



# October 2007 Newsletter

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*Crabapples fall  
hard  
crashing into  
frosted soil  
red comets on  
fire*

## "A Pinch of this...."

### Be Prepared

First, this month I would like to start by offering condolences to our own Zack Clayton, on the recent passing of his father. Most, if not all, of us know what it is like to lose a loved one. We wish you and your family the best, Zack.

Now, as you prepare for putting your trees to rest, here are few things to remember:

-  Take pictures of your trees for later enjoyment and study.
-  As deciduous trees lose their leaves, make sure you remove them from the top of the soil. They may contain fungus or insect eggs.
-  Remove moss to have more uniform soil dampness. This also removes those annoying insects making a home in the moss. Try to keep it for next year.
-  For tropicals
  - o Examine your tropicals for insects before it is time to bring them in.
  - o Spray them with a stream of water making sure to get under the leaves.
  - o Treat them with an insecticide now to ensure they are free of insects before you bring them in.
-  When you take them off the stands and benches, clean and disinfect the benches and stands, making sure you get between the boards.
-  Buy mulch to use for burying the evergreens and prepare the winter storage areas.
-  Now is the time to plant the trees you want to increase trunk size. Find a spot where the trees will not be disturbed for several years and let them grow. Two or three years in the ground will yield amazing amounts of growth.

 Rich

## October 21 – Wiring for Show



One of our Club's new members is **Keith Scott (photo used by permission of Bonsai Clubs International)**. For those of you who may not know Mr. Scott, he recently moved back to Ohio after serving many years as the **BONSAI CURATOR** at Pittsburgh's **Phipps Conservatory**. At one time Keith had a bonsai nursery in Bainbridge, Ohio. Our Club's Scott Pine logo tree came from this nursery. Keith was an active member of the Pittsburgh Bonsai Society and wrote many articles on caring for a variety of species. Over the years, Keith has provided our Club with a number of informative presentations. The National Arboretum has one of

Keith Scott's trees on permanent display, a mother daughter Smooth Bark Elm (see the tree of the month).

One of the questions members frequently ask is "Can I show my trees with wire on them?" The answer is, if the wire is done minimally and not intrusive to the artistic effect that you are trying to create. At our October 21 meeting, Keith will be bringing eight of his Specimen trees (Coming to this meeting just to see these trees will be worth your effort). Keith will mentor eight of our Club members on proper wiring techniques, demonstrating that wiring is an ongoing need for good bonsai to continue to be good, or improve. As once stated, "The only finished bonsai is a dead one!"



Bring your cameras, and something to take notes on. The meeting will start earlier at **1 PM** and last until **5 PM**.

**Do not forget: We will be voting on the amendment of our Constitution and Bylaws and then hold our annual election, delayed from August. Also the remaining trees from the Kenny Franciosa Collection will be offered for sale at a further discount.**

## Coming attractions November 18<sup>th</sup>

Randy Clark's workshop will run 3 hours 1PM- 4PM. Students should bring the proper tools and wire. Because the club must pre-pay \$45 per set of trees ordered; we are asking that all those who sign up pre-pay at or before the October meeting. If you have not paid, we will not be able to order your trees.

The workshop will feature Shohin, which is the Japanese term for bonsai that are 3 to 6 inches in height. For apartment dwellers or those with limited yard space, this is often an appealing size of bonsai, because you can keep large numbers in a small space. Because of their small size, certain styling and maintenance techniques are used which are somewhat different from regular bonsai cultivation.

Each workshop participant will be provided with three trees in 3 inch growing containers suitable for development as mame' sized bonsai. These will include a shimpaku juniper; a dwarf cotoneaster; and a dwarf mugho pine.

## President's Message- Mark Passerello

Welcome to October-at least I think it is October. From the weather we have had recently, it certainly does not seem like fall. I'm sure I am not the only one that felt my indoor plants moved inside a bit too soon after seeing how bright and warm the month started off. It seems like things are back to usual now as far as temperature, which means that preparations for over wintering will be next on most bonsai grower's agenda.

Though they won't be needed for another two months, supplies such as mulch should be gotten now while they are readily available and perhaps even on clearance. You might even be able to get mulch for free if you keep your eyes open. Oak leaves are very good mulch for over wintering bonsai (and many other horticultural uses as well) so if there are oak leaves in your yard, hold on to them, don't put them down at the curb. A way to get the mulch you need and also encourage good neighborly relations is to help a neighbor with the right kind of leaves rake and bag them, though some unscrupulous individuals, (no names, please) have been known to allow their neighbors to do all the work and "poach" the bagged leaves afterwards. Oak leaves are such good mulch, worth seeking out because they tend to stay dry and separate even when moist, and they break down slowly. Some leaves, such as maple, quickly turn into a wet sloppy mess and don't give the protection that oak leaves or a good bark chip mulch will give.

