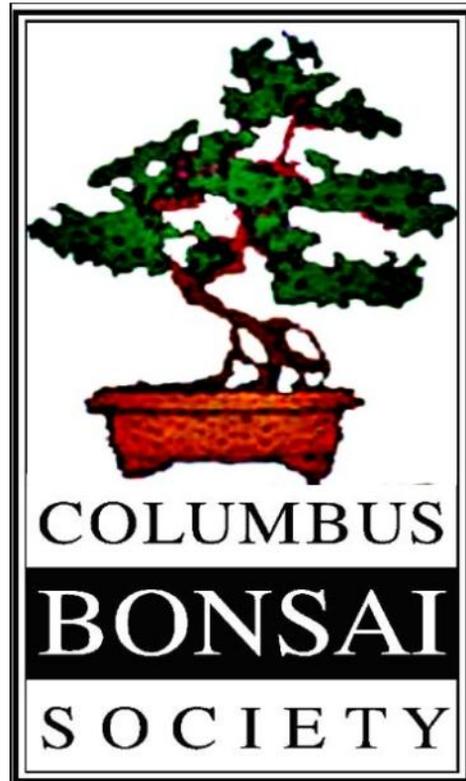


Columbus Bonsai Society
PO Box 1981
Columbus, OH 43216-1981

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

Regular Club meetings on
3rd Sunday of the month
Meetings Start at 2:00 pm
All are welcome to attend

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



Holiday Dinner

**The Holiday dinner will be on
12/15/ 13 from 5pm—8pm
See page 4 for more details.**

December 2013 Newsletter

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Tree Curator
Jeff Carr

Director Emeritus
José Cueto

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Ken Schultz

2nd Vice President
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1 year Director
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Tom Holcomb

“A Pinch of this....”

...Let us make merry

And rejoice in the end of another growing season ! Let us join together and enjoy a meal together. As many of our trees go to sleep for a couple of months we should look forward to the season to come.

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick

Inside this issue:

E Program Info	3
HOLIDAY DINNER	4
BOOK OF THE MONTH	6
TREE OF THE MONTH	7
LAST MONTH'	12
Calendar of Events	14

**See you the 15th at China
Dynasty.**



Columbus Bonsai Society PO Box 1981 Columbus OH 43216-1981

ColumbusBonsai@hotmail.com www.ColumbusBonsai.org



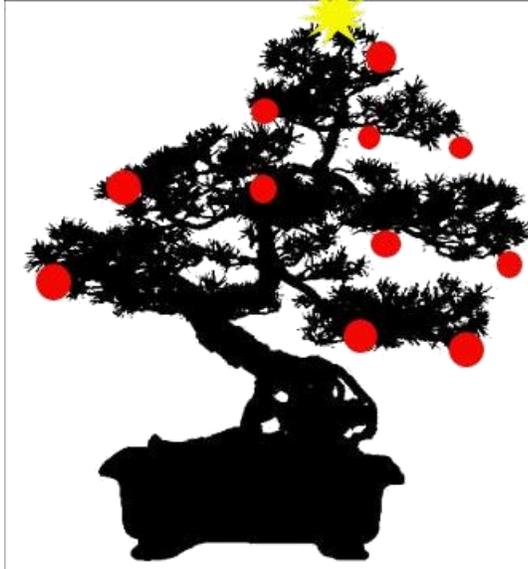
1



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

This Month's Program— HOLIDAY DINNER AT CHINA DYNASTY ON LANE AVENUE, UPPER ARLINGTON

During the Holiday Dinner, you will be able to bid on silent auction items. The auction will close at 7:10 and we will announce the winners. In addition, we will show slides from *Schnormeier Gardens*, located near Gambier, Ohio. *Schnormeier Gardens* is only open to the public for one week in June each year. The gardens surround the private home of Ted & Ann Schnormeier who



over the past 20 years created them due to their deep admiration for gardens they visited in China and Japan. There is no admission fee during the open house normally held when the water lotuses are blooming in the lake surrounded by a number of landscape and art features .



