

September 2009 Newsletter

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*Twinkling
sunshine in
the glade,
faint aroma of
summers
fallen leaves.
Bring blissful
thoughts.*

“A Pinch of this....”

...And back to the conservatory once more...

Term of the month: FOLIAGE PAD

Foliage pad: Cloud-shaped foliage mass on a branch . Foliage pads are shaped by training the individual branches with bonsai shears and bonsai wire.

And here we go round again, back to the conservatory for a few months. This month we will join in fellowship at the annual picnic. There will also be items for sale by club members, as well as club items and trees which may be raffled off, or bid on by auction of one sort or another. Ooooh the suspense is killing me. So, be sure to bring your allowances to purchase materials or other items and remember that 10% of all sales goes back to the club to help us provide you programs like we have in the month or two; at reasonable prices. Which brings me to the next topics...On September 30th we are hosting a Bring your own tree session with internationally known author and bonsai artist Craig Coussins. This will start at 5:30pm and there are still plenty of observer spaces left at only \$15. Then not to take a step down, on October 18th (our regular meeting) Frank Mihalic, another Internationally known figure will present a workshop on carving your own trees (see article on pg. 9).

Whew, I am out of breath just thinking of all the bonsai events that are coming up. But not to forget this issue, please be sure and check out the article on Hypertufa for bonsai pots by our very own Jerry Freeland. He has taken Hypertufa to a whole new level, you cannot even tell that the finished product is Hypertufa and not Japanese pottery.

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick



This Month's Program—Annual Picnic

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. Please be aware that the north courtyard is closed until next year, so **we will be in the Veridian room which is off of the Bridal Garden.**



Please see the President's message for suggested items to bring.



Craig Coussins on the 30th. At 5:30 pm.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

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

He's Back....



**Frank Mihalic is coming to the October Meeting;
10/18/09**

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT....

Hello Bonsai Fans, and welcome to September. The calendar may be telling us the fall is here, but the climate and weather have already made that very clear.

One of the club's fall traditions is a picnic. We have usually held this event off-site, away from Franklin Park because the Antiques and Gardening fair going on that same weekend and the crowds were intense to say the least. The Conservatory is not having their event this year, so the decks are clear for us to have a meeting. This will be a pot luck affair, the club will provide sodas, please bring your own table wear and accessories and a dish to share.

To help assure a variety of items on the improvised buffet, we suggest that those attending follow the following guidelines based on first letter of last name:

A-G= Salad or side dish

H-M= Main Dish or entrée

S-Z=Dessert

This is a suggestion only, no penalty for going outside the lines!

Remember also that the September Picnic is also time for the annual white elephant sale. Bring any plants you no longer want, or those cuttings you simply do not have enough window sills to over winter and see if someone else would like to have them. Anything bonsai related, or horticultural in nature, is fair game for this sale. A 10% tribute from all sales to the club is appreciated. There will be club owned plant stock and supplies being offered on silent auction and/or raffle.

Another upcoming date to keep clear is Sunday, December 13th. The club will be having its annual Holidays/Year end get together. A location has not been set yet, so watch for up dates, but the day and time are locked in. Menu will most likely be Asian.

Aside from sitting down to eat, the question of a program or entertainment is pending. In past years, we have had an origami demo, a talk about bonsai in nature and a look at invasive plants. These went over well, but also seemed to go over the heads of some of the civilians (non-bonsai) people who were joining us. This year how about something else, more generally appealing? Do you sing, juggle or play the accordion, ukulele or the musical saw? Show us your skill!

Mark Passervello



Adventures in Hypertufa with Jerry Freeland

Article and photos by Tracy Freeland, work by Jerry Freeland

This article will cover the main aspects of Jerry Freeland's method of making hypertufa Bonsai pots with wooden molds. Unfortunately, we do not have the space here for a detailed description, so here is a general overview of the process. (A future workshop on this method is in the works which will teach the entire method from start to finish.) So let's begin....

The hardest part of this method of pot making is designing and crafting the mold. This takes a little skill. You must fashion a wooden form (or mold) that will produce the size and shape of pot you want. Photo 1 shows a mold taken apart to show its main components. They are:

- a. The base plate.
- b. The cavity mold, which is permanently attached to the base plate.
- c. The main body, which is attached to the base plate with wood screws and must be unscrewed and lifted off during the removal process.
- d. The wire cage.
- e. The mold for the feet of the pot.