It will be mentioned in other places in the newsletter, but always bears repeating-the club's October meeting will begin one hour early, at 1:00 pm on Sunday, October 21st. The day remains the same, but the meeting will begin early to allow plenty of time with our guest artist, Keith Scott. Also remember that part of the agenda for the October meeting is the approval of the new constitution and bylaws, and voting on a new slate of officers for the coming year. Nominations will be taken from the floor for seats not yet filled.

Did you sign up for the November workshop?

Have you paid your fee yet?

If not, please be aware that according to our new policy, you must pay your workshop fees at least one meeting before, or we will give your spot to someone else.

## Tree of the Month

### Smooth-barked Elm – *Ulmus Carpinifolia*



"The elm family (ulmaceae) literally has hundreds of varieties. Out of the pot, *Carpinifolia* may grow from 70 to 100 feet tall, though some cultivars remain smaller. The leaves are dark green in the summer and turn yellow in the fall. While *Z. Serrata* leaves are about 1 1/2 inches long, those on *Carpinifolia* are 1/2" or so. "Yakabusa" elm leaves are the smallest at about 1/4-3/8". The undersides of *Carpinifolia* leaves are lighter green and slightly hairy."

If you have been a Club member for a long time, I am sure that you may remember an article I wrote about Randy Clark's book, Outstanding American Bonsai that showed trees from a Bonsai Clubs' International Show when it was held in Minneapolis. One of the photographs showed a mother-daughter tree by Keith Scott. **They were *Ulmus Carpinifolia***; these trees are now a part of the collection at the National Arboretum in Washington D.C. Keith told us that he is not happy with the way they have maintained the style of this planting. However, he says that the Smooth-Bark Elm is one of his favorite trees to use as bonsai. In fact, while at Ken Huth's BBQ – I found one and bought it. Ken told me that he thought that Keith Scott and Joe Kelly had collected it from the northeast Ohio area. This is what appealed to me.

**Hardiness:** You all have struggled with trying to decide – just how hardy is a Chinese Elm? Most need protection from temperatures below freezing. If the temperatures fall below 20, the Chinese elms may die. Smooth-bark elms are hardy from zones 3-9. A number of cultivars of elms listed as potential bonsai include one that has a variegated leaf. The one I have seems less hardy. These cultivars are supposedly hardy from zones 5-7. They list Chinese Elm, however as a zone 7-9 plant, which is why it needs to be protected from freezing. One source states that outdoor *Zelkova*s are hardy to -5 C; if it gets colder then some of its finer branches may die back. This was true of the variegated cultivar. In my reading I know that I read that if a plant was grown in the south, it should be possible to acclimate it to Ohio over a four year period; beginning with garaging it when the leaves drop in the Fall, eventually leaving it out to freezing temperatures. I advise protecting such plants from letting the root ball freeze, and protecting them from the winter sun and wind.

**Description and Pests:** You might be more familiar with this tree by another name, *Zelkova Carpinifolia*. *Zelkova Serrata* is larger leaved and from Japan. *Z. Carpinifolia* is from the Caucasus Mountain area. Its bark when mature flakes and has orange-yellow scales. There are small inconspicuous flowers; the female flowers (reported to be red) will develop into seeds. My constant pinching and pruning to maintain some semblance of the shape usually trims these off. This constant pruning encourages side twigginess.

The elm family (ulmaceae) literally has hundreds of varieties. Out of the pot, *Carpinifolia* may grow from 70 to 100 feet tall, though some cultivars remain smaller. The leaves are dark green in the summer and turn yellow in the fall. While *Z. Serrata* leaves are about 1 1/2 inches long, those on *Carpinifolia* are 1/2" or so. "Yakabusa" elm leaves are the smallest at about 1/4-3/8". The undersides of *Carpinifolia* leaves are lighter green and slightly hairy. Their resistance to Dutch elm disease usually rates elms used for landscaping. Some sources report that *Carpinifolia* is more resistant. I spray all my trees with orchard spray to control bugs, mildew and viral infections. (Protect the pine tree roots from Orchard spray dripping, as it can kill the

mycorrhiza.) Ken Schoenfeld told me that he lost an elm to sooty mildew. Watch out for aphids and other bugs. Elms may also get leaf spot.

Unfortunately, not only do insects find them interesting, but I have had the rabbits eat the branches when they were on the ground for the winter, so now I keep them in a metal fenced area where I place burlap over to protect them from the winter wind and sun too.

**Feeding:** All the varieties of elm that I have respond with strong growth when adequately fertilized. The recommendation is that after the leaves pop, you use a fertilizer with phosphorus to encourage root growth. As well as feeding every two weeks. You may notice that when you let the branches grow out, as you might, the leaves will become larger after the first two or three sets from the last place you pruned. Your tree may grow many extra twigs and branches that for development into branches wherever you need them. It will also sprout in places you do not need them just as easily! Some of these may grow very strong; I believe they call these "water sprouts" and you should remove them, as they may cause lesser branches to die back.