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:

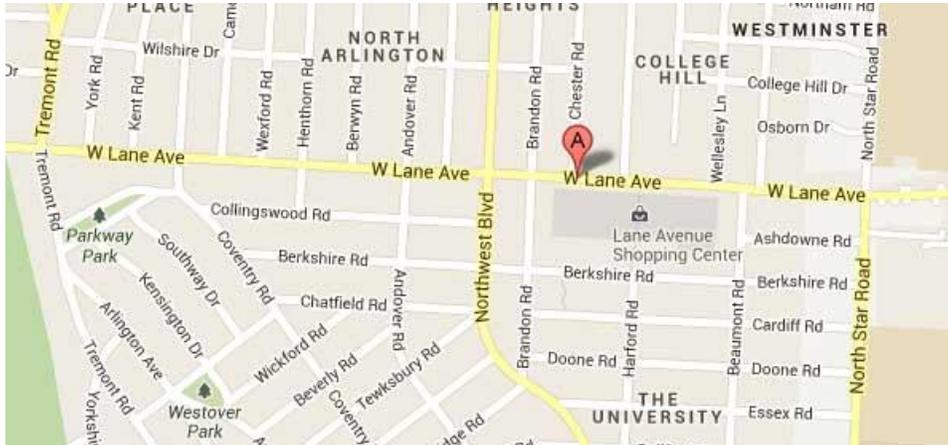
SEE PAGE 14 FOR MORE
DATES AND LISTINGS



Join us at the China Dynasty for our annual Holiday Dinner on December 15, 5pm until 8. China Dynasty is known for its high quality Buffet. They also have a full service bar. The Columbus Bonsai Society has reserved a separate dining room for our Holiday Dinner to allow for mingling and silent auction. This is a fun event for the whole family. So be sure to sign up either by e-mail or at the November 17th meeting. The Buffet is \$14.95 per adult, drinks, tax and tip are not included. This year we've decided on separate checks so we won't be collecting up front.

If you have items for the silent auction please let us know. We have asked for 3 tables for this purpose.

If you have not yet RSVP'd you have until Tuesday 12/10/13 to do so, please contact Ken Schultz at kasceppsm@gmail.com if you wish to add your name to the list.



From the North

Take 71 South to 270 West. Then take 315 South to the Upper Arlington exit. Turn right onto Lane Avenue. China Dynasty is approximately a mile down the road on your left—inside The Shops On Lane Avenue—located at the back corner of the building.

From the South

Take 71 North to 315 North to the Upper Arlington exit. Turn left onto Lane Avenue. China Dynasty is approximately a mile down the road on your left—inside The Shops On Lane Avenue—located at the back corner of the building.

From the East

Take 670 West to 315 North to the Upper Arlington exit. Turn left onto Lane Avenue. China Dynasty is approximately a mile down the road on your left—inside The Shops On Lane Avenue—located at the back corner of the building.

From the West

Take 70 East to 71 North to 315 North to the Upper Arlington Exit. Turn left onto Lane Avenue. China Dynasty is approximately a mile down the road on your left—inside The Shops On Lane Avenue—located at the back corner of the building.

SAMPLE BUFFET MENU

CHINA DYNASTY
(Arlington)

Sunday Buffet – Summer Season

11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Adult: \$14.95/ Child: age 5 or under EAT FREE, Child \$7.25 (6-11 yrs old)

Choice of Soup: Wonton Soup, Hot & Sour Soup, or Egg Drop Soup
Plus... Choice of Beverage: Oolong Hot Tea, Lipton Iced Tea, or Soft Drinks

Appetizers

Peel & Eat Shrimp Cocktails
Canadian Snow Crab Legs Cocktails

Fried Shrimp
Fried Wonton
Crab Rangoon
B.B.Q. Ribs
Honey Garlic Glazed Chicken Wings
Basil Mixed Bean Salad
Homemade Crispy Noodles

