to be a member to vote.

Slate of officers: President: Mark Passerello  
VP 1 Ben William  
VP2 Ken Schultz  
Trustee(3 year) Chris "Pootsie" Conomy  
Trustee (2 Year) Wendy Fissel  
Trustee (1 year) Denny Sackett  
Secretary Ross Lebold  
Treasurer Dick Guerevitz  
Librarian Merrida Weinstein  
Editor Zack Clayton  
Past President Dan Binder (Ex Officio)  
President Emeritus Jose Cueto (Ex Officio)

A big thanks to Erma Pierce who agreed to take on the Refreshments Coordinator position. This is a volunteer position and is important to the club social life. Please get to know her and offer to bring in snacks. The goodies are always welcome.

After our presentation by Boon Manakitivipart earlier this year I got derious about fertilizer. I realize now that I have probably never had enough on my trees for good health. I got growth on almost everything far above any expectation I had based on prior experience. And I wasn't even using a particular Bonsai blend. I was using a 15-30-15 slow release garden starter called Bloom! that I applied at a teaspoon per square foot every other week. Nice results. Have to see how they overwinter.

### Coming Attractions

September Picnic/Road trip - Mark Passerello has reserved a club tour of the house and gardens at Adena, which is Thomas Worthington's estate in Chillicothe. For some info and photos, check out this link <http://www.ohiohistory.org/places/adena/>. We will have conducted tours of the house and the gardens, total time will be about two hours. There is also a museum and gift shop on site that individuals can take in at their leisure. Meet at Wolf Park east of the RR tracks(other side of tracks from Franklin Park on Broad Street).

Admission for the house and garden tour is \$8 for adults, \$3 for children and under 5 is free. OHS members also get in free. IF we have 20 or more in the group we deduct \$1 on each admission. We have a reservation for our group to tour at 1:00-on Sunday, September 17th (our usual meeting day). Here's our tentative schedule:

10:30-10:45 AM Gather at Wolf Park (East of Conservatory). Organize car pool/caravan  
11:00 Depart for Chillicothe  
12:00-12:45 Arrive at Adena. Unpack picnic lunches and enjoy.  
1:00-3:00 PM Tour of house and gardens.

October is shaping up to be an interesting meeting - at least to me. Ken found some *Acer ginnella* at the Cross Creek Nursery in 10-15 gallon pots. They are gorgeous. 2 inch trunk, lots of side branching, about three feet tall. We are going to be using one of them for a preliminary styling demo and talk about maple care in general. Maples have been subjects for "Tree of the Month" several times, and the styling aspects hold for maples in general. The horticulture for each species varies slightly in terms of soil, wetness, cold tolerance and so forth, but the actual styling does not change that much. We can talk shadow sketching, paint pruning, and so on as these trees are really nice potensai. Some preliminary styling will get them ready for a future master to come in and actually work the tree instead of cleaning up fuzz.

We have had several guest artists in that have worked with beginning stock. Is there any interest in having an advanced workshop that would take those initial stylings and work to refine them? We have had a bring your own tree for critique in the past, but I am talking about how to go about long term maintenance on a tree that is where you want it to stay for awhile.

#### Tree of the Month

Pomegranate, *Punica granatum* by Ken Schultz

*Punica* was the Roman name for Carthage from which the best pomegranates came to Italy two thousand years ago. Moses had to promise the Israelites that they would still have pomegranates in the Promised Land. These small trees have long been cultivated for their fruit, wood and tannin from their bark. Fine Moroccan leather is tanned using pomegranate bark. Grenadine is a concentrate of the syrup used to flavor drinks. In the wild a tree may reach 20 to 30 feet, though they have a strong tendency to sucker and become shrub like.

I found it interesting that in the U.S., pomegranates have spread throughout the south, and are commercially grown in Arizona, New Mexico and California for their fruit. The pomegranate is native to the Middle East (Iran) to the Himalayas, therefore it likes it slightly dry, and this is why they do not do as well in Florida, too wet! They are also long lived; the Gardens at Versailles have some specimens that are two hundred years old.

