

February 2010 Newsletter

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*Up popped
Buck Chuck.
Seeing not an
outline,
Outside he
lingered.*

—Rich Uhrick

“A Pinch of this....”

... WHEN AULD KENGAI....

Term of the month: TACHIAGARI

Tachiagari : Movement of the trunk that goes from the root base (nebari) up to the first branch.

BRRR, IT IS FEBRUARY

But the good news is spring is coming early this year. At least that is what “Buckeye Chuck” predicted on Groundhog Day. He did not see his shadow, so spring is right around the corner, right?

Well either way, even though most of our trees are buried under all of the snow we have received in the last few days, we should all begin thinking about spring chores. Of course, more “scientific” methods of prediction often list the latest day for frost in this area is not until the end of May. So, everyone think warm thoughts.

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick

**Join us at Franklin Park
Conservatory on February 20, 2010.**



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Columbus Bonsai is a proud member of the American Bonsai Society and Bonsai Clubs International.

This Month's Program—Adventures in Hypertufa

FEBRUARY: Adventures in Hypertufa—This will be a Demonstration only; by Jerry Freeland. There will also be a “Julia Child” demonstration on making “Poo Balls” by Mike Thornhill. And of course those who ordered it will be picking up their Soil.



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.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

MARCH: Larch “Madness”— With Ken Huth working on the trees you purchase from him

APRIL: “Maples in April”

MAY: Extreme Makeovers, including Extreme Bending with Jeff Carr.

JUNE: Initial Styling

JULY: Root over Rock with tropicals

AUGUST: Bonsai Styles

SEPTEMBER: New Annual Show date.



The Columbus Bonsai Society receives meeting space and other support and assistance from Franklin Park Conservatory and Oakland Nurseries

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Rich Uhrick, Editor
ruhrick@otterbein.edu

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT....

Mark is in cold storage....

Mark Passerello

Sneak Preview:

Mike Thornhill's non-poo "Poo Ball" recipe

3 parts cottonseed meal
2 parts garden lime
1 part blood meal
1 part bone meal

For every 5 pounds of above mix add 1 tsp of Sevin and 5 oz fish emulsion

Mix with full strength Miracle Grow or similar 20-20-20 fertilizer and water solution until you have a mix that is similar to thick oatmeal in consistency. From this point you can form the mix into cakes or balls (golf ball sized).



Bio Gold shown for illustration only.

Notes from the Columbus Bonsai Society Care Guide Zone 5/6

Month - Season - Average High / Average Low

February - Late Winter - 39/22

- Wire conifers now through early summer.
- This is the best month for repotting conifers.
- Use a dormant pest spray to keep pests away in early spring.
- All tips from January apply in February.

Go to the website at www.columbusbonsai.org for more

Columbus Bonsai Society to participate in the Dawes Arboretum Bonsai show in June.

Would you like to participate? Maybe use it as a "shakedown" for your trees to show in September?

If so, please plan on taking your tree(s) out on Friday June 11th, for the official drop off time. (More information to come at a later time.)

We may attempt a group return trip, we will have to see.

Watch the newsletter and the meetings for more information.

Tree of the Month: Crabapples, Diseases and Their Prevention

This article is not my typical tree of the month type article which is one of our normal report formats; rather it will focus on five diseases that attack the Malus or apple tree family. If you also keep fruit trees, you know that people are not the only pests that love the fruit that grows on apple trees. And if you have ever taken on the challenge of proper fruit tree care, you know that they grow fast and are susceptible not only to a variety of bugs but also fungal and bacterial diseases.

So while the majority of this article will be about 4 fungal and one bacterial disease, let me share just some basic pruning information which I first learned after planting an apple tree. This info comes from an Ortho™ book and the Readers Digest book on fruit tree care. The general rule is to prune branches before bud break. The recommendation is that you prune during a February thaw. Select the lowest bud that faces the direction you want the branch to grow. Leave no more than 2 or 3 new buds above the pruning scar from last year. When you prune fruit trees, you learn to recognize the buds that will bear flowers and then fruit. The same is true for the smaller fruit of crabapples.

