

February 2009 Newsletter

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Tom Holcomb

*I am once,
sprouted
from this air,
that soil,
growing.*

“A Pinch of this....”

...Gettin’ down and dirty again....

Term of the month: CAMBIUM

Cambium: The layer of living tissue [typically green] between the sapwood and the bark. In regions where there are alternating seasons, each year's growth laid down by the cambium is discernible because of the contrast between the large wood elements produced in the spring and the smaller ones produced in the summer. These are the annual rings, by which the age of a tree can be established.

Well, February is upon us once more and it is time to discuss soils, fertilizers and potting mediums. This is always an entertaining and informative session. Besides it gets us thinking about what we will need to have on hand for the spring repotting. Hopefully this will start next month with deciduous trees, but then Mr. Phil Groundhog seems to think it could be further off. Still, do you have all of the supplies that you will need for your spring tasks? Speaking of that do you need pots, wire, tools? Why not try to buy it from the club then we will not need to find as much storage space for the things we will not be able to store at the FPC anymore. [See President’s Message on page 3] Also, the board has christened a new title Education Director and Tom Holcomb has graciously agreed to take on this role, as we seek to begin regular Novice Education classes. [More information on page 8] These sessions will begin on Saturday April 18, 2009 with our sessions and buying trip to Oakland Nursery on Oakland Park Avenue in Columbus. So, let’s put on our “grubby” clothes and dig right in to “Dirt and Fert”.



Rich Uhrick

This Month's Program—Dirt and Fert

Along with the theme of soils, fertilizing, and pests please be prepared to pick up your Fir bark orders that you placed last month. Once again we will get our hands dirty talking about various soil amendments, drainage, Ph, and homemade fertilizer cakes. So put on your “get dirty” clothes and come join us at the Conservatory to another wonderful examination of the “down and dirty” aspects of the horticultural portion of the art of bonsai.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

MARCH: Weather and conditions permitting we hope to be doing some BYOT repotting of any trees (deciduous) that are ready.

APRIL: Join us at Oakland Nursery in Columbus on Sat. the 18th. We will be providing training and mentoring on purchasing nursery stock that is truly worth the cost to use for Bonsai. Then join us at the regular Sunday time for a discussion of Mame techniques and Accent plants.



Also watch for further information on some novice development courses to be offered prior to regular meetings.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Every year about this time, I start to worry about my trees. A bonsai hobbyist always has some thought about their tree's welfare, but weather like this can really get your mind racing. It's very easy to forget that by and large, trees have been making it through weather like this with out the help of humans for quite a long time.

Sometimes it is we humans that need the help. In last month's newsletter, I mentioned that there would be some changes regarding Franklin Park Conservatory and our club's relationship with them. After having a meeting with one of the FPC staff members, I can say that even though we will have to make some changes, we will still have a home, a venue for our meetings and shows that will be hard to beat.

One of the requests that Franklin Park has made of us is that we remove most of the items we store at the Conservatory. Our library cart will be allowed to remain, but our inventory of pots, tools, and show equipment will have to find new homes. Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of their club. If you have space in your garage, basement, attic or other relatively dry and mouse free area, consider giving some of the Club's stuff a home. The items used for our show are only used once a year, and just need to stay dry and relatively free of dust and pests, so storing them would not take much effort. The pots and tool inventory has to come back and forth for most meetings, so requires more effort.

The club is also actively seeking a volunteer to transport the hospitality table supplies back and forth to meetings. Ken and Linda Schultz brought them to the January meetings, and I will get them set up at the February meeting, after which they get handed off to Ken and Sandy Schoenfeld for the March meeting. Will you be the next link in the chain?



Mark Passerello

“Now is the time for all good men and women to come to the aid of their club. If you have space in your garage, basement, attic or other relatively dry and mouse free area, consider giving some of the Club's stuff a home.”

Tree of the Month: Quince – *Chaenomeles* spp.

Quince appear as bonsai in a wide number of books. When Linda and I visited Japan, we were lucky enough to be there when quince were in bloom. It is extremely difficult to find good bonsai material. Sometimes you may find a plant in a nursery that has a single trunk, but more likely, they will be multiple stemmed. If you do find a quince with a single stem, it will take a very long time for it to develop a significant trunk; in one reference they report that you will do just as well with the plant in a 5 gallon pot as in the ground in developing the trunk. The advice is to remove all suckers. Reportedly, it takes 5 years to develop a 3/4" trunk.

