

October 2009 Newsletter

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Fan shaped leaves
of gold,
Maiden-haired
loveliness,
Ginkgo tree in fall.

-Rich Uhrick

“A Pinch of this....”

... Take a deep breath and...

Term of the month: GIRTH

Girth: The circumference of a Bonsai tree measured at its widest point or at just above the root base. This should work out to about 1/6th of the height of the tree for proper proportions.

Off we go again. We just barely got past the Craig Coussins workshop (for those of you not there, there is plenty of info on pages 6-9) and now we will look at our trees with help from the eyes and experience of a much more local master; Frank Mihalic. Frank will also be bringing some of his jewelry much if it examples of his amazing carving ability (see photo on page 2). If you have not worked with or met Frank before you are in for a treat. I think there may be a few slots open for the workshop, but no guarantees. And if you want to make a full day of it plan to get here by 12:30 pm and sit in on the shaping and wiring workshop Jeff Carr is presenting as part of our Novice Class (Hands on is strictly for those who are taking the classes, please).

And do not forget to photograph your trees before you put them away for winter, you will want to be able to plan for spring.

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick



This Month's Program—FRANK MIHALIC BYOT WORKSHOP

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 Franks 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.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

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

JANUARY: MISTAKES I HAVE MADE AND HOW TO AVOID THEM —A PANEL DISCUSSION

FEBRUARY: Adventures in Hypertufa

MARCH: Larch “Madness”

APRIL: Transplanting Maples and Candeling Pines.

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT....

Mark will return next month after he has recharged his Presidential batteries.



A Teaser for the Craig Coussins BYOT workshop reviews on pgs 6-9....



Mike Thornhill's Mugho Pine —Before



Mike Thornhill's Mugho Pine —After

I brought a mugho pine to this workshop. I choose this tree because I haven't been able to come up with a believable design for it in the last 2 years. This tree was collected 4 years ago from the shaded front yard of a house that the Columbus Fire Department was using for training. I collected this tree and 3 others just like it in the 5 minutes I had before the house was burned, two of them survived...I have been using "Vet Wrap" instead of Raffia since I started in Bonsai ten years ago. The method Craig uses with his "Pet Flex" is an improvement over the way I had been using the product. Doubling the 2 inch product over itself increase the strength and allows it to be wrapped much tighter. In the past I thought that wrapping a branch before wiring was just to provide a cushioning affect. Craig explained that the wrapping provides a "second skin for the tree and actually strengthens it....

Thanks again to Ken for helping me wire, I could not have gotten so much done without his help.

Mike Thornhill

IT IS TIME TO GET READY FOR WINTER

I wrote this article a few days before September 30, 2009, our first frost here in Delaware County. While the frost was there, it was not a hard freeze. In the few days since then, leaves are turning color much more rapidly. Fortunately, my trees are closer to the house than our garden and avoided leaf damage. Last year I was using my greenhouse and discovered when the temperature dropped to 4 that the heater could only keep it up to 27. Many of my more tender plants did not survive. Since then I have not re stocked my collection with similar species. You may recall that I sold a number of Serrissa cuttings at the picnic; these are from the variety of Serrissa that survived the freeze.



Stop fertilizing any deciduous and only place a few poo balls on your hardy conifers. A book that I have reported on said that conifers benefit from slow release fertilizers over the winter because they do not stop growing all together, so a few years ago, I tried it and like the results.

Spray all your trees with a pesticide, it will help reduce over wintering pest and reduce hitchhikers moving into your house with your tropicals. Remove wire placed on trees at the beginning of the summer or in spring. I have found that if it is not already cutting in, it will when the twigs swell with sap in the following spring. It is also a good time to get a jump on wiring; if you have a lot of trees, wiring when you have time is the key to better looking trees.

If you do not have a supply of burlap and your storage spot has the potential to be windy, better buy several yards. Stapling up a windbreak may keep you from losing branches and having wind burned needles on your pines. Sun can also dry out needles and might even kill the plant. So typically, a north side exposure or east will work best. West and south are out. If you put them behind landscaping, make sure to keep an eye on them so that they do not die of thirst.

