

# November 2011 Newsletter

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“A Pinch of this....”

...And now to sleep ....

**Term of the month: DORMANCY**

**Dormancy** - Is the resting period for bonsai, where little or no growth is produced - usually autumn and winter months.

**NIGHTY, NITE HARDY BONSAI**

Well, cold weather is almost upon us...that is if the weather here would make up its mind about how many “Indian summer’s” to have.. So, with that in mind one of the topics at this month’s meeting will be dormancy prep. We will also, discuss choosing a stand and display types for your bonsai, as well as have a hands on workshop with Rosemary in preparation for the holidays. So, come prepared to discuss and contribute.

See you next week!

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick

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**Join us at Oakland Nursery-  
Columbus on the 20th for  
Dormancy, Display and Decorations.**



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

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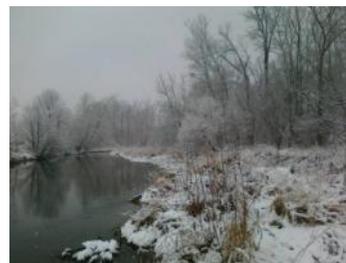


Columbus Bonsai is a proud member of the American Bonsai Society and Bonsai Clubs International.

**This Month's Program— STANDS, AND DISPLAYS,  
DORMANCY PREPARATION AND ROSEMARY WORKSHOP**

**T**his month we will look at several topics: Stands types and how to choose one, Dormancy preparation, and we will have a workshop on some

Rosemary in readiness for the holiday season. Most of the Rosemary are in 1 gal containers, however there may be a few in 2 gal that will involve an appropriately more expensive workshop fee. See you there!



*Photo from Staselwood.com*



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  
ruhric@otterbein.edu

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS:**

**DECEMBER: HOLIDAY  
DINNER AT LEE GARDENS**

**JANUARY: PHOTOGRAPHING  
AND DOCUMENTING YOUR  
TREES**

**FEBRUARY: WHAT YOU CAN  
DO ON YOUR OUTDOOR  
TREES ALREADY**

**MARCH 2012: FRANK MIHALIC  
RETURNS FOR A DEMO ON  
THE CLUB TAXUS.**

**APRIL 2012: ANDY SMITH OF  
GOLDEN ARROW BONSAI  
WILL JOIN US FOR A  
WORKSHOP.**

## AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT....



### Random Thotz - now from the President

**A**h, Fall. The time of year when it is so easy to go hog wild with new tree purchases based on low price. I was at Anderson's Saturday. (My mother-in-law was in town and wanted to go there.) They had all non-Christmas plants at 75% off. I got some Mums and Siberian Iris for Michelle, and two Aromatic Sumac Rhus aromatica and a Taxus for me. The sumac was interesting as the card showed small leaves and they had a trunk and rudimentary branch structure. There isn't much left there but the year end specials are ongoing at all the garden stores right now. Oakland and Straders and others as you can find them have deals if you look past the empty fronts.

I found one tropical that had escaped on a bench in my back yard. It hasn't frozen so I don't know if its dead but I brought it in anyway. I'll see. Its a Schefflera and they survive outdoors in Florida down to 32 degrees, but this isn't Florida and its in a pot, not the ground. Hopefully you have all of yours in and established under lights or in windows by now. Just be sure to check the soil moisture often until you figure out how much moisture they need/carry in the pot. Early season is when I have the most trouble with keeping them regulated until I get that figured out. It seems to vary from year to year depending on potting history and soil composition.

Have you been plucking your pines two year old needles and looking for bids to prune? I have been working on mine and have a couple left to finish off. I have also been making mental notes about which deciduous trees will be generating cuttings next year and where I will be creating air layers. I will be putting color coded stakes in those pots to indicate repotting, cuttings, air layer, and general styling. I have a bunch of small dowels that I painted to indicate what happens in spring. I think I will group the work types together under my benches so one doesn't get lost in the spring rush.

