

April 2008 Newsletter

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Refreshments

*Kites float in
gold skies
paper leaves
tied with ribbon
tree roots
envious*

“A Pinch of this....”

Don’t be foolish

Term of the month: GRAVITAS

Bonsai is generally known primarily for this property. Gravitas simply holds everything about the physical weight, the maturity, sense of dignity and the illusion of mass that are all unique to these miniature potted trees.

Well, as so many of us do at this time, I find myself with mentally crossed fingers. Hoping and praying that my trees will have survived the majority of winter, and wondering when it will be safe to bring them completely out of hiding. After all, here in Central Ohio we have been known to get frosts as late as Memorial Day. All the same, we are hoping that the elms we will be working on with Kelly Adkins this month will be able to be “potted up” at the same time.

I am afraid that my photos from last months meeting did not come out so well so, I only have one photo and it is best in Grayscale. So as always, feel free to send any photos you have from workshops or meetings to me at ruhrick@otterbein.edu



Rich Uhrick

This month's program

On April 20, 2008 we will be honored by the presence of yet another regional practitioner in the person of Kelley Adkins. Kelley Adkins took his first bonsai class from Keith Scott at the Cleveland Botanic Garden in 1974. Soon afterwards he began helping Keith at his nursery, and has been working with him ever since. Another important teacher was Toshio Saburamuru (Tosh) who he worked with annually for several years. He has been President of both the Cleveland Bonsai Club and the Midwest Bonsai Society. He has presented programs to Bonsai groups throughout the Midwest, and has been a featured speaker at several conventions and Bonsai symposiums. His favorite plants for bonsai are elms

President's Message- Mark Passerello

We are on roll! The March meeting of CBS was the third in a row with room filling attendance and enthusiastic participation for a great program. I want to thank Jose Cueto for sharing his time and expertise with us once again, and give a shout out to Sandy and Ken Schoenfeld, who ran the sales table and the hospitality table. It always makes the meeting go that much more smoothly if the sales table is organized, and folks always feel welcome when the coffee is hot and there is something to munch on. If you as a member would like to contribute a bit of time to your club, please let me know-I would like to sign up to assist with either of these duties for our regular meeting.

We have some exciting events to look forward to in the months ahead. In April, Kelly Adkins is joining us for a smooth bark Elm workshop. I've seen pics of Kelly's work but never met him, but his mentor Keith Scott speaks very highly of him, so I am looking forward to this meeting. I know we will keep our trend of great topics and enthusiastic participation going.

Looking ahead to June, we have a show coming up on June 21. As much of our club focus is going towards the big, big special event we are putting on in October, the Ohio Bonsai Expo, it would be easy to skip over participating in or talking up? The June show. That would be a missed opportunity for us to publicize the club and the bonsai hobby, and frankly, a great chance to hang out and enjoy the day with fellows bonsai enthusiasts.

Our June show this year replaces our regular meeting; it will be on Saturday the 21st, NOT on Sunday. It is a one day, casual affair that I'm describing as "come as you are". There will be no pre-registration for trees this year, we will get the display area ready the night before, intake trees between 830 and 930 AM and open to the public at 10, then run till 5, when we will tear down and clean up, then adjourn to a local watering hole. All members are encouraged to get a tree or three ready for the show, or to bring tools and materials for an ad hock demo. In addition to the usual display we always host, it would be great to see bonsai work going on all the time the show is open to the public. As you repot and set up trees after the winter hibernation, be thinking about projects that might wait till June, so they can be done at the show. Perhaps we will see the return of the "Iron Bonsai Challenge" in the afternoon.

Our May meeting was to be an Azalea workshop, but as we are having trouble, sourcing good stock and so are changing focus just a bit. Tom McCormick from the Cincinnati club is joining us to lead the Azalea session, and we are making it a "bring your own" meeting, so any one with an azalea, of any species, size or level of completion, can come and talk and ask questions. Those who toured Tom's bonsai collection in Cincinnati a few years ago report that the Azaleas in Tom's collection are outstanding specimens. Tom has served on the Boards of ABS, BCI and MABA. He is a talented artist and his skills well known through out the bonsai community.