In my bonsai reading pruning is safer when the temperatures are 50° or above but they are still pruned before bud break. Wiring should also happen above 50°, as the wood is less brittle. If you miss wiring before bud break wait until after flowering is completed and the petals have fallen off. Watch your wire as apples grow fast and it will cut in if you are not attentive. For bonsai, pruning once or twice during the spring and summer growth season is best to encourage branching and keep the structure open and the internodal length short.

Good grief, I had better get to the meat of this article, diseases and their control. When Mike Thornhill and I went to Ken Huth's to pick up the soil, I bought another crabapple; there were lots of nice ones to pick from, so I bought a "Harvest Gold" as I do not have a crabapple with yellow fruit. Mike said, do not get crabapples they get lots of diseases. I said, yes, but since I have 4 big apple trees in my yard I spray all my bonsai with Orchard Spray (actual name, not a generic reference) every 2 weeks all spring and summer. I did not realize how critical this treatment is until I researched this article. I discovered that some of my junipers are harboring Cedar-apple rust, one of the 4 fungal diseases that I will report on. These 5 diseases will cause leaf and fruit discoloration, leaf drop, branches to die, weakening of the tree and its eventual death if not controlled. One simple prevention tool is to remove fallen leaves and contaminated fruit from near the tree. This debris harbors spores that spread the disease.

Fire Blight bacteria thrive in the warm moist weather of blossom time. Fire Blight can quickly kill a bonsai sized crabapple. Blossoms brown, leaves look as if a blow torch has hit them, hence the fire blight name. Control after diagnosis of the disease is to cut off the infected branch to a few buds beyond the dead leaves. If you see dark staining in the center of the white wood of the branch, chances are you have not cut back far enough. To control Fire Blight use a product with antibiotic streptomycin, or Bonide Fungal Fruit Tree Spray.

Apple Scab is the most wide spread. It begins when our weather in spring is warm and damp (April, May, and June). While a fungal disease, it looks very similar to Fire Blight. It will defoliate a tree. Removal of the dead leaves is vital, including in the fall. If left untreated the trees will weaken and eventually die. Use a fungicide following the instructions on frequency.

Cedar-Apple Rust is a fungal disease whose life cycle concludes by moving from apples trees to junipers and back. Cup shaped orange fungal masses will be found on both. On apples they are on the underside of the leaves, on junipers, they create a gall and the fungal bodies will extend 1/8" or so from them. The Clemons University website says they are gelatin like tendrils full of spores which can drift up to 2 miles. Treat with a Bromide containing fungicide. Use fungicide from bloom time until mid summer. I use Orchard Spray from before bloom opening, not while the flowers are on the tree, resuming after they drop and continuing until after harvest; about every 2 weeks. Some summers it means 18 sprayings.



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Some junipers are resistant to rusts these include cultivars of *Juniperis chinensis*, *J commonus*, *J horizontalis*, *J squamata*, *J. viginiana*. While resistant to this disease *J parsoni*, *shimpaku* and *procumbens nana* are susceptible to root rot. There are also Cedar Quince Rust and Cedar Hawthorn rusts caused by a slightly different fungus.

Once infected the disease is nearly impossible to get rid of, so prevent it from starting; use fungicides containing etridiazol and Mifenoxan. Oregon State University recommends Bayer Advanced Disease Control, Daconil, Weather Stik and Spectracide Immunox.

Powdery Mildew is a high humidity, poor air circulation disease. I have seen powdery mildew on lilac and Zinnias too, frequently in the fall. Strangely, rain washes the spores off and then they will not germinate in water. The disease inhibits leaf growth and new shoots will stop growing. Fruit will become rough and brown.

Frogeye Leaf Spot or black fruit rot looks like its namesake. The leaf spots are dark brown circles surrounded by purplish margins that people believe look like frog's eyes. An apple scab disease also causes cankers on the infected bark. Remove any mummified apples and canker infected wood; if you do not the fungus will have a place to overwinter.

Bachman's lists the following crabs as disease resistant: *Prairie Fire*, *Donald Wyman*, *Louisa*, *Sugar Tyme*, *Candy Mint*, *Pink Spires*, *Madonna*, *Tina*, *Red Jewel* and *Adams*.

Finally, rounding back to prevention, before the leaves emerge use a dormant spray. Volks is one of the commonly sold brands. Use them when the temperatures are above freezing and before buds show green. Captan and Diazinon or multi purpose spays and lime sulfur prevents powdery mildew. Apply these after the petals drop, continuing every 10 days or so, depending on rain washing it off.

Lime sulfur prevents black spot, but it is of note that lime sulfur is toxic to apricots. Dormant oils also smother insect eggs of aphids, scale, mites, and white fly while also preventing fungal spores from flying. Oils need 24 hours to dry after application- so, no forecast.



Fire Blight



Cedar-Apple Rust (Deciduous)



Apple Scab



Cedar-Apple Rust (Coniferous)



Frogeye Leaf Spot



Powdery Mildew



Ken Schultz

Book of the Month: **Bonsai: Its Art, Science, History and Philosophy** by Deborah R. Koreshoff

This book is in our Club Library; I have also seen it in the Westerville Public Library. But until last month, I had never seen it at the Half Price Bookstore! It is a large book, 8.5" X 12" and 253 pages. This book was first published in 1984 when the author was only 27 years old. This book is an impressive work considering how young the author was at the time. Its title is true to its text. It goes way beyond a straight how to or factual accounting. Deborah Koreshoff offers glimpses into the philosophy that lead to the development of bonsai and how it came to be considered an art form. As I began reading the book, I discovered that the author's father learned bonsai in Manchuria and she was raised in a bonsai nursery. At 27, she was a major contributor for the magazine, "Bonsai Australia."

The text is a combination of detailed information interspersed with 223 high quality drawings to add clarity to the information being shared. The 39 color photos are full page, plate style presentations of show quality specimen trees.

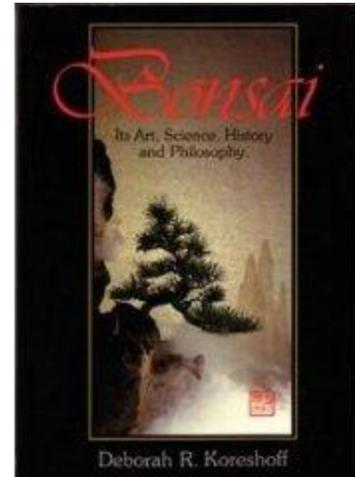
The author writes at a level of detail that qualifies this book as a college level text. For example, Chapter 3 "A Symposium on Soil" presents the scientific aspects of plant nutrition. If you are up to reading a lot of text, then there are concepts presented that I have not found in the other 50 or so bonsai books that I have read. One example is between 1804-1829 the styling of trees seen as modern bonsai was actually practiced more in landscape gardening than in containers. Kyoto and Osaka kept to the more Literati type tree designs.

In the Chapter "An Introduction to the Art of Bonsai", I discovered that the placement of the seed effects how the trunk and the roots sprout. By planting the seed upside down, an "S" shape develops in the trunk/root nebari. In the section on taking cuttings, I learned that there are 6 ways to take cuttings. By making a notch with a pebble forced in the fork of a notch at the base of the cutting, a better buttress with surface roots will develop. Then she describes several layering techniques. Skipping ahead in Chapter 1, which is 50 pages long, there is a guide relating the style of the tree to pot selection as well as the color and textures of the pots.