Veggie Spring Rolls
Egg Rolls
Fried Vegetables Tempura
Teriyaki Chicken Skewers
✓ Summer Sweet Corn Salad
✓ Green Mango Salad
Oriental Cucumber Salad

Main Entrees

(menu on September 15, 2013 – entrees change weekly)

Sesame Chicken
Beef with "Twins Flower"
Sweet & Sour Chicken
Shrimp with Vegetables
Eight Treasure Tofu
Szechwan Green Beans *
Vegetables "Shang-Hai" Noodles

* General Tso's Chicken
* Twice Cooked Pork
* Chicken in Garlic Sauce
* Kung Bao Shrimp
* Beef Meatball in Black Pepper Sauce
Mandarin Mixed Vegetables
* Singapore Rice Noodles

Chicken Fried Rice

(OHIO PROUD, Fresh Produce Grown in Ohio & "Cook" in Ohio)

Desserts

"Tuxedo" Truffle Mousse Cake
Gourmet Carrot Layer Cake
Fresh Strawberry Shortcake (Oriental Style Bakery)
Assorted Jello & Pudding

Seasonal Baked Pie
Double Chocolate Layer Cake
Fresh Seasonal Fruit Tray

Soft Serve Ice Cream Station

Items may change without notice

Medium Spicy

For Reservations: At The Shops on Lane Ave. (486-7126) www.chinadynasty-cmb.com

Book of the Month: Pocket Bonsai a.k.a. The Bonsai Handbook

By David Prescott Consultant editor Colin Lewis

I've read a lot of bonsai book over the years and as a result I occasionally find a new edition of a book I've read before with a new cover; however, this is my first dual titled book. The original is the Bonsai Handbook with a 2001 copyright; it is a larger book with a hard cover. Pocket Bonsai which has the same text, photos and drawings, has a 2004 copyright date is a smaller paperback book. Is this legal?

Regardless, I found it to be a very good beginner's bonsai book, which I would recommend. It did remind me of Colin Lewis's "A Step-by-Step Guide to Growing and Displaying Bonsai"; a book that I frequently lent to people who asked for a good beginners book. If you've read a lot of my book reviews, you'll recall that I categorize books into "Coffee table books" – those with impressive photos of old trees, "case history – project books" and "tree identification, care books." This book does a little of the last two categories.

Both Pocket Bonsai and the Bonsai Handbook, hereafter referred to as the book, begin with a complete presentation on tree botany. It covers the different parts of a tree's anatomy so that you'll have a better understanding of how a tree grows; covering roots, trunk, leaves and buds. "The Art of Bonsai", which is the next chapter, presents the usual drawings of the various bonsai styles. "Your Own Bonsai Collection" presents a wide range of subjects related to what species of trees make good bonsai and what characteristics of the tree makes a plants a bonsai candidate.

"Keeping Your Bonsai Alive" covers watering in great detail. Prescott warns that softened water can be harmful to some varieties of trees used for bonsai. Light is the next area and Prescott cautions that you should never place your bonsai directly under the branches of a large tree. They can leach tannins that can retard your bonsai's growth. He also warns that direct sunlight can heat up a pot too quickly. He recommends using white netting as a shade cloth. In his discussion of temperature, he points out that Chinese Elms and Trident Maples have fleshy roots that may suffer

permanent damage if frozen.

"Keeping Your Bonsai Healthy" has a color chart of when to apply different types of fertilizer based on the type of tree it is. For example pines should not had fertilizers high in nitrogen in the spring. It should be applied early to mid autumn. Low nitrogen fertilizers should be used mid-spring to mid summer.

"Keeping Your Bonsai in Shape" covers tools, pruning, removing branches, and generating new growth. This chapter also covers maintenance pruning, wiring and pinching. The illustrations of branch wiring are very good. "Repotting" is 12 pages long, four show pots, two show soil components. Prescott says that 40% of bonsai soil is grit, 40% is organic matter and 20% is soil improvers; one example is Akadama.