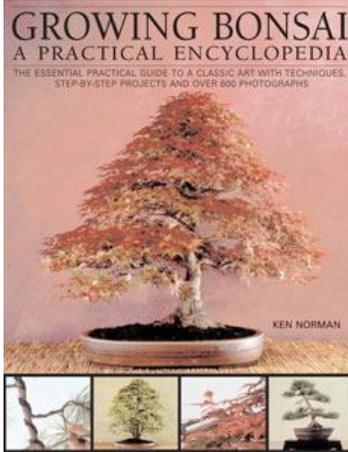
**Watering:** Since elms like to grow along streams, it should come as no surprise that they like regular watering. Keep an eye on how the water passes through the pot. The roots also may grow quickly. If you notice that water pools then it may be pot bound. If it is, then root rot is possible. An article mentioned that while you should never allow them to dry out, you should only water when necessary (interesting guidance). It warns that if you water daily and it does not drain, "sodden compost will cause root rot, lack of vigor and eventual death." Not too ominous, but so far mine have done OK- with the exception of those temperamental Chinese elms.

**Pruning, Repotting and Wiring:** They suggest repotting every two years. Cut back roots and branches equally. You should do repotting and major work in the spring before the leaves emerge. At that time, it may be possible to get branch cuttings to root. It may also be possible to air layer late spring to early summer. Sometimes the branches will need trimming several times during the growing season. The recommendation is that you allow the branch to extend 3 or 4 nodes then reduce it to one or two leaves.

Reserve wiring until the twigs grow large enough, wiring too soon may cause them to break if done too soon. I have wired in almost every month. If possible wiring before the tree leafs out is best. The trick is to keep an eye on the wire cutting in. This occurs first at the top of the tree, and can happen in only a few months. A mature specimen may be best when viewed in its winter silhouette. I have seen a few larger specimen with a hollow carved into the trunk. Though younger plants have smooth bark, older trees develop a texture to the bark, making carving more believable. At the North Carolina Arboretum, they have a saikei with an elm that looks very old with its trunk carved out.

**Styles and sizes:** Styles and sizes of these as bonsai can range from semi-cascade, to broom, and from mame' on up. The larger leaved Serrata needs to be larger than mame' or shohin, while Carpinifolia can be trained to any size. I have noticed that the smaller sized bonsai make elms less hardy and the roots as well as the branches will require more winter protection. In the summer, you will want to protect the leaves from hot direct mid-afternoon sun. Too much sun will burn the edges of the leaves.

 Ken Schultz

**Book of the Month****Growing Bonsai: A Practical Encyclopedia  
By Ken Norman**

A few months ago, I reported on the shorter Ken Norman book, **The Beginner's Guide to Bonsai**. This book, **Growing Bonsai: A Practical Encyclopedia** is not a quick read, at 256 pages, summarizing the essence of this book in a few paragraphs is a challenge. As with the Beginner's Guide, there are pages devoted to full color photographs of specimen bonsai. The photography is by Neil Sutherland; in case you have forgotten the Beginner's book was by Peter Stiles. Therefore, only a very few pictures are common to both books. The suggested cover price of this book was \$35 in 2005. I found it at our Half Price Bookstore for \$12.95.

Ken Norman is an English bonsai artist. While this sometimes means there are repotting or growing tips that you should ignore, Norman has avoided references to specific months, using seasons instead. Norman has divided this book into nine chapters. Because its pages are 8.5" X 12", the photographs are large enough to see the techniques described. The "Bonsai Techniques" chapter is 34 pages; it has 14 examples. The Bonsai Styles chapter is 50 pages. It is not the typical, this is an upright, this is a broom presentation; rather there are photographs of nursery or collected stock being styled into an example, with pruning and wiring photos.

If this book has a weakness, it is the 10-page chapter called "Indoor Bonsai." However, an excellent chapter immediately follows it on "Displaying Bonsai." There are tips not only for showing your trees but day-to-day display both indoor and out. I thought that the "Bonsai Year" chapter which begins on page 185 could not contain any more surprises, but each season features a special plant; spring – wisteria, summer – fuchsia, fall – chrysanthemum, and winter – witch hazel. I was exhausted – but not done. There is a "Bonsai Directory" section, with photographs, of over 100 species for bonsai. The photos show leaves, flowers and occasionally a specimen bonsai.

The chapter on "Care and Maintenance" covers winter storage, a calendar of care, which includes a Feeding Guide for Bonsai. Norman says in the fall use a fertilizer without nitrogen and a slow release fertilizer for your pines (0-10-10). Page 250 contains a list of public bonsai collections. As I have stated, this book will keep me busy for months. I suspect I will pick it up again and again and discover something I have missed before.