Chapter 2 is "Shaping Techniques" which describes the effects the seasons have on cutting back, both good and bad. All seasons but spring can result in "winter dieback". An interesting tip is that if you need to saw off large branches always make the first cut on the branch's bottom side. Large cuts are always sealed. The next tip has to do with root development. Who has not discovered that a tree with a great trunk only has roots on one side? Deborah offers two solutions. One is to cut tabs in the bark on the side needing surface roots and hold the tabs away from the trunk with a wedge of moss to keep the wound from drying out. The second method is to drill a series of holes and place toothpicks into the holes. When the tree tries to heal it will send roots out along the toothpicks. Reportedly, these techniques work best in spring. On branches that need to change angles dramatically, she shows how to cut wedges and grooves. Of special interest to me was a technique she called "renewal pruning." This is used to maintain the trees size continuously.

When she describes wiring, she states that she prefers winter, though wiring can be done in any season. In winter, there are no leaves to block your view, but she warns that the wood may be more brittle, so handle with caution. Remember the first wrap of wire from the trunk onto the branch is on the top of the branch.

Skipping detail on the soil chapter, I should mention that it is one of the few times I have seen a discussion on mycorrhiza. Chapter 4 covers root pruning, potting and repotting. Root pruning is necessary since roots will grow until all space is used. Cutting stimulates the growth of new feeder roots. The best



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time for re-potting is the month before new growth, Deborah writes. She says seeing a root at the drain hole does not always mean that it is time to repot. She says that a 15 year old black pine may only need to be repotted every 5 years. She uses natural twine to tie her tree in as she believes that copper wire can cut in and even inhibit growth. She says that 1/3 of the roots of a fibrous rooted plant may be removed as opposed to teasing out the roots with a hook. (Azaleas)

Chapter 5 covers light, cold frames, watering and fertilizing. She presents a bonsai calendar. Chapter 6 covers seasonal color changes, flowering, and fruiting and fall color. Chapter 7 is on the art of styling. Here Deborah presents 5 basic styles determined by trunk angle; upright, informal upright, slanting, semi-cascade and cascade. Each style description includes branch positions. Windswept is presented in all 5 trunk positions including literati and a two tree planting. Each style is presented in detail with drawings.

Jumping to Chapter 10 there is a discussion on how to exhibit and judge bonsai. As I stated earlier, I have read about 50 books on bonsai; many featured photos of beautiful trees or interesting case studies, but I do not recall any that presented such detailed bonsai knowledge. It is well worth the time to read this book.



Ken Schultz

This month let us remember an event rather than individuals.

AmeriFlora; 92 was an event commemorating the quincentenary anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas. Initially scheduled for two weeks the event lasted from April 3, 1992, to October 12, 1992 occupying the Franklin Park Conservatory and grounds. It was the first International Floral and Garden Exhibition in the United States.

Extravagant plans got scaled back drastically but an estimated \$100 million was spent on site cleanup, renovation and expansion of FPC, new temporary buildings, displays, and Disney designed landscaping.

Despite an extensive multi-year publicity and marketing campaign, AmeriFlora did not attract enough visitors to meet the bills. Many reasons existed for this: \$20 admission, lack of local enthusiasm, bad press and ill luck all contributed.

Bonsai in Columbus and CBS were affected in many ways. FPC was closed to the public some time in 1990. CBS met at the Martin Janis Center on the state fairgrounds. Volunteers, (Max and others) had access to the tropical collection for a while. During this time, several trees were stolen from the collection.

Eventually the bonsai were sequestered at temporary greenhouses off site. The trees were watered but otherwise untouched. Many months later, we found overgrown trees in pots full of weeds, and some as Keith says were in permanent dormancy. On the upside, several of the Ficus had developed aerial roots (hypothesis) due to the weedy humidity.

The most important contribution for us from AmeriFlora was the establishment of an outdoor bonsai area and collection. Approximately 30 trees were purchased. A major Buttonwood was a center piece of the reopened indoor display. It was an estimated 500 year old collected specimen.