Drainage is important. While you cannot leave your trees up on their benches and you cannot place them on a concrete surface, you will need to be careful not to prevent the pot from being able to drain. If you do, then it will fill with water and water expands when it freezes and will reward you with a broken pot! I usually put down a layer of mulch, and then place my pots as close as the trees will allow me. Because of rabbit problems, I have taken to using small mesh fencing to hold up my burlap windbreaks and sprinkle some moth ball in the mulch, as it discourages mice and rabbits.

Remember that freezing and thawing will damage new growth that may emerge before the last frost in spring. But do not hurry to store your trees before it gets cold enough for them to be dormant. Some years this may happen before Halloween, others it has been the first week of December. When the day comes, be ready to mulch them in. You should be sure to use a lot of insulating mulch to protect the roots. I usually mulch a few inches up the trunks. Some day I would like to build cold frames or hoop huts, but I think that will wait until I am retired.

I have not mentioned your tropicals yet, because you will have to decide when to take which plants into your house, knowing which are true tropicals and which may benefit from a little cool weather helps. Mediterranean or semi tropical/temperate plants may merely not be able to take freezing weather; some have tender roots, foliage, or bark. No matter, you will need a place for them where it does not freeze and where you can give them light and water. They like 40-50 degree temperatures. If you are lucky, you may have an older home with a porch that is not heated but holds heat from the house keeping it above freezing. Get a remote thermometer so that you can be sure, because if it falls into the 30's you may need to use a space heater. With our house even, the garage is too warm because it faces south.

Tropicals just will not tolerate temperatures much below 45. Leaves will yellow and fall off. Any prolonged period without leaves on a tropical is likely to kill the plant. If you only have a few tropicals, you may engage in a ritual called the "bonsai shuffle". This is where you bring the plants indoors every evening when you listen to the 6:00 news, and if it will be warm enough the next day, "shuffle" them back out doors because you know that they just don't do as well under artificial light or in the window you are planning to place them in once it stays cold.



Ken Schultz



A bit of fall color provided by José Cueto

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

An Evening With Craig Coussins....



Craig seems to be big on plucking; he had everyone there with an evergreen doing it. He did some artwork on the chalkboard explaining why and it clarified what was going on for me.

I brought in *Picea pungens* - a Blue Spruce to work on. It has been a bonsai for several years before I got it. It was one of the estate specimens we got in Marysville last year. I have been letting it grow to regain its health this year so had not done any major work on it. The first thing Craig said was to defuzz it. Take off all the two year and older needles. For the most part the three year and older needles just rubbed off easily, the two year needles were a little more stubborn. Craig said for those and any others that didn't come off easily to cut them about an eighth of an inch out from the branch. This avoids damage to the latent buds at the needle scar. New buds can pop from those scars but not if the needle is still there and not if the scar is damaged by hard plucking. This technique is for any spruce.

In and of itself, this made the tree look better. Next he had me prune off extremely long branches and define the crown of the tree. As always with evergreens you have to leave green at the end of any branch you want to form back buds on – at the needle scars that are now available for growth. I will be chasing some branches in farther after the new buds pop. Now it was starting to look like a shaggy bonsai. Craig also indicated that instead of cut paste on a spruce you can cauterize the cut with a blowtorch or soldering iron. Just be careful not to damage any adjacent bark or foliage with the heat. The object here is to seal the wound so it doesn't ooze sap.

Wiring was next. Craig suggested wiring now, in October as the application would not harm any developing buds that pop next spring. Plus the wire will have all winter to start setting the branches. Since this is a spruce, the branches will have a spring in them to return to the old form. Craig suggested putting in small slices along the bottom of the branches so that the new wood formed would grow in the desired direction and hold the wired shape. This may take a year or two and multiple slicing. The slices go in the direction of the grain, like slicing your finger from one knuckle to the next, not across it. This must be done with a very sharp knife, like a grafting knife or razor.

