



August 2008 Newsletter

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Refreshments

*Dusk, finally,
heat drops
away,
fading summer
day.*

“A Pinch of this....”

So much to do, Even less time.

Term of the month: DEADWOOD

The other optional bonsai trait, deadwood is incorporated into the art to give the tree a sense of maturity. Certain types of deadwood are sometimes added to the surface of the bonsai for it to remain there for years. Jin and Shari are just two of the most popular deadwood types.

Here we are and it is already August. Where has the summer gone, it seems like only yesterday that it was May and the growing season was just getting into full swing. Now it is only a couple of months away from “leaf drop” (Not to mention the Ohio Bonsai Exhibition). Have you picked out your audition tree yet? I know I am still looking at my collection for the best example. Even if you do not feel you will have a tree “show ready” in time, there are many other ways to get involved with the Exhibition. As host club, we are responsible for providing liaisons’ to the Vendors, Security for everybody’s displays, and all logistical considerations for pulling this event off without a hitch. So, when you come to this month’s meeting bring not only your tropicals to work on, but your calendars so that when you sign up to work a certain area and time, you can mark it on your calendar right then.

If you want to see what a big show can be like go to this link and see what went on at this years ABS/LSBF convention: <http://absbonsai.org/gallery/ABS2008/>



Rich Uhrick

This month's program

August 17, 2008: Bring Your Own Tropical; as most can be restyled and repotted when its hot, August may be the meeting to get so help. Mark Passerello, Dan Binder and I will offer assistance. We would like to use the second half of the meeting to begin auditioning the trees you would like to show in October.

The August meeting will have shirts, tools, wire and pots for sale.

Upcoming Programs

September 14, 2008: Member's White Elephant Sale & Picnic—we will be at Franklin Park Conservatory in classroom 2-4 the festivities to begin at 1:30 pm. Also for those who were not able to make the August meeting, we plan to hold the final auditions for our Club's show tables. Remember you should plan to use an accent plant or stone and a stand for your tree, so bring them too to show the composition of your display.

October 25 & 26: Remember we have invited seven other clubs. Each one gets two tables. Therefore, we want to identify the trees that will have table priority. The final show design is in the works. As Show Co-Chair, I know that some of the vendors have asked about showing a tree or two. We are hoping for 100% participation.

At the August meeting, Ken will be circulating signup sheets for various "jobs". We will need at least three at our Club table each day to handle workshop registration and shirt sales. Then we will need six assistants to help unload vendors and re-load them on Sunday. There will be set up on Friday and Tear Down on Sunday. We also want door monitors for each workshop. No one without a pass is to enter. Finally, let us talk about food. Right now, we are trying to figure out where, but we all know this group likes to eat. Because of the remodeling we are unsure if there will be space for meals. We will be using Classrooms 1&2 for the Workshops.

President's Message- Mark Passerello

I want to invite everyone to participate in the tree auditions for the October show, even if you are not serious about putting a tree in the Exhibition. It will be a great opportunity to think about what elements go into a good-looking bonsai and help any bonsai hobbyist-experienced or novice-mentally organize all the parts of a well-planned tree. As some of you know, my background is in the theatre, and I have been part of dozens of auditions, probably more than I can count. Auditions always seemed too terribly nerve wracking for some people but I rather enjoyed them. Our auditions for the October show will be much simpler than any theatrical audition; the trees need not tap dance, sing, or recite a monologue from memory.

Though the process is going to be fairly fluid and informal, the tree auditions that we will hold at our August and September meetings will be a chance for those members who want to have a tree on display at the all state Exhibition to show their best efforts. Any type of tree, of any style or size is eligible. What is important are the level of "polish" and the overall impression the tree, its pot, and any related display accessories like a stand or accent plant gives.

Getting a tree ready for show is like preparing for an audition, or getting ready for a job interview. Appearances count for so much, so the tree has to ready to impress. Is it healthy? Is wiring neat and unobtrusive? Is the pot color and style harmoniously matched to the tree's color palette and style? No one would go to a job interview with out combing their hair, likewise there should be no weeds sprouting out of the soil in a bonsai pot.

I was very pleased to see several members put trees in our June show who had never exhibited before. No one should feel like the audition process for the October show is a way to keep any one out or limit participation. This is not the backroom at the lodge or the country club with screenings and blackballing. We are expecting a large crowd at the show, and participation from many other clubs from around the state. As club, we need to make a good impression on many levels, as hosts of course, but as bonsai practitioners as well. The auditions at the next two meeting will be a chance for us, as a unified group, to develop an interesting and attractive display to put before the public in October. I hope all CBS members will make plans to join us in the Club's efforts leading up to October!

Speaking of Club events, the August meeting is important because it is election time. Forget about big decisions like who is too old or too inexperienced to run a country, think about who should be running this great club of ours! Could it be you? You may have to be at least 35 years of age to be President of the United States, and spend a ton of money and endure glaring public scrutiny to get there, but being part of the board is a much easier process. Just let one of the other officers or I know you are interested. Willingness to serve and some time to devote are the main qualifications, bonsai growers of all ages and experience levels can contribute to the workings of the club.

Here is some advance warning about our September meeting. The ninth month of the year is when we have traditionally gone off site and held a picnic/meeting somewhere other than Franklin Park because the Conservatory grounds are taken over and flooded with people attending the Antiques and Gardener's fair. The problem the club has encountered is finding a good location for the picnic-previous meetings occurred in member's backyards, at Dawes and several other venues, with varying levels of success (success measured by attendance). This year we are trying a new plan-the meeting will be at Franklin Park, in the Conservatory as usual but the date is changed. Make a mental note of that now and write it down as well that the meeting for September will be one week earlier than usual. Same time, same place, different date. Reminder emails will be sent out along the way, just in case.

The agenda for the September meeting is a potluck picnic, white elephant sale, and tree auditions. Mark your calendars now, try out a new recipe to share, and clean out your potting shed or tool bench, the festivities begin at 2:00pm.

Tree of the Month

Tropical Delight, Ten Bonsai Choices That Just Might Survive in Ohio Homes

I wrote an article back in February 2008 about popular choices for bonsai. I reported on what I found when I Googled the Internet. This article is not based on Internet findings, rather it is based on what I found when I inventoried the bonsai in my backyard. I knew that August would be *Bring your Own Tropical*; so why not look now to see what there is to pick from. There were twenty different choices. How did I get so many? Moreover, of the twenty different species, I have multiples of the things that are easy to propagate. Therefore, in this dissertation about “tropicals” I will try to rate their care Pros and Cons. I might mention that the tropicals you have; however, that does not mean that I have not killed one or two of something not listed. How else would I know if I could keep them alive or not? Examples are Myrtle, Sageretia theezans, and Fukien Tea. I have tried them more than once too.

In no particular order, here are ten of the most common....



Bougainvillea: have beautiful long lasting flowers, and are available in a wide variety of colors. This plant however is actually a bush with vine-like tendencies. It does not like going in and out between seasons often they bloom more months of the year than not. They like a lot of sun, but the edges of the leaves can burn if you do not transition them between in- and outdoors. Many leaves will drop when you bring them in when it gets cold. Cuttings will root easily.

Jade: Crassula – comes in several varieties used for bonsai, though some say it is a succulent, not a bonsai. I say, look at the cover of Craig Coussins’ last book. It makes a great looking tree and isn't that the illusion we are going for? It does bloom, especially when it is pot bound and gets enough light. Despite being from South Africa, the fleshy leaves can be sunburned if you move them from indoors to direct sun. They are not too water particular, though too much can cause root rot. While they can get mealy bug, the bugs prefer other choices. Cuttings root easily as proven by the seven I have. (I might bring some to the White Elephant in September!)



Natal plum: Carissa grandiflora is easy. They do better outdoors than in because they like a lot of light. With light and feeding, they should produce white four petal blooms that are fragrant. Because the cuttings root easily, we currently have six in our collection, but I know it is possible to kill them because my Mom; who raises hundreds of African Violets, killed the one I gave her. Used for hedges in Hawaii and southern Florida. They wire easily into cascade style bonsai. The leaves are leathery and have spines. I have never bought a new one, all are from cuttings taken from Linda's first bonsai which was the plant used by Art Patznic at Dawes more than a dozen years ago.

Serrissa Foetida: I have to admit, larger pots are safer. They like it outdoors, indoors they suffer from lower light – losing leaves. In the winter, they can be over- or under- watered. (Who has not killed a Serrissa?) I have variegated larger leaved ones and a small leaved variety sold as Kyoto Serrissa. They do bloom freely almost all the time. The blooms can be single – purplish to compound white, hence one of its “common names” - Snow Rose. It is naturally a shrub and may resist training as a single stemmed tree.

Ficus: We have three types of ficus, Kiki, Retusa and a Strangler fig. I have taken cuttings from the Kiki and the retusa. A few years ago, a heater quit in my greenhouse or I would have many more ficus. Franklin Park has a variety in their collection but many are Narifolia (Willow-Leafed Ficus). They can become very large bonsai with large trunks. Taking them in and out for the seasonal changes often

causes leaf drop or burn; so take care. In brighter sun, they grow more rapidly and like water and fertilizer. The white sap shows that ficus are related to rubber trees. A spray of water seems to stop the oozing when they are pruned. While they seem to be buggy in the house in the winter, Lantana still gets my vote as tastiest on the bug menu. Be careful with treatments or you can kill the tree. Jose' uses a hand bending technique besides wiring. Remember these have a rounded crown in nature, not a pointy triangle.

Crepe Myrtle: These flowering southern bushes make excellent smaller trees. However, since they flower on their branch tips, pruning tends to remove their blooms, which usually open in July. They come in a variety of colors and there is a dwarf variety, Chickasaw, that has very small leaves and seems to be more tolerant of the bonsai regime. I find that they like cooler temperatures in the winter; I have even seen them planted in the ground here in Ohio in protected locations. The bark has multiple colors and is beautiful in older specimens.

Schefflera: Sold as Hawaiian Umbrella Tree, it is a tropical vine. As such, its trunk never gets massive, but it easily bends into interesting shapes. Cuttings root easily. It is OK in low light situations as demonstrated by its ability to survive in office settings. I bought a pot of four rooted cuttings at Lowes and planted them into a shallow bonsai pot, one of them died the others are fine and being shaped into a "bonsai", though I find them less tree like than Jade. They make a good beginner tree. Look for the smaller leafed species to use as bonsai.

Pomegranate: Is a subtropical that likes it not too hot and does best with strong sunlight. Originally grown for their fruit they produce an orange-red flower. The bark is gnarly and looks very impressive on older specimens. I have killed several trying to figure out what they like. They are not for the beginner. They tend to root rot in the winter, and drop their leaves if you let them dry out. In nature, they are a small tree and are grown for their fruit in California and Arizona. Mentioned in the Old Testament, they are from Persia.

Rosemary: Another plant frequently sold as an annual though they are a long-lived bush from the Mediterranean. In New Mexico, I saw them planted in people's yards as a flowering landscape plant. They have similar care needs to Pomegranate. It seems that I can keep them going for several years and I lose them when I re-pot them. They seem to do better in a deeper pot, though that may just be me, as I have seen them in standard shallower bonsai pots. Their foliage is fragrant and they have bluish compound flowers when they are happy. Direct sun in the summer is no problem. Enough light in the winter is; they do poorly under artificial light or low light conditions.

Brazilian Rain Tree: Have fine compound leaves and long fine thorns. It does well outdoors recovering each year from wintering indoors under a fluorescent light. I have had the same one for 9 years now. It seems related to Black Olive, which is not a true olive. The bark is smooth. Blooms are nondescript. Each year I have trimmed it back and it does back bud. Because of its thorns, it is not for everyone.

I have one more plant that I did buy at Central Michigan Bonsai many years ago, but other than recalling that it is in the Texas Ebony family, it really has not amounted to anything, other than to persist on surviving, despite many near death calls. It too has a fine leaf and is touch sensitive.

It did flower, but I was not impressed. Anyway, the number of tropicals in our collection is why I dread the onset of winter each year and doing the bonsai shuffle.

 Ken Schultz



[Editor's Note: This article is a condensed version of the twenty species article as written. Please check the website for the full twenty tree text.]

FOR COLUMBUS BONSAI SOCIETY MEMMBERS ONLY....



<i>OHIO BONSAI EXHIBITION 2008 TREE AUDITION FORM</i>	
Name	
Phone	
Common Name	
Scientific Name	
Yrs in training	

Ohio Bonsai Exhibition

October 25 & 26, 2008



Hosted by the Columbus Bonsai Society and
Franklin Park Conservatory



SEE

Bonsai Trees from Ohio's Clubs and Artists

SHOP

Bonsai, tools and pottery from Ohio vendors:

Staselwood Bonsai

Ken's World of Bonsai

ARTISTTREES

The Nursery at Onion Creek

Wildwood Gardens

Wild Things Bonsai Studio

LEARN

From Ohio professionals:

John Brannon

Dale Cochoy

Frank Mihalic

Jeff Carr

Ken Huth

Tom Holcomb

Check our website for workshop information

www.columbusbonsai.org

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

I have the new C.B.S. membership cards for 2008; so please see me if you don't have your card yet. 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.

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



THE NEW YANKEE "BONSAI" WORKSHOP WITH JOSE CUETO



EPISODE 0807---RADICAL RESTYLING OF AUSTRIAN PINE

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.

August 17, 2008	Bring Your Own Tropicals workshop	
Sept. 14, 2008	Member's White Elephant Sale & Picnic	
Oct. 11-12, 2008	National Bonsai Exhibition, Rochester, NY www.internationalbonsai.com/nbe08	
Oct. 11-12, 2008	Carolina Bonsai Expo, Ashville, 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

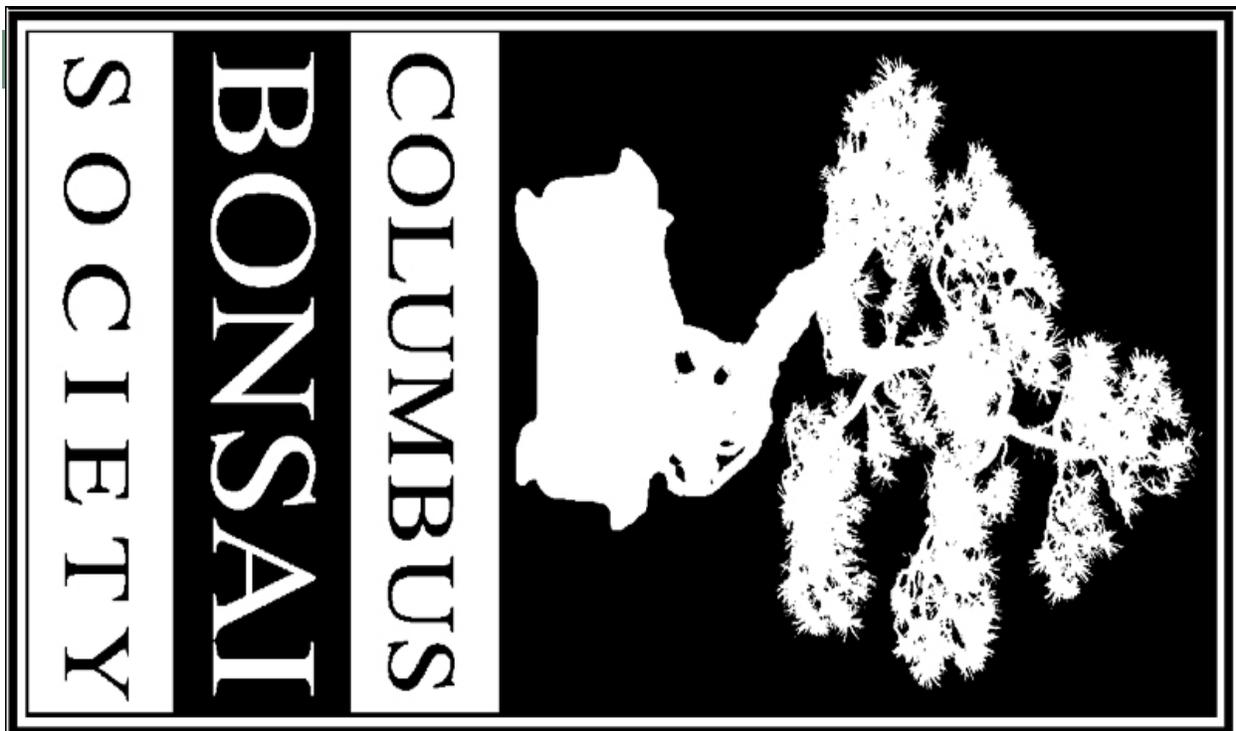
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Would you like to get your newsletter by email? Y N

(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