CBS had limited input in selection. Some wonderful trees were chosen, but many suffered in our environment. Some were not suited to the care and expertise available.

AmeriFlora provided great entertainment, some education and interesting experiences. The expansion of the conservatory and the new bonsai and outdoor area comprise a legacy that affects us most today.



C. Tom Holcomb

CD's For Nebari in Air Layers

Ron Martin, deceased

Formerly of Tokonoma Bonsai

Did you ever wonder what you would ever do with all those CD's that AOL, etc. send to you? You know the ones where they offer you all those FREE minutes on the web. My mailbox is always full of them. Well, I got to thinking about them. The minutes are not really free, but the CD's must be worth something. They are made of plastic and as we all know that stuff will last forever. There must be a use for them.

They do make great Frisbees. My dogs will chase them forever. In an idle moment, my silly brain came up with a bright (maybe) idea. Why not join the computer age and make them useful? I have this Ficus that has a terrible scar on it. So, I figured that I would just air layer it off above the scar and start all over again.

But why not make a new nebari at the same time? Prepare the air layer in the normal manner. This all depends on the specie of the tree and your own personal preferences in the techniques to use.

Now comes the silly part.

- ◆ Take one of those "FREE" CD's and cut a notch in it matching the trunk.
- ◆ Place it as close as you can to the proposed air layer.
- ◆ Get another "FREE" disks. Do the same with it but put it on the reverse side of the trunk.
- ◆ Now pack it all with wet sphagnum moss. A small amount on the top of the CD's and a little more on the bottoms.
- ◆ The roots must then grow laterally forming the basis of our new nebari. At the edge they will spill over into the sphagnum below the disks.
- ◆ Once enough roots have formed cut off the new tree and remove the CD's.
- ◆ You can now chuck them as they have served a valuable purpose.

My Mom will be proud of me. She had this thing about "waste not want not" and my grandson will be delighted that I have joined the computer age.

Hope all this makes sense. It is late and my brain has been overloaded. Time for my nap.

Permission is granted to the recipient of this E-mail to freely use this article with the writer's blessings in what ever means you think best. They are written to further the art of bonsai but, it would be nice if I at least got credit for them. For better or worse they are my thoughts.



Looking for other great information on bonsai techniques, history, or theory?

Try Lindsay Farr's World of Bonsai series of videos at:
[www. Bonsaifarm.tv](http://www.Bonsaifarm.tv).

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District Tree Sale

Every year our local Soil and Water District sells bare root tree bundles at reasonable rates. Over the last several years the variety of these trees available have increased. An example of some the values available for 2010 are Bald Cypress 5 trees @ \$7/packet, also American larch 5 trees @ \$7/packet. There are a few interesting container trees available too such as Yellow Buckeye in a 2 gallon container for \$10.

The down side of bare root trees planted into bonsai containers is that unless you use a good muck in addition to the bonsai soil there is a good chance that the trees will dry out and die since there are few root hairs to supply nourishment. Planting into the backyard prevents this problem so an option for the bonsai grower is to yard plant these starts for a year and transplant into containers after a growing season. Muck made from screened garden soil (good old Ohio clay soil) mixed with some humus or potting soil to lighten the mix with plenty of water can greatly increase the chances of a bare root groove container planting succeeding. The tree is planted directly into a ball of muck. That plus wiring helps stabilize the plant.

The sale is on now until March 26, some plants may sell out before then. You may place orders by phone or over the web – telephone at 614-486-9613 but first check out web at www.franklinswcd.org. There are plants lists and other information related to the tree sale on the web. Trees are to be picked-up at the Soil and Water offices on 04/01/10, during mid-day, offices are at 1328 Dublin Road near Fifth Avenue in Grandview.

Looking to work with a Mentor?

