

August 2009 Newsletter

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*"What's
estivation?"*

*"It's heat-
induced
dormancy."*

*"Oh. A
siesta."*

01101001

"A Pinch of this...."

...To Oakland Nursery we go...,

Term of the month: FEEDER ROOT

Feeder root: Fine roots that absorb water and nutrients from the soil.

This month we will return to the Education Center at Oakland Nursery on Oakland Park Avenue, Columbus, OH. Many of you will remember our trip to the nursery back in April. Now we will be looking at refining our Tropical trees. So, plan to bring your tropical Bonsai along to work on refinements, or come early and shop for one in Oakland's extensive inventory. [See page 2 for more info]. In the mean time plan on taking photos of your trees so that you can keep track of their progress. And who knows maybe you will want to send in photos of your best work to the American Bonsai Society's John Naka awards committee.

You also want to be dialing back on your fertilization regimen before too long, so that the growth on your trees have time to harden off [See page 7 for Dan Binders 2nd season article for more information].

The point of all this is that there is still plenty of actual styling and re-potting time left before we must put our trees away for the winter [Join us in November for more on winter storage].

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick



This Month's Program—Tuning up your Tropicals

This month's meeting is at Oakland Nursery's Education Center, 1156 Oakland Park Avenue, Columbus. If you've never been to the nursery plan to arrive early and look around. Hopefully your tropical plants have been actively growing since being placed outdoors for the summer so they could use some attention. Or, you've wondered how can I improve the style of this tropical or Mediterranean plant? Bring it to the meeting. Mark Passerello and Sandy Schoenfeld will lead the introductory discussion with other Board members providing on hand assistance to your styling needs. Ken Schultz tells me that he plans a side trip to Ken Huth's to acquire a few tropical potensai for those looking to expand their collections. So there will be material available, plus Oakland does have material that you may purchase too. Bring some tools and wire and if you plan to repot, bring you pots and soil.



*This is a David Fukumoto
Schefflera—
www.fukubonsai.com*

Last month's group plantings see page 11 for more.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

SEPTEMBER: Pot Luck/Picnic at Franklin Park: Bring a dish to share. Bring trees, pots and other bonsai related material to sell, trade, or money to buy. (10% of sales is donated to support the club). Selected club owned stock or pottery will be raffled, or offered at auction. Fun for the whole family.

SEPTEMBER 30TH: Craig Coussins BYOT workshop. Only a few spots left so be sure to sign up and get your money in.

OCTOBER: Carving and pines with Frank Mihalic

NOVEMBER: Winter storage and care of bonsai, including how to use fluorescent lighting to keep them alive during the colder months.

DECEMBER: Annual Holiday dinner

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT....

Welcome to August!

This month will mark a new trend for the club as we begin having some of our regular meetings at Oakland Park Nursery. Franklin Park has been a comfortable home base for us for many, many years, but continuing changes and upheaval at the Conservatory make it imperative that we look out for the continued strength of the club. An improved relationship with Oakland Park can be good for us and good for them, and is worth pursuing.

For the near future, it looks like next year in 2010, the club will meet at Franklin Park at least six times, with one of those occasions being our show which next year will probably be in September. The remaining meetings will take place at Oakland Park Nursery, with the exception of the annual picnic and holiday gathering, which will have venues determined later.

The board members and officers realize this change of meeting venue is a big switch, but one which we need to make. The bottom line is that Franklin Park is getting less and less hospitable to groups like ours. We are not alone in having to find alternative places to meet and store our club property.

If you would like to help chart the course for the Columbus Bonsai Society, and have a hand in sorting out the difficulties of finding a meeting space, putting together our annual show or being involved in the month-to-month operation of the club, then consider being a part of the board. Now is the time to assemble a slate of officers to present to the membership for approval in January of 2010. If you would like to give some time to making your club better and stronger, consider serving as an officer or board member!