They need full sun; though they do have thin leaves, so watch for leaf burn on the edges. The leaves are described as oblong-lanceolate and can be 2 to 4" long. The dwarf variety has leaves that are on the chartreuse side of green with a little bit of a black edge. The petiole has a reddish cast. I find them attractive.

They do need regular watering, but not high humidity. The caution is, "never let them dry out completely." They are only hardy to Zone 8, and will need to come indoors for the winter. Some people let them stay out until they drop their leaves in dormancy. New growth signals spring, but they can be killed by a late frost. The suggested minimum temperature they can tolerate is 40

Repotting should be done every one to two years. I noted that they will grow in gravelly soil in a wide range of conditions, including alkaline soil. Use a 30% coarse sand, 10% peat and 60% soil mixture. Any root reduction should be done gradually. Repot in spring. One source mentioned that Pomegranate, ficus, buttonwood, cotoneaster pyracantha and most bamboos can be transplanted in summer IF proper after-care is taken. That is placing them cool location and not over watering while they recover. The suggested pot color is light blue, though dark blue glazed looks good too. The dark color looks good with the light colored bark. It is suggested that a deeper pot be chosen for the developing root system.

Wire with care; the small twigs are easy to snap. Wire in late spring to autumn. Spring to autumn. In the fall use a fertilizer higher in Phosphorus and Potassium to encourage flowering. After flowering the new growth can be shortened. Actual branch pruning is done in early spring.

While I haven't notice any particular bug problem, perhaps because the pomegranate bark is noted to be very bitter. It contains alkaloids used to treat tapeworms and in Japan a bark extract is used to spray for white flies and other insects.

## September Care Tips

By Ken Schultz

While it seems as if winter is a long time off, early frosts sometimes hit Columbus. One year I was traveling and had to talk my son thru out trees to tell him which ones to bring inside because it was going down to 30 that night. This means that you need to determine what stays out and what needs to come in when the night time temperatures will be falling below 45. (OK some really sensitive stock may need to come in before this and some hardier varieties can tough it down to the 30s. The trees in your collection will need to be moved regardless.

The trees that are hardy stay outside, but they won't be able to stay up on a bench or set on a deck or on a concrete patio. This creates "cold feet" many trees will die if you leave them up; Trident maples for example will suffer root damage if frozen. So look around and identify were you will be placing your trees. The place will need three things:

- 1) protection from the winter sun,
- 2) protection from winter winds; and
- 3) protection from plant eating vermin. Every year I end up with a few specimens re-styled by rabbits, deer or squirrels.

As temperatures cool and days shorten you will also notice that your plants are not as thirsty. Be careful though there are still some hot fall days. This also means growth is slowing. Fertilizers won't be needed now until early spring for the outdoor crowd.

As you handle your trees check the wire you put on. Take off wire that's been on all summer to avoid damage when the trees swell with sap in the spring. You can also wire and trim if needed since some of your trees may have grown quit-a-bit over the warm months. After the leaves on a deciduous tree drop is always a good time to evaluate where to trim or wire.

Generally no repotting should be done now. However, you may discover that there are roots sticking out of the drain. If you think you must repot, try to avoid disturbing the root and make sure to wire the tree into its new pot securely because it may not have time for the roots to grow before cold weather.

### Book of the Month

This space available for aspiring authors.

### Bonsai Here and Beyond the Outerbelt

Unless otherwise noted, The Columbus Bonsai Society meets the third Sunday of every month at 2:00 pm. at the Franklin Park Conservatory. Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 in the Franklin Park Conservatory library. The meetings are open to members.

September 17: Field Trip to Adena and garden tour. Meet at Wolf Park East of the RR tracks

October 15: Demo on stock to be announced. Elections.

November 19: Ramification and Fall wiring.

December : Holiday Dinner

President - Daniel Binder

Past President - Ken Schultz

1st Vice President - Mark Passerello

2nd Vice President - Ben William

1 year Board - Denny Sackett

2 year Board - Ross Lebold

3 year Board - Wendy Fissel

Treasurer - Richard Gurevitz

Secretary - Chris "Pootsie" Conomy

Librarian - Merida Weinstein

Newsletter Editor - Zack Clayton

Resident Advisor - Jose Cueto

Refreshment Coordinator - Erma Pierce