Tree of the Month

Ulmus parvifolia “Catlin”

Ken Schultz is in Japan this month so this is a reprint from the March 2008 Newsletter of the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society written by Randy Davis and a basic care sheet.

Last month [**this is part of a series-ED**] we delved into the world of Elms and found that there are many interesting aspects of that tree genus, including its obtuse history and entry into the art of Bonsai. This month, through requests I've received in response to last month's article, it might be of interest to discuss *Ulmus parvifolia* in a little more detail. *Ulmus parvifolia*, better known by its common name of “Chinese elm” or “Chinese evergreen elm”, is the most commonly used elm for bonsai not only in the United States but in fact the world. Owing to its horticultural history being the most focused on species as a replacement tree that is resistant to Dutch elm disease, it has had many cultivars selected over the years and now numbers at least 50 or more. Along with the species, eight of the cultivars with “Seiju” and “Cortcosa” being the most popular, are used as bonsai. All of the cultivars fall...into two basic groups; the smooth bark group and the rough bark group. Within the groups, various forms exist including large growing, dwarf, contorted and weeping. As you can tell, it can get quite confusing to the uninitiated. So let's just dwell on the species and the eight cultivars, which will give you a good idea of the rich diversity of this elm.

The Smooth Bark Group

This group has the largest number of cultivars for the species as a whole, five of which commonly see use as bonsai. The smooth bark group is characterized by the bark being relatively smooth during the entire life of the tree. The bark is not completely smooth but more correctly termed “Flaky”, as it flakes off as the tree gains age and girth. This flaking of the trunks bark makes for a mottled effect of predominately Grey with Brownish-red splotches and is the common feature of the species and all of the cultivars in this group. Trunk girth of this group is rather slow to develop even when grown in the ground, but more markedly so when grown in a container. It is not uncommon for container-grown material to be pencil-sized for years in some of the cultivars such as Catlin and Frosty. For bonsai, it is recommended that this group be grown and developed in the ground for a number of years to develop reasonable trunk girth in advance of initial bonsai training.

Parvifolia (the species) – The species is by far the most used for bonsai and is seen in every bonsai nursery in the country. More often than not these trees are imported from both China and Korea and are trained in more of a “Penjing” style rather than the traditional Japanese bonsai style.

Catlin – This cultivar is very similar to the species but is differentiated by its smaller and more diminutive leaves. The growth is slower than the species, and girth is very slow to develop. It is not found in the general nursery trade but can be found at the larger bonsai shows and should be used more often than it is.

Catlin Contorted – This is a very dwarf contorted form of Catlin and is very difficult to find in the trade. It is available through Evergreen Garden Works on the web, where they also have very good information

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on its culture. This is one of those dwarfs that is very slow growing and often only develops a single root, which must be worked on carefully to develop a well-structured root system.

Drake – I only mention this cultivar in that it was one of the very first cultivars in the United States to be used on a commercial scale in the nursery trade. It is very similar to the species in growth habit. Monrovia Nursery, located in Southern California, developed and introduced it in the 1950's. It is not often used anymore but examples of it surely exist in the Western part of the United States.

Frosty – One of the only variegated forms of this elm. The growth habit in the ground is a tall thinly clothed tree. The leaves are the feature of this tree, with the leaves sporting white teeth around the leaf, which are very prominent in the spring and early summer, and becoming less prominent as the summer progresses. This cultivar is very slow to develop trunk girth unless grown in the ground.

Bonsai Care Sheet

Species: Common name: Chinese Elm

Botanical name: *Ulmus parvifolia*

Japanese name: Nire Keyaki

Varieties used as bonsai: Dwarf (Yatsubusa) Chinese Elm, Hokkaido, Seiju, Catlin, Cork Bark, Korean Weeping, Semper Virens

Advantages: as the varietal name indicates, its small leaves note the Chinese Elm. Coupled with a twiggy habit, the Chinese Elm lends itself to pinching, root pruning and growing in a shallow pot. The list goes on: hardy, good fall color, fascinating exfoliating bark and a tendency to produce a well-spaced root buttress.