For extreme bending Craig recommends 2 inch vet tape or the pet friend equivalent. This is the wound bandage that sticks to itself but not much else. You can get it at most of the big pet stores. He has started using this instead of raffia as it is way easier to use and is almost invisible on the tree if you use the grey or darker colors. You put it on fairly tight as it stretches a lot. If the branch cracks under it holds moisture in so the bark can heal. You apply it by folding it in half lengthwise so it goes on double thick and then wrap it like very supple wire with about a half width overlap. Add your longitudinal wire and wrap over that if that wire is needed. And then apply the spiral wire to shape the tree. I have a couple of spruce bonsai at home that I will be applying all these techniques to yet this fall.

Now I was positioned between a Mugho Pine and a Ponderosa Pine and I heard the same instructions on needle plucking and wiring for those guys. I paid attention here because I have both at home. Take off the old needles, cut just above the basal sheath so it looks like it has a bad case of stubble. The needles will dry back and fall off without harming the latent buds. Wire in the fall so new buds are not damaged in the spring.

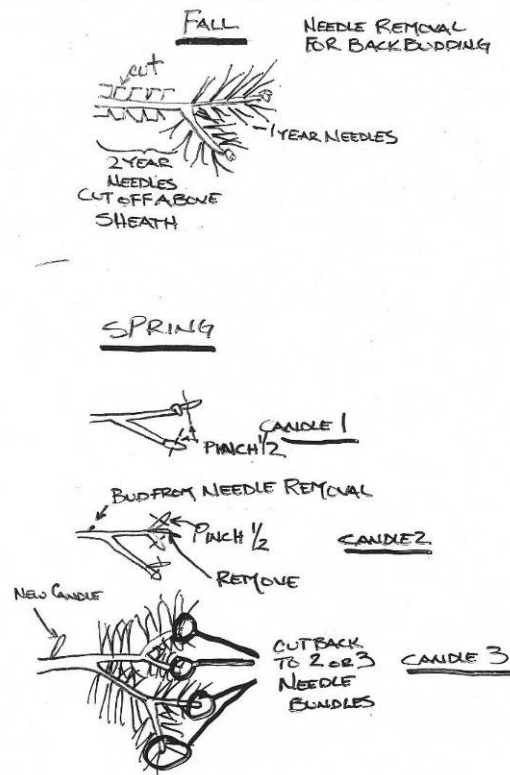


(Continued from page 6)

At the chalk board Craig drew in a sequence for candling. [at right] The main terminal candle with elongate and he recommends taking off half of it at first. This will force any other buds at the branch tip to start elongating and force auxin back along the branch to any latent buds that are available to initiate back budding. After the secondary candles at the tip have elongated pinch them in half and take out the main terminal candle. Remove any other terminal candles that are not wanted. A white pine or three needle pine will usually have more than two secondary candles at the terminal. At this time or soon after you will probably start to notice any latent buds that are going to form this year along the branch. After the needle sets have started to elongate from the candle, you can carefully pinch them back to three or four sets of needles on the new growth.

Now wait a year, rinse and repeat. You should start seeing developing branches and ramification on a dense compact tree. Note: Ponderosa Pine may take longer to start popping latent buds.

This is one of the reasons I like BYOT workshops. You get detailed advice on your tree, and if you pay attention you will get tips on the other trees that are present, usually stuff you can use once you get home.



Zack Clayton

A couple of additions ...

1.. Spruce

a. Memory. Spruce are dumb trees, they always forget where you put the branches as you mentioned, but an alternate to the slice technique is to overly bend the branches. Cause: put more fractures in the cambium layer thus causing more callus formation under the bark which in turn helps retain the shape of the branches. I have done this with some success... Just don't overdo it and kill the branch.

b. Before the needle plucking, which is a correct technique, if you have to chase back a branch, first look to see if you have a few existing buds intermingled with some of the old needles. These buds may be your new branch tip. If so, leave the needles surrounding this, and cut back to this bud. The needles will help provide strength to existing bud and you have a shorter branch without having to wait another year for formation of a new one.

c. Don't defuzz (de-needle) if you repotted the tree earlier that same year...

2.. other

a. Cut paste is completely fine to use, but an alternate is the heating method. The type of blow torch is the fine tip kind that only has a flame of about a 1/4" or 1/2". Not a full on blow torch. The large ones will kill more surrounding things than help... even with the small one, you have to watch the heat plume overspray. The soldering iron idea, is a similar heat with out the overspray of heat...

Jeff Carr



I know we all learned something that night.

Chamaecyparis - Unknown Variety/
False Cypress: I collected this tree from the curb in 1994 where it had been tossed after 17 years in someone's landscaping. I'm guessing that it is about 40 years old. Visually a large tree with two trunks that divided into a four trunk looking tree. The first thing Craig had me do was to remove the smallest trunk, which was on the back left of my tree. He told me to wet my cut paste before putting it on the tree, as that helps it to stick to the tree and not your fingers... I wired two of the larger branched on the back... Both were bent to fill the area that the smallest trunk had occupied. In the front he had me lower one branch towards the center. He said it wasn't natural for a tree not to have any branches on the front so the one was moved to provide some separation from the tree's apex.

Ken Schulz

Note missing Trunk/ Branch





I was unexpectedly given the opportunity to attend the workshop with Craig Coussins when Judge Mike Holbrook was called away on business and very generously gave his place to me... I came in with a tree that was over twenty inches tall and left with a tree ten inches tall. What was interesting was the tree looked much more in proportion to the thickness of the trunk. Craig also showed me how to cut the branches at an angle to avoid water settling in the wound at the end of the branch and making the branch heal much more neatly...He explained It was better to remove the old needles by cutting them off just above the needle sheath. In time the cut needle dies and the sheath falls off leaving no external wound to expose the tree to disease or pests. I must say Mr. Coussins is a delightful person and a great teacher that is very generous with his vast knowledge. I learned allot and will treasure the experience. My thanks again to Mike Holbrook. Wish you could have been there.

Tracy Freeland

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?"

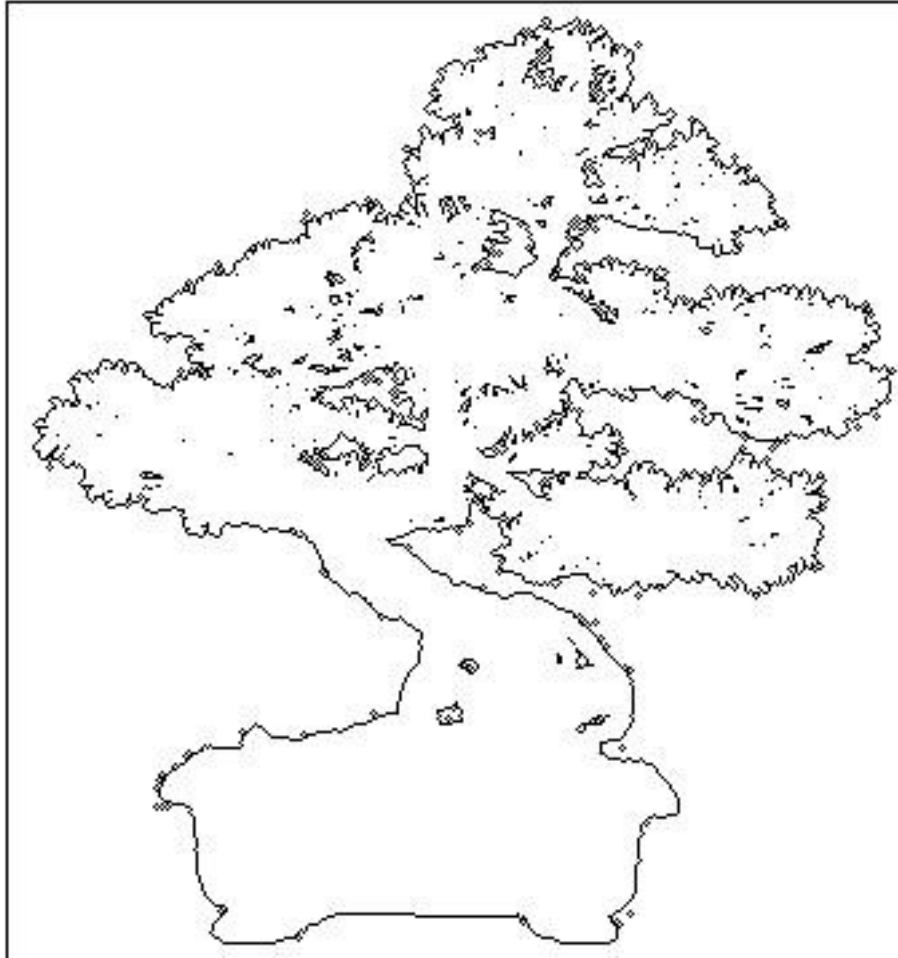
Prior registration for the class series is encouraged. To register, or for further information, contact Tom Holcomb at 614-444-9639 (tholcomb@columbus.rr.com) or Mark Passerello at 614-890-1995 (mpasserr@columbus.rr.com)