"Growing Your Own Bonsai" covers a wide variety of sources to find suitable bonsai material. The final chapter before the directory of plants that make good bonsai is called "Starting Work." This chapter covers root reduction, shortening conifers and deciduous trees. Several sample projects are shown. One is a cotoneaster another shows developing Jin. The Directory presents information on the summer placement, winter placement, feeding, watering, wiring, pruning, and repotting. For example, Wisteria is prone to

snapping when bending and wiring should be done in the fall after pruning. Prescott distinguishes between pruning branches and maintenance pruning. In all cases heavy branch pruning should be done in the fall or winter. Pruning and repotting are done in the spring. Because of workshops many think that repotting and heavy pruning are done at the same time.

POCKET BONSAI

CARE • SHAPING • REPOTTING • SPECIES



DAVID PRESCOTT
CONSULTANT EDITOR COLIN LEWIS



Ken Schultz

Tree of the Month: *Picea pungens* 'Glauca' - Colorado Blue Spruce

I have five Colorado Blue Spruce planted in the ground in my yard. I love the way their new foliage appears to be silver blue in color. There are several cultivars each having a different growth pattern. Some are tall and slender and some are short and round. Regardless, they are an attractive tree; it's no wonder that they are used by many as bonsai. I've had one sitting in a nursery pot now for the past three years waiting for me to style it. So I decided to do a little winter research before spring arrives. I already knew that they would make a slightly larger bonsai than spruce with smaller needles.

Picea pungens 'glauca', Colorado Blue Spruce, Blue Spruce is a bushy evergreen that has a compact, pyramidal shape. Unlike pine foliage, Spruce needle-like leaves spread around the stem. Dense blue-green foliage is supported by thin gray-brown trunk that gets thicker and ridged with age. Roots are naturally shallow. They are from the Rocky Mountains; Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico; which may be why they don't appear in Japanese bonsai books.

A Blue Spruce grows rather slowly, but is extremely long-lived. In a garden setting, it's more likely to be 20' -30' at maturity, and 1/3 as wide. In the wild it can be 120' tall. The stiff needles ("pungens" means sharp) grow alternately or spiraled around the entire branch; the blue of the needles comes from a film or cast that can be rubbed off to reveal it's base green color ("glauca" means film). Spruce cones are typically 4" long and "pendant" or hanging. Spruce are monoecious, meaning male and female flowers on the same plant. The inconspicuous female flowers may develop into small cones, which are cylindrical and pointed at each end.

In nature spruce prefer a moist to somewhat dry soil with full to partial sun and neutral to slightly acidic soil.

Bonsai Styles: Formal upright; informal upright; slanting; semi-cascade; group planting and Saikei.

Location: Full sun, but needs shade from the midday sun in summer or needle browning will result. Needs to be exposed to cold

temperatures during winter, so keep it outdoors. Protect roots from freezing temperatures. One of my sources says that small or young bonsai may need frost protection.

Watering: Spruces prefer moisture, but not waterlogged soil. It likes moist but well drained soil. Daily watering is recommended from spring to fall. Less water is needed during winter months. Never allow the soil to dry out completely. Misting is appreciated spring-fall.

Feeding: Every two weeks, spring to mid autumn, using liquid bonsai food or half-strength general-purpose fertilizer. In hot areas, discontinue feeding during the heat of summer. Apply a chelated iron supplement several times yearly. Don't use high nitrogen fertilizers in the spring. I place poo-balls in all my conifers when I store them for winter as they do photosynthesis whenever the temperatures are above 38.

Pruning: New growth should be pinched, not clipped, several times in spring, when shoots are about 1 inch long, leaving 4-5 whorls of needles. Never remove the entire bud unless there are multiple buds to select from. Do major pruning in early fall when wounds will "bleed" less. Never needle a spruce like you do Black Pines. During growing season wait for the new shoots to grow to 1 inch then pinch them back to about two-thirds of their length, this causes more back budding and shorter new growth internodes. Wire in late autumn or winter.