Mark Passerello



Sale items and Society Shirts

As you know, we have lost our storage space in the conservatory so that any items that we sell have to be brought to the meetings. To aid us in providing you with items you need it would be extremely beneficial if you e-mailed us with your wish list at least 2 days before our meetings. We have a variety of pots, wire, some tools and a selection of Club shirts, hats and aprons. Currently we have a selection of Tee Shirts (tan or white)\$15, Golf Shirts (Lt. Blue, Black or Green)\$24 , short sleeve and long sleeve blue denim and short sleeve and long sleeve black "denim" shirts.(\$21) Sizes in stock range from Small to Extra Large, sorry nothing bigger at this time. (We do have 1-white Tee and 1-long-sleeve denim in 2X – they are \$3 more but I know they will not last.)

Tree or the Month July 2003: *Serrissa foetida*

It seemed appropriate to select a tropical for the July tree of the month. At our show, I noticed a number of people picking up *Serrissa* and exclaiming, “Oh look, this one has tiny flowers!” Soon after the plant was purchased to go home.

There are a number of varieties of *Serrissa*, some with single flowers, some with doubles; some have white flowers and some lavender. Some varieties have very small dark green foliage, like Kyoto, and others even have variegated leaves. Up to 4,500 varieties are reported, with 5 making up most of the bonsai hobby. Regardless they are all varieties of *Serrissa foetida*, a name derived from the foul smell they emit when they are pruned, especially the roots. After junipers, they are probably the most widely purchased bonsai by beginners in America. Gustafson lists *Serrissa* as #6 in the top ten indoor plants for beginners. It is commonly sold as “Tree of a Thousand Stars” or when the flower is a double, “Snow Rose”.



Serrissa are declared to be fussy by many and easy by a few. Many people panic when their newly bought *Serrissa* drops its leaves and flowers, it may not be dead, but it ends up in the trash. Remember many plants drop their leaves when their environment changes. My *Bougainvillea*'s drop their leaves when I bring them outside, and again when I move them inside. DO NOT PANIC, and do not respond by over watering.

Watering is the key to keeping a *Serrissa* alive. Too much or too little will result in another round of dropped leaves, eventually leading to the plant's death. Sure ways to kill a *Serrissa* are by continuously over watering, or by allowing the plant to dry all the way out. Misting, recommended daily can be problematic, as water on the flowers will cause them to brown. A humidity tray when the plant is inside is a must. If you use a soil mixture that holds a lot of moisture there is a risk of root rot.

I have seen *Serrissa* growing outdoors as a shrub in southern Florida. The plant is reported to native to sub-tropical areas of India, China and Japan. However, the literature reports that they will survive temperatures as low as 20. In another place, it reported that they are hardy to zone 9. I always take mine indoors for the winter when there is a treat of frost. Indoors, I place the pot on a humidity tray under fluorescent lights. Remember they like light, fourteen hours a day indoors is not too much. The more light the shorter the internodes between leaves. However, one author said to place them where they should be placed in partial shade outdoors, and protected from the wind.

Fertilize every ten days to two weeks with a balanced fertilizer like 20-20-20, or more often with a 10-10-10. In winter cut back to once a month. Since it likes acid soil, treat it to Miracid every three or four months. With heavy feeding, they may need to be trimmed weekly in the summer. One reference said to prune after flowering. Most report flowering is two or three times a year. (I find that they always seem to have at least 3 or 4 flowers at all times.)

Since they may be growing rapidly, wiring or wrapping whips around a stick like they do in Taiwan is needed to train and shape them. When branch tips are cut the branch tends to sprout in pairs. Do not be afraid to trim even though you may be cutting off a few flowers, if you do not the plan will get leggy. Styles include exposed root and twisted trunks in the classic Chinese styles. I have also seen them trained to look like small apple trees. They are suitable for all styles except formal upright and broom. Since most *Serrissa* are offered as a rooted cutting, unless you buy one of the Chinese styled plants, the trunks are usually thin. Trimmed off branches root easily to start new

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

plants. As a result, it is possible to grow very nice name' styled Serrissa. The books suggest repotting annually, every two years with more mature plants. The pots are frequently glazed because they are a flowering plant. Pests do not seem to be a problem. In my collection, scale, white fly, and mealy bug prefer other plants. Maybe it tastes like it smells?

