

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

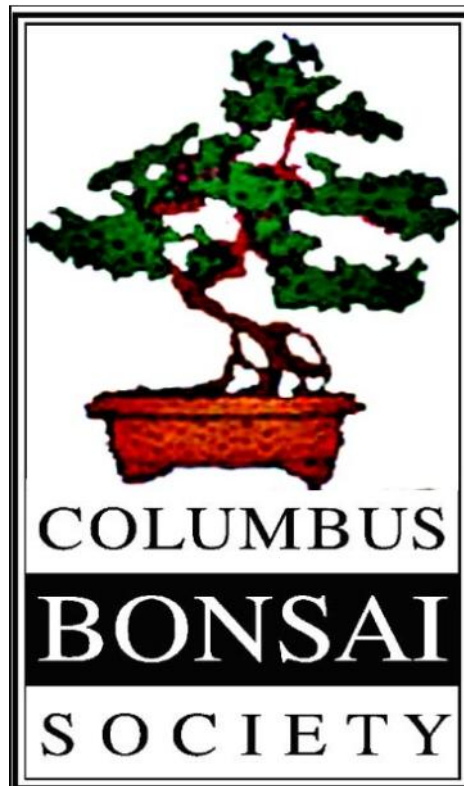
Questions to:

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



SOIL, SHARPENING, AND (POT) SELECTION

The program will begin at 2 pm with a brief meeting to discuss the “state of the society” and upcoming events. As always please feel free to bring trees or questions that you might need help with or just want to share.

January 2014 Newsletter

President
Mike Thornhill

Tree Curator
Jeff Carr

Director Emeritus
José Cueto

1st Vice President
Ken Schultz

2nd Vice President
Denny Sackett

1 year Director
Ben William

2 year Director
Jack Smith

3 year Director
Timothy Kuhlmann

Past President
Zack Clayton

Treasurer
Richard Gurevitz

Secretary
Sandy Schoenfeld

Librarian
Beverlee Wilson

Web Master
Ed McCracken

Newsletter Editor
Richard Uhrick

Education
Tom Holcomb

“A Pinch of this....”

...Ring in a new year

Time to begin preparations for the next year’s projects. Join us on the 19th to discuss tool sharpening, soil and potting mediums as well as picking out your pots for your trees.

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick

Inside this issue:

Program Info	3
RABBIT HOLE	4
HOLIDAY DINNER	6
LOOK AHEAD	7
BOOK OF THE MONTH	8
TREE OF THE MONTH	9
Calendar of Events	12

See you the 19th at Oakland Nursery.



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ColumbusBonsai@hotmail.com www.ColumbusBonsai.org



2



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

This Month's Program— SOIL, SHARPENING, AND (POT) SELECTION—OAKLAND

Join us at Oakland Nursery for a series of presentations. Mike Thornhill will begin an open discussion on the making of “bonsai soil”. Members will be invited to share tips on what works in Central Ohio. Zack Clayton will show how to sharpen your bonsai tools. You may want to bring a dull tool for a hands-on demonstration. Ken Schultz will present Pot Selection.



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

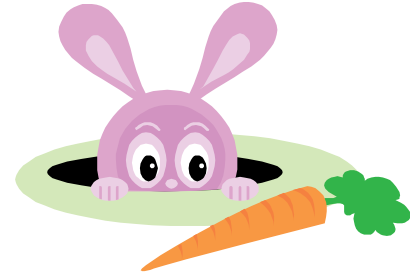
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Rich Uhrick, Editor
 ruhrick@otterbein.edu

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

SEE PAGE 12 FOR MORE
 DATES AND LISTINGS

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT....**THE RABBIT HOLE**

Hello everyone, and welcome to the January 2014 edition of the Columbus Bonsai Society newsletter. The coming of the New Year brings a change in leadership for our organization. After 3 years of dedicated leadership Zach Clayton has decided to step aside as President of our club. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Zach for his service to the club. In addition to Zach we should all extend our thanks to those club members who serve on the governing board of our club. The board members give countless hours every year to ensure that we all enjoy a quality experience at our meetings, workshops and annual show.

It is with a profound sense of responsibility that I take over the office of President for our club. It is my goal to continue the strong leadership shown by previous club presidents who have grown our club into what we are today. For those club members who don't know me personally, allow me to introduce myself and my view of bonsai. I have been practicing the art of bonsai for 15 years and yes my first tree is still alive. I have been a club member for seven or eight years, give or take a year, I lost track of exactly how long. Honestly I was "in the dark" when it came to realizing how much hard work the board members put into their positions. As a club member I just sat back and enjoyed the quality programs and educational opportunities provided by the club. Last summer I volunteered to fill a vacancy on the board as a way of paying back the club for all of the benefits I have enjoyed through the years. When I was tapped to run for President last fall I took advantage of the opportunity to stand and lead the organization that has given me so much through the years.

