



March 2012 Newsletter

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“A Pinch of this....”

...LET THE WOOD CHIPS FLY

BACK DOWN TO A REASONABLE SIZE

Well, here we are and the issue is back down to a more normal size. Of course, I hope that is not to be said about the information that is inside. As always I hope that this issue has something in it for everyone. But let’s look towards the upcoming meeting on Sunday, after all, we will be joined by second generation American master Frank Mihalic. It should make for an insightful time as we continue to strive to improve the shape and finish of our club’s trees. And hopefully, you are all ready to take advantage of the few items he will have available for sale. Mostly, I hope to see you there.

See you Sunday!

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick

Join us at Franklin Park Conservatory on the 18th.

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Columbus Bonsai Society PO Box 1981 Columbus OH 43216-1981

ColumbusBonsai@hotmail.com www.ColumbusBonsai.org



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

This Month's Program— Styling the club taxus and other trees with guest artist Frank Mihalic.

The club Taxus grew in a former member's yard for forty years when its replacement with new landscape material was planned. Two Board members "collected" it in 2001 and it was placed in a very large grow box to regain its health and root structure. In 2004 it was brought to Franklin Park for the first time and an apex was selected from several branches. A few years ago (2009) Frank Mihalic saw it during a workshop. He presented a long term development plan to several of our Board members. Since that time Ken and Sandy Schoenfeld have been hosting the Taxus at their home. During this time Ken Schoenfeld implemented carving that had been suggested. On March 18, 2012, Frank Mihalic has been asked to proceed to the next phase in the development of this bonsai tree. You won't want to miss this event! Remember Start time is 1:30pm. There will also be other club trees for Frank to comment on. Frank will also be bringing some of his jewelry and other items for sale so bring your check books.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

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

MAY 2012: ELMS WITH KELLY ADKINS (YET TO BE CONFIRMED.)

JUNE : JUNIPERS WITH JOHN. JOHN HILL THAT IS...

JULY: TROPICALS WITH JOSE' PROBABLY WITH SCHEFFLERA.



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....**Random Thotz - now from the President****W**

ow, it's March and the weather is like late spring. There may be a few frosts left in the season but the reports I've heard discount any hard freezes before next winter. Of course this is Ohio and what do they really know? In any

case things are starting to move and won't wait for the normal calendar. I am way behind already. I had to have the big ash in my front yard removed (Trees are my Business, \$750 for all the work and they cut the logs into firewood along with several slabs for display.) and had them trim my apple down to 12' and take out an old pear in the back yard. I left all my trees under the benches for that to protect them from wayward trimmings. So the work was this last Saturday morning and the rest of the day and Sunday was moving firewood to the back yard and spreading chips AKA mulch on the front beds and in front of the bench work in the back yard. I'm not done with either yet. I gave the bedding chips a good application of a crabgrass weed and feed. High nitrogen to feed the composting beasties and prevent kill off of the existing plants and the crabgrass preventer functions like Preen and prevents seeds from sprouting. The downside is I won't have any maple starts this year. I also lost a lot of shade in the front of the house, but that was pretty much gone due to the ash borers. For my next trick I will be repotting like a madman and then styling based on the pictures and notes I made in fall and explained at the January meeting. Some of the new purchases will be going back into the same nursery pots but in a bonsai soil mix. Minimal work there with only a little root pruning needed. I have some maples that I want to try out with a technique I saw on the Bonsai Tonight blog - <http://bonsaitonight.com/category/bonsai-development/> - you will have to hit the "older posts" button at the bottom of the page a couple of times. It talks about increasing the nebari and root symmetry by planting on a piece of plywood and pinning the roots in place with finishing nails. This is one of the joys of working with volunteer seedlings. You don't have to be worried about trying something radical on expensive trees. If you haven't started watering yet you need to be keeping a careful watch on the moisture level in your pots. The trees are pushing sap and a few days without rain can do real damage even though it isn't scorching hot yet. Its not too early to begin fertilizing either.