 Ken Schultz 9/15/07

## What you may have missed in September

### Workshop with Jack Wikle and Picnic at Dawes Arboretum



First, I must thank new Club member Keith Stevens for making arrangements for Jack's lodging and for letting us use the Training Center. The weather was beautiful and the Kingsville



Boxwoods were styled under Jack's watchful eye. A great many transformations were unbelievably brave. (See editor's tree on pg. 8.) Most of these trees were 27-30 years old. They had nice trunks and a good crop of healthy foliage.

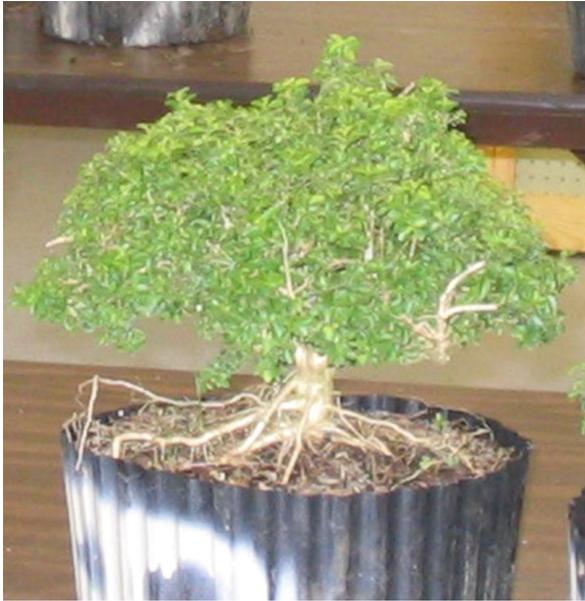
During the morning session, Linda Schultz, Michelle Clayton, Sandy Schoenfeld, and a few other Club members put out the food brought for the picnic. Trust me when I say, no one went home hungry. There were several picnic tables under roof next to the workshop area; but the day was a little cool and the picnic table in the sun was a very popular choice.

Jack advised us to look at our trees and decide what we liked. Then he said to look at them and decide what we didn't like. At one point, he quoted John Naka, who had quite a sense of humor. Naka said, "Beware the TBB; the Toilet Brush Branch." This is a long branch with all its foliage out at the end. Jack said if you have two branches at the same level of equal strength that grow in opposite directions, eliminate one, or shorten it so they are not competing. A great many branches became cuttings. Jack is a great believer in starting cuttings. He said he would mix equal parts of vermiculite, and ground sphagnum moss and place the cuttings under a mason jar on the north side of the house.

### Ken's World of Bonsai Fall BBQ

Those who made time for this trip were not disappointed. Again food was abundant. Ken and Patty Huth grilled up hotdogs and hamburgers. The weather was beautiful and there were many bargains. I definitely didn't need more trees, but I came home with some treasures that have "Potensai." I also saw Keith Scott purchase a few tall Ponderosa Pines. There were other members from Cleveland and Pittsburgh as well as the Akron-Canton clubs there too. Ken also gave away some sumi paintings as raffle door prizes. They are the work of Mitsuko Sakata who passed away three years ago.

 Ken Schultz



### **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 the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Franklin Park Conservatory. The meetings are open to members.

<b>October 21</b>	Wiring demonstration with Keith Scott
<b>November 18</b>	Randy Clark three tree Shohin
<b>December 9</b>	Holiday Dinner
<b>January 20, 2008</b>	TBA
<b>February 17, 2008</b>	TBA
<b>March 16, 2008</b>	TBA
<b>April 2008</b>	TBA
<b>May 2008</b>	TBA
<b>June, 2008</b>	Annual CBS bonsai Show
June 12-18, 2008	MABA Conference, Indianapolis, IN <a href="http://www.MABA2008.org">www.MABA2008.org</a>
June 19-22, 2008	American Bonsai Society Learning Seminar 2008—San Antonio, TX <a href="http://absbonsai.org/seminars/ABS2008/main2008.html">http://absbonsai.org/seminars/ABS2008/main2008.html</a>



## Columbus Bonsai Society Membership Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership: Individual (\$15.00) \_\_\_\_ Family (\$22.50) \_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

P. O. Box 1981

Columbus, Ohio May your phone number be included in our members list? Y N

43216-1981 Would you like to get your newsletter by email? Y N  
(email saves the club about \$.74 to \$.90 an issue in printing and mailing.)

IF family membership, please list other members: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_Ken Schultz

**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

\_\_\_Zack Clayton

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**2 YR DIRECTOR**

\_\_\_Wendy Fissel

**3 YR DIRECTORS**

\_\_\_ Denny Sackett

\_\_\_Your name here?

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