Tree of the Month: Serrissa Revisited

In 2003, shortly after our June Show I wrote an article about Serrissa. [See page 4]. It has been 6 years, but Serrissa have a timeless appeal as bonsai from the beginner to the advanced bonsai enthusiasts. I got to thinking, yes, I bought more Serrissa, even though I have started a number of them from cuttings; why? As I stated in the other article, after junipers, they are the most popular plant purchased for bonsai. They are attractive with their in-scale flowers and leaves and they can be easy to keep. Here are some things I have learned since the earlier article....

First, give them lots of light. In winter put them under a four tube fluorescent fixture if you have one; even when outdoors Serrissa require plenty of sunlight. I mentioned seeing them as landscape material in Florida; Fort Myers area to be more exact. I mentioned giving them a bit of shade; this would be in mid afternoon, when the sun is hottest. The place I keep my Serrissa does get shade from about 2 until about 4 or 5 PM.

Second, over-potting helps. What do I mean by this? Put it in a pot bigger than the bonsai rules would dictate. Small pots are cute and make the tree look bigger and older, but with Serrissa if it dries out, it will die. I cheat and put them in larger pots than other plants of similar size. If you insist on a correct sized pot, put the smaller pot on a larger pot filled with your soil mix, it will act as an over sized humidity tray. With my soil mix, I can usually water everyday without fear of root rot while they are outside. The pot on a pot technique works well in our dry winter homes here in Ohio.

Third, some varieties are hardier than others are. In the earlier article, I mentioned a couple of the varieties; variegated, Snow Rose, Thousand Stars and Kyoto. The variegated variety is the hardiest and will survive temperatures down in the 20's; Kyoto will not. My Kyotos all died when I lost green house heat and temperatures dropped into the 20's, the variegated ones survived. For appearances, the Kyoto trunks thicken up quickly and with their smaller leaves look more tree-like than the shrubbier – usually multi-stemmed variegated variety. Thousand Stars is a lighter green leaved variety that has thinner leaves; these are fussier.

In 2003, I mentioned they are suitable for any style but boom and formal upright. If you like the Penjing look, you may want to start with a tree that has been styled in the Chinese wrapped style, you will pay more, but you will be getting an instantly thicker trunk. With a little wire and pruning, you can accomplish your own styles. I have recently been working on a cascade, but I find the “apple tree looking tree almost a natural for the variegated Serrissa. They respond well to hard pinching to control their growth. If you do not pinch, they will quickly grow out of shape and the internodal distance starts to get longer. While young, the stems and twigs are suitable for wiring into position. I find that they will “set” in about 3 months, though since the stems do not quickly thicken you may leave the wire on longer. The foliage pads are best managed with scissors or pinching.

Do not worry about pinching the tips just because they have a flower bud, you will get more flowers. As I mentioned, mine always seen to have flowers. Fertilizing helps. I use 10-10-10, poo balls and Miracid.



Ken Schultz

Book of the Month: The official publication for the first US National Bonsai Exhibition , 2008

As I was one of the first CBS members to preview the newest addition to the library - The Official Publication for the First US National Bonsai Exhibition 2008, I was encouraged by Ken Schultz aka "Bonsai-book-aholic", to present this book report. As the publication was primarily photos, I figured I'd be up to the challenge.

This publication highlights the National Exhibition held Oct 11 - 12, 2008 in Rochester, NY. It was the goal of William Valavanis to feature the finest of western style bonsai specimens in the US on professional display. And hopefully this would set standards of excellence for all future bonsai displays.

This was actually a judged show with awards, including the National Award (best in show) for the finest bonsai masterpiece; finest evergreen, deciduous, classical, tropical, creative western formal; best bonsai and container; best shohin display.

The exhibition featured US artists. A majority of the trees were native to the US. For being a western display, one can see the European influences - case in point - many trees featured an abundance of Jin and Shari (which begs the question - can you do too much Jin?).

Ohio was well represented. From Chardon was Frank Mihalic's San Jose Juniper (which he featured at our 2008 all-Ohio show). From Cincinnati was a perfectly maintained Buttonwood belonging to Doug Hawley. Other Ohio representatives were Luzia Bernstein from Dayton with a Cork Bark Japanese Black Pine and Melvin Goldstein from Euclid with a Chinese Elm.