Zack

BOOK REVIEW: “Finding the Bonsai Within”

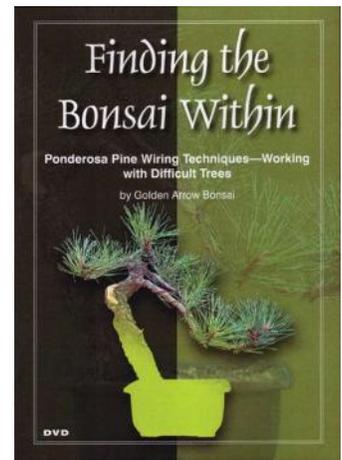
By Andrew Smith

This is not my usual book review; in anticipation of Andy Smith’s April (2012) workshop with our Club, this is a review of a 2003 DVD produced by Golden Arrow Bonsai. Our Library has a copy of this DVD. The DVD demonstrates Andy’s styling talents using three Ponderosa Pines which Andy calls difficult, oddly shaped and just plain ugly. The DVD is 98 minutes; the first tree takes the longest at about 45 minutes. He explains that he initially used aluminum wire but that he switched to copper. Of the few reasons he gives the main one is that because the wire must stay on a Ponderosa for a year or two, he didn’t like how the aluminum wire “brightens as it ages becoming more noticeable. The second is that copper holds stronger in smaller diameter wire.

The first thing I learned is that Ponderosa pines are incredibly flexible. Andy shows a technique he learned that breaks the fibers of the branch or trunk making them bend more easily. Second is that the place where branches join the trunk may split when bending, so be careful and use raffia if you plan to do extreme bending. The third item is that Andy shows that it is OK to trim the needles to clean up the tree’s appearance. However, he advises don’t trim the needles in summer, do it in the spring when the sap is flowing. Following trimming spray the tree with cold water, it helps prevent tip browning.

The trees Andy works on in the DVD had been potted up for two years. His goals were to create an apex and tighten up the appearance of the foliage pads by creating bends in the branches. He notes that bending the tips of the branches up improves the health of the tree. As he wires, he explains that the direction of wiring should be the one that tightens when you bend the branch and that crossing wires is to be avoided.

Stone Lantern currently has this DVD on sale; so if you are a Ponderosa Pine fan you might want a copy of your own.



Ken Schultz

SOIL AMENDMENTS CONTINUED: WHAT DO YOU USE FOR “SHARP SAND”

By Rich Uhrick

With all of the talk at the last meeting about the various definitions of what is considered “sharp sand”. It made me think about what I use. Especially with all the conifer based meetings coming up.

Several years ago at work we purchased a 50# bag of crushed walnut shells used as abrasive material for “sand blasting”. This was a fine mix which we were using with glue and joint compound to give scenery a “cement-look”. Since we did not actually need very much of it for our needs I have had a ready supply of this for use as the sand component for my Mame and conifer mixes.



Preparations for using Line Sulfur

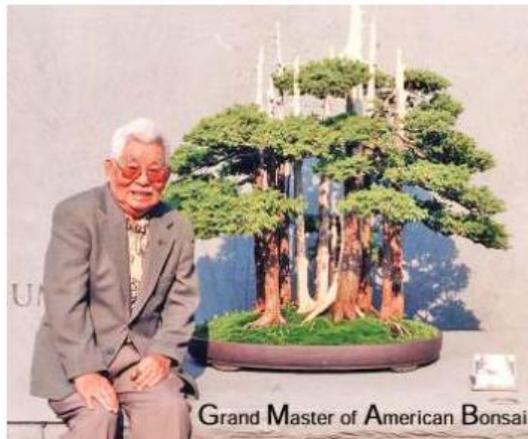
By
Ken Schultz

Recently there has been a scare that lime sulfur will be banned from the public market. Being unsure if Ohio will join in, the Club has purchased a quantity that will be available to members. I have viewed a number of videos on-line and noticed that each artist has their own method of applying lime sulfur. It occurred to me that a short outline would be useful. So here goes...