Repotting: In general, every 2-3 year in early to mid-spring, before new growth expands. Older specimens (+10 years) may be repotted every 5 years. Prune roots by a 1/3. Do not rake spruce roots they will tear out and cause enough damage that your tree may die! Use fast-draining soil mix. Spruce, in general, need to keep a decent-sized root ball, and may need to be planted in a deep pot to achieve this. Protect from full sun for a few weeks after repotting.

Wiring: Wire between late fall and winter. Keep

(Continued from page 7)

an eye on your wire, especially at the top in the spring as these trees can grow rapidly and the wire will suddenly cut into the bark. It has happened to me more than once.

Propagation: Sow seeds outside in spring. Take ripewood cuttings in late summer. Cuttings can take a very long time to strike. Another source says seeds or softwood cuttings in late autumn or early spring. Don't ask me the difference between ripewood and softwood. I think they're referring to one year old growth.

Hardiness: USDA Zones 2-8. We're Zone 5.

Insects and Diseases: Aphids and red spider mites. With aphids look for small, dull green aphids in the winter, and treat to prevent defoliation in the spring. Two types of rust can occur, but are usually only temporary conditions. Adelgids may cause pineapple-like galls on shoots. These soft-bodied insects feed by sucking plant juices. These insects can weaken the tree and make them susceptible to other insects and disease.

In Summary: There are many interesting cultivars in the 'Glauca' category, including, 'Fat Albert', which grows to 10' - 15' x 10'x12', which I've seen styled as bonsai and 'Pendula', the Weeping Blue Spruce, can grow as a ground cover or trained into a small weeping tree which make a large bonsai to allow for them to weep. When grown in a container they will need a cooler environment so they do not dry out.



The following is annotated from an article on Bonsai4me's website on needle management to achieve back budding:

Spruce have a poor reputation as bonsai. Difficult to style, difficult to encourage the branches to set into new positions through wiring and difficult to create good ramification with little if any prospect of back budding (Unfortunately, the ubiquitous *Picea albertiana* 'conica' has not helped matters; very often picked up by beginners looking for nursery trees to style into bonsai, the Alberta spruce has been known to cause great annoyance and frustration!) However, there are some excellent examples of Spruce bonsai in Europe and Japan; the genus as a whole, has some excellent qualities and very often, it is just a question of learning how to work with Spruce and its quirks so that the best can be made of this tree.

The following techniques are from an article on Picea albertiana and Picea pungens; but they can be applied with degrees of success to most Picea/Spruce bonsai.

Spruce vigor: These techniques assume that your Spruce is vigorous and that care is taken when applying

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

them to lower and inner branching. (The easiest way to judge the vigor of a Spruce and its individual branches is to look at the number of new buds that have formed at the tips of the foliage in late Summer. Branches with no buds are very weak and are likely to dieback in the following spring. Leave these alone. Branches with one bud are weak and will tolerate minor wiring.) Branches with two or more buds are strong to very vigorous and all of the techniques described can be applied. (This is why feeding is so important.)

Timing: Spruce are sensitive to timing. In particular, styling and wiring must not be carried out while the tree is in active growth as branches are more likely to fail and dieback. Extensive styling is best carried out from late summer (August) through to the first frosts around mid November.

Wiring: Spruce have very supple branches.. Branches of over 1" can easily be bent without danger of snapping or cracking with the use of heavy enough wire and guy wires. Thinner mature branches can be bent and contorted in a variety of directions to bring the foliage closer to the trunk. This suppleness is also problematic; wired mature branches can take years to set into their new position and will require rewiring. However, in some cases branches that have had twists and turns put into them can set into position within a year. When branches of any tree species are wired into a new position, the cambium is broken and the tree's repair of the damaged parts of the cambium layer sets the branch into its new position. With Spruce, it would seem that more manipulation is needed to damage the cambium in order that the tree will be prompted to repair the damage and set the branch. (I saw Colin Lewis cut a groove into the underside of spruce branches and then wire them down. He said when they healed they would retain their position. He said in one case he made 11 wedge shaped cuts to develop a back and forth movement in a branch. Sorry I don't know over what period of time.) However, care must be taken as major manipulation of a Spruce branch in the late spring and summer will cause it to dieback very quickly. This is why Spruce should be styled from August onwards.