This mold produces a rectangular pot 9" wide x 13" long x 2" deep. Remember to take into consideration how thick you want the walls of the pot to be and whether you want a lip or rim on the top. Also, do not forget your drainage and wire holes.

Beginning the process of making a pot:

One: Disassemble the mold to its main parts.

Two: Lay the base plate on its back with the cavity mold attached and facing up.

Three: Begin the long, hard job of building the wire cage from 1/4" hardware cloth. Place the cage around the cavity mold, but not as large as the inside of the main body mold, so that when the entire mold is complete the wire cage is halfway between the cavity mold and the inside of the body mold. This is the most difficult part of the process. If the wire is against the mold at any point it will be seen protruding from the pot.

Four: Before assembly of the mold, rub wax all over it. Then apply grease as a mold release.

Five: Now assemble the mold. (Photo 2)

Six: Pre-mix the hypertufa dry. The mix I use is 1 – 1 1/2 parts Portland Cement, 2 parts fine play sand, 3 parts vermiculite. (Photo 3-a) After mixing these dry ingredients together, set it aside. Now mix the wet ingredients. They are 3/4 cup of concrete fortifier (Photo 3-b), 3/4 tablespoons of Cement color (Photo 3-c); in this case the color is "Buff", and 48 ounces of water. Now combine the wet and dry ingredients to create your hypertufa mix and prepare to pour.

Seven: Now pour the mix into the mold. Be careful not to leave any air pockets. [Ed. Note: Often this achieved by tapping the sides of the mold, as in ceramics or concrete slab vibration.] (Photos 4, 5, and 6) [on page 5]

Eight: After the mold is full we attach the foot molds. This will create its' feet. (Photos 7 and 8) [on page 5]

Nine: Now pour hypertufa mix into the foot molds.

Ten: Now we see the entire mold is filled. And now we wait let the

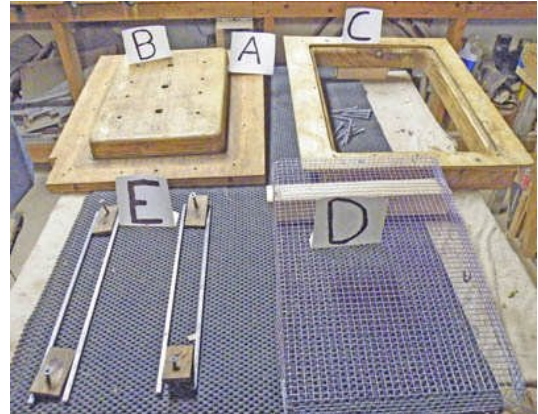


Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

(Continued on page 5)



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

(Continued from page 4)

mold stand for 48 hours.

Eleven: After 2 days we are ready to remove the pot from the mold.

This is accomplished by simply taking the mold apart from around the pot. (Photos 9 and 10)

Twelve: Now we see the result of our labor. Let the pot sit for another 3 days. Then clean the pot of any residue of wax and grease. (Photo 11) At this point if you would like to make your pot look even more refined simply add a few coats of "slurry" (see below) that will give the pot the appearance of being glazed pottery. This "slurry" is made of 2 tablespoons Portland Cement, 1/8 teaspoon of color and then mix in enough concrete bonding adhesive to make the "slurry" thin enough to paint on with a brush. Coat the pot inside and out. Let dry for 8 to 12 hours. Now sand the pot with 80 grit sandpaper. Repeat for 3 to 4 coats. This sanding polishes the "slurry" so it acts much like a glaze.

So there you have it folks, the finished pot. (Photo 12) This is a fun project to do over the winter when our hardy trees are dormant. If you have the time and patience you will be rewarded with a handsome pot that looks good enough to put in a Bonsai show. Photo 12 is one of Tracy Freeland's trees in a pot made from the mold featured in this article. This windblown Yew was in the 2009 Club show. The only difference is the color of the pot is gray.

Now Get to work and try it yourself.



Photo 7



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12

Recipes

Jerry's Hypertufa Mix (Makes 1- 9" x 13" x 2" pot) 1 Part = approx. 12 oz.