Now let's talk about trees and the art of bonsai as practiced in my backyard. First, bonsai should be about what makes you happy. If you are not happy with what you are doing chances are you will not stay with bonsai very long. Perhaps the most appealing aspect of bonsai is the self-limiting nature of the art. If you want to have one tree in your collection and it makes you happy, perfect. If your happiness is 100 trees and you have the time to care for them, awesome. While in Grand Rapids last year I had a chance to talk bonsai with Ryan Neil. He summed up the concept of one tree or a hundred trees with a simple concept. "How far down the rabbit hole do you want to go?" Simply put the quantity and quality of your trees is in your hands, do what makes you happy. I have borrowed the "Rabbit Hole" concept as the title for my monthly message here in the newsletter. I am looking forward to the coming year and the programs we have on the calendar to further our bonsai education and appreciation.

See you at the meeting

Mike

HOW DO I CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER?

HERE'S HOW: BOARD MEMBER CONTACT LIST

President

Mike Thornhill cfdmike@aol.com

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Newsletter Editor

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Education

Tom Holcomb tholcomb@columbus.rr.com

FROM THE CBS CARE GUIDE

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

January - Mid Winter - 36/20

- Only water when soil is almost dry. Soil may stay damp for many weeks without the need for water.
- Heavy pruning of deciduous trees can be completed in winter, while the tree is dormant. It may be best to wait until early spring, when dead branches from winter are more noticeable.
- Start deciding which trees will be repotted in spring. Make a list of available pots, and which trees will work with them. Having a battle plan is very useful once the chaos of spring arrives. Order repotting supplies such as new pots, soil, wire, drainage mesh, etc.
- Protect your trees from direct winter sun and wind as it will cause freeze dry damage.
- You may place mothballs in the mulch around your trees to prevent mouse damage.
- Extra mulch or protection is needed if the temps fall below 20, especially for elms, maples and other fleshy rooted plants.

Good Times, and Good Food at China Dynasty!



A LOOK AT THE MONTHS AHEAD

JAN 19 SOIL, SHARPENING, AND (POT) SELECTION—OAKLAND

Join us at Oakland Nursery for a series of presentations. Mike Thornhill will begin an open discussion on the making of “bonsai soil”. Members will be invited to share tips on what works in Central Ohio. Zack Clayton will show how to sharpen your bonsai tools. You may want to bring a dull tool for a hands-on demonstration. Ken Schultz will present Pot Selection.

FEB 16 HORTICULTURE AND ENTYMOLOGY—OAKLAND

How does a tree grow? Learn about the botanical functions of each part of a bonsai tree. Light, water, fertilization will be discussed. Bugs, disease and other maladies that may attack you bonsai will also be discussed.

MAR 16 WIRING AND REPOTTING/ SPRING EVENT—FPC

Due to the success of last year’s Spring Fling we are planning to secure pots, soil and plant material suitable for creating small bonsai again. Bring your scissors and wire cutter and be prepared to get a little dirty.

APR 13 BEGINNER’S CLASS—OAKLAND

A class loosely based on the American Bonsai Society curriculum will be presented at Oakland Nursery for pre-registered participants. The fee includes a tree and a bonsai pot.

APR 27 SHIMPAKU CLUMP DEMO AND BRING YOUR OWN—FPC

Our Director Emeritus, Jose’ Cueto will create a Clump Style bonsai from three junipers provided by Tracy Freeland. Time allowing we plan to demonstrate grafting a small tree to a larger Shimpaku from the Franklin Park Bonsai Collection.

COMING SOON

JULY 19-20

CBS 2014



Book of the Month: Practical Bonsai for Beginners

By Kenji Murata

This book was one of my Half Price finds. It is an 8"X8" paperback with 120 pages. It was originally published in Japan in 1964. Being an older publication all the photographs and drawings are black & white, except for the cover which is a very old Japanese White Pine and a color plate opposite the inside title page of a 150 year old Japanese White Pine. My book was from the 11th printing, July 1974. The text is organized into four chapters; 1) How to Raise Bonsai, 2) Transplantation, 3) Training and 4) Maintenance and Control. Interesting titles, I'm sure this is due in part to literal translations. At the back there are 50 guides to popular bonsai species and a glossary that provides Japanese to English translations. The author was born in 1901 so he was 63 when his book was published. The jacket says he inherited Kojuen, his bonsai nursery, shortly after graduating. So it would seem that he grew with bonsai. There are three other bonsai publications to his credit. In his preface he notes that this book is designed this book to provide the beginner with the basics of bonsai.