I have tried to grow quince, but I that I must report that I have killed all three that I tried. Maybe that is why it has taken me so many years to get around to writing about them. I thought that perhaps I was a victim of quince-disease or climate. We really need to look at the climatic preferences of our trees, they struggle when we try to grow a plant that is not hardy to zone 5 here in Ohio. While some varieties are not hardy, many are, so there is hope. Be careful though if you buy "bonsai" varieties, they may need to protection below 40 degrees. Buying nursery stock should provide a better hardiness. They are native to China and some grow up to 6 feet tall in the ground.

Quince has been in and out of the pear genus. Therefore, they are susceptible to some of the rusts and fire blights that attack pears and apples. I could not find any information on varieties that are resistant compared to those that are not. The descriptions focus on the various colors (white, pinks, orange and reds) or the edibility of the fruit. "Hime" is a red variety reported to have smaller flowers and fruit that is preferred for bonsai. "Jet Trail" is white; "Falconette Charlotte" is a double pink. Spitfire is another red reported to be twiggy.

Quince like sunlight. The books however caution that they will suffer from leaf scald in the hottest of summer months if left in full sun. At Franklin Park, the quince stays in a semi shady location. Perhaps this is the reason that most specimens are in deep pots. The experts are in disagreement on the frequency of re-potting. The books say yearly, every two to four years. One book even said that it prefers re-potting in autumn; I would be very careful following this tip. The same source said that the root could be reduced by half. I am guessing this is dependent on how healthy your plant is affecting its rate of growth. They require feeding every 2 weeks from the end of flowering to leaf drop. One source says that you need calcium if you want good fruiting. Remove faded flowers and control the number of fruit to keep your plant vigorous. Too many fruit will weaken a bonsai.

When they do grow 5 to 7 sets of leaves its OK to prune them back to 1 to 2 sets. The leaves remind me of a cross between pomegranate and apple leaves-- smaller than apple though, 2"-3" long. Some varieties are early flowering; blooming before the leaves emerge. After heavy pruning, some may re-bloom. The leaves are dark glossy green and have a slight serration along the edge. Some have a thorny like growth, but not sharp like a pyracantha.

When it comes to watering, be generous. As with other plants avoid watering the flowers as it causes them to rot. In winter may sure they do not dry out.

Because of their tendency to want to be a shrub, you may see clump style plants and cascade styled quince bonsai. They will accept wiring in the spring through the end of summer. Because they thicken slowly, the wire may stay on for 4 months without digging in.

While cuttings will root, they will do so slowly. I did see a site on the Internet selling Quince seeds. However, with their slow rate of trunk thickening, I am sure great patience would be required. I took the photo at Kobayashi's in Omiya Village, Japan, April 2008.



Ken Schultz

Book of the Month: Post Dated: The Schooling of an Irreverent Bonsai Monk

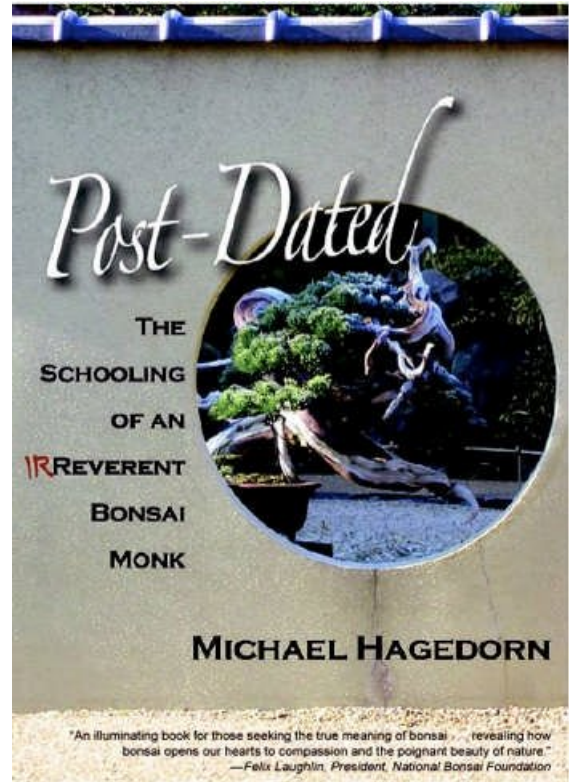
By Michael Hagedorn

It says a lot about the effect those thirty months in Japan as a bonsai apprentice had on Michael Hagedorn, that not only did he write a book about the experience, but also he published it himself. In book selling circles, there are two reasons an author resorts to a “vanity press” to see their work in print: either it is so poorly written that no real publisher will touch it, or it has such limited appeal that there is no financial sense in bringing the title to market. Hagedorn certainly sets aside the first objection, because his book is well crafted with easy to absorb prose (a jack-of-all-trades, he also took all the photographs and designed the cover layout). After reading the book, it is clear that it holds appeal for a limited market. However, for that small slice of the bonsai-book-reading-public, what a delight it is!