The quality of photographs in this publication is excellent; one can see the high standards of show display. In fact, I'd recommend studying each photograph as it relates to the many principles that CBS lectures have addressed - size and proportion of tree vs. pot size, shape, color; proper stands and displays; use of accents. Case in point - for our Fall All-Ohio show I had a small geranium nicely in bloom that I used as an accent. After the show, it was pointed out that some bonsai visitors felt it was odd to use a spring flower for a Fall-time accent. The US National Bonsai Exhibition stayed true to the Fall-time themes.

The publication concludes with a) a helpful index of bonsai exhibitors as well as all species represented and b) reminders that the next, second US National Bonsai Exhibition is scheduled for June 12 - 13, 2010 in Rochester NY.

Now for my highlights: I was most impressed with all the featured trees from Suthin Sukolosovisit. Seeing his works in photos brought on feelings of regret, as I did not travel to Wildwood Gardens this past June. I passed on the opportunity to see Suthin in person.

PLUG: take the time and opportunity to travel to learn from a Master.

Pg 95 features Mary Madison's Dwarf Black Olive. Notes in its description comment that Kimura actually helped carve it during an Oct 1996 convention in Atlanta, GA. Ken and I were actually there and were fortunate to watch the amazing work Kimura did on Mary's wonderful tree.

PLUG: see above plug.

Pg 113 features a Bald Cypress from Guy Guidry. Ken swears that, with all bias aside (you all should know Ken's favorite species for bonsai by now) that this tree has his vote for best in show. It is an amazing study in detailed branch placement.

Pg 41 features a Keith Scott pot with an Oriental Bittersweet from Martin Kline

What was most impressive to me were all the featured names. Such amazing details in such little trees. And my vote for best in show? It is actually a tie - between pg 38, an Atlas Cedar and pg 80, a Blue Atlas Cedar, both perfectly "coiffed" by James Gremel (Calif.).

This publication of the First US National Bonsai Exhibition 2008 does feature excellent specimens, with major features of Nebari, exposed trunks and excellent pot selections. One personal dislike was way too much Jin for my liking. I found it often distracted from the beautiful foliage. Many trees also had foliage that looked shaggy - opposite of teachings that foliage pads should be separated so as to allow "birds to fly through" However, Jose Cueto offered a different viewpoint during his presentation to Columbus Bonsai Society last month. He offered that a visual contrast of solid canopies does help focus the emphasis on trunks and/or Nebari.

My last **PLUG:** Road trip to Rochester, anyone?



Sandy Schoenfeld

BONSAI: THE SECOND SEASON

Repotting hardy trees commonly only takes place in a narrow timeframe from when buds break dormancy and begin to elongate until the new growth is emerged. After that, most believe we should cease repotting or pay the consequences. Likewise wiring is generally applied early in the season then carefully watched so that the wires don't cut-in during the growth of the branch; and removed as soon as they do.

Outdoor hardy bonsai grow mostly during spring and early summer and slow down some in the heat of Mid-Summer then plants may not rebound until fall (unless it's in the mid 70s all summer long – like this year?). It is what happens during the fall rebounding that is of interest here.

Roots are at the heart of the matter. Trees have developed many coping mechanisms for hot and for cold conditions, by this I only mean the tree branches – leaves and needles. The roots have not developed similar adaptations. Roots have had the temperature moderation of the earth to buffer the extreme conditions that can occur. The dramatic temperature conditions the roots may experience in shallow bonsai containers is relatively new for the tree's genetic code. The heat that is generated in the pot by the summer sun can do the plants root system harm or at least shut down root functions. So in a normal summer, a growth slow down will occur and is generally why fertilizer is withheld. Putting a tree in the ground to improve it works because of the more "normal" conditions (temperature and moisture) the plant roots experience from the buffering by Mother Earth.

