

# January 2011 Newsletter

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**“A Pinch of this....”**

**...And we’ll have fun ....**

**Term of the month: DENDROID**

**Dendroid**—Resembling, branching like, or shaped like a tree.

**Break out your flowered shirts**

And come on out to Oakland Nursery’s Education Center as we discuss Tropical tree issues and many other winter activities and issues. If you have always wanted to begin to learn to sketch trees there is a basic article on pages 4-6. On page 7 we look at a possible pest that we may not have heard of before with indoor trees. And on pages 8-9 we have yet another informative review of the class sessions at Staselwood Bonsai with Jeff Carr. But most of all plan to come out and join the discussion at Oakland Nursery on Sunday.

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick

**Please join us for a Tropical vacation at Oakland Nursery on Sunday.**



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**Columbus Bonsai Society PO Box 1981 Columbus OH 43216-1981**

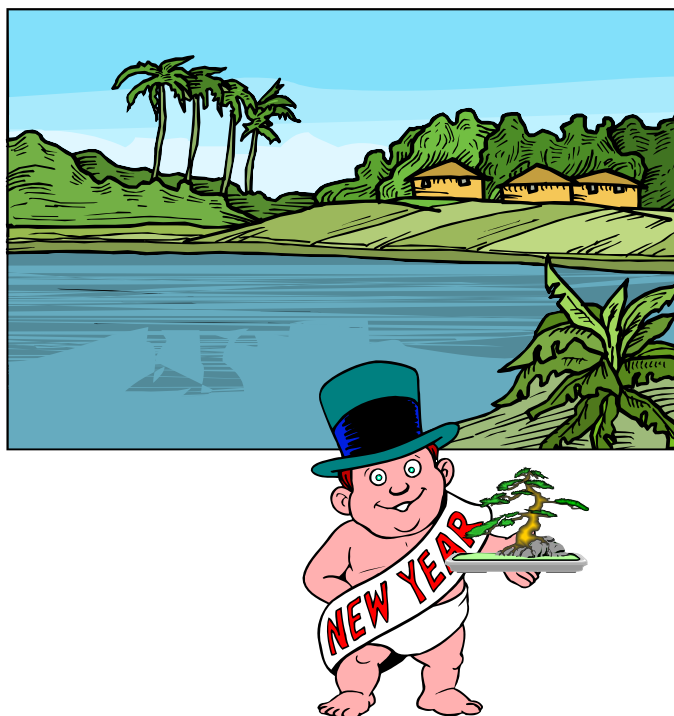
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Columbus Bonsai is a proud member of the American Bonsai Society and Bonsai Clubs International.

## This Month's Program— NEW YEAR'S IN THE TROPICS

Zack Clayton will lead a discussion of Tropical survival issues. This will include but may not be limited to: Bonsai Resolutions, Wickleistic Lighting, Record Keeping, Post Show Death, What Tropicals do you have....



### UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

#### **FEBRUARY: PLAYING IN THE SANDBOX**

Deciduous Styling and Soil Discussions.

#### **MARCH: KEN'S SUNDAY SMORGASBORD**

Workshop with Ken Huth

#### **APRIL: WHACKING YOUR FICUS/ BEATING YOUR BENJAMINA**

Cutting your ficus down to size.

**MAY:** Mini-show and Doug Hawley on Black Pine care.

**JUNE:** TBD



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 <sup>New</sup> PRESIDENT....

**C**an I just say its cold? This is to say watch your trees and be sure they are not freeze drying. Everything I have outside thawed out last week, but now has a fresh coating. All but the maple I took to the last session at Jeff Carr's. The snow melted off of that one in the greenhouse during class. I am not too worried about it though as it was saturated and frozen solid. It only thawed about a ½" in to the root ball when it came home. I think a ½" of melting is survivable.

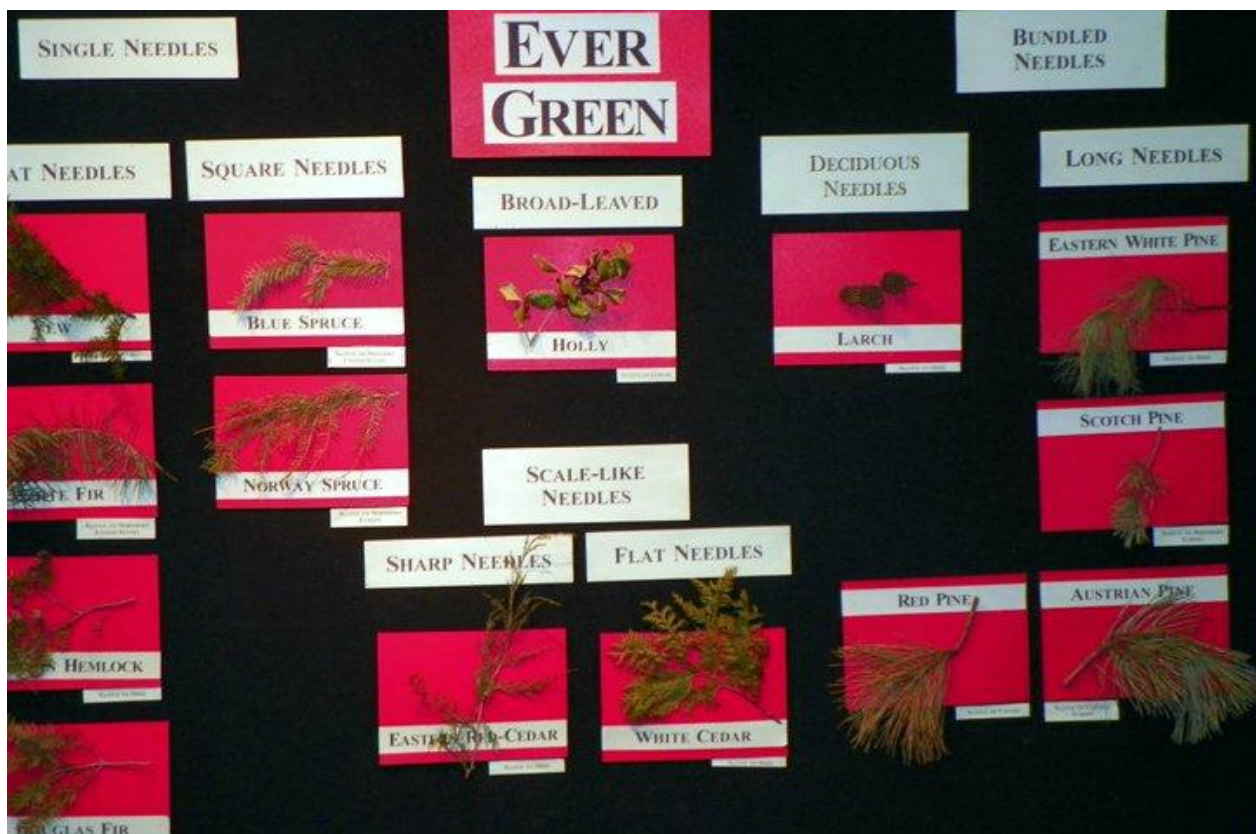
On a related note, I took in my olive that was putting out new growth to show how it had back bedded in late summer, gone dormant, and was now reviving in my western bay window. It is under my front porch overhang and only gets about three hours of direct sun so it does not bake. Doc brought his in from the raffle we had at the dinner. They had different growing conditions. It was still in dormancy. He had the card from Moravia with it and evidently, it is tolerant to 10° F. Now with it also says USDA zones 8-10. There is a little discrepancy there. We figure that the 10° number is a brief exposure and the zone is for long term survival. I still do not think I will be putting mine out in the greenhouse this year.

However, enough about the cold let us get ready to spend some time in the tropics. That is to say, that we will be discussing tropical and indoor issues as well as some other winter activities you can work on such as record keeping. Then in February, we spend some time in the sandbox, discussing soil and repotting, among other tasks for the mid to late winter. Join me as we embark on what will be a very exciting year of bonsai.

*Zack*



Here is something I came across at the Blacklick Woods Metro Parks Nature Center—Rich Uhrick



## HOW TO DRAW TREES FROM [www.Howtotutorials.com](http://www.Howtotutorials.com)

**L**earning how to draw trees is a lot easier than you may think... Many budding artists of all ages are put off because they have only previously managed a 'lollipop' that they remember producing when they were at school.

And yet, a lollipop is not a million miles away from many real trees in full summer foliage. You just need to know where to 'tweak' your sketch to make your lollipop look the part. So if you think you could not draw the tree below - or even better? Well read on...

The good thing about learning how to draw trees is that unlike a portrait, where the features have to be in the right place for the face to look right, if you put a branch in the wrong place on a tree, it still looks like a tree.

This tutorial gets you started using [basic, familiar shapes](#) you have seen a hundred times.

But until now, I bet you never thought it would teach you how to draw trees!

Add a couple of simple techniques that I promise anyone can manage, and you will be drawing **believable, realistic** trees with confidence in no time.

All you will need to start with is a pencil, an eraser and a few pieces of scrap paper or a pad.



However, before we actually put pencil to paper, let us have a closer look at the photo to the left...

Notice first that the top (black) pencil has a **long point on it**. I have achieved this with a **craft knife**. Pencil sharpeners are OK but you cannot get the tip of the pencil like this with them. The tip of the yellow pencil has been done with a pencil sharpener. This will soon wear down as you sketch and you will be constantly stopping to re-sharpen it.

The long point on the black pencil means that I can make a **broader, more confident line**, achieving the full thickness of many of the lower branches, in one go.

Also, when I come to shade in larger areas, I can do this much more quickly and effectively holding the pencil this way.

Look at the three marks I have made - all with this same point. The widest one is achieved just by holding the pencil with the

Point flat to the paper, like a pastel stick. This is perfect for sweeping in the thicker, lower branches in one go.

As I reach the uppermost twigs, I can start to use more of the point to get the finer lines needed here.

Incidentally, the photo also shows a putty eraser. These can be pulled and stretched to a fine point or edge to take out just a small area of pencil if you want - ideal for lifting out highlights!

They are also less likely to damage the surface of your paper than a cheaper general purpose eraser.

### How to Draw Trees Step 1

Right, let us get going...! Look at Sketch 1 on the right.

Ever played cards? Almost certainly. Look at this sketch of the **Ace of Clubs**.

What do you see - a perfect starting point for learning how to draw trees!

As you become more experienced, you will see all sorts of shapes that you will realize can simplify or inspire you to draw and paint all sorts of things.

Learning how to draw trees is no different.

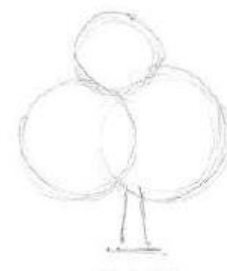
In this case, the Ace of Clubs represents a rounded, deciduous tree, but what could be simpler than a long, thin triangle or upturned popcorn cone to give you the basis of a **fir tree**?

The Ace of Clubs is quite simply three circles and a triangle for the base.

### How to Draw Trees Step 2

In sketch 2, I have stretched this out so the circles are all different sizes and the base is a bit more elongated.

The circles do not even have to be perfectly round - in fact, its better if they are not.



See them as a simple framework as a simple way to get you started sketching trees.

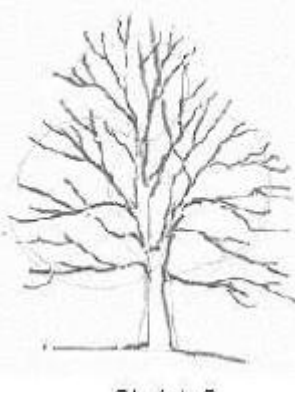
Already a believable tree is starting to take shape.

I have drawn these lines a bit heavier than you should, so they show up on the web page.

You should draw them in a bit lighter than this and gradually get heavier as the final tree shape develops.

Do not worry if your guidelines are not perfect - remember, they are just that - a guide - and some of them will be rubbed out shortly anyway.

Also, do not concern yourself about producing specific **species** of tree just yet - we can look at that when you have built up your confidence with this one...



### How to Draw Trees - Step 3

Now look at Sketch 3. I have started to draw branches from the main trunk. They are quite thick at first but gradually taper as they reach the edges of the tree.

Notice how I have kept these lines quite raggedy to represent the random way trees grow.

One thing I do not want to do is make them appear too even. That would not be how nature intended!

When you are first learning how to draw trees a useful tip is to ensure that **as one branch diverges from the trunk, the next usually diverges a bit further up.**

It is very rare that two branches split exactly opposite each other from the main branch.

If you just want, learn how to draw trees in winter, and then you can start shading in the branches at this point. Remember to pick the direction the sun is coming from and stick to it!

### How to Draw Trees Step 4

A frequent problem when students are sketching trees is that they

have the light coming from different directions...

They put shadows on opposite sides of branches at different points and it looks all wrong.

The sunny side will be the lightest - in this case the left hand side. The opposite side of the branches and trunk will be in shadow...

However, a summer tree covered in leaves needs a little more work. As in Sketch 4, I have lightly scribbled an outline round the edge of the tree.

I have also rubbed out some, but not all, of the branches. The ones left are those you can see through the leaves. When I teach students how to draw trees, I always emphasize how important it is to create a **three-dimensional effect** and show the 'openness' of the tree. Putting in some branches here and there gives the impression of them twisting in and out of view as they spread to the outer edges of the tree.

Remember, a tree is not a flat object... It has branches coming towards and going away from you as well as the ones you see either side and in the centre as well.

I have drawn some light outlines around these remaining branches just to remind you that these are your 'sky holes'.

Once you have a little more experience you will not need to bother with this.

### How to Draw Trees - Step 5

Sketch 5 is where the real fun starts in learning how to draw trees.

You are now about to switch on the sunlight by adding shadows and putting back in some highlights. Remember, even more than with the winter tree, to decide which direction your sunlight is coming from.

As well as the main shadows being on the opposite side of the tree, it will be dark around the sky holes where you can see branches.

These visible branches will usually be in silhouette and quite dark, as will the shadow on the ground.

There are many ways you can draw leaves. However, for a tree this size, the one thing you do not want is to draw each individual leaf!

Apart from driving you slowly mad, it would look very forced and unreal. Instead, you are aiming for an impression of leaves and the lights and darks in the tree.

**Try letting your pencil dance over the tree in a demented scribble.**

This, with a little practice, can create an excellent representation of leaves. Dark areas can be filled in to create lights and darks next to each other.



Or you could shade in most areas as with the Ace of Clubs in sketch 1, and then lift out highlights with an eraser. The sketches below show these ideas in more detail.

When you add your shadow on the ground on the opposite side from the sunlight, put a smaller area of shadow on



## HOW TO DRAW TREES FROM [www.Howtotutorials.com](http://www.Howtotutorials.com)

the ground on the sunlit side as these branches would still cast some shadows.

Notice that I have also taken out the bottom line where the **trunk meets the ground...**

Look at the examples in the sketch of the trunks (Below) for comparison and see how the right hand drawing makes the trunk 'grow' right out of the ground and not sit on top of it.

Remember also, when you learn how to draw trees, to draw your boughs and branches from the base upwards i.e. as the tree would 'grow'.

Make sure each branch in your sky holes appears to come from a logical point on the trunk below. The eye will then happily 'fill in' the branch's position behind the leaf clusters even though you have not actually drawn it.

Now have a look out of your window or find a photo of a real tree and try copying it.

**Simplification is the key!** You are looking for a basic outline to begin with and you do not want to copy every leaf - just the main leaf clusters. These tend to be either rounded balls or flat, as in the case of evergreens. The bottom half of the visible part of the trunk should be lit up with sunlight on one side, with the other side in increasing shadow. Look at Sketch 5.

The trunk area immediately below the bottom leaf clusters will usually all be in shadow as very little light will be able to reach, whatever the position of the sun.

### To Sum Up

Finally, as with many art techniques, **learning how to draw trees is often easier to do than to describe...** Hopefully, this tutorial has given you a few pointers to give you the confidence to get going.

Remember, if you can draw the Ace of Clubs playing Poker, you can just as easily draw it with a pencil as well...!



*Branches generally split like this ...*



*... and not like this, at the same point*



*Using the 'demented scribbles' to suggest leaves ...*



*Two tree trunks – which one appears to be sitting on the ground and which one looks like it is growing out of the ground?*



*Using the flat of a pencil to create leaf clusters and inner branches ...*

## Fungus Gnats: an indoor pest

THE **Scotts Miracle-Gro** COMPANY ...dedicated to a beautiful world



### Fungus Gnats Defined

Fungus Gnats are common indoor pests. Adult gnats are grayish to black in color, with long legs, antennae, and do little plant damage. However, they can be unpleasant if they are in large numbers.

### Control Fungus Gnats

Fungus gnats look like little mosquitoes, only they don't bite. In fact, they're so small, you may not even notice you have any unless they swarm. Fungus gnats hang out in damp soil and live off decaying organic matter. That's why they love greenhouses and houseplants. If you see them flying around your African Violets, clearing debris from near your plant helps to control them.

### Watch Your Watering

These bugs need water, and like moist areas. Cut back on watering your plants until they really need it. Also, be sure to empty excess water out of the saucers under your container plants.

### Use a Control

You can apply a product that is designed for bugs like fungus gnats, such as **Ortho® Elementals™ Garden Insect Killer**. It can be used to control indoor and outdoor bugs. For best results, be sure to follow the instructions on the label

# STUDYING AT STASELWOOD

## SESSION FIVE: October 2010

### According to Richard Gurevitz

**A**s usual, we began Class 5 with a review of Class 4. Our first topic was **WINTER PREP**. For **Hardy Trees**, leave them out for at least 3 frosts so they know that winter is on the way and they need to start sending food stores down to the roots. In our area Thanksgiving is a good time to start putting your trees into storage in a cold frame or burying them in the ground. If you use a **cold frame**, use opaque white plastic to prevent sunlight from coming through which will prevent heating up and cooling down on sunny days which confuses the trees and can cause tree loss. On hot days, open the cold frame and let air circulate.

If you heel (bury) your trees **in the ground**, use the north (preferably) or west side of your house. Dig a depression in your mulch bed and bury pot and all. Put mulch up to the bottom of the foliage. Some people wrap their plants in burlap to help keep out pests but still let in moisture. When using an unheated **porch or garage** keep in mind that deciduous trees do not need light but conifers still do which will come into consideration when deciding on construction and placement. You can get large Tupperware or similar plastic containers, put in mulch, put in trees and bury them similar to in the ground. Hardy trees may stay **right on the bench**. Once covered with snow, they are insulated and protected. *The only problem might be the foliage receiving no light because of complete snow cover all winter.*

We next discussed **SHOW PREP**. You need to be thinking right now, a year ahead, what shows you will be attending. You need to be thinking about potting--to repot or not, pruning, defoliating the year before and understand the effects of pruning, stimulating growth, retarding growth, etc.

With **FALL PRUNING** you always need to be thinking a few years ahead and behind. You need to know what your end goal is with your tree. If you cut your tree back hard all year and into the fall, then the amount of sugars/auxins/food generated from the leaves will be minimal which means that coming into the root growth period of late summer and fall will be minimal. If you fall prune too early, you can reduce the amount of sugar going to the roots for winter which can affect the trees next growing season and can affect the trees survival.

If you have a tree that was recently collected and has had the roots severely cut back, leave the foliage mass over sized to push food down into the root ball in winter and create a better chance for root growth rather than cutting the top back when you collect the tree. You should not disturb a collected tree for 2 to 3 years to redevelop roots. You let the top leaf out as much as possible to develop fine roots.

Our next topic was **PINE CARE**. Balancing a tree with a well defined branching and to build more ramified branches. The area that receives the most air and light is the area that becomes the strongest. So forcing the strength to the weaker parts is critical. Four basic techniques exist to strengthen trees: Bud selection, Candle pinching, Shoot pruning and Needle reduction.

Bud selection happens in the fall. You remove all the buds you do not want to extend in spring.

Candle pinching is a multi phase approach.

Shoot Pruning happens only on the strongest sections of the tree. Once the candles have opened up and extended, cut the shoot off leaving bundles of needles.



Photo from the Staselwood website.



This amount of coverage should be fine.

(Continued from page 8)

Needle reduction is to get back budding. Pines grow from the tips and do not normally back bud. When deneedling, you take off all of last year's needles. Cut the needles with sharp scissors (especially white pines) leaving 1/8th inch of needle near the sheath. Do not cut needles around buds.

## PHASES OF PINE TREES

**WHITE PINES** have 5 phases.

For **Candling** and **Shoot Pruning**, see previous articles.

When **Needling**, or as recommended, needle cutting, white pines tend to bleed so you cut the needles so that you leave a 1/8th inch stub. The sheath will fall off in time. You want to keep more needles on weak areas and branches and less on stronger areas and branches. With juvenile trees, deneedling is not an option.

**Bud Removal** is done after needle plucking (or trimming) to remove unnecessary buds where there are too many buds or one strong one. What you are doing is choosing the buds that will be branches next year. You keep two buds where you want a forked branching. In weaker areas, you can keep more buds.

**Wiring** may happen any time of the year but is best to do during the growing season because recovery is fastest. If you do not needle prune your tree the year before, it will be difficult to wire correctly in fall or spring.

**BLACK PINES** have 6 phases.

Again, refer to previous articles for **Candling** and **Shoot Pruning**.

**Needling** can happen from mid October to Mid November. Again, Jeff suggests cutting the old needles. Keep more needles in weaker areas and less in the stronger areas. In mid November to early December thin out the new needles in the strong zone leaving 3 to 4 needle pairs per shoot. In the medium zone, leave 7 to 8 pairs of needles per shoot. Again, do not touch the weak zones. Weak branches leave more needles and strong branches take more. Remember all needles should remain on juvenile trees.