1. Pre-mix the hypertufa dry.
2. 1 - 1 ½ parts Portland Cement
3. 2 parts fine play sand
4. 3 parts vermiculite.
5. After mixing these dry ingredients together, set it aside.
6. Now mix the wet ingredients.
7. ¾ cup of concrete fortifier
8. ¾ tablespoons of Cement color
9. 48 ounces of water.
10. Now combine the wet and dry ingredients to create your hypertufa mix and prepare to pour.

Jerry's "Slurry" Mix (gives the pot a "glazed" look)

1. 2 tablespoons Portland Cement
2. 1/8 teaspoon of color
3. Then mix in enough concrete bonding adhesive to make the "slurry" thin enough to paint on with a brush.
4. Coat the pot inside and out. Let dry for 8 to 12 hours.
5. Now sand the pot with 80 grit sandpaper.
6. Repeat for 3 to 4 coats. This sanding polishes the "slurry" so it acts much like a glaze.

ATTENTION NOVICES AND EXPERTS AND ALL IN BETWEEN

Here are some great contests run by ABS for you to enter.

For a number of years Joshua Roth and the American Bonsai Society have sponsored a New Talent Contest for those who have ten years or less experience.

In 2009 the contest will take place at the Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention in Riverside California.

In 2010 the contest will take place at the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Festival in the Catskills of New York.

Students must go through a qualification round to enter the contest.

Details for the 2009 contest can be found at <http://www.gsbconvention.com/contest.htm>

. We urge you to look at the contest and to pass the information on to your clubs and bonsai friends.

And for you and your more experienced friends, enter the ABS John Naka Design Contest. Details for this contest are found at <http://www.absbonsai.org/NakaAward.html>

Thank you for your help in getting the word out for these contests.

Perhaps you could put a note into your club's newsletter.

Be sure to enter one of the contests yourself!!

Pauline Muth
ABS President
7 Western Avenue

Book of the Month: The Art of Bonsai Design by Colin Lewis

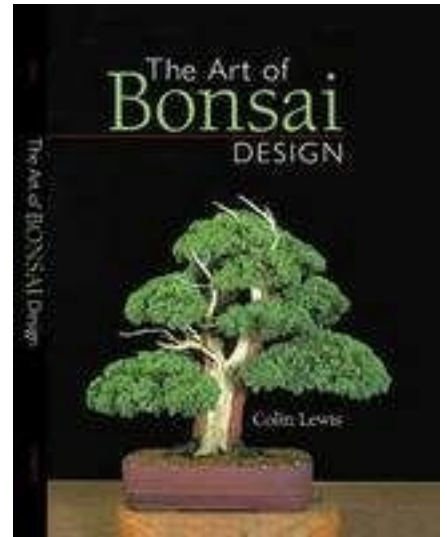
Published in 2001, it came out shortly before Colin Lewis moved from England to Boston. As noted by Colin when he came to conduct a workshop for our Club in April 2002, he sold most of the beautiful trees pictured in this book as a part of his divorce. How moving to read this book and the words that spoke of deep emotion of his love of England and these bonsai.

For many years when someone asked me to lend them a book on how to do bonsai, I would lend them Colin Lewis' *A Step-by-Step Guide Growing and Displaying Bonsai* published in 1991, ten years earlier. Colin Lewis began bonsai in 1974 then in 1989, went to study in Japan. Unlike many of the beginner, books which try to cover all the possible topics related to selecting, styling caring for and creating new bonsai from nursery stock. I can think of only two other books similar to the Art of Bonsai Design one is by Martin Treasure and the other is by David Joyce. They present life histories covering the long term development of specimen bonsai. Some books, which I refer to as coffee table books show specimen bonsai, but they usually are only a collection of color plates. Other books are the collection of one page care sheets on 40, 50 or 60 different species of trees that usable as bonsai. This is good for a reference, but you will not find much info on really styling any one of them into a specimen bonsai.

The Art of Bonsai Design presents elms, junipers, pines and larch. Covered the most briefly with only 22 pages is Larch, 34 for Pines, 38 for junipers and 40 for elms. Each section provides insight gained only after you have kept a particular type of tree for a very long time. Each of the four sections has several case histories and treats you to insight gained by Colin Lewis' experience in how to get the tree to do what you want it to do. You must keep your long term design goal in your minds eye at all times, he says. Each cut you make will enhance the appearance of the tree you are trying to develop. With elms, he shows several specimens, group plantings and a Saikei that has a gravel lane leading into the elm forest that he remembers before the English elms were devastated by Dutch Elm disease.

In the juniper section, he starts with a phoenix graft; then provides tips on carving. He also presents control of growth. Case histories include, raft styling, how to thin the plant to create foliage pads, and how to use raffia for extreme bending. The pine section discusses the principals of candle pinching. Much to my delight, he focuses on Scots Pines and covers needle plucking and how to get the movement you want into an uncooperative trunk. The case histories include a multiple trunk tree that is super graceful and a cascade pine. The Larch section demonstrates what the truly versatile bonsai potential of the species. And as I should have known, never repot a larch when the buds are showing green. You must repot them before bud break.

The suggested retail price of this book is \$27.95; I was extremely lucky in finding it for much less. Now that I have read it, and will re-read it and use it as a reference, I think everyone should have it in their library. This is especially true of anyone who wants to improve his or her bonsai skills beyond those of a beginner. The tips provided in this book will help you improve the trees in your bonsai collection.



Ken Schultz

O-R-A-R-O
 G-A-R-O
 O-C-O-C-O
 O-Z-O-O-O
 S-O-R-Y-O-L-I
 O-I-O-W-H
 O-H-I

I hope you are ready for the exciting experience of working with internationally famous bonsai artist, Craig Coussins. The Columbus Bonsai Society Board is excited to offer you the opportunity to bring one of your trees to Franklin Park Conservatory on Wednesday evening, September 30, 2009 for the unique and exceptional learning experience that only occurs in such an event.

He is the author of many bonsai books. (Bring your copy to have it signed) A few of us had the chance to work with Craig at Dawes and the personal experience takes his books well beyond reading about growing, caring and shaping bonsai. He is also well known for his wiring skill and prowess.

There will be 10 openings for the BYOT workshop @ \$55 per person. We are planning to start at about 5:30 PM. Fifteen Observers will be allowed for a \$10 admission fee. We are planning to provide food and beverages to those present. (Fees are to cover quest artist fee, travel and food)

Sign up will occur at both the July and August meetings. If you are not planning to attend either of these meetings, but are a current club member and wish to participate in this important workshop, please contact me about registration. Only paid fees guarantee

Craig Coussins has been creating Bonsai since 1973 after seeing a wonderful Bonsai and collection in his native Scotland. He has been at the forefront of Bonsai development in the UK starting and funding the Scottish Bonsai Association in 1978 until he left in 1987. He was a Steering and then committee member of the Federation of British Bonsai Societies in 1983 until 1986. He has since toured the world teaching at clubs and conventions in many countries including America, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and throughout Europe.

Craig Coussins has written six best selling Bonsai Books. Bonsai for beginners, Totally Bonsai, Growing Bonsai, Bonsai School, Bonsai Handbook and Bonsai Master class.

Craig has a small collection at his home in Scotland and maintains that with his friend Belgian Bonsai Artist, Peter Foele.



Room for Observers

Bio and photo from the Knowledge of Bonsai sponsored blog.

Did you see the trees that Frank displayed on behalf of the Great Lakes Bonsai Society of Northeast Ohio at the All Ohio Exhibition last October? Remember the carved wood on those three trees? These trees also were at the Bonsai Clubs International Show in Rochester New York. Frank Mihalic is one of America's few second generation bonsai artists. He literally has grown up with bonsai in his every day life. Now you have the chance to work with Frank on October 18.

Occasionally the Columbus Bonsai Society helps to make a unique opportunity more affordable by underwriting a portion of the fee that it takes to bring such a world famous artist to you. This is one of those occasions. For \$15, you can bring one of your trees and Frank will help you see style concepts that will make your tree a much better bonsai. I have asked Frank if he could also bring some trees with him for those who might want to add such a tree to their collection. I believe trees in the \$50-\$100 range will be available. Since one of Frank's specialties is Jin and Shari you may want to select a species frequently used for carving such as juniper; though others such as Buttonwood, Larch or Black Pine will work as well.

You should bring your tools and wire with you. If you plan to carve, bring sharp carving tools. There may be a tool or two available for use – we have not had a chance yet to see who has tools they may be willing to share.