Beginners and novices, prior to the regular April meeting (12 -2:00) we are offering a mentored workshop. Gallon size Shimpaku (*Juniperus chinensis*) will be ordered for interested CBS new members and those in last years Novice Group. The cost of the pre ordered tree will be under \$7. Deadline for ordering is March 10, 2010.

More experienced club members will assist small groups in the initial styling of the trees.

If interested or have questions, email or call Tom. 614-444-9639
mailto:tholcomb@columbus.rr.com



The [Editions LVA](#) is pleased to announce the event not to miss in 2010: The **first International bonsai festival** which will take place indoors in a space over 3000 square meters.

For the first time in France, you can admire the exceptional private collection of **Danny Use** of Ginkgo Bonsai Center.

Special event: During the Festival, the very first [Masters of Bonsai](#) will bring together hundreds of world class bonsai. A professional jury, chaired by **Danny Use**, will designate three award winners who will then appear in the **International bonsai festival** exhibition book.

The **International bonsai festival** will also feature:

- A village for Bonsai professionals,
A village of Bonsai schools proposing workshops throughout the weekend,
- A village for Bonsai Clubs,
- The presence of specialized companies and press,
- Workshops and demonstrations will run throughout the duration of the event in a conference room for 200 persons.

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

In an effort to make the C.B.S. library more available to all of our members (since the library cabinet is being stored at Oakland Nursery and since we aren't meeting there every month), I will do my best to fill any requests that you may have to borrow any of the items that we currently have in our collection. I have a complete list of all of the books, magazines and videos that we have in our library; so, no later than the Friday before our monthly meeting, either send me an e-mail at jyoungjfy@sbcglobal.net or give me a call at 614-267-4168 and let me know what items you would like to borrow from our library.

I will let you know if we have that particular item in our library or, if it has already been checked out by another one of our members, when it should be available for you to borrow. However, if you are interested in a particular article or topic in one of our bonsai magazines, I will need to know the specific issue you

would like to borrow, since I don't have a master index for all of the magazines that we have. And to be as fair as possible to all of our members, you may check out only two books, magazines, CD's or videos at one time for a two month period.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions about these new procedures. After all, it is your library, too!

John Young, Librarian
 (614) 267-4168
jyoungjfy@sbcglobal.net



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.

21 FEB 2010	ADVENTURES IN HYPERTUFA ; DEMO ONLY—FPC
21 MAR 2010	LARCH “MADNESS”—FPC
18 APR 2010	“MAPLES IN APRIL” —FPC
16 MAY 2010	EXTREME MAKEOVERS/ SHOW PREP/ BYOT/ PROPAGATION —FPC
12-13 JUN 2010	DAWES SHOW
12-13 JUN 2010	NATIONAL BONSAI EXPOSITION—ROCHESTER, NY
20 JUN 2010	INITIAL STYLING OF TREES—OAKLAND
25-27 JUN 2010	MABA SHOW—GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
18 JUL 2010	ROOT OVER ROCK / USING TROPICALS—FPC
15 AUG 2010	STYLES OF BONSAI/ SHOW PREP/MEMBER SALES—OAKLAND
18-19 SEP 2010	CBS SHOW —FPC
29 SEPT-12 OCT 2010	BCI IN CHINA
9-10 OCT 2010	INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF BONSAI—PARIS, FRANCE
OCT 2010	SHOW OF THE CAROLINA’S —ASHEVILLE ARBORETUM
OCT 2010	OAKLAND NURSERY FALL FESTIVAL
17 OCT 2010	PHOENIX GRAFTS —FPC
21 NOV 2010	ELECTIONS/ SAIKEI/ STYLES—OAKLAND
DEC 2010	HOLIDAY DINNER —TBD
JUN 2011	ABS LEARNING SEMINAR—LOUISVILLE, KY

FPC= FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY

OAKLAND= OAKLAND NURSERY, COLUMBUS

Columbus Bonsai Society
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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 Board meets
1st Tuesday of the month
at 7:00 pm

***Meeting is at
Franklin Park***