Disadvantages: Leaf cutters, red spider, and aphids will dispel with all other plants to attack a Chinese Elm. Also, the elm seems a haven for sooty mold, root rot, as well as leaf fungus.

Suitability as bonsai (1 is least suitable 10 is most suitable): 8

Growing location: Full sun

Watering: Water thoroughly and often especially in dry, hot weather. The elms should not dry out.

Propagation: Primarily the elms grow extremely well from seed, but will grow well from hard-wood cuttings as well as root cuttings.

Fertilizing: Use a balanced fertilizer weekly during high growth periods and from May 15 to Oct. 15.

Over-wintering: Keep sheltered from wind

Styling: Broom; informal upright; excellent for groves; landscapes but rarely cascade.





One Day Bonsai Show

June 21, 2008


At the Franklin Park Conservatory
1777 East Broad Street

10 AM until 5 PM

Sales area vendors:
Ken's World of Bonsai
The Nursery at Onion Creek
ARTISTREES

Enjoy the display of the finest bonsai trees from the Columbus Bonsai Society.

If you enjoy this, then plan to join us at the:



Ohio Bonsai Exhibition, October 25 & 26, 2008
With displays, vendors, and workshops

Check our website: www.Columbusbonsai.org

From the Circulation Desk of the C.B.S. Library


1. I have the new C.B.S. membership cards for 2008; so please see me if you don't have your card yet.
2. If you have any bonsai (or related subjects) books, magazines, videos or CD's that you would like to donate to the C.B.S. library, please let me know. All such donations should be tax deductible, since we are a 501c-3 non-profit organization.
3. Please return any overdue library books, magazines, videos and CD's to the Librarian at our monthly club meeting so other club members may have access to them.

Thank you.

Please contact John Young if you have any questions or comments about any of this. You may either send E-Mail him at jyoungjfy@sbcglobal.net or give him a call at (614) 267-4168.

As a reminder, if you checked out any books, magazines or videos from the C.B.S. library last year please return them as soon as possible. They are now **OVERDUE!**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

 John Young, Librarian

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHAPING AND BENDING GETS OUT OF CONTROL?

YOU GET THESE.



Bonsai Here and Beyond the Outerbelt

Unless otherwise noted, The Columbus Bonsai Society meets the third Sunday of every month at 1:45 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.

April 20, 2008	Slippery Elm workshop—Kelly Adkins
May 2-4, 2008	Staselwood Bonsai www.staselwoodbonsai.com Spring Open House with Guest Marco Invernizzi www.marcoinvernizzi.com/index_uk.html
May 18, 2008	BYO Azaleas—Tom McCormick, Greater Cincinnati Bonsai Society
June 21, 2008	ONE DAY BONSAI SHOW AT FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY
June 14-15, 2008	Dawes Arboretum Annual Bonsai Show www.dawesarb.org
June 12-18, 2008	MABA Conference, Indianapolis, IN www.MABA2008.org
June 19-22, 2008	American Bonsai Society Learning Seminar 2008—San Antonio, TX http://absbonsai.org/seminars/ABS2008/main2008.html
June 28-29, 2008	Wildwood Gardens' annual BBQ www.wildwoodgardens.com/wildwood/
July 20, 2008	Martha Meehan's Miniatures www.meehansminiatures.com
August 17, 2008	Bring Your Own Tropicals workshop
Sept. 14, 2008	Picnic and workshop
Oct. 11-12, 2008	National Bonsai Exhibition, Rochester, NY www.internationalbonsai.com/nbe08
Oct. 11-12, 2008	Carolina Bonsai Expo, Asheville, NC www.ncarboretum.org
Oct. 25-6, 2008	Ohio Bonsai Exposition at Franklin Park Conservatory— New Date
Nov. 16, 2008	TBA
Dec., 2008	Holiday Dinner
June, 2011	<u>ABS/BCI LEARNING SEMINAR IN LOUISVILLE, KY</u>



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

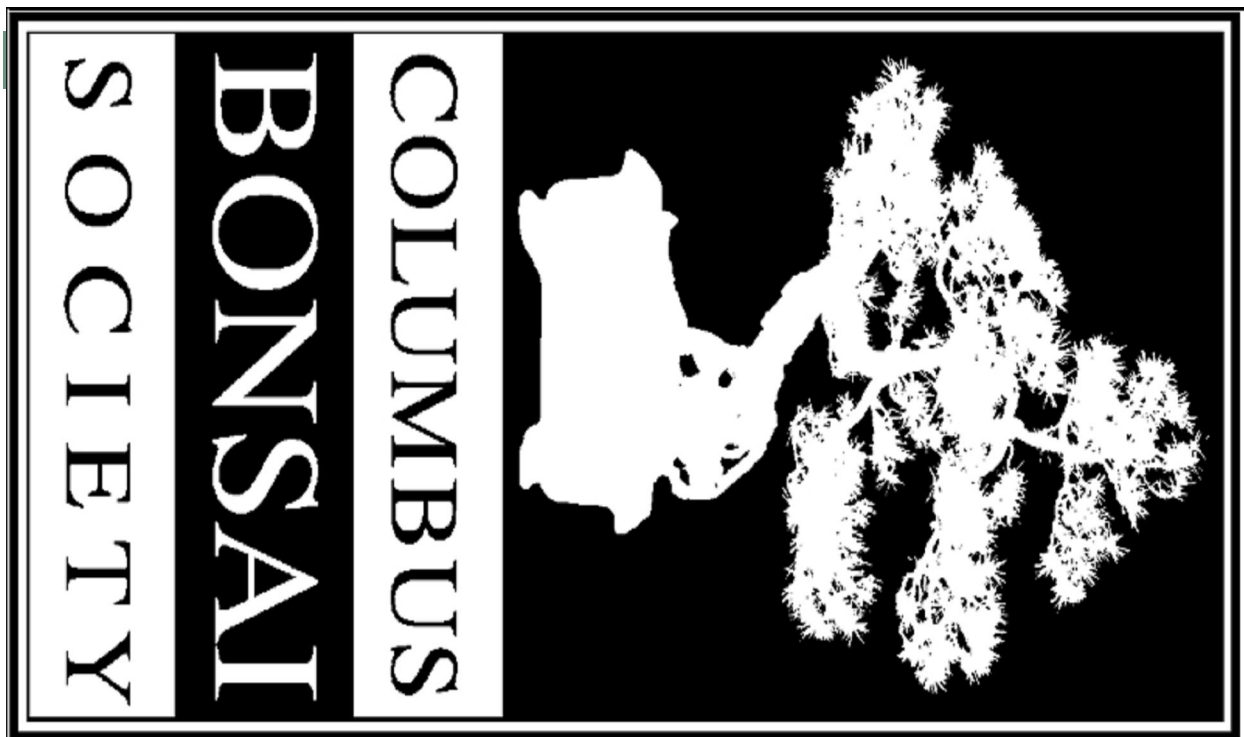
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Would you like to get your newsletter by email? Y N

(email saves the club about \$.74 to \$.90 an issue in printing and mailing.)

IF family membership, please list other members: _____

Renewal memberships may be paid for more than 1 year at a time



Columbus Bonsai Society
PO Box 1981
Columbus, OH 43216-1981

Questions to:
Columbusbonsai@hotmail.com
[HTTP://Columbusbonsai.org](http://Columbusbonsai.org)

Regular Club meetings on
3rd Sunday of the month
Meetings Start at 1:45 pm
All are welcome to attend

CBS meets at:
Franklin Park Conservatory
1777 East Broad St
Columbus, Ohio 43203

CBS Board meets
1st Tuesday of the month
at 7:00 pm at FPC