The familiar bonsai publishers like Kodansha and Sterling have plenty of colorfully illustrated tomes that outline in basic steps how to care and create bonsai. What Hagedorn has written is a book not so much about the “How” but more about “What”, what makes us grow bonsai, what is their appeal and artistic resonance. He also tackles some philosophically complicated territory by addressing the “Why” question as well. His seeking the answer to the question of why grow bonsai is much more sophisticated, much deeper than the usual responses to that question we may make—“they are beautiful, they connect us to nature, etc etc...” During his time in Japan he came to discover why the culture of Japan literally shaped these trees. Artistically shaped miniature trees did not spring up in Ancient Greece or Renaissance Italy because the cultural expectations and sense of aesthetics particular to the East and specifically Japan had as much effect on the trees as any piece of wire or set of pruners. Those can be easy things to read in a book, but what Hagedorn did was essentially live through the differences, see bonsai with new eyes, and work on it with new hands.

Post Dated is really comprised of glimpses into the time that Hagedorn spent learning the bonsai discipline. His life prior to arriving in Japan and what prompted him to leave it is barely touched on. What are really emphasized are the challenges he faced both in the nursery and in the community around it. As he seeks to achieve a higher goal like learning the artistic essence of bonsai, he is faced with much more prosaic challenges as well, such as learning the language and customs of his new homeland. There is great contrast between Hagedorn, who was thirty-six when he began his apprenticeship and not far in age from his teacher, and his fellow apprentice Tachi. Eighteen years old, Tachi had no interest in bonsai or the natural world in general before beginning his training, almost drifting into the field because he had a deep aversion to doing what almost every one of his friends and classmates was doing. Going to college to become what the Japanese call a salary man, what we in America would call a “cubicle drone.” The contrast between these two apprentices, who have such differences in their base skills—the elder has some familiarity with bonsai but very little grasp of living in Japan, the younger struggles to learn the horticultural nuts and bolts

We meet his new master Shinji Suzuki, a well respected and award winning artist who is in his early forties—so much for the idea of the wizened and venerable sensei, in the picture included of him the broadly smiling Mr. Suzuki is wearing a pair of black jeans. It is interesting to note, as Hagedorn



(Continued on page 6)

SAD NEWS FROM THE WORLD OF BONSAI

Dear ABS members I was just informed that Bill Valavanis's [owner/operator of the International Bonsai Arboretum, Rochester, NY] house burned down on Sunday [1/25/09]. He and his family have apparently lost everything that was in the house including all Bill's bonsai records, magazine materials, computers and his valuable collection of books etc. The studio and storage areas are safe and unharmed. At this time my contacts do not know anything about the cause but did say the word was the loss of the house was total. I can not imagine the resulting problems for all the Valavanis's family. Thank God that they all got out and are safe. When we know more, I will pass it on. Perhaps some of his local club members are on the forum and can let us know what is happening and how we can help. Keep them all in your prayers please

Pauline Muth, ABS President



(Continued from page 5)

points out, that the apprentices did not refer to Suzuki as “Suzuki-san” (Mr. Suzuki) or even “Sensei” (Teacher) but as Oyakata, the form of address that samurai used for their Shogun.

This gives some idea of the respect that the students had for their teacher and the complete and total control he had over their lives. Hagedorn paints a portrait of a teacher/master who was firm yet understanding, highly skilled in his art and able to convey that art ably. The means of teaching this ancient skill are changing. Apprentices of previous generations needed to observe and absorb, their only instruction being the pointing out of errors and poor choices. Because fewer students are coming into the field, bonsai masters have had to, by necessity, become more proactive teachers. That does not mean that life with Oyakata is warm and fuzzy. Hagedorn relates that as an apprentice you are supposed to know what to do, and if you do not you will be made to feel foolish. This meant that he and his fellow apprentices learned much about bonsai “...through the vehicle of embarrassment. Whatever its unpleasantness, embarrassment is a surefire way of burning information, or simply attitude, into the brain cells.”

