



September 2012 Newsletter

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“A Pinch of this....”

...Out of the Fire....

Fall is Coming

Are your trees going to be ready for fall / winter? Well it looks as if we may be heading out of the heat and drought of this last summer. And not only are little trees are affected. Have you noticed the trees in the landscapes and woods turning brown at an unusual rate? So this month we will look at some trees that perhaps have enjoyed the recent weather. Join us Sunday as we look at how to deal with the tropical species.

See you Sunday!

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick

**Join us at Oakland Nursery—
Columbus store. See you
there.**

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

This Month's Program—TROPICALS WITH JOSÉ

José will begin with a demonstration of tropical styling on a tree he has had for 20 years. This will be followed by a critique and assistance session for those who signed up to participate with their own trees.

**OAKLAND NURSERY—COLUMBUS, EDUCATION HOUSE
SUNDAY 9/16/12 1:45P,—4:00PM OR SO.**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

**OCTOBER: PINES (WIRING)
WITH JEFF CARR**

**NOVEMBER: ELECTIONS/
TROPICALS**

**DECEMBER: HOLIDAY
DINNER**

2013

JULY: ANNUAL SHOW



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

What to do with Junipers. An old question reared its ugly head again in Bonsai Bark <http://bonsaibark.com/2012/09/01/pinch-dont-pinch/> recently. With apologies to the bard, “To pinch, or not to pinch. That is the question. Whether it is nobler in the mind to suffer the pompom pads and weakening branches, or to cut and inspire vigorous growth.” As in many things, the answer lies somewhere in between. Michael Hagedorn’s [blog page Crataegus Bonsai](http://crataegus.com/2012/08/26/how-to-pinch-junipers/) has a post titled ‘Never Pinch Junipers.’ <http://crataegus.com/2012/08/26/how-to-pinch-junipers/> In it, he starts out saying never pinch junipers and then modifies it to say that scale juniper is what he is referring to, that needle junipers are cared for completely differently and do tolerate pinching if you can. He does point out that no plant will tolerate continuous removal of its growing tips. It will eventually die.

With scale leaf junipers cut off the “Hotheads” for lack of a better term (thank you, Jeff). These are the rapidly elongating shoots, usually 2 or 3 per foliage pad that shoot out almost overnight and look like stiff string has attacked your tree. These should be cut off from their base and the rest of the pad is left alone as it is not overgrowing the shape much. These other multiple growing tips are what power and feed the tree to keep it healthy. The hotheads can be removed every few weeks or so as needed. You can also cut out the crotch fuzz that develops at the base of some branches with no ill effect. The pad will eventually overgrow the desired shape and that is where long term maintenance thinning and pruning will come into play to select the new structure of the pad. Then the growing out will recommence. This routine will prevent the pompom pads that you often see on otherwise nice appearing trees.

Near the end of the comments Michael suggests that procumbens should be treated as a scale juniper even though it has short needles. Other scale types are shimpaku, parsonii, sergentii, and varieties such as green rug.

Michael suggests that needle junipers should be left to grow out until the shoots are about an inch long and then cut back (not pinched) to one or two needles. By the time the tree is ready for this, the shoots have gotten hard enough that you won't want to pinch it unless you are superman. This lets the new growth feed the tree and then cutting it back at that point forces crazy back budding. He names several, but the kinds I see most often around here are *J. virginiana*. There are a lot of yard junipers that can be salvaged that fall somewhere between these categories. If you have something with short needles then let it go for a year and see if it produces hot heads, or if it grows out evenly.

The Bonsai Bark post generated enough discussing that Wayne ran a second part, <http://bonsaibark.com/2012/09/03/pinch-dont-pinch-part-2/> and a related article <http://bonsaibark.com/2010/01/23/junipers-dont-pinch-too-much/> which delve into the question and practice more deeply. They are well worth your time if you have a juniper and want it to look its best.