C. Tom Holcomb

Education Facilitator



Novice update - Jeff Carr of Staselwood Bonsai <http://www.staselwoodbonsai.com/> will lead our October program. The subject is shaping trees. Jeff's main focus will be wiring. There will be lecture / demo and hands on components. All are welcome and encouraged to attend, but the preferred seating and hands on segments are for the Novice Group.



COLUMBUS BONSAI SLATE OF OFFICERS 2009

PRESIDENT <i>Your Choices</i> 1. Mark Passerello	1st VICE PRESIDENT <i>Your Choices</i> 1. Ken Schultz	2nd VICE PRESIDENT <i>Your Choices</i> 1. Zack Clayton
1 YEAR DIRECTOR <i>Your Choices</i> 1. Denny Sackett	2 YEAR DIRECTORS <i>Your Choices</i> 1. Tom Holcomb	3 YEAR DIRECTORS <i>Your Choices</i> 1. Jack Smith 2. [Name] 3. [Name] 4. [Name]
TREASURER <i>Your choices</i> 1. Richard Gurevitz	SECRETARY <i>Your Choices</i> 1. Sandy Schoenfeld	TREE CURATOR <i>Your Choices</i> 1. [Name]
LIBRARIAN <i>Your Choices</i> 1. John Young	WEB MASTER <i>Your choices</i> 1. Ed McCracken	NEWSLETTER EDITOR <i>Your Choices</i> 1. Richard Uhrick
PAST PRESIDENT <i>Non-Elected</i> 1. Dan Binder	DIRECTOR EMERITUS <i>Non-elected</i> 1. Jose Cueto	

Feel like you want to be more involved with what happens with this society?
 There is always room for fresh ideas and new board members, just let us know .

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 \$3.00 - \$4.00 an issue in printing and mailing.)

