

# October 2008 Newsletter

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**Refreshments**

*Beside my  
bonsai,  
completing the  
composition  
sits my accent  
frog*

## “A Pinch of this....”

On your marks, Get set...

### Term of the month: AIR LAYERING

**Air Layering** is a method of propagating bonsai. Layering is more complicated than taking cuttings, but has the advantage that the propagated portion can continue to receive water and nutrients from the parent plant while it is forming roots. This is important for plants that form roots slowly, or for propagating large pieces.

That is right folks, October is upon us and the Ohio Bonsai Exhibition is just over the horizon. Therefore, not only should we begin thoughts of overwintering (a month off for most of us), we need to be finalizing our trees for the exhibition in just a few short days. Make sure that you spray whatever insecticide you choose a few days before the show to get rid of all the unfriendlies. You should also start bringing them indoors a few days at a time to prepare them for their weekend inside. Lastly, if you have not signed up for a workshop and/or to volunteer please do it now. Workshop forms may be found on the club website at [www.columbusbonsai.org](http://www.columbusbonsai.org). **AND REMEMBER THAT THERE IS NOT A REGULAR MEETING THIS MONTH. THE OHIO EXHIBITION IS OUR MEETING.**



Rich Uhrick



1 Jeffrey Dubinski

## This month's program

### Ohio Bonsai Exhibition

**October 25-26, 2008**

Remember we have invited seven other clubs. Each one gets two tables. Therefore, we want to identify the trees that will have table priority. I know that some of the vendors have asked about showing a tree or two. We are hoping for 100% participation.

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. We will be using Meeting Rooms A&B for the Workshops.

For those planning to show a tree (and we should have plenty of space) Please send the following information to Rich Uhrick at [ruhrick@otterbein.edu](mailto:ruhrick@otterbein.edu) ASAP so that tree cards may be made up. However, do not let this stop you from bringing a tree, we will have blank cards ready to fill out there.

1. Common Name of Tree
2. Scientific Name of Tree
3. Artist Name (Your Name Here)
4. Years in Training

## Upcoming Programs

IRON BONSAI  
IRON BONSAI  
LET THE BATTLE BEGIN

**November 16, 2008**

*All material donated by Oakland Nursery*

**OHIO BONSAI EXHIBITION “SECURITY ALERT”!**

As “Sheriff” of the Security Committee for the **Ohio Bonsai Exposition** on **Saturday, October 25 and Sunday, October 26**, I am “alerting” all of **YOU** of the urgent need for additional “volunteers” to help with security at our show on either or both days. There are three time slots available each day: **10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M., 12:30 P.M. – 3:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

As of today, four people have signed up for the first time slot and three people have signed up for the second time slot on both days. However, the third time slot is still **open** both days. So if you have some time to spare and share during our show, we need **YOUR** help to keep an eye on our trees, and those of our guest clubs, that weekend

Please send me, **John Young**, an e-mail at [jyoungjfy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jyoungjfy@sbcglobal.net) or give me a call at **(614) 267-4168** and let me know which time slot you would like to sign up for on either Saturday or Sunday. Doc Gurevitz, my “Deputy Sheriff” and faithful sidekick, and I promise to **“Keep It Simple and Make It Fun!”** for you. The time will go by quickly and you will have the chance to share your bonsai knowledge with the public. So please take the time and help **YOUR** club, as well as our guest clubs. You could even help save a tree!

Thanks in advance for your help.

 John Young, The Sheriff of this here Exhibition

### **President’s Message- Mark Passerello**

The president is busy with preparations for the exhibition and will return with his state of the club comments next month.

### **In Support of Workshops**

By Russell Marchant

Used by permission original photos replaced with club photos.



Randy Clark and Ken Schultz, 2007

The following is an observation I have made after having been a member of a bonsai club for about ten years: there are club members you attend bonsai workshops and there are members who do not. While this may, at first, seem overly simplistic I would ask you to ponder it a bit. I think there is an interesting question here. Why is their division among otherwise like thinking individuals (all enjoy bonsai and all are active members in an organization dedicated to the enjoyment and study of bonsai) regarding their participation in outside bonsai educational activities – workshops? The primary reasons I came up with are; some workshops cost too much, limited time to attend (scheduling difficulty), some individuals (particularly those new to bonsai) may feel intimidated, and (having attended a bad workshop) there is a strong desire to not repeat a bad experience.

### Some workshops cost too much

I think the operative word here is "some". Some bonsai workshops are well out of my price range, just like a Bentley or a Ferrari are out of my price range when I go car shopping. As a long-standing member of the School of Frugal Bonsai I prefer workshops in the \$100-150 and under range. Most workshops in this range involve smaller trees or require participants (my personal favorite) to "bring your own tree". Participants benefit from an experienced teacher who, hopefully, is able to show you how to release a beautiful bonsai from a tree you may have been staring at for a long time. And besides, the main goal is to develop knowledge and experience, not create a show quality masterpiece. The point: there are many workshops available that offer quality instruction at a reasonable price.

### Limited time to attend

I'm sorry, but for bonsai folks living near large metropolitan areas, or for individuals who are members of bonsai clubs or societies, I don't think this is a valid excuse. In my area of the Midwest (St. Louis, Missouri) we are very fortunate. We can choose from workshops held at nearby Cass Bonsai (a local bonsai nursery) and our club also provides a variety of workshop and club-sponsored activities throughout the year. In addition, our central location provides exposure to workshops held in nearby locations like Chicago and Springfield, IL; Evansville, IN; Memphis and Nashville, TN; etc. I am sure this situation only improves when you consider areas like the east or west coasts with their more concentrated population centers.



Jack Wikle and Zack Clayton, 2007



Keith Scott and club members, 2002

### I feel intimidated because I'm new

This to me is a bit of a, "Catch-22". Of course you feel a little intimidated if you're new and inexperienced. If you are trying bonsai, or anything else for that matter, for the first time I'm not sure how many other ways you can feel except a little intimidated. It is very normal to feel a little uncomfortable or uncertain when you are trying something new. But that is the very reason you should be attending the workshop - to gain experience and build knowledge.

I remember my first workshop, it was held in the spring. I only knew a few people so I did a lot of listening that day. What surprised me most were the conversations of experienced bonsai folks. Many spoke of trees they diligently cared for and maintained for years, but for some unknown reason were lost to the snows of winter or the springtime wind. Rest assured; if you attend a workshop you will be surrounded by many others who, in their quest for bonsai knowledge, have left a trail of broken branches, wire-scarred trunks, and dead bonsai.

### The desire to not repeat a bad experience

Having been engaged in many conversations regarding workshops I have determined the difference between a good session and a bad one is usually determined by two things, the bonsai master conducting the session and the species or quality of tree to be worked on. These two items seem to resurface each time I ask someone what they thought about a particular workshop.

In my opinion, researching the bonsai artist who will be conducting the workshop is an important step in the selection process. After all, you are counting on this person to further your understanding of bonsai and you certainly want a quality learning experience. I frequently ask fellow club members their opinion on the

individual conducting a workshop I'm considering. When my local club hosted the BCI convention a few years ago there were many workshop options offered. After I determined which were in my price range I started asking questions. Who is a good teacher? Which workshop provides the best match of instructor to material? Who takes time to answer questions and explain? These are the types of questions I ask prior to selecting a session.

Determining the species of tree you would like to work on is easy. If you want to work on a Black Pine, Juniper, or Maple forest you simply sign up for that variety of workshop when it's available. The difficulty normally occurs after you show up and actually see the workshop trees for the first time. Numerous articles have been written on selecting the proper stock for bonsai so we are not going to go there. However, it is safe to say everyone doesn't always get his or her first-choice when attending a workshop. Workshop trees are usually assigned based on the order the attendees signed up. If your name was first on list of paying participants you get first pick. There isn't a whole lot you can do here regarding the order of selection (particularly if you are the last paying customer). But you can try to make your most well informed decision and provide yourself alternate selections. I always try to view all the workshop trees as soon as possible. I show up early and start sorting through the material looking for that one specimen that shows the most potential. (Unfortunately, everyone else attending the workshop is doing the same thing.) The key here is not to select the single tree you want, but to widen your choices by selecting the five or six trees you might like to work on. Widening your choices increases the probability that you will get a "good tree" and lessens the possibility for disappointment.

### Workshops?

I certainly don't hold the club record for "Most Workshops Attended" but I have attended a few and I will continue to attend a few more. I have been fortunate in that I can't remember a workshop where I felt I did not benefit from the instructor, instruction, or camaraderie of my fellow bonsai enthusiasts. I realize everyone is different and we all determine how best to spend our money or any free time we get, but I urge everyone to attend at least one bonsai workshop. I don't think you will be disappointed.

# FEED ME

Members, as you come to the exhibition for your volunteer assignment or even just to attend workshops, see the trees, or shop the vendors. Why don't you bring along a potluck item to help feed our volunteers and vendors while they work this event. We need lots of food to keep our strength up for this busy weekend.



## OCTOBER MONTHLY TIPS

- 🌱 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 your tropicals
  - Examine your tropicals for insects before it is time to bring them in.
  - Spray them with a stream of water making sure to get under the leaves.
  - 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.

### Using Lime Sulfur as a Winter Wash for Bonsai

Lime Sulfur still has its uses as a winter wash for (outdoor) bonsai. Mix Lime Sulfur with water at a rate of *approx* 1:25 to 1:50 and spray over the trunk and bare branches to kill any over wintering insects, bacteria or fungi. Rinse off the soil surface and bonsai pot with water afterwards to remove any temporary staining that the diluted lime sulfur may cause (This is purely for aesthetic reasons). I use a lime sulfur winter wash only on my deciduous trees however, I understand that some enthusiasts also spray their coniferous evergreens; the needles may however have a temporary white color that disappears by Spring.

A lower rate of dilution (approx 1:25) with water is useful for cleaning and brightening the trunk of trees with smooth bark such as Hornbeams, Beech and Chinese Elms. Simply spray the solution onto the bark, allow to dry and the bark becomes a subtly lighter and brighter color. Again, for aesthetic reasons rinse away any excess solution that lands on the soil surface or the pot.

#### Mixing Lime Sulfur with water at a rate of between 1:25 to 1:50

Add between 4 to 8 teaspoons of lime sulfur to 1 liter of water.

OR

Add between 2 to 4 teaspoons of lime sulfur to 1/2 liter of water.

One teaspoon holds 5ml of lime sulfur.

# 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](http://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.

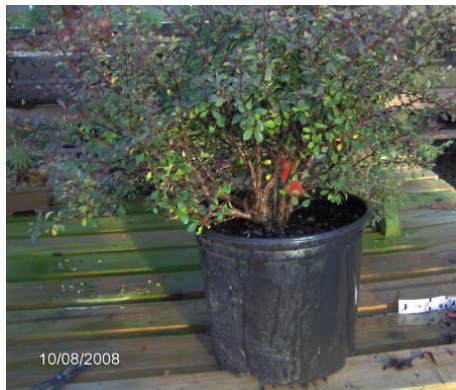
Thank you.