Styling: When considering which branches to keep and those to remove, always value and retain those that have foliage closest to the trunk. While back budding can be promoted on Spruce, it will always be limited. Do not rely on any back budding on the trunk or old branches unless the tree has been very heavily pruned back.

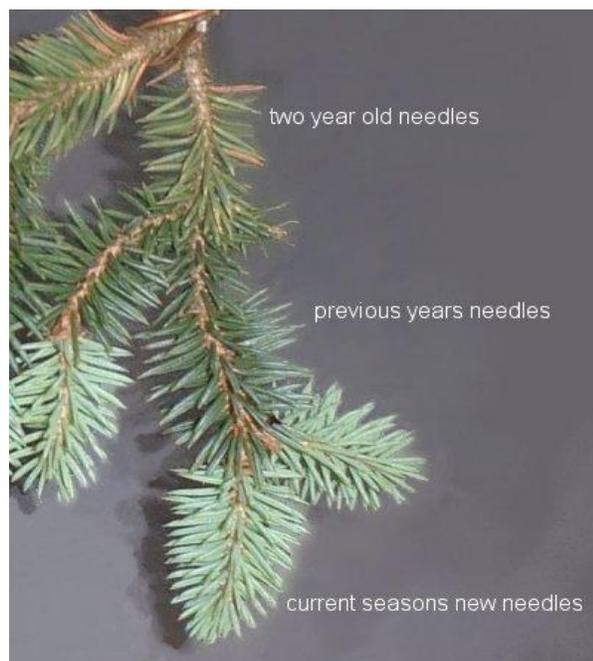
Unless a Spruce has been specifically trained in the ground for bonsai and the branches are short with foliage near the trunk, the most suitable design will be one that uses the first 2 or 3 branches with the uppermost (remaining) branch used for the new trunk-line and imitates a wild tree or yamadori. If one studies pictures of good quality Spruce bonsai on the internet or in books many of the designs use only a very small number of branches that grow directly from the trunk, but have had many secondary and tertiary branches developed to greatly increase ramification and foliage density. Unless you have suitable raw material with the appropriate sized trunk and short branching, informal or formal upright Spruce bonsai are very difficult to style realistically or to any real quality. (At Wildwood Gardens, Suthin Solokovisit took a topiary Alberta Spruce that had a 3-4" diameter trunk and removed all but two branches in the middle. He carved the trunk into one of the most stunning bonsai I've seen.)

Pruning Spruce: Left to their natural growing pattern, Spruce will produce one flush of growth each year. New shoots extend from buds set in the previous year; these buds are nearly always at the tips of the branches. Back budding without some kind of pruning regime is very rare. Without planning, all the needles of the tree will be on the tips of the branches leaving otherwise bare branches. (In bonsai with new growth pinching and fertilization you should see a second flush of buds by August. Be careful not to have new growth break too late in the year for it to harden off before winter.)

The Annual Cycle of Pruning: August-October: Needle plucking, wiring and pruning back of this year's shoots to a bud if necessary. To tidy up a foliage pad, new shoots formed in the current year can be pruned back to a bud further back along the shoot. (Pick one in the direction you want the new growth to take.)

(Continued on page 10)

Pruning back leaving no bud for next year will sometimes result in a new bud forming and sometimes will result in dieback of the whole shoot. As you would a pine, needles can be plucked from the previous years growth, this will occasionally prompt back budding and makes wiring considerably easier and neater. (Seems to conflict with one of my other sources of advice, I do very little needle plucking on spruce.) Do not needle pluck weak shoots. Trees that have been repotted earlier in the season should be observed carefully for vigor. Needles can either be plucked with fingers or cut with scissors at the base of the green part of the needle leaving the brown sheath that attached the needle to the branch itself.