Before getting to chapter 1 he lists the five essential points to be considered in bonsai appreciation. These are: 1) Development of surface roots in all directions. 2) A trunk having the appearance of age. 3) Branches of various sizes. 4) Leaves, small dense and lively. 5) Core- the upper part must show vitality. Then he presents B&W photos of different bonsai styles.

Chapter 1. How to raise bonsai actually is about a variety of ways to acquire bonsai stock starting with collection, a topic that he covers in nine pages. To me his presentation of collecting first shows that he believes this to be the top method of acquiring top quality stock quickly. Air layering is presented second. He says doing this in May and June is critical to getting the layer to develop roots. He then provides the steps you'll need to take and a list of reasons to take an air layer. Root cuttings and branch cuttings are described as separate methods. Remember he lived near Tokyo and says March is the best time and Elm, Cryptomeria and Azalea are the most suitable to take cuttings from, followed by Ezo Spruce, Camellia, Maple and Quince. He provides step-by-step instruction from selecting the cutting to planting and aftercare. Method five is Grafting. In Tokyo the time to graft is mid February to mid March. Next is raising seedlings.

Chapter 2. Transplantation is about repotting. He said by repotting you can keep your bonsai alive for hundreds of years as it rejuvenates the tree. He says that conifers only need to be repotted every 3-4 years due to their slow rate of growth. He says a young conifer will fill a pot with roots in two years and he says deciduous trees need annual repotting. He spends 4 pages covering

how to select a bonsai pot. For example a shallow oval should be used with a tree with two trunks.

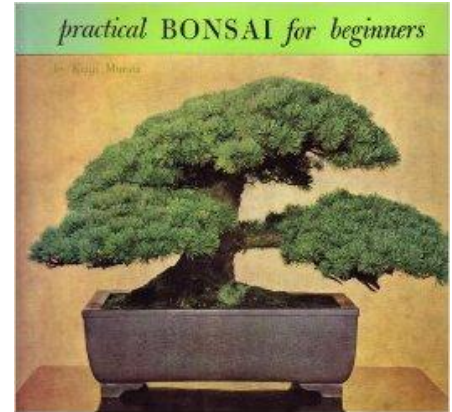
I loved the section on soil. There are no artificial ingredients listed.

Red loam, sand and leaf mold are the primary ingredients. He does say poor drainage causes root rot. I also found it interesting that he describes three different soil levels in a pot, each finer as you approach the top layer, starting with 1/4" screened soil and ending with soil that did not pass through 1/16" screen.

Chapter 3 Training – The principals of branch selection are described. Then candling, pinching and wiring are covered in detail. In the section on pinching he covers four types of plants, two deciduous groups. The difference in leaf cutting for elms and maples is discussed. Pruning is divided by season and roots and branches. Under dormant pruning he says that the branches need to be shortened to control the number of flowers on each branch. Wiring and branch bending complete this chapter. I chuckled at the drawing of a rock on a string used to pull a branch down; a process he says was popular from 1867 to 1912.

Chapter 4 Maintenance and control - covers where to keep your bonsai, how to water and how to fertilize. Location item six says it should be inaccessible to dogs and cats. He states that bonsai should be kept on shelves not the ground and portable is best so that you can move your trees around as the sun changes over the seasons. In his section on watering he says that your water should be as warm as the soil in the pot. Certainly not something we achieve when using a hose. He also says watering a plant when the soil is still wet is not good idea. And he is an advocate of wetting the leaves when you water because it washes soot and dirt off of the leaves. He notes that different types of trees require different fertilizer at different times during the growing season. I liked that he first talks about natural organic fertilizers but likes the recent introduction of Hyponex fertilizer as a benefit to weak plants.

Each of the 50 plant guides offers eight pieces of information in the same order for each giving the best months to do wiring, repotting, etc. I was not familiar with several of the plants listed such as Sand Pear of Five leaf akebia. — Ken Schultz



Tree of the Month: *Euonymus alatus* “*Compacta*” – Burning Bush or Winged Spindle Bush

Burning Bush is commonly planted by homeowners for their fall color. This plant is sold at most nurseries to plant as a hedge or larger specimen bush because its foliage turns bright red. The sunnