

May 2011 Newsletter

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“A Pinch of this....”

...And heeeeerrre’s Doug

Term of the month: NEEDLE

Needle: A type of leaf that is narrow and usually of a stiff texture, like those found on a black pine tree.

GOOD NEWS BAD NEWS

Well of course the good news is that we are welcoming Doug Hawley to our meeting this month. Be prepared for a lot of useful information on Pine care and remember that the meeting is starting early; 1:00 PM.

Now for the bad news. As you will see on pp 6-7 we lost a very good friend and instructor. Keith Scott lost his fight with pneumonia on May 6, 2011. He will be greatly missed .

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick

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**Join us at Franklin Park
Conservatory as we welcome guest
Doug Hawley on the 15th.**



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

This Month's Program— Black Pines, special guest - Doug Hawley:

Doug a well known Greater Cincinnati Bonsai Society member, has been a contributor to ABS and is known for his knowledge of a wide variety of species used for bonsai, especially Black Pine.

Doug will provide a presentation on Black Pine care and candle management. 10 of us will be getting the opportunity to have our trees critiqued by Doug. (Those who signed up and have paid our \$10) Being May you may want to bring your tools and wire to implement the changes suggested. **REMEMBER: THIS MONTH THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN AT 1 JPM.**



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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

**JUNE: FICUS WITH
BONSAIHUNK JERRY MEISLIK
MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 1PM**

**JULY: FLOWERING
TROPICALS**

AUGUST: ANNUAL SHOW

SEPTEMBER: PICNIC

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Rich Uhrick, Editor
ruhric@otterbein.edu

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR ^{NEW} PRESIDENT....



Random Thotz - now from the President

Oh, look the sun is out – quick go work on your trees! I have heard that a few times the last couple of weeks. Too few times, it seems. I have cuttings struck, and some smaller trees repotted but only a couple of big ones. I have nine large trees to repot, and a huge boxwood to pot, it's a root ball right now. Moreover, I am going to dig some more tomorrow. I got a nice juniper from my mother last weekend and it is potted along with a bunch of trimmings that I am trying the Ken Huth bucket-rooting trick. I will see how that works.

I have an interesting cutting experiment that seems to be going great. I have some of those plastic boxes you can get cheap at the big box stores and I cut some holes in the bottom and screen them. Then I add my turface fines and wet them down. The cuttings are essentially in a mist box. They have leafed out and are growing on top. I assume they are producing roots as well. I have them in partial shade to prevent cooking and the kind I have has a two-part lid that I can keep cracked a little for ventilation. I would probably need more shade for a one-piece lid.

So many trees, so little time. I have not had a chance to use my angle grinder yet that I got for Christmas. I have four trunks that are waiting for phoenix grafts, I have a dozen or so trees to repot that are not in the count above, and not enough soil mixed. Speaking of soil, the HydRocks™ that I got from Jeff Carr is working out great. Mixes in nicely with my other soil and it does not weigh a ton. And the grey color is good.

See you on the 15thth. *Zack*



KEN'S BOOK OF THE MONTH: Ficus the Exotic Bonsai

By Jerry Meislik

This definitive book about Ficus as bonsai is by the same Jerry Meislik who will be at our Club meeting in June. The copyright is 2004. It is rare to find a bonsai book on a single species. They are few and include azaleas and pines. Our Club does have a copy in its library. This book contains six chapters/sections with many color pictures to illustrate the author's text. Yes, I have been keeping various Ficus since I began keeping bonsai in 1992 and foolishly thought the text would just reinforce information that I had read or learned before. Boy was I wrong.

There was information on the insects associated with the different species of Ficus in their wide and varied natural locations. There is almost a type of wasp per type of Ficus. Jerry also points out that while insects are largely responsible for creating figs or fruit on Ficus, birds and animals help to distribute these. Then on page 13 in the section on aerial roots, I saw the Ficus bengalensis that I have seen in person at Thomas Edison's home in Ft. Myers Florida. Only some figs produce aerial roots and the lower the humidity the less likely the ones that do- are to produce them.

We have all seen the latex that many Ficus produce when cut. Jerry advises that some people may be sensitive to it and should wear gloves. He reports that dried latex is difficult to remove and needs wiped off your hands, the trunk and your tools before it dries. Banyan fig trees naturally produce aerial roots in nature. At the end of section 1, Figs in Nature, a photograph shows 14 leaves from different Ficus varieties. Many of their names seemed familiar as bonsai varieties, this leads into Section 2, part 4 called Figs for Bonsai. Jerry warns that variegated leaf varieties do not do well in full sun. I did not know that. He recommends F. deltoidea or F. buxifolia for forest plantings. Deltoidia is mistletoe fig. He comments that while benjamina is most common, many other varieties are better suited for bonsai. He mentions both Ficus

microcarpa and F. salixifolia. The series of photos convinced me that my next Ficus would be microcarpa.

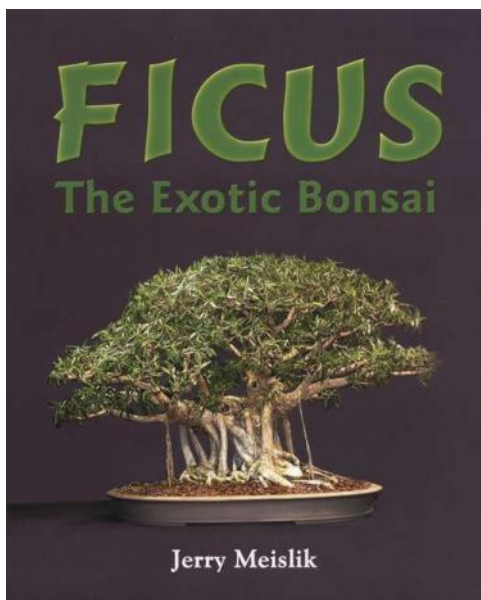
Indoors he recommends that your Ficus bonsai be in a south or west window to make sure that it gets sufficient light. He suggests using lights with timers if you do not have sufficient natural light. The "day" should begin with 10 hours and gradually lengthened to 16 hours, stopping when no more beneficial effects are noted. Low light produces larger leaves. He recommends moving them outdoors once temperatures stay at 55 or higher. In the fall, reducing the light over a 3-week period will help minimize leaf drop.

Next, he deals with soil and moisture. Too much water can cause root rot. In addition, figs hate to dry out. He suggests 50% organic and 50% inorganic soil. He lists specifics on page 44 of the book. He says that the ideal mix will stay moist 24 to 36 hours. Jerry warns against bringing a new plant home and immediately repotting it (oops) because it needs to acclimate to its new surroundings first. Repotting is best to do at the warmest time of the year. When you do, he suggests putting it in a bag to help it retain humidity...oops again for me. Keep it bagged until new leaves sprout. /if you are successful, you will find that the crown will grow

the most and to balance the strength he suggests some defoliation.

Section 5 of the book is devoted to developing your fig into a better bonsai. Without the benefits of the photographs that Jerry uses to illustrate his techniques, I do not feel that you can appreciate just how to do this. Contents include grafting, moving heavy branches and getting ready to show. Section 6 covers the specifics of his favorite fig varieties.

Ken Schultz



Ken's Tree of the Month: Larix, Larch



The last article about larch on our website is dated April 2006 and was from a 1996 article created by Pine Garden Bonsai. I thought it was past time to put an Ohio spin on this tree care fact sheet. Larch is such an interesting conifer. They are

deciduous like Redwood and bald cypress that lose their foliage in the winter. The Japanese love larch, the English love larch and Americans love larch. Each native species is a separate species. Each has slightly different "needle" size. The needles are soft to the touch. The cones, unlike pines point up and don't hang down. Art Skolnic, a bonsai artist from Toronto Canada brought some collected larch to the MABA show in Michigan many years ago. They were awesome – and sold out before lunch on the first day.

There are 11 recognized species of larch. European Larch are sometimes found in the bogs of Scotland. They also grow across northern Europe and Russia. Usually in wet soil conditions. Collected specimens are often stunted and very twiggy. Japanese Larch are a member of the short bracted Eurasian family of Larch. Larch are describes as having a wide spreading crown and a wide shallow root system. Shallow rooting makes them ideal for bonsai. They are good candidates for forest/slab plantings.

American Larch, which is a separate group, is also known as Tamarack. They are less heat tolerant as they grow naturally throughout Canada and Alaska, with habitats extending down into the states down as far as West Virginia. As they move south they are limited to higher – cooler elevations. American Larch "needles" are larger, 1.5" and noted to be blue-green, but their cones are smaller. Their cones are noted to be reddish/purple in color. My own larch has set cones at about 3 years. Each cone has 30-50 seeds. Western larch can grow up to 197' tall and reach nearly 5' in diameter. I saw a website offering 5,000 seeds for \$2. As you might guess it is very cold tolerant, reportedly to Zone 2! Some species which are from warmer places are reportedly less hardy (Zones 4-7) and may need to be protected below 15. The bark is reddish brown and craggy. The back on new shoots is pinkish/tan. The wood is rot resistant. Bonsai specimens frequently have jin or shari.

Larch MUST be transplanted in early March, just before their needles appear. I made the mistake (once) of trying to repot a really great larch after it had "leafed out". This quirk is the one major drawback of larch and must be taken seriously. If your Larch has needles on it, wait until next year. However the branches

of Larches can be wired and trimmed any time of the year. However, major styling is best done at the end of winter. New growth is very flexible; so you can get the branches to grow where you put them. Larches growth is apically dominant so the branches at the top of the tree need to be frequently to encourage growth of the lower branches.

Larch need a lot of water, so water them every day it doesn't rain from the time the foliage emerges until it turns golden brown in October. If you keep your larch in a sunny location you may need to water two times a day during the heat of summer. If you don't you may see burned tips on the foliage. The best place for your larch is where they get morning sun and afternoon shade, or filtered light all day. I keep my larch under a large maple tree in the summer and have never seen burned tips.

I fertilize weekly with liquid fertilizer with tomato or azalea food. I sometimes add a poo ball to every 6" of pot. I get good growth all season. Sometimes I trim the new growth every 2 weeks or the plants get too leggy and do not produce the "twiginess" you can get with regular pruning. The buds along a twig produce 20-50 needles in a whirl. Without pruning, new growth may reach as much as 20" in a season. Cut them back to the shortest length that gives you the direction you want the branch to grow. It may be one bud on a mature specimen. I read that cuts should be covered with grease or Vaseline, not cut paste. Grease speeds healing and reduces the size of the callus that develops. Because they grow rather rapidly, branching can be developed in 6 years but good trunk taper may take as long as 10 or 12 years. Check your wire frequently to avoid marks. An accomplished bonsai artist may attempt bud or thread grafting to get branches where they want them. The secret is that this is best done in June, not the early spring when the wood is full of water. Besides fungus, the only other item mentioned that may attack your larch are caterpillars.

Because larch is a deciduous needle conifer, they naturally turn golden in the fall and lose their needles. It will remain dormant throughout the winter; then, at winter's end, "the light goes on" and the tips of the buds, that had been present as needle collars all year, get shiny, indicating that it is the time to repot. Repot from that time until the needles become clearly defined although still quite small. This is about a three week interval. No wonder I've missed the widow the past 2 years. Success in transplanting bonsai, especially Larch, comes from timing your activity to correspond to the period of root growth.



Ken Schultz

‘An Itinerate Bosai Man’ Remembered....



Photo from BCI magazine article

I had intended on a future history of CBS piece featuring Keith's long time connection with our club. I was fortunate to have known Keith since '82. I have listened to and have read many of Keith's stories and insights through the years. I hope that a project of publishing and distributing a book of his experiences and musings that he has completed will come to fruition. Keith said, "I became addicted to Bonsai in 1938 after talking with my father who had seen dwarfed trees in China." After a tour of duty in Japan during the Korean conflict, he started working on 'real' Bonsai. He traveled to Japan and to China fifteen or more times. Keith wrote, "that is the point: I learned early that if I was

going to succeed in this infinitely difficult hobby, I'd have to travel, seek out the people who knew more than I did, which was everyone. "

Keith must have been an interesting person to have as an English teacher. Anyone who has been around him knows he loved to play with language and was precise in speaking. I wish I knew how extensive his knowledge of Japanese and Chinese were.

Keith was affiliated with many clubs and organizations. He was a past president and show chair for Bonsai Clubs International. Keith served as bonsai curator for the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Garden, Pittsburgh. A Smooth leaf Elm (*Ulmus minor*) that Keith trained and donated is on display at the North American Collection at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum at the United States National Arboretum.

Keith's first visit to our club included a hornbeam grove planting demo and a workshop in March of 1974. He had conducted many lectures, demos and workshops through the years for our club. In October 2008, Keith was the featured speaker at the Ohio Bonsai Expo sponsored by CBS. As a member emeritus of our club, he leaves a significant void. We were lucky that he chose to share with us his vast knowledge, skills, opinions and quips — Tom Holcomb



Scenes From The October 2002 CBS Workshop with Keith Scott.

KEITH B. SCOTT

A Glimpse inside....

One thing most don't know about Keith is that he also did pottery in the winter. His father also did pottery. Some out there might have the luck to own some of his few pots. I have one he made especially for me and several others he had given me over the years. Also, over the winter he (we) made knives. I actually got him into going to gun shows to buy knife making materials. I think he gave all his knives away as gifts so some out there might own one. I can think of at least one well known bonsaiman who got one of his knives.



Dale Cochoy photo of Keith Scott from about 1988.

For those that ever traveled to his 'home' you'll remember his quarters as cold and heated only with a wood stove in the winter. We spent MANY days in the cold drinking tea and working on other stuff than bonsai, but Keith was like me in the fact that he worked on trees when he could and that often meant extremely out of season with it being very cold or very hot. Keith's sleeping quarters were very nice and Japanese with tatami mats, wood flooring and a tokonoma. He slept on a futon and began to have terrible aching in the winter when it was very cold in his bedroom, attached to his work area in a barn away from the house. (He did not live in the house). I kept bugging him about getting a heated waterbed and he finally told me to get one located for him. I went to a couple waterbed stores in the late 80's and finally found a VERY SIMPLE one with an oak frame that matched his flooring pretty good. He picked it up and we installed it. A week later, I was there and asked how it was going? Not so good, still achy/ I checked and the heater wasn't on...the water was about 50 degrees! So, I explained the procedures and turned it up. He never liked the warm waterbed and until he decided to get rid of it and go back to the futon, he slept on it cold!

ALSO....

"Keith used to have a 3-day weekend invitational get-together to work on bonsai over EASTER weekend for many years. The late Max Puderbaugh of Columbus was one of the first attendees. I was one of the later invited attendees. Some members slept on the work benches in the studio. Some stayed at a motel and I drove back and forth since I was only 45 minutes away. For the tenth year, the last I remember, Keith made everyone a tea bowl and bisque fired them. Each person did their own glaze job and then Keith high-fired them. I still have mine."—DALE COCHOY of WILD THINGS BONSAI STUDIO

ABOUT 1926-MAY 6, 2011

Show Volunteers Needed

Yes, its time to ask you to sign up to help put on the 38th Annual Columbus Bonsai Society Show. This year we will be at the Maennerchor, August 20 & 21. Beginning with our May meeting we are asking for volunteers to assist with Show set up on August 19th at 3 PM and Tear down on August 21 after 4 PM. During the Show, we need volunteer to provide security and to staff the Club membership table - who can answer potential member questions.

Moreover, even if you find that you are unable to assist in a volunteer capacity, it is a great time to look at your trees to decide which ones you will be showing. Last year's show was AWESOME- and we hope that participation continues to be as strong.

CLUB TREES

The club's Tree Curator, Dan Binder, is conducting an inventory of CBS trees. Please let him know if you are caring for any bonsai that is part of the club inventory of stock purchased for demos, workshops, or donations. Dan would like an email that lists the tree type, estimated age and condition. The condition can include things like "... needs wiring, poor health, in a wood box, squirrel damage, looks good ..." anything to help describe the status of the plant. Please email this information to danny-binder@hotmail.com.

Once the inventory is completed, there will be an effort to get these trees to meetings for work or for events as appropriate. Caretakers are asked to continue to provide the necessary care for club trees, your efforts are appreciated.



Tracey
Freeland's
Azalea

31st Ohio Regional Bonsai Show

Saturday, June 11, 2011: 11 am – 5 pm and
Sunday, June 12, 2011: 11 am – 5 pm

The Dawes Arboretum cordially invites you to experience the art of bonsai at its annual Ohio Regional Bonsai Show!

Over 100 bonsai specimens displayed by individuals and Bonsai Clubs from central Ohio will be on display in the Firelight Room. Ohio Bonsai artists will conduct fee-required workshops and free demonstrations for all skill levels throughout the weekend. There will be a silent auction each day of the show. Please contact information@dawesarb.org for details on the workshops.

Whether you are ready to start your own bonsai or are advanced in your techniques, you are sure to find what you are looking for at this year's show. Supplies of bonsai tools, containers, Japanese art, jewelry and plants will be available.



The Dawes Arboretum
7770 Jacksontown Rd., SE
Newark, Ohio 43056

Workshops – Ohio Regional Bonsai Show The Dawes Arboretum

Saturday, June 11, 2011

Instructor

Keith Stevens – *The Dawes Arboretum, Newark, Ohio.*
Keith is Curator of the Japanese Garden and Bonsai Collection. He has been with The Arboretum since 1993 and curator of the bonsai collection since 2004.

Workshop A 11am–1:30pm **Beginning Bonsai – Zand Education Center Greenhouse Classroom**

Students will learn the history of bonsai, types of plants, containers, soil and tools to use, and how to prune and style trees. Registrants receive one tree, bonsai container, soil, wire and an *Art of Bonsai* booklet. Tools will be available to use.

Cost: \$35 Limit of 10 people

John Brannon – *The Nursery at Onion Creek, Albany, Ohio.*
John's bonsai interest evolved from an interest in gardening that began in the 1950s. He is a familiar face at many garden shows and events. He raises his plant material at his nursery. And as many say, he has an eye for the art of bonsai.

Workshop B 2–4:30pm **Zand Education Center, Greenhouse Classroom**

Add a living fossil to your collection, work with a *Ginkgo biloba* in John's workshop. Nice 12 inch tall trees with ½ inch dia. trunks. They make great trees after styling & wiring.

Cost: \$45 Limit of 10 people

Sunday, June 12, 2011

Ken Huth – *Ken's World of Bonsai, North Canton, Ohio.*
Ken has been a regular at The Arboretum Bonsai show as well as other events for over 15 years. He has collected trees in both North and South Dakota with Andy Smith.

Workshop C 11am–1:30pm **Zand Education Center, Greenhouse Classroom**

Ken will have some very nice cork bark elm, 18 inches tall with about ¾ to 1 inch caliper. This makes a great tree with pruning and wiring.

Cost: \$45 Limit of 10 people

Jeff Carr – *Staselwood Bonsai, Newark, Ohio.*
Jeff's bonsai interest began in Savannah, Georgia, 15 years ago. He has studied bonsai under a number of artists including Craig Coussins and Marco Invernizzi.

Workshop D 2–4:30pm **Auditorium**

Jeff explores advanced bonsai techniques including design and styling with a lecture and PowerPoint.

Cost: \$25 Limit of 10 people

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

Make sure to contact
John with any requests.



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.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 15 MAY 2011 | GUEST ARTIST—DOUG HAWLEY ON BLACK PINE —FPC 1 PM START |
| 20-22 MAY 2011 | ST. LOUIS SHOHIN CONVENTION—ST. LOUIS, MO |
| 27-30 MAY 2011 | BRUSSEL'S RENDEZVOUS |
| 19 JUN 2011 | FICUS WITH JERRY MEISLIK—FPC 1 PM START TIME |
| 16-19 JUN 2011 | ABS/BCI "Bonsai in the Bluegrass" —LOUISVILLE, KY |
| 17 JUL 2011 | FLOWERING TROPICALS—OAKLAND |
| 23-24 JUL 2011 | NASHVILLE REGIONAL SHOW—NASHVILLE, TN |
| 19-21 AUG 2011 | MIDWEST BONSAI SHOW—CHICAGO, IL |
| 21 AUG 2011 | ANNUAL SHOW —MAENNERCHOR |
| 17-18 SEP 2011 | TBD—OAKLAND |
| 16 OCT 2011 | BUD PRUNING, NEEDLING, AND WIRING PINES—FPC |
| 20 NOV 2011 | DORMANCY AND STANDS: SELECTION OR CREATION—OAKLAND |
| 11 DEC 2011 | HOLIDAY DINNER—TBD |
| 26-29 JUL 2012 | MABA "BUCKEYE BONSAI, A FAMILY AFFAIR"—CINCINNATI |

FPC= FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY
OAKLAND= OAKLAND NURSERY, COLUMBUS

Care Notes from the Columbus Bonsai Society Website

May - Late Spring - 73/50

- ◆ Start hardening up indoor tree growth by using an oscillating fan a few hours a day.
- ◆ You may move tropicals outdoors now. Introduce tropicals to the sunlight gradually. Be careful of night time temperatures <45°F. You may also leave tropicals indoors year round for better control of their environment.
- ◆ Most deciduous trees have the leaves out sometime in May.
- ◆ Hold off on fertilizing pines to keep their needles short.
- ◆ Perform air-layers on trees once their leaves are fully emerged.
- ◆ Start fertilizing with a balanced 10-10-10 or 20-20-20 fertilizer for most trees.
- ◆ Trees will be using more water now that they are actively growing.
- ◆ Re-pot any later emerging species, and any that show signs of being pot bound – they won't make it through July and August if you don't.
- ◆ Pinch or cut back long pine candles to encourage back budding and a more dense overall growth

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 Board meets
1st Tuesday of the month
at 6:30 pm

***DOUG HAWLEY—
FRANKLIN PARK***