The “simply attitude” part of the quote may seem like an after thought, a few extra words to lengthen the statement to a more impressive length. However, after reading the book, the importance of that idea is plain. Hagedorn illuminates to the reader that bonsai is more than an activity for the mind and hands, at its highest level it engages the heart and soul as well.

Bonsai enthusiasts looking for guidance in rooting cuttings or turning nursery stock into bonsai will need to find their information elsewhere. Post Dated is defiantly not that sort of book; it seems to encourage a bonsai grower to jump past those rudimentary steps to look upon their art in a more personal and nuanced way. Intellectually, it stimulates like a cup of tea and feels worth rereading occasionally, just to keep the mental cogs well oiled and turning freely.



Access the author's website at www.crataegus.com

Mark Passerello

LAST MONTH'S MEETING : STANDS AND STONES

Last month we were treated to many stands and viewing stones brought in by members. Some were purchased some found and some were even made by the members themselves. Then we were treated to some of our own Bill Webster's stones and the



stands he has crafted for them. By his own admission he has pretty much veered off and created his own genre of stone/stand art. Keep in mind that these are all handmade by him and represent something of an artistic evolution. And just as with any artist there are

various periods and stops along the way, usually beginning with the very traditional.



Novice Bonsai Development

CBS has long discussed improving club training programs for our novice members. Our President, Mark, has asked me with support of our board and members to put together program ideas.

The primary goal is to answer members' questions (needs).

The sessions will be held at times different from our regular meetings. Beginning April 18, Ken Schoenfeld will lead a field trip to guide selection of nursery stock that has bonsai potential. A possible follow up program may take place prior to the May meeting (12:30-1:30). Participants would study, clean up trees, cut down the nursery pots and develop a design plan. In May, they would bring their treasures to the meeting, discuss their ideas and begin work with support of more experienced members. K. Schultz put it this way: "Selecting an appropriate style for the tree they bought - and 'seeing' the tree within." Another potentially scheduled program is Bonsai Aesthetics at our June show.

There is discussion of having a small material fee for the training program and a sign up commitment to encourage participation and aid in planning.

Probable topics include but are not limited to:

1 Finding bonsai material

- Can I find bonsai material at Garden Centers?
- Should I visit a Bonsai Nursery?
- How do I dig/collect trees?
- Is buying on the Internet / e-bay ok?

April 18 at Oakland Nursery 11:00 AM Ken Schoenfeld

Possible follow up prior to May meeting (12:30-1:30)

2 Tool: use & maintenance

- Can I see a demo on correct use of: scissors, cutters, root tools, sieves, wire tools, etc (hands on)?
- What should I know about sharpening, cleaning, sterilizing, storing, carrying tools?
- Possible instructors: Zack Clayton and Mark Passerello

3 Art & Aesthetics

- How important is it to know about: styles?
- Proportions: Height vs. Width, Scalene Triangles?
- Potting: angle, depth?
- Container: size, color, shape?

June show, with Jose

4 Shaping techniques

- How can I practice wiring (hands on)
- What is lingnan?
- How do I use; weights, spreaders, clamps, tie / guy wires?
- What about grafting?
- Possible guest instructors... and...Tom

5 Keep them alive

- What do I need to know about bonsai maintenance; water, fertilizers, pests, sun, seasons?
- Is knowing how trees grow important?
- Tom and ...Possible Guest Instructors

C. Tom Holcomb

Newly frocked Education Director



Bonsai Master Suthin Sukosolvisit is the owner of the Royal Bonsai Gardens in Stoughton, MA. His specialty is in the Mame or small bonsai trees. Will have Mame workshops & Bring your own tree workshops available both days.

*** Advanced reservation required / Saturday & Sunday ***

Saturday & Sunday, June 27 & 28 (\$80.00) 8AM – 8PM, Demo's & Workshops starting at 9AM, B/L/Dinner-BBQ, 20% Discount –stock, Demo's to be Auctioned.

Sunday ONLY, June 28rd (\$35.00) 8AM – 4 PM, Demo's & Workshops starting at 9AM, B/ L -Hot dogs & burgers*, 20% Discount –stock, Demo's to be Auctioned

Advanced reservation required

(Call: 440-286-3714)

**** Bring your own tools if you have them we have limited tools. Parking is limited this time of the year, please car pool were possible. (Call: 440-286-3714) We will have a FREE shuttle service to the corner parking lot, if we get to crowded.**

AmeriHost Inn :440-579-0300

Spouse Discounts and Group Discounts

(Groups 5 or more) available.... Call for details!