Once the fall equinox arrives (09/22/09 at 5:18 PM EDT) and cooler night time temperatures occur the plant perks back up, roots grow and buds develop for next year. We can start to apply some modest fertilizer again and we can do some repotting and wiring too. The activity of the roots is what allows us to repot and not have the shock totally shut the plant down. I am a conservative re-potter anyway so I am not removing every soil particle when I do fall repotting and if this is your style - severe soil removal - fall repotting may not be best. Wiring in the fall has been getting more attention; I have been putting on wire then and am glad for a second chance to do so to my winter hardy bonsai. Other activities such as preserving dead wood with lime sulfur can be done in fall and of course branch pruning. So don't give up on bonsai work just yet, why not take advantage of bonsai's second season?



Dan Binder

Then just a few weeks later at our October 18th regular meeting we welcome an equally well known artist from an equally well known Bonsai Family, Frank Mihalic. He and his father Tony are even featured in Craig Coussins' books. But they also have books of their own out. Frank will be bringing his expertise in carving to share with us. Anyone who has ever taken a workshop or seen a demo with Frank knows that he is an excellent teacher who truly loves what he is doing.

He and his family own and operate Wildwood Gardens in Chardon, OH.

Watch this newsletter for more information on this event in future issues.

Bio and photo from ichibanbonsai.com

Frank J. Mihalic is one of a few second generation bonsai artists in the United States today. Frank has perfected his craft under the critical eye of his father, Bonsai Master Tony Mihalic. Tony specializes in the Rock and Forest styles of Bonsai known as SAIKEI. Frank specializes in the single tree styles commonly associated with Bonsai in the United States. Frank routinely travels to the Far East to perfect his skills with various world renown Bonsai Masters and Growers. Frank also guides Bonsai tours and buying trips to the far east.



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See this month's
Book review for
another of his works!



NOVICE BONSAI INSTRUCTION CLASSES

A series of six in-depth classes to provide wealth of information and hands on learning.

The Columbus Bonsai Society, a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to the Japanese art of miniature trees, will be offering a series of six classes designed to give a firm grounding in the artistic and horticultural aspects of this fascinating hobby. The classes are open to anyone with an interest in bonsai, regardless of previous skill level or experience in any other form of horticulture.

The classes will be specifically geared to introduce the basic concepts of bonsai to those who have had no experience and to reinforce and improve the skills of beginners. The classes are open to all ages, and will consist of class room lecture, demonstrations, and hands on experience.

Registration for the entire series of six classes is open to any member of the Columbus Bonsai Society. Non-members may purchase a \$25 annual membership in the club at the first session. A materials fee of \$10.00 will cover all items needed for the classes.

Class Dates, Locations and Topics are as follows:

Sunday, October 18th 12:30-1:45PM Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus

Shaping Techniques - Specialized pruning, growth regulation, and shape control with wire, weights, and other techniques. A hands on session will teach proper wiring methods.

Sunday, November 15th, 12:30-1:45 PM Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus

Tools and Tool use - The interesting and specialized tools needed for bonsai and how they are used and cared for. And we will ask the question, "Do we really need them?"

Prior registration for the class series is encouraged. To register, or for further information, contact Tom Holcomb at 614-444-9639 (tholcomb@columbus.rr.com) or Mark Passerello at 614-890-1995 (mpasserr@columbus.rr.com)

C. Tom Holcomb

Education Facilitator





LAST MONTH'S GROUP PLANTING DEMONSTRATION

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

We are currently in the process of moving the library— so watch this space for more information on how book borrowing and return may change in the future.