There will be a sign up sheet at the September meeting. Fifteen slots are available.

*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 renowned Bonsai Masters and Growers. Frank also guides Bonsai tours and buying trips to the far east.



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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





BONSAI AND BELLINIS AT FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY IN SEPTEMBER!

Each Thursday the conservatory hosts a cocktail party from 5:30 pm—10 pm. With plants and drinks starting with the same letter. And in September that means BONSAI and BELLINI'S.

So, if you are so inclined come on out Thursdays in September and enjoy a few cocktails while you look at the “beginning” bonsai set at the tables as this month's featured “plant”.



WILD ONES NATURAL LANDSCAPING GROUP

Saturday, September 12 10am *Program at Innis House, Inniswood Gardens*

Program: Growing Native Trees in Pots. Join Shelby Conrad (of Columbus Bonsai Society), Wild Ones member and Bonsai enthusiast, as she demonstrates the basics of transplanting and care of Bonsai.

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

The library cabinet is now in it's new home at Oakland Nursery, 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: _____

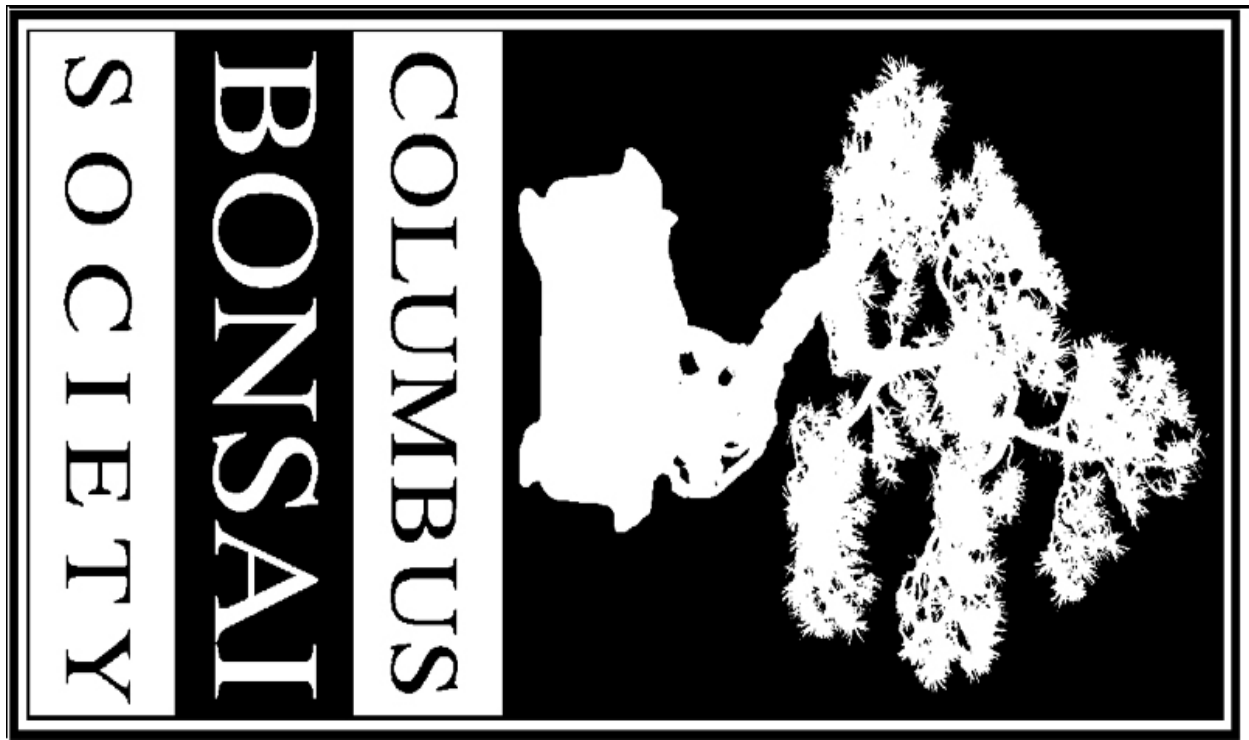
Renewal Memberships may be paid for more than one year at a time.

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.

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.**



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

**Meeting
Location**

**The Veridian
room, off of the
Bridal Garden.**