- ◆ Clean your deadwood with a wire brush first to remove loose material and clean it up.
- ◆ Newly created deadwood needs to dry for a week and to be “dehaired” either with a torch or wire brush. Aged deadwood will adsorb lime sulfur more readily.
- ◆ Cover your soil and pot with a drop cloth to prevent drips. Try to keep it off the bark, and foliage too.
- ◆ Add a bit of water to the lime sulfur to make it flow into the cracks more easily. Add black “India” ink for pines to give the deadwood a more aged look. (India ink is an architect supply used in Rapidograph pens.)
- ◆ Mist the deadwood before applying the lime sulfur, it helps it to adsorb more deeply.
- ◆ Brush it on, outdoors because lime sulfur is smelly stuff. It will take three or four days for it to cure; losing both its yellow color and smell.
- ◆ If you need to treat your deadwood before a show, plan to do the work about two weeks ahead. Otherwise you can apply lime sulfur any time the temperatures will be above freezing, as you should not allow your lime sulfur to freeze, including in the bottle.
- ◆

Remember from the Robert Steven book report how deadwood on conifers differs from deadwood on deciduous trees and tropical's. Conifer deadwood results from harsh weather, such as wind and snow damage so it is smooth showing the wood fibers. Deciduous and tropical deadwood is likely to have been bug or rot damage and is holey.

2012 John Y. Naka Design Award Program



The American Bonsai Society in fellowship and remembrance of our American Grand Master is pleased to announce that the 2012 John Y. Naka award program is now open and accepting entries from across the North American continent. The program is open to both professional and amateur artists competing separately using either Native American plant material or plant material grown entirely in North America.

All regional associations, local clubs, study groups and professional Bonsai educators are encouraged to enter trees of members or students of their organizations who exhibit the spirit of artistic design taught by our beloved Grand Master. The rules are simple,

and offer 4 awards that will be presented at the Denver, Colorado Learning Seminar scheduled for June 2012.

- ✚ Showcase the best Amateur and Professional Designers of Native and Non-native trees in your club or region!
- ✚ Organize club activities to sponsor the best designers in your club!
- ✚ Receive National and International exposure in the ABS journal and the ABS website!
- ✚ Entering can be done directly on the ABS website! No papers to fill out, nothing to send in by Snail-mail, just Enter and Go!

Entry deadline April 1, 2012

Rules and entry information can be found at <http://absbonsai.org>

If you have questions about the program contact naka@absbonsai.org

Announcing – Andrew Smith, Golden Arrow Bonsai Workshops for April 15, 2012

We are very excited that the Columbus Bonsai Society has secured well known Bonsai artist, Andrew Smith for a double header event on April 15, 2012. The last time we were lucky enough to have him was during our 2000 show. He demonstrated creating a phoenix graft using one of his collected Black Hills Spruce.

Golden Arrow Bonsai is located in Deadwood South Dakota, largely because Andy works for the U.S. Forest Service and is responsible for assessing the age and health of stands of trees that grow on Federal land in the west. Andy explained that he noticed small trees growing on rock ledges in the mountains, or near the tree line and became curious about their age. Since a part of his job is to take cores from living trees and count their rings he did this on the Yamadori he observed. They were hundreds of years old. This led him to the art of bonsai. He was hooked on bonsai much to our benefit and delight! Please view the Golden Arrow Bonsai website at <http://goldenarrowbonsai.com/goldenarrowbonsai.com/Home.html>

We are indeed fortunate to offer you two venues on April 15, 2012. In the morning at 9:30, Andy will present a slide program that show how he collects the tree he offers from his nursery; Ponderosa Pine, Black Hills Spruce and Rocky Mountain Junipers.

Balled and Burlap Workshop

At 10:30, if you have paid, you will be provided a collected Ponderosa Pine to pot up for the first time. The fee for this workshop is \$100. (This includes \$10/tree shipping, the tree \$35-50 value and your portion of our having Andy available) The workshop is limited to 12 participants. Because these trees have not been potted before, you will receive advice on the potential future direction that this tree may be developed; but Andy advises against styling and

wiring at this point until they have become established in their new pots. You will need to bring a large enough pot and conifer bonsai mix, along with your tools, screen for your pot and wire to hold them in with you.

From 12:30 until 1:30 we will break for lunch.

BYOT Workshop:

At 1:30 a second Bring Your Own Tree Workshop will be provided. The cost is \$45. Andy asks that you bring appropriate conifers for him to assist you in styling. He is familiar with most types of pines, spruce and junipers. Think - native species please; nothing too exotic. Again, bring your tools and wire. You may want to bring carving tools and raffia. This is a real opportunity to work with a nationally known gifted bonsai artist for an incredibly low fee.

At larger shows, the fee for

these types of workshops is more than triple this offering.

We invite all members to come and spend as much time as they want, even if they are not participating in a workshop. Observers must exercise courtesy and not ask Andy questions when he is working with workshop participants.

To reserve your workshop spot you must pre-pay so that we know how many trees need to ship. And because of Andy's popularity **only 12 may sign up for each workshop.** **You may sign up and pay for both workshops;** however, we may ask you to indicate a priority, so that if more than 12 sign up for the Balled and Burlap or the BYOT workshop you may be able to sell your slot to someone on the waiting list. After the March meeting date there will be no refunds. If you discover you **cannot** make it on April 15, it may be possible to sell your spot to someone on the waiting list if there is one. Based on our survey this is likely. (The club is being asked to prepay airfare and for the balled and burlap trees.)

So bring your check book or cash to the February meeting to secure your slot in your workshop of choice. Straw poll indicates that there is a high level of interest.



Bring your Check books to the March meeting—the last few spaces are filling up fast.



Juniperus chinensis 'Kaizuka' Photograph © Carlos Diaz



A view of the future studio and bonsai display area



Taxus baccata Photograph © Carlos Diaz



Pinus parviflora Photograph © Carlos Diaz

Bonsai and Penjing Collection Matthaei Botanical Gardens

Fellow bonsai enthusiasts:

As many know, the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens staff has been caring for a mostly-out-of-sight bonsai collection for many years. The long-held dream has been the creation of a permanent, dedicated garden open to the public for this collection. Fund raising has already brought in two thirds of the goal, allowing construction to start as early as this fall. It is important to note that a portion of all donated money is being set aside in an endowment to ensure that the collection will be protected, nurtured, and developed by dedicated staff as the years go by -- promoting the love of nature, horticulture and bonsai, concepts that we all hold close to our hearts.

A working bonsai studio will be integrated into the garden. In this space professionals and volunteers will do the work of maintaining these special trees in full view of the public. This will be an exceptional educational opportunity for the public to interact with knowledgeable bonsai people.

We are reaching out to all potential supporters for financial help. Donations of any amount are needed and all will be valued. Donors giving at least \$1,000 will be honored on a recognition plaque. Larger donations to the bonsai collection offer naming opportunities for the garden and its various spaces. More information can be found at:

<http://www.bonsaihunk.us/info/MatthaeiBonsaiCollection.html>
<http://bonsai.mbgna.umich.edu/welcome.htm>

Thanks again for your help in getting the word out and for supporting our efforts to make this garden a reality.

Those committed to creating this garden would welcome hearing from you:

Chairperson, Jerry Meislik, bonsaihunk@aol.com, 406-862-0387

Trudy Bulkley, trudyb@umich.edu, 734-769-3115

Cyril Grum, grum@umich.edu, 734-995-9828

Bill Heston, wheston3@comcast.net, 734-662-8699

Paul Kulesa, kulesap@gmail.com, 313-930-1305

Alfonso Tercero, bonsai_cho@att.net, 734-216-2708

Jack Wickle, jwickle@comcast.net, 517-423-7893

Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Director Robert Grese, bgrese@umich.edu, 734-763-0645

Matthaei Development Director, Gayle Steiner, gayles@umich.edu, 734-647-7847

Matthaei Horticulturist, Connie Crancer, ccrancer@umich.edu, 734-389-3471

Matthaei Horticulturist, Carmen Leskoviansky, carmentr@umich.edu, 734-274-7017

My First Bonsai Expedition to East Asia

Part 2: China [MISTAKENLY OMITTED FROM PREVIOUS EDITION]



[Caption: A view of the hundreds of exception bonsai on display at the Shanghai Botanic Garden.]

Craig said I shouldn't miss the gardens of Shozou – two hours west of Shanghai. But a bus tour there would have taken another full day I didn't have. So I asked my hotel concierge to direct me to an outdoor market where I might find some local penjing pottery. The cab driver dropped me off in the general vicinity and I probed the area streets without much luck. As in Viet Nam, the average Chinese person doesn't speak English, even in a cosmopolitan city like Shanghai.

I know three words in Mandarin: “hello,” “thank you” and “penjing.” I drew a quick picture of a bonsai in a pot for one shopkeeper and pointed to the pot, saying “penjing?” She nodded in understanding, took the piece of paper and drew a crude map of where I might find some. The map worked and I found myself in a farmer's market of sorts with stalls of flowers and plants, ducks and chickens in cages, and all manner of fresh seafood being sliced up. No pictures can accurately capture the sights and smells of local markets. Here I hoped to uncover amazing Chinese pots right at the source for cheap! Instead, I only found the sort of small, low-quality pots common in the U.S., with mangy looking plants shoved into them. I did see a few nice display stands in another stall, but the prices – even after the customary haggling – wouldn't have been a great bargain. But it was a fun adventure and a chance to see how many Chinese live and work.



[Caption: A bonsai of sorts sitting outside the entrance of a Chinese department store, Santa pushes aside a potted tree at the entrance to a Vietnamese shopping mall.]

As in Viet Nam, images of penjing abound in China. Probably better classified as potted landscape trees, there were “bonsai-like” trees leading up to the entrance of my Shanghai hotel, across the street in front of the bank, and outside many stores. I was told that almost every house has a bonsai in it somewhere – either in the garden or at the entrance.

Although I only scratched the surface of the local bonsai scene in Saigon and Shanghai, I got a good introduction to how the art form is practiced and appreciated in both cities.



Apologies to Tim for having accidentally omitted this last portion of his China Article. —Ed.

Securing your trees to a rock

Frank Mihalic

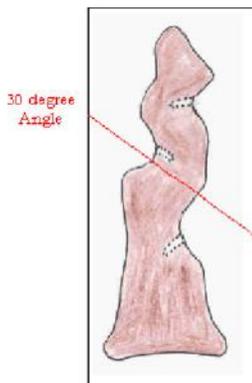
From BCI Ambassador Dec. 2011

Have you ever found a great stone, and thought gee if I could only secure a tree to this rock; it would make a great bonsai? Well maybe if you try this technique of securing your tree to the rock, you might be pleasantly surprised with the results...

First we get our supplies ready we need the following:

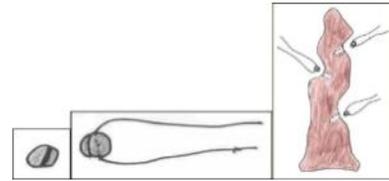
- ◆ bonsai wire (preferably copper wire , 12/16 Gage) (something strong enough to hold the tree securely).
- ◆ Lead (fishing) sinkers 1/8-1/4 inch in size
- ◆ A drill and drill bit just slightly larger than your lead sinker
- ◆ Hammer
- ◆ Long piece of steel rod, or a nail small enough to fit inside your hole
- ◆ Pliers
- ◆ our rock

Step 1 lay out where you want your trees to be placed and make a chalk mark. Make sure that you place your mark on at least a **30 degree angle** from the side of the rock. Then when you secure your tree, you will not be pulling straight out of the anchor hole but at an angle and your wire will have more holding strength. The hole only needs to be 1- 1.5 inches in depth to hold the lead sinker.

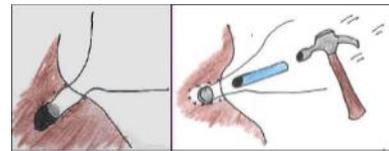


Next open the slot on your lead sinker and insert a piece of bonsai wire (make sure that

you make it long enough to fit the length of the hole and around the root ball of your tree)

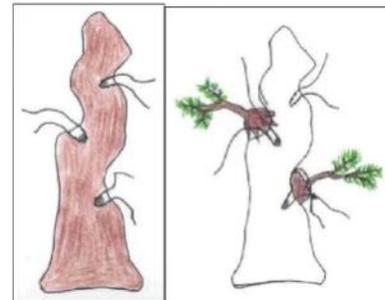


Place the sinker and the wire into the hole taking care that the opening of the sinker is pointing towards the hole of the tree so the wire cannot slip out, then using your hammer and steel rod smash the sinker into the bottom of the hole.

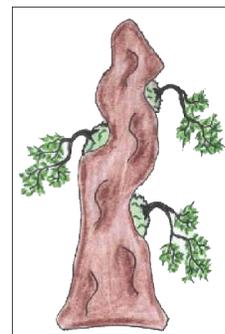


Now you are ready to place your trees on the rock. Take care to tighten the wires enough to secure your trees into place. You may need to use muck, and moss to keep the soil from washing out when you water.

But, as you can see, you can make a great looking rock planting by just using these simple to follow instruction.



We hope this will help you make some great looking rock plantings, enjoy!



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

**Please welcome
Beverlee Wilson as Assistant
Librarian.**



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

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.

18 MAR 2012	FRANK MIHALIC TAXUS DEMO—FPC
10-17 MAR 2012	OAKLAND NURSERIES SPRING FLING
25 MAR 2012	FUSED TRIDENT MAPLE WORKSHOP AT THORNHILL'S
MAR-APR 2012	POSSIBLE FIELD TRIP TO ATHENS AREA NURSERIES, ETC
24 MAR 2012	ASSIST WITH CARE AND POTTING OF DAWES COLLECTION
1 APR 2012	SPRING DIG TO ASSIST KEN'S WORLD OF BONSAI
15 APR 2012	ANDY SMITH WORKSHOP—FPC
20 MAY 2012	KELLY ADKINS ELMS—FPC
5,12,19 MAY 2012	BEGINNER'S CLASSES AVAILABLE—OAKLAND
26-8 MAY 2012	BRUSSELS RENDEVOUS—MISSISSIPPI
9-10 JUN 2012	US NATIONAL SHOW—ROCHESTER, NY
17 JUN 2012	JUNIPERS WITH JOHN—OAKLAND
21-4 JUN 2012	ABS/BCI—DENVER
15 JUL 2012	TROPICALS—FPC
17-8 AUG 2012	MID-AMERICA —CHICAGO
19 AUG 2012	PICNIC/ SHOW PREP/ MEMBER SALES—OAKLAND
16 SEP 2012	ANNUAL SHOW—TBD
7-8 OCT 2012	BONSAI EXPO—ASHEVILLE, NC
21 OCT 2012	PINES (WIRING)—FPC
18 NOV 2012	ELECTIONS/ TROPICALS II—OAKLAND
DEC 2012	CBS HOLIDAY DINNER

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

Care Notes from the Columbus Bonsai Society Website

March - Early Spring - 50/31

- Repot deciduous trees if their buds are starting to swell. If you wait until the leaves have emerged, you will need to take more care to keep the tree out of direct sunlight and wind.
- Be sure to check wire from last year. The spring's growth will cause tight wire to cut into the tree. Remove any that is tight. This should be done year round as well. If the branch did not hold its shape, reapply wire.
- You can wire branches on all trees, but be careful of buds and swelling branches caused by growth.
- Grafting is possible on most trees now through spring.
- You may bring hardy trees out of winter protection now, as most can handle temperature above 20°F.
- ◆ This is an ideal time to take hardwood cuttings from deciduous trees.

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

FRANK MIHALIC—FPC