Thanks,

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: _____

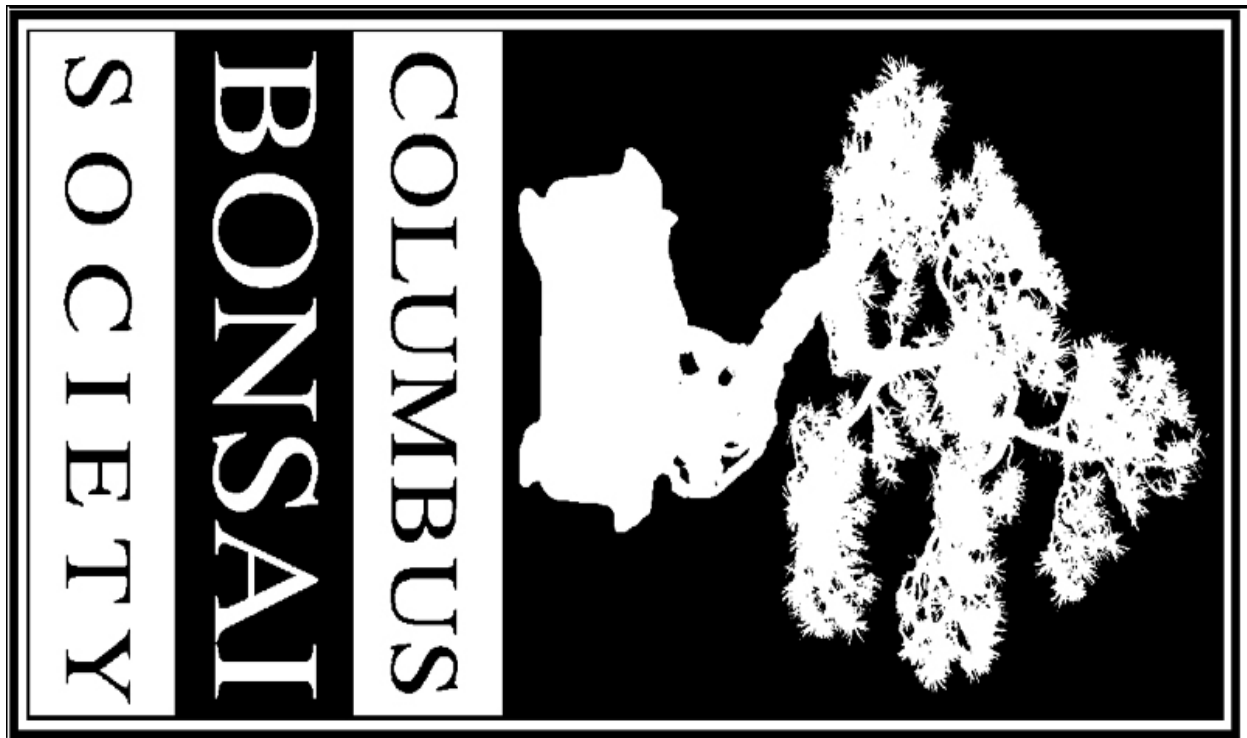
Renewal Memberships may be paid for more than one year at a time.

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.

14-15 AUG 2009	CHICAGO-MIDWEST BONSAI SHOW
16 AUG 2009	BYOT- TROPICAL REFINEMENT – “Bring your tree to talk about plans”
THURSDAYS SEPT	BONSAI & BELLINIS-COCKTAILS @ THE CONSERVATORY
20 SEP 2009	PICNIC—MEMBER SALES-RAFFLE/DOOR PRIZES
29 SEP 2009	CRAIG COUSSINS AT staselwoodBONSAI, NEWARK, OH
30 SEP 2009	CRAIG COUSSINS WORKSHOP—BYOT
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 DEMO/ WORKSHOP
18 OCT 2009	NOVICE CLASS 12:30P—1:45P
15 NOV 2009	INDOOR LIGHTING AND WINTER CARE
15 NOV 2009	NOVICE CLASS 12:30P– 1:45P
13 DEC 2009	HOLIDAY DINNER- TBD
JUN 2010	NATIONAL BONSAI EXPOSITION
JUN 2010	MABA SHOW—MICHIGAN
JUN 2011	ABS LEARNING SEMINAR—LOUISVILLE, KY

PLEASE NOTE THE DECEMBER 13TH DATE FOR THE HOLIDAY DINNER– Hold the date! Plans will be announced related to our Holiday Dinner. We need your input. Do you want a presentation - perhaps on Ikebana? - a gift exchange? a slide presentation?, White Elephant/silent auction?



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



**WE WILL MEET AT
OAKLAND NURSERY
1156 OAKLAND PARK,
AVE. COLUMBUS, OH
AT THE USUAL TIME
AND DATE**