SPRING OPEN HOUSE WITH MARCO INVERNIZZI

Saturday - May 23, 2009: - Greenhouse Open All Day

Event #1

Beginner Workshop – By Jeff Carr of Staselwood Bonsai

Tree Included Time 8:00am to 1:00pm

Limit 12

Fee: \$75

Attend: _____

Event #2

Youth Workshop – By Jeff Carr of Staselwood Bonsai

Tree and Pot Included Time 1:30am to 4:00pm

Limit 15

Fee: \$30

Attend: _____

Sunday – May 24, 2008 - Greenhouse Open All Day

Event #3

Advanced Workshop - By Marco Invernizzi

Tree Included Time 9:00am to 6:00pm

Limit 12

Fee: \$200

Attend: _____

Break

Clean up and prepare for Demo.

Event #4

Demo – By Marco Invernizzi

Limit None

Fee: \$20

Attend: _____

Time 7:00pm to 9:30pm (free if you attend event #3)

Don't forget to check out the Raffle items on the website.

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

1. I have the new C.B.S. membership cards for 2009; so please see me if you don't have your card yet.
2. If you have any bonsai (or related subjects) books, magazines, videos, CD's or DVD'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 501C3 non-profit organization.
3. Please check your personal bonsai library for any books, magazines and videos that belong to the Columbus Bonsai Society (they should be stamped with COLUMBUS BONSAI SOCIETY and/or have an envelope attached with a library check-out card in it) and then return them as soon as possible to the Librarian at one of our monthly club meetings so other club members may have access to them. Thank you.
4. Please observe the updated Columbus Bonsai Society Library Check-Out Rules:
 - - Only current dues paying members of the Columbus Bonsai Society may check out books, magazines, CD's, DVD's and videos from our library. Please have your current year's membership card available.
 - - Please fill out the check-out card that is inside the book or magazine. If there is no check out card, please fill out a Book Check-Out Form for each book and magazine, and for all CD's, DVD's and videos. Include your name and the date you are checking out this item and then give the check-out card or the Book Check-Out Form to the Librarian on duty.
 - - No more than two books, magazines, CD's, DVD's or videos may be checked out by any member at any one time.
 - - Books, magazines, CD's, DVD's and videos may be checked out for up to two months.
 - - Any books that are designated as REFERENCE COPY ONLY may not be checked out.

Thank you for your cooperation.

John Young, Librarian



P. O. Box 1981

Columbus, Ohio

43216-1981

Columbus Bonsai Society Membership Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ -- _____ Date: ____/____/____

Email: _____

Membership: Individual \$25.00 ___ Family \$35.00 ___

Check # _____

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

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.)

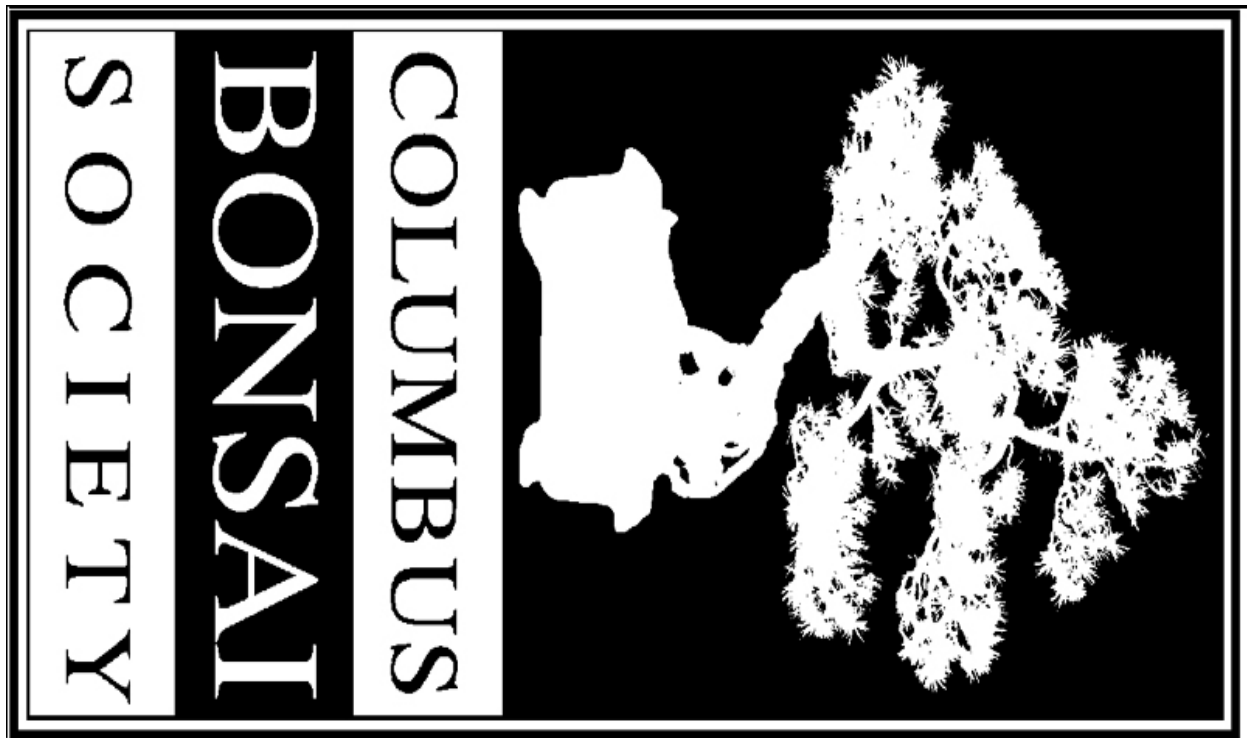
IF family membership, please list other members: _____

Renewal Memberships may be paid for more than one year at a time.

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. The board meetings are open to members.

15 FEB 2009	SOILS, FERTILIZERS, AND PEST CONTROLS
15 MAR 2009	RE-POTTING AND PRUNING TECHNIQUES-POSSIBLE ADVANCED GROUP KICKOFF
4 APR 2009	<i>HOSTA SOCIETY -ACCENT PLANT/ WORM CASTINGS WORKSHOP \$35</i>
17-19 APR 2009	MID-ATLANTIC BONSAI SHOW—NEW JERSEY
18 APR 2009	SHOPPING TRIP TO OAKLAND NURSERY- “How to select good Potensai” 11 am—? May touch on Field collection and ball and burlap as well.
19 APR 2009	ACCENT PLANTS, MAME & SHOHIN TECHNIQUES
2-3 MAY 2009	ALL-MICHIGAN BONSAI SHOW
16-17 MAY 2009	CHICAGO-MIDWEST BONSAI SPRING SHOW
17 MAY 2009	AZALEAS
23-24 MAY 2009	staselwoodBONSAI SPRING OPEN HOUSE WITH MARCO INVERNIZZI
23-25 MAY 2009	BRUSSELS’ BONSAI RENDEVOUS- www.brusselsbonsai.com
11-14 JUN 2009	ABS LEARNING SEMINAR- BOISE, IDAHO
13-14 JUN 2009	DAWES ARBORETUM BONSAI SHOW
19-21 JUN 2009	BCI ANNUAL SHOW—NEW ORLEANS
20 JUN 2009	ONE-DAY SHOW
21 OR 24 JUN 2009	JAPANESE GARDEN TOUR AT BILL WEBSTER’S?
27-28 JUN 2009	WILDWOOD GARDENS BBQ—Suthin
19 JUL 2009	GROUP PLANTING WITH JOSE’
14-15 AUG 2009	CHICAGO-MIDWEST BONSAI SHOW
16 AUG 2009	BYOT- TROPICAL REFINEMENT – “Bring your tree to talk about plans”
20 SEP 2009	GARDEN TOUR?-TBD, AND PICNIC
29 SEP 2009	CRAIG COUSSINS AT staselwoodBONSAI, NEWARK, OH
10-11 OCT 2009	“Show of the Carolinas” NORTH CAROLINA ARBORETUM
10-11 OCT 2009	OAKLAND NURSERY FALL FESTIVAL
18 OCT 2009	PINES, CARVING-FRANK MIHALIC
15 NOV 2009	LITERATI, PINES—KEN SCHOENFELD
DEC 2009	HOLIDAY DINNER- TBD
JUN 2010	NATIONAL BONSAI EXPOSITION
JUN 2010	MABA SHOW—MICHIGAN



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