May: Cutting back the first flush of growth New growth extends from the buds set last year. Allow to extend 1"-2" and then cut the new green shoots back with scissors. On strong apical shoots, cut back by a 1/3, on weaker shoots or those on the lower branches cut back by a 1/2 or less. On very weak branches or where a branch is required to extend, do not prune back.

Do not allow the new shoots to extend too far before using this technique or back budding will be limited.



This image was taken 2 weeks after the new shoots were pruned back (Picea glauca). It is possible to see both the pruned tips of the new growth and the resulting fresh buds starting to extend.

May-June/ 2 to 3 weeks later: the second flush of growth follows. In the weeks immediately following new growth pruning, a second flush of buds will develop and start to grow. New buds will develop at the point that you pruned the first flush of growth back, at the base of the first flush of growth and further back on older wood, very often where needles were plucked in the previous August to October.

The second flush of growth will emerge from many points but each new shoot will be much shorter, creating much more dense growth. Allow these shoots to extend, only pruning back any unwanted individual shoots that grow much stronger than the others.

The tree should then be left until at least August to reinvigorate and develop new buds ready for the following year. The yearlong cycle is then complete, ready for needle plucking to be carried out again.



Compare the density of this *Picea glauca* branch that has been needle plucked in August and pruned in May of each year, with that of the *Picea glauca* branch pictured above.

FROM THE CBS CARE GUIDE

USDA Hardiness Zones 5-6 (5 Northern Ohio, 6 Southern Ohio)

December - Early Winter - 40/25

- You may wire trees, as their lack of leaves makes it easier this time of year.
- Move your less hardy and smaller trees into a protected area. This may be a cold frame, an unheated garage, a cool basement, or mulched near the side of a building.



José Cueto once again shared his experience and knowledge of Bonsai Design with us. Then he offered advice to some of the members on trees from their collection. Here are some of the trees brought in.



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

The CBS Library Materials List is now available in spreadsheet format on our CBS website's Library Tab.

Users can Sort, Filter and Search the list. There are a few little buttons at the bottom of the embedded spreadsheet that allow you to download the spreadsheet, or open a full page version in a new window. Users can then email the librarian at CBSLibrary@hotmail.com to request materials.

Another new feature is a column indicating if the Book has been reviewed and the information to access the review. For instance "NL Feb. 2011 (Schultz)" would indicate that the review is in the Newsletter, Feb 2011 issue, and Ken Schultz authored the review.

We hope this will make the collection more available to the membership. Let us know your thoughts.

We have completed the Accession Process for all the Books in the Club's Collection. All have a Card and Pocket for ease of Check Out.

Beverlee Wilson, Librarian
John Young, Asst. Librarian
CBSLibrary@hotmail.com



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 2:00 pm . Board Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. The board meetings are open to members.

DEC 15	HOLIDAY DINNER—CHINA DYNASTY 5PM—8PM SEE PAGE 5 2014
JAN 17	SOIL, SHARPENING, AND (POT) SELECTION—OAKLAND
FEB 16	HORTICULTURE AND ENTOMOLOGY—OAKLAND
MAR 16	WIRING AND REPOTTING/ SPRING EVENT—FPC
APR 13	BEGINNER'S CLASS—OAKLAND
APR 27	SHIMPAKU CLUMP DEMO AND BRING YOUR OWN—FPC
MAY 18	MAPLES IN MAY—FPC
JUN 15	AZALEAS—OAKLAND
JUL 19-20	CBS 2014 ANNUAL SHOW—FPC
AUG 19	TROPICALS—FPC
SEP 21	PICNIC—OAKLAND
OCT 19	PINE WORKSHOP—FPC
NOV 16	BRANCH STRUCTURE—FPC
DEC 14	HOLIDAY DINNER

<p>FPC= FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY OAKLAND= OAKLAND NURSERY, COLUMBUS LOCATION</p>