Zack

TREE OF THE MONTH: IVY- *Hedera helix*

Ivy is a common landscape plant used as either a ground cover or a cover for unsightly walls. Frequently used under trees where grass won't grow it actually will handle a sunny location. I first became interested in Ivy as bonsai when I saw it used in a phoenix graft application in Asheville NC. I studied this bonsai tree and wondered at first if it was some sort of Trident maple cultivar I'd never seen before. When I read the tree's card, I thought "Of course – ivy is perfect for phoenix grafts because it will vine over the branches of the supporting tree and cling to it." Since then I saw it at Wildwood gardens as a mame clump style tree, for although a vine, ivy will develop an attractive woody trunk for use in pot culture. As a result I purchased some plants that had leaves that looked promising and as those who attended our annual picnic, I frequently start cuttings.

Lighting: Most ivy prefer semi-shade. I do have it in several locations where the light varies from shady to almost full sun. The leaves in shady locations are darker green. The leaves in sunnier locations are brighter green and a bit smaller.

Hardiness: Ivy sold for outdoor use is hardy outdoors, but the types sold for terrarium use are more tender and need to be kept indoors. I have tried hardy ivy both indoors and out, bringing some indoors and leaving some outside. The plants brought inside kept a darker green color and grew almost continuously. Plants left outdoors needed a recovery period before they started to grow in the spring. I'd say, your choice based on available space.

Watering: Water frequently during growth, moderating in winter. While I haven't tried it, I read that reduction of watering is an effective technique to reduce leaf size in *H. helix*. Perhaps the cultivar I have doesn't produce overly large leaves as it hasn't been an issue. I have seen some cultivars in the ground and on buildings with larger leaves.

Feeding: I feed them when I water with 20-20-20 every week during the spring and summer, I read that heavy use of poo-balls helps young plants develop trunk girth rapidly. Maybe I need to give it a try as the trunks do seem to develop slowly.

Pruning and wiring: New shoots need to be cut back hard to the first one or two leaves near the trunk. The challenge is to grow a thick trunk, and to keep growth

compact. A good way to start is by using an old collected vine. I use selective pinching as I don't see much point in wiring them so far. I also thin out leaves and extra stems to give them a more tree like appearance.

Propagation: Cuttings start easily in sand, or a long vine will develop roots along its length in fertile moist soil. A good source of bonsai ready Ivy is old vines growing alongside a house, which have had time to grow thick, woody trunks. While young plants creep, older plants that have become shrubby reportedly will retain these characteristics when cuttings are taken for bonsai.

Repotting: Every two years in spring using our basic bonsai soil with some extra used coffee grounds tossed in. They seem to enjoy sandy well drained soils.

Pests and diseases: Scale, leaf spot.

Selected species suitable for bonsai:

Hedera canariensis: Algerian Ivy - burgundy-red twigs and petioles, with long, glossy, leathery leaves.
Hedera helix: English ivy - It has glossy dark leaves with 3-5 lobes, yellowish flowers, and black berries.
Hedera helix 'Gnome' - Very small black green leaves which turn purplish in winter.
Hedera helix 'Hahnii' - A bushy form, with branching at the tips.
Hedera helix 'Telecurl' - Forms a twisted woody trunk, which makes it excellent for bonsai. A semi-dwarf form which also has twisted leaves and stems.
Hedera rhombea: Japanese ivy - hardy to zone 8.

Bibliography:

Lesniewicz's "Bonsai in Your Home"
 Murata's "Four Seasons of Bonsai"
 Resnick's "Bonsai"
 Tomlinson's "Complete Book of Bonsai"
 Sabrina Caine and Thomas Zane – Bonsai Clubs International
 I my bonsai when I spray the apple trees in my yard.



Ken Schultz

ED NOTE: Photos of Ivy on page 5

OH, A DAINY PLANT IS THE IVY GREEN,—DICKENS



SAVE THE DATE



CBS 2013

**40TH ANNUAL BONSAI SHOW
JULY 20-21, 2013
FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY
LOWER LEVEL where admission is
Free!**

BOOK OF THE MONTH: VISION OF MY SOUL BY ROBERT STEVEN

The first thing you need to know about Robert is that he was an artist before he took up bonsai, and this is apparent throughout Vision of My Soul. There is very little instruction in how to keep a tree alive and healthy, although it is obvious that he knows how and does. This is not missing in this book, as there are plenty of “how to grow ___” books in the bonsai press, and because he lives in Indonesia and most of the trees featured in this book are species I have never heard of. They are almost all tropicals native to the islands of Indonesia. That does not matter. The focus of the book is entirely on the art, the spirit of bonsai, and how to capture that art in your trees.