Speaking of fall work, have you taken reference pictures of your trees this year? Find a neutral background and take pictures as you put them away for winter. Study the pictures this winter and play with MSpaint or some other editing program to see what you can do with styling in the spring. One of the program topics for January will cover record keeping and picture files are one of the methods for discussion. If your camera adds a date stamp, make sure it is set properly. Bad dates will get confusing in a couple of years. That is the voice of experience talking.

Our December dinner is at Lee Gardens again. See later in the newsletter about RSVP, date, and cost. There is no planned program this year as people seem to enjoy talking and relaxing. There may be door prizes though. We seemed to have fun with those.

Other than that, see you in November for Elections, Stands, and a Rosemary workshop. Remember to renew!

*Zack*

**FOR YOUR PERUSAL, HERE IS THE PROPOSED SLATE FOR 2012.  
WE WILL ASK FOR FURTHER NOMINATIONS AT THE  
NOVEMBER MEETING WITH VOTING TO OCCUR  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING.**

**COLUMBUS BONSAI SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2012**

<b>PRESIDENT</b> <i>Your Choice</i> 1. Zack Clayton	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT</b> <i>Your Choice</i> 1. Ken Schultz	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT</b> <i>Your Choice</i> 1. Denny Sackett
<b>1 YEAR DIRECTOR</b> <i>Your Choice</i> 1. Jack Smith	<b>2 YEAR DIRECTOR</b> <i>Your Choice</i> 1. Ben William	<b>3 YEAR DIRECTORS</b> <i>Your Choices</i> 1. Tracy Freeland 2. Brian Ireland
<b>TREASURER</b> <i>Your choice</i> 1. Richard Gurevitz	<b>SECRETARY</b> <i>Your Choice</i> 1. Sandy Schoenfeld	<b>TREE CURATOR</b> <i>Your Choice</i> 1. Dan Binder
<b>LIBRARIAN</b> <i>Your Choice</i> 1. John Young	<b>WEB MASTER</b> <i>Your choice</i> 1. Ed McCracken	<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b> <i>Your Choice</i> 1. Richard Uhrick
<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b> <i>Non-Elected</i> 1. Mark Passerello	<b>DIRECTOR EMERITUS</b> <i>Non-elected</i> 1. José Cueto	

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**Please contact Staselwood for your winter protection needs. You can email us to get a quote for your collections winter heated and/or unheated storage rates for the season.**

*If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me.*

*Thanks,*

*Staselwood Bonsai Studio*

*Jeff Carr,*

**Owner**

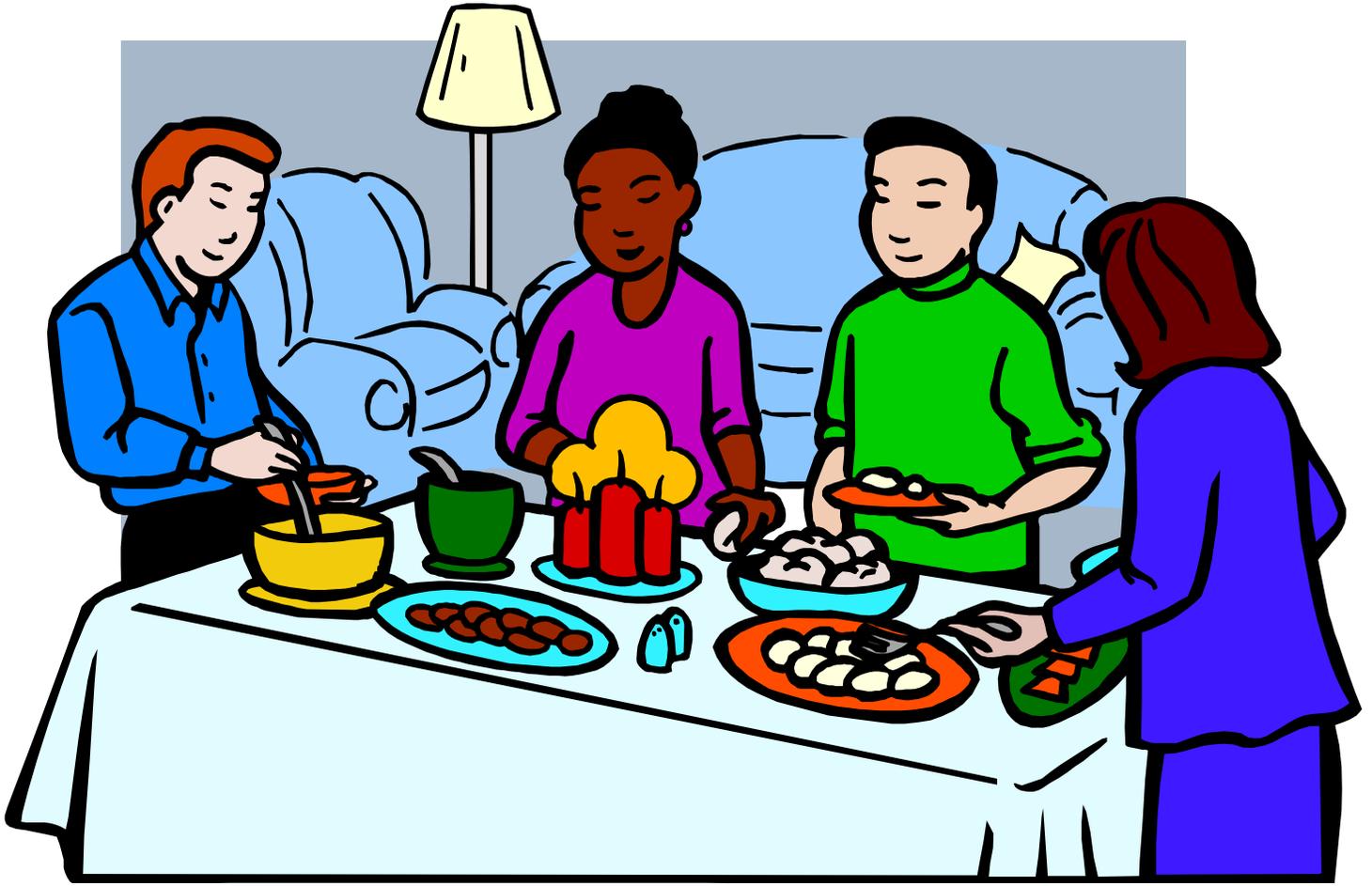
[jcarr@staselwoodbonsai.com](mailto:jcarr@staselwoodbonsai.com)

Cell: (740) 403-0215

1935 Hickman Rd  
Newark, Ohio 43055



**Staselwood Bonsai Studio**  
Hanover, Ohio  
**WWW.STASELWOODBONSAI.COM** 740-403-0215  
Your Source for: Tools, Wire, Soil, Pots, Bonsai and More



**DECEMBER 11, 2011  
5PM- 8 PM**

**LEE GARDEN  
RESTAURANT**

**2685 FEDERATED BLVD  
COLUMBUS, OH 43235**

**\$20/PERSON**

**RSVP AND PAY  
BY NOVEMBER 30, 2011  
At meeting or by email to:  
[kaceppsm@aol.com](mailto:kaceppsm@aol.com)**



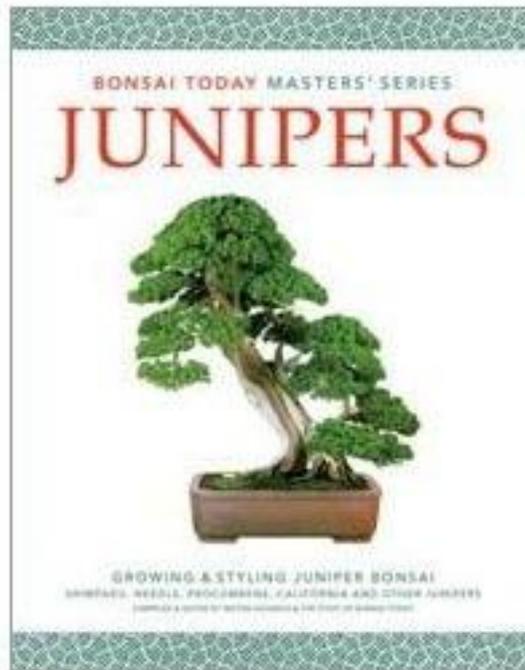
**Book of the Month:** *Bonsai Today Masters' Series: Junipers: Growing and Styling Juniper Bonsai*

**A**fter liking the Pines book so much, I was eager to check out this new purchase by our Club Library. The book itself is similar in style and size to the Pines book and a few of the contributors are the same, such as Kimura and Kobayasi. But I was put off at the start when I read that all but one of the junipers in the book was collected stock except one that was from a nursery. I don't know why that put me off, but it did.

This book notes that junipers are easily adaptable to bonsai culture and are commonly available at local nurseries for a reasonable price. Most varieties take to pruning, wiring and carving. These traits make them a favorite from beginner to master artists. There are 60 (or so) species of junipers; 15-20 are commonly used for bonsai. The or so is because they note that some say 62 and some say 56 species – botanical sciences are always evolving. Procumbens Nana, Shimpaku (*Sargentii*) and California Juniper are features in the styling chapters of this book. California Juniper are hardy to Zone 8; most others are hardy to Zones 2,3,4 and 5, so we can grow them outdoors. John Naka's "Goshin" appears in the gallery at the back of this book. He used eleven Foramina Junipers; they have a rigid upright growth habit. Blaauw juniper are noted for their vase shape and European popularity. This was one of John Hill's award winning trees at our 2011 show. Blue Rug junipers and *Juniperus prostrata* are useful for semi-cascade and cascade.

They cover Juniper Care and Maintenance in the second chapter. Juniper can handle direct sun with a little shade in the hottest part of the day. The authors also recommend protection from strong winds. With the exception of two to three days when you may place your juniper on display they should remain outdoors. The authors also say,

water only when your juniper is thirsty and then water thoroughly, making sure that all the soil is well soaked. They recommend watering the foliage, including the underside. They say this help prevent insect and disease problems. They recommend feeding regularly, using two or three types of fertilizer to ensure a balanced range of nutrients. If your tree is stressed, use ¼ strength fertilizer solution. The book shares a poo ball recipe.



Pest treatments mentioned are for spider mites and juniper scale. Other pests may include; bagworm, webworm and juniper tip midge. Fungus and root rot can be treated with a fungicide containing copper (not recommended for pines). Repotting and soil are discussed. Most junipers prefer a pH of 6.5 and a mix that drains well. It says that a mature tree can go three to six years between repotting. Here in a cooler zone they say early spring is best. Pots used are traditionally unglazed browns to grays. The use of a metal root hook is discouraged and placing a piece of rubber under

the wire holding the tree into the pot is recommended.

There is an extensive section on wintering junipers. The key seems to be "keep them dormant to prevent damage."

It includes both written and visual guidance on thinning foliage and the importance of continually pinching back new growth that extends beyond the silhouette you are maintaining. They say that the pinching will encourage back budding and prevent bare sections on branches. If you miss removing wire before it cuts in; you are consoled by a note that the tree will heal over in two to three years. At the end of this chapter is a detailed chart showing a variety of horticultural items over the 12 months of the year. For cold climates only August did not show fertilizing. (I guess my fall-winter use

*(Continued on page 7)*

of poo balls covers this.)

Ramification is a seven-page chapter. Despite being short on text it seemed important to me. The authors say that a bonsai is not considered "mature" until it has achieved tertiary ramification. They also say not to pinch to late in the year when cold weather is approaching or the twig may die. In the second year of training they say to let the new growth extend 3" – 4" before cutting it with scissors back to a few sets of needles and then wire the twigs. After that it should only be necessary to pinch new growth as the foliage pad has been established. Take care not to let the top growth become too heavy, robbing strength from the lower branches.

The next six chapters show styling or restyling collected plants. The focus is on jin and shari selection and development. They also show foliage thinning and wiring. Just beyond the midpoint of the Juniper book is a chapter on Layering. To me the technique seemed similar to taking a cutting, but leaving it attached to the trunk. In the layering pot they use 2 parts sand and 3 parts sphagnum moss.

Emergency Treatment is a must read chapter. It explains that if you discover a condition such as root rot or severe pot bound conditions effecting drainage and its not transplanting season, make holes using a chopstick to improve drainage. Fill the hole with river sand. If you discover root rot all dead or damaged roots need to be removed and even the pot will need to be disinfected. Water afterwards using a fungicide and rooting hormone such as SUPERthrive.

The chapter following Emergency Care showed Urban Salvage followed by a chapter on creating a cascade. Wiring and raffia techniques are shown. They remind the reader to pinch the apex of Cascade style trees to balance the energy to the cascade branch.

The final chapters show Rock Plantings and Collecting California Junipers from the wild. California Junipers are Zone 8; too bad.



Ken Schultz

## Tool of the Month: Traditional Concave or Side Cutter

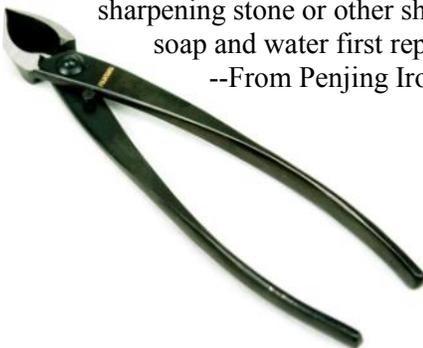
Considered the most important of all bonsai tools is this average size cutter, with concave design to make flush cuts in bonsai.

Designed for extreme edge pressure cuts into material of contact. Known to majority of hobbyists, as the "most important of tools for bonsai." Penjing Iron Works recommends this tool for those in need of creating smooth cuts into small, medium, or moderately large bonsai parts. This tool can cut through weak to moderately strong wood and material. Used mainly to make flush and minimal scarring cuts on bonsai tree or material at which cuts will be administered, preferably parts of the trunk or branches. May also be used to remove large sections of roots and dead wood; however, we caution to monitor for rock, gravel, or wire. Although tools may penetrate these hard materials, the edges must stay uniformly sharp to perform in the way they are intended.

Applications include cutting branches, dead wood, heavy roots, and any tough parts of bonsai tree that require a flush and clean cut. Considering the fact that pure blade pressure is making the cuts, have edges touch before removing to ensure a successful cut. After the cut is made, if the bonsai tree does not produce a protective sap, Penjing recommends using a healing agent, also known as healing paste, wound repair, or other similar putty-like material to seal affected area such as our [Cut Pastes](#). This will prevent pests and disease to the vulnerable living bark that has been exposed as a result.

Remove sap and keep sharp. Monitor possible debris accumulation at joint mechanisms. To keep sharp, sharpening stone or other sharpening tools are advised. For sap removal, please do not use solvent, instead try soap and water first repetitively before resorting to more aggressive cleaning products.

--From Penjing Iron Works website



## UPDATE ON THE CLUB PINE WORK FROM LAST MONTH

Just to update the status of the club black pine, it has been bud pruned and de-needled. I trimmed the needles instead of plucking them to preserve as many backbuds as possible. If you were at the meeting, you probably saw John Hill plucking the needles on his pine with tweezers. He has been doing this a lot longer than I have and has a better skill set for plucking than I do. Here are some observations on the two techniques: If you are just starting out you will probably preserve more buds by trimming the needles, with experience you can pluck and still have most of the buds. Plucking does appear to be faster once you get the hang of it. Also, plucking leaves a cleaner looking branch than trimming does. There are several sacrifice areas on the club pine that I may practice plucking on for comparison. Here are some before and after pictures.



As you can see there is stubble left after trimming the needles. But any latent buds in the needle sheaf are undamaged by this method. By spring, these stubs should have dried up and fallen off. I probably did not trim the older needles aggressively enough in this top section. I could have left a couple of needle pairs fewer at each branch tip as this is a vigorous area of the tree. (At top of next column)



This is a lower branch and is less vigorous than the top of the tree.

As you can see here, I did not remove as many needles as at the top. This preserves the strength of the lower less vigorous branches.

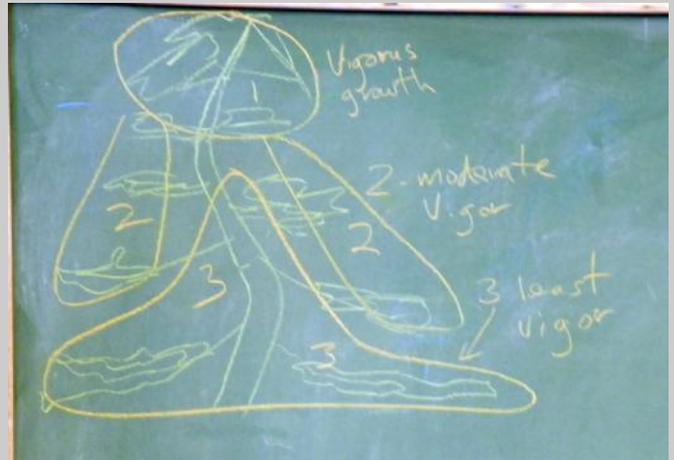


Here is a picture of the final product. It looks thin, but John assures me that I could have gone farther.



 Zack

# MORE PHOTOS FROM LAST MONTH....



### 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)



The library will be  
open in November.



P. O. Box 1981  
Columbus, Ohio  
43216-1981

[www.columbusbonsai.org](http://www.columbusbonsai.org)

### 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

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 . Board Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. The board meetings are open to members.

**20 NOV 2011                    DORMANCY AND STANDS: SELECTION OR CREATION—OAKLAND**  
**11 DEC 2011                    HOLIDAY DINNER—LEE GARDENS**

#### **2012**

**15 JAN 2012                    DOCUMENTING YOUR COLLECTION—OAKLAND**  
**3 FEB 2012                    KOKUFU TEN—JAPAN**  
**19 FEB 2012                    WHAT CAN YOU DO ON HARDY PLANTS RIGHT NOW—OAKLAND**  
**18 MAR 2012                    FRANK MIHALIC TAXUS DEMO—FPC**  
**15 APR 2012                    ANDY SMITH WORKSHOP—FPC**  
**20 MAY 2012                    CBS MEETING—FPC**  
**26-8 MAY 2012                BRUSSELS RENDEVOUS—MISSISSIPPI**  
**9-10 JUN 2012                US NATIONAL SHOW—ROCHESTER, NY**  
**17 JUN 2012                    CBS MEETING—OAKLAND**  
**21-4 JUN 2012                ABS/BCI—DENVER**  
**15 JUL 2012                    CBS MEETING—FPC**  
**17-8 AUG 2012                MID-AMERICA —CHICAGO**  
**19 AUG 2012                    CBS MEETING—OAKLAND**  
**16 SEP 2012                    CBS MEETING OR ANNUAL SHOW**  
**7-8 OCT 2012                BONSAI EXPO—ASHEVILLE, NC**  
**21 OCT 2012                    CBS MEETING—FPC**  
**18 NOV 2012                    CBS MEETING—OAKLAND**  
**DEC 2012                        CBS HOLIDAY DINNER**

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

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

November – Late Autumn – 51/34

- Stop fertilization for outdoors trees.
- Only water when soil is nearly dry.
- ◆ Clean up trees in preparation for winter.

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

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

# ***DORMANCY, STANDS, AND ROSEMARY—OAKLAND***