**Bud Removal** is the same for Black pines as with White pines. After needle trimming remove unnecessary buds where there are too many or one strong bud. This is when you pick next year's branches. Choose wisely.

In **Fall Pruning**, you remove all unnecessary growth in the strong zones only.

**Wiring** is also the same for White and Black pines and may occur any time of year but is best to do in the growing season because recovery is fastest. If you do not needle prune your trees the year before, it will be difficult to wire correctly in fall or spring.

The remainder of the morning session and the entire afternoon session involved needle pruning and working on pines in general. It is hard to realize that there is only one more session. The 8 months since the first session have gone by so fast but I have really been able to relive the classes while I have been writing these articles. And, of course, I hope it helps me remember Jeff's sage advice.



White Pine by Tom McCormack—Photo from MABA website



Black Pine at Kokufu 2010—Photo by William Feldman



**Are you interested in Bonsai?**

**2011 CLASSES FORMING NOW!**

**Simply go to:**

**<http://www.staselwoodbonsai.com>**

**For more information.**

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:jyoungjfy@sbcglobal.net)

**LIBRARY WILL BE OPEN**



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 Outer belt**

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 6:30 pm. The board meetings are open to members.

#### **2011**

<b>16 JAN 2011</b>	<b>NEW YEAR'S IN THE TROPICS—OAKLAND</b>
<b>20 FEB 2011</b>	<b>PLAYING IN THE SANDBOX—FPC</b>
<b>20 MAR 2011</b>	<b>KEN'S SUNDAY SMORGASBORD—FPC</b>
<b>17 APR 2011</b>	<b>WHACKING YOUR FICUS / BEATING YOUR BENJAMINA—OAKLAND</b>
<b>14 MAY 2011</b>	<b>SPRING MINI-SHOW—TBD</b>
<b>15 MAY 2011</b>	<b>GUEST ARTIST—DOUG HAWLEY ON BLACK PINE CANDELING—FPC</b>
<b>19 JUN 2011</b>	<b>GUEST ARTIST TBD—TBD</b>
<b>16-19 JUN 2011</b>	<b>ABS/BCI "Bonsai in the Bluegrass" —LOUISVILLE, KY</b>
<b>17 JUL 2011</b>	<b>FLOWERING TROPICALS—OAKLAND</b>
<b>21 AUG 2011</b>	<b>FICUS, FICUS, FICUS—OAKLAND</b>
<b>17-18 SEP 2011</b>	<b>ANNUAL SHOW —MAENNERCHOR</b>
<b>16 OCT 2011</b>	<b>BUD PRUNING, NEEDLING, AND WIRING PINES—FPC</b>
<b>20 NOV 2011</b>	<b>DORMANCY AND STANDS: SELECTION OR CREATION—OAKLAND</b>
<b>11 DEC 2011</b>	<b>HOLIDAY DINNER—TBD</b>

**FPC= FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY  
OAKLAND= OAKLAND NURSERY, COLUMBUS**

### **Care Notes from the Columbus Bonsai Society Website**

January - Mid Winter - 36/20

- Only water when soil is almost dry. Soil may stay damp for many weeks without the need for water.
- Heavy pruning of deciduous trees can be completed in winter, while the tree is dormant. It may be best to wait until early spring, when dead branches from winter are more noticeable.
- Start deciding which trees will be repotted in spring. Make a list of available pots, and which trees will work with them. Having a battle plan is very useful once the chaos of spring arrives. Order repotting supplies such as new pots, soil, wire, drainage mesh, etc.
- Protect your trees from direct winter sun and wind as it will cause freeze dry damage.
- You may place mothballs in the mulch around your trees to prevent mouse damage.
- Extra mulch or protection is needed if the temps fall below 20, especially for elms, maples and other fleshy rooted plants.

Columbus Bonsai Society  
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Questions to:  
[Columbusbonsai@hotmail.com](mailto:Columbusbonsai@hotmail.com)  
[HTTP://Columbusbonsai.org](http://Columbusbonsai.org)

Regular Club meetings on  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month  
Meetings Start at 1:45 pm  
All are welcome to attend

CBS Board meets  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month  
at 6:30 pm

# ***NEW YEAR'S IN THE TROPICS-OAKLAND***