IF family membership, please list other members: _____

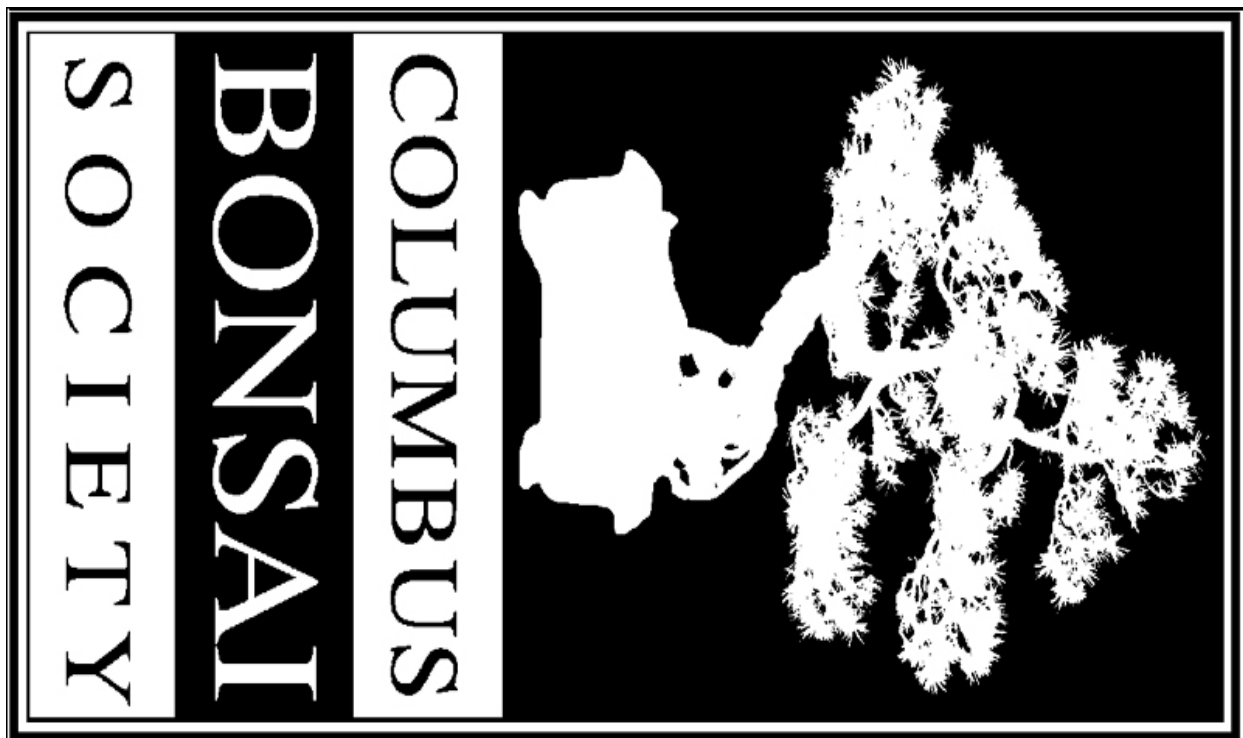
Renewal Memberships may be paid for more than one year at a time.

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.

10-11 OCT 2009	OAKLAND NURSERY FALL FESTIVAL
18 OCT 2009	BYOT, PINES, CARVING-FRANK MIHALIC DEMO/ WORKSHOP
18 OCT 2009	NOVICE CLASS 12:30P—1:45P: SHAPING AND WIRING-JEFF CARR
15 NOV 2009	INDOOR LIGHTING AND WINTER CARE
15 NOV 2009	NOVICE CLASS 12:30P- 1:45P: TOOLS AND TOOL USAGE
13 DEC 2009	HOLIDAY DINNER- TBD
17 JAN 2010	MISTAKES I'VE MADE AND HOW TO AVOID THEM
21 FEB 2010	ADVENTURES IN HYPERTUFA
21 MAR 2010	LARCH "MADNESS"
18 APR 2010	RAMIFICATION/ TRANSPLANTING PINES/ DECANDELING PINES
16 MAY 2010	EXTREME MAKEOVERS/ SHOW PREP/ BYOT/ PROPAGATION
12-13 JUN 2010	DAWES SHOW
20 JUN 2010	INITIAL STYLING OF TREES, Bring what you bought at Dawes Show
27-28 JUN 2010	MABA SHOW—MIDLAND MICHIGAN
JUN 2010	NATIONAL BONSAI EXPOSITION
18 JUL 2010	ROOT OVER ROCK / USING TROPICALS
15 AUG 2010	STYLES OF BONSAI/ SHOW PREP/MEMBER SALES
18-19 SEP 2010	CBS SHOW
OCT 2010	SHOW OF THE CAROLINA'S —ASHEVILLE ARBORETUM
OCT 2010	OAKLAND NURSERY FALL FESTIVAL
17 OCT 2010	PHOENIX GRAFTS
21 NOV 2010	ELECTIONS/ SAKEI/ STYLES
DEC 2010	HOLIDAY DINNER
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