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](mailto: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



**Examples of the Barberry trees for the John Carr workshop at the Ohio Bonsai Exhibition**

## 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.

<b>Sept. 14, 2008</b>	Member's White Elephant Sale & Potluck
Sept. 27-28, 2008	Wildwood Gardens BBQ <a href="http://www.wildwoodgardens.com">www.wildwoodgardens.com</a>
Oct. 11-12, 2008	National Bonsai Exhibition, Rochester, NY <a href="http://www.internationalbonsai.com/nbe08">www.internationalbonsai.com/nbe08</a>
Oct. 11-12, 2008	Carolina Bonsai Expo, Ashville, NC <a href="http://www.ncarboretum.org">www.ncarboretum.org</a>
<b>Oct. 25-6, 2008</b>	<b>Ohio Bonsai Exhibition at Franklin Park Conservatory</b>
<b>Nov. 16, 2008</b>	<b>IRON BONSAI: Let the Battle Begin</b>
<b>Dec., 2008</b>	<b>Holiday Dinner</b>
<b>June, 2011</b>	<u><a href="#">ABS/BCI LEARNING SEMINAR IN LOUISVILLE, KY</a></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

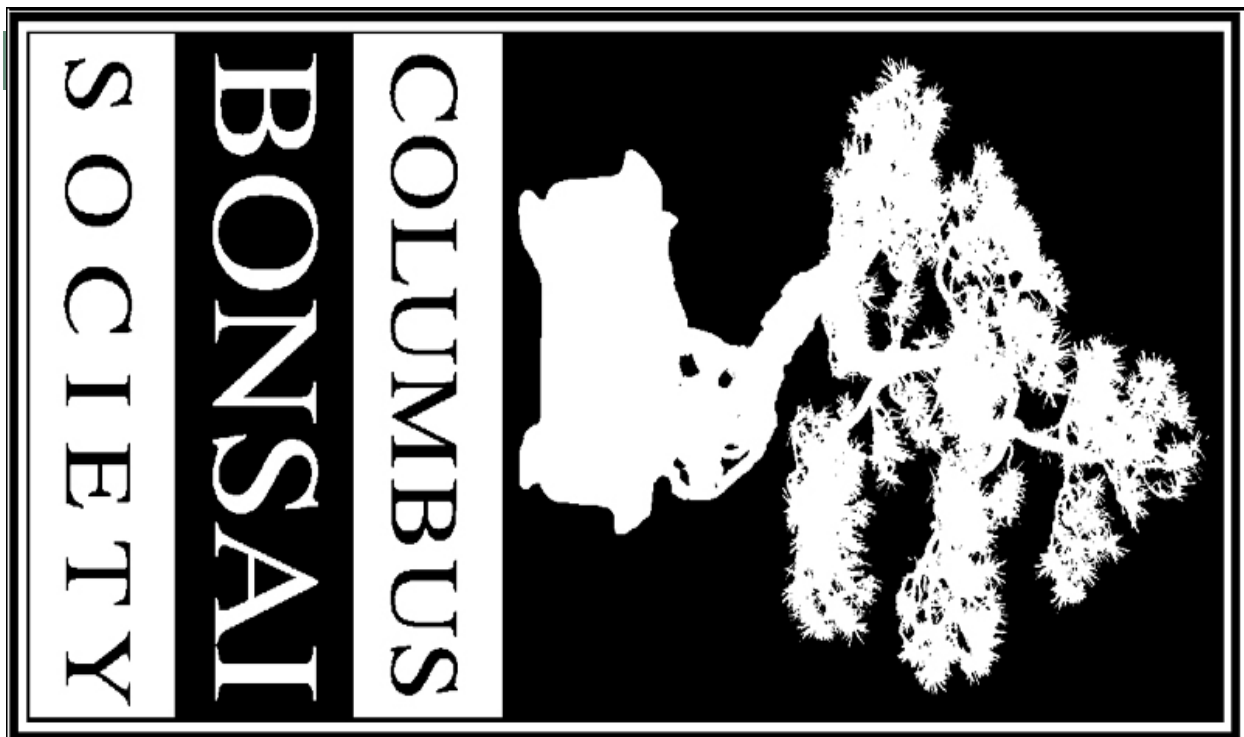
4 3 2 1 6 - 1 9 8 1

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

Regular Club meetings on  
3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month  
at 7:00 pm at FPC