The book is in four parts. The first part is Aesthetic Elements of Bonsai Art and introduces you to artistic concepts used in the rest of the book. It reads easily as it uses bonsai as the subject, but any art student would immediately recognize it as a review

of the basic
tenets

of drawing and sculpture, illustrated by poor design and proper design elements for each. This is a 101 course for bonsai art.

The second part, Behind the Rules, is like the first in that the “Rules” of bonsai are deconstructed and Robert shows why the styling rules became Rules, and why and when they should be broken with illustrations. This section is short, but the aesthetic section has done the heavy lifting for this part already so the brief treatment here is sufficient.

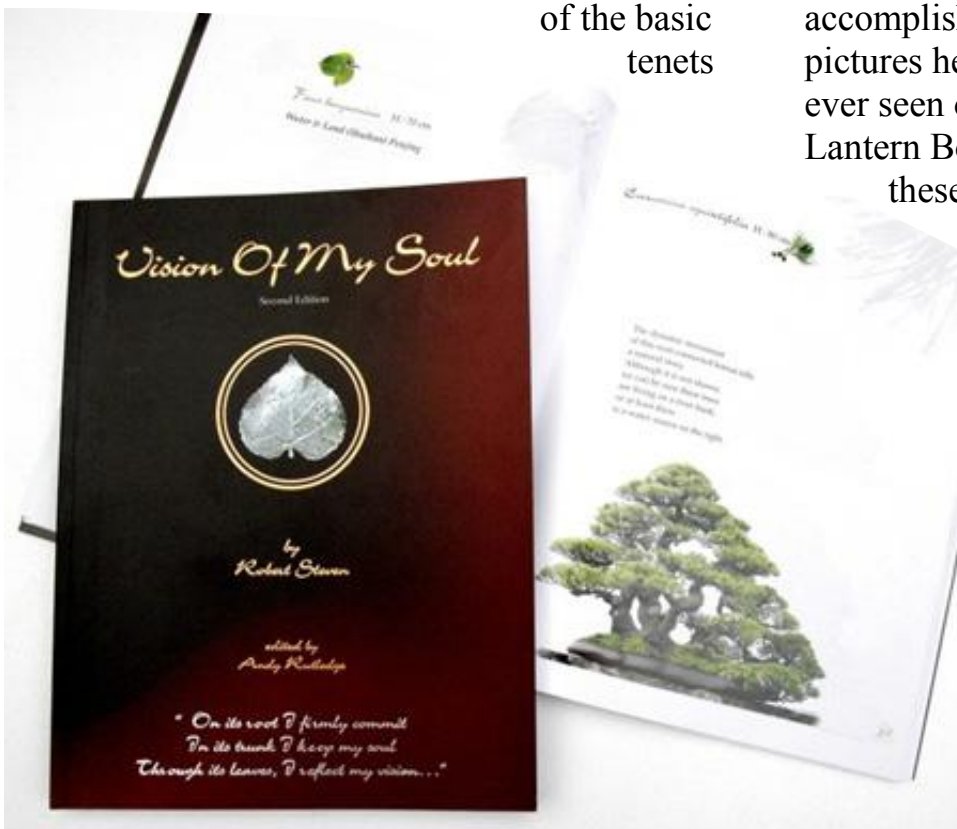
Part three is a Gallery of trees along with a paragraph reviewing each one. Not all of them are perfect but each is there to illustrate some aspect of the artistic elements or rule bending. That said each of these trees are beautiful to look at.

Part four-- studio. These are developmental pictures of trees and where they are now, or where they are going from a styling plan. There are usually several of each style under development. Robert is an accomplished graphic artist and the future pictures he labels simulations. If you have ever seen one of his critiques in the Stone Lantern Bonsai Bark blog, you know that these simulations are very life like.

Vision of My Soul is well worth owning.



Zack Clayton



FALL PROGRAMMING

As Program coordinator, I am excited about the wonderful series of programs we have planned for the next three months. In September, we have Jose demoing on a Ficus on September 16, then offering critiques for members. In October we have Jeff Carr demoing on a Black Pine and offering pine critiques for members. In November we have Mark Passerello revealing how he succeeds in raising Erodiums. He may have a few available for sale. In December we hope to gather at Little Dragons – date to be announced.

The club has also purchased some larger pots. I plan to bring a good sampling of the new stock to the September meeting. And I have been authorized to offer the older shirts that we bought in 2008 at half price. Sorry but I am sure the largest is a Large, most are smaller. Of course I can take orders from our new supplier (pre-pay required for these.)

Finally, while I have been working on my yard I noticed that the Fall Clearance Sales have started. I would be remiss if I didn't encourage you to "Shop now" for deals on new bonsai for your collection. In fact I saw some Coral Berry Cotoneaster at Strader's Nursery for \$5. **[SEE BELOW]**

We have run cotoneaster as "Tree of the Month" in 2007 and it appears in our website archives. They are excellent for shohin and mame sized trees. Their growth pattern makes them candidates for informal upright, slanting and cascade. Or you may wish to create a small forest or create your own miniature apple orchard. Several websites also mention that cotoneaster are great beginner trees. Colin Lewis told me, that he considers them ideal beginner trees or trees for the experienced hobbyist. Here's a short list of varieties that can be used for bonsai. (There are some that can be used indoors, not these)

C. horizontalis ("Rockspray) – grows quickly, flowers early, small leaves, bears red fruit young.

C. adpressus - pink flowers, leaves turn red in the fall.

C. multi-flora – larger leaves many white flowers

C. acutifolius (Leking) – hardy to zone 4. Leaves turn yellow in the fall, bears red fruit in Sept. /Oct. Pink flowers early spring

C. microphyllus (Cooperii) –has the smallest leaves, white flowers, red berries. Best variety for cascade or mame.

C. apiculatus (Tom Thumb or Little Gem) – frequently sold as a rock garden plant in smaller pots.



Ken Schultz – 1st V.P.



DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?

**IF NOT THEN YOU WANT TO BE AT THE
MEETING ON SUNDAY SO YOU CAN FIND
OUT.**



WATCH THIS SPACE

**ELECTIONS ARE COMING UP IN
NOVEMBER—WATCH FOR THE SLATE
OF OFFICERS FOR NEXT YEAR.**



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

Please return all C.B.S. library books, magazines and videos that you have checked out to the C.B.S. Librarian or Assistant Librarian (Beverlee Wilson) as soon as possible. They are all due or over due as of this month! Thank you.

The C.B.S. library will be closed until October 21 (at the earliest) so we may inventory and catalog all of our books, magazines and videos. We will let you know just as soon as we have completed these tasks. Thanks for your patience.

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@wowway.com



P. O. Box 1981
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 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.

16 SEP 2012	TROPICALS WITH JOSE'—OAKLAND
13-14 OCT 2012	BONSAI EXPO—ASHEVILLE, NC
21 OCT 2012	PINES (WIRING) WITH JEFF CARR—FPC
18 NOV 2012	ELECTIONS/ ERODIUM —OAKLAND
DEC 2012	CBS HOLIDAY DINNER—LITTLE DRAGONS, MORSE ROAD, COLUMBUS
2013	
20-21 JULY	CBS 2013—ANNUAL SHOW —FPC

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

FROM THE CBS CARE GUIDE

September - Early Autumn - 77/54

- This is an ideal time to start root over rock plantings and other root development projects. The tree is starting to concentrate growth in the roots and use less energy on the foliage.
- Lower the nitrogen content of your fertilizer this month. Switch to a 0-10-10 fertilizer. The lack of nitrogen slows foliar growth, which will force the branches to toughen up to deal with winter's wrath.
- This is the second best time for repotting. Once the leaves turn color, the tree is dormant. You may transplant deciduous after this. This is better done in the beginning of the month.
- This is a good time to collect wild trees.
- Bring tropicals back indoors towards the end of the month, or when temperatures consistently drop below 50°F at night.
- Spray your tropicals with pesticide before you bring them indoors. This may take multiple applications over a few weeks.
- Watch out for fall pests. Squirrels are especially harmful, as they are digging and foraging for winter.

Columbus Bonsai Society
PO Box 1981
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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

TROPICALS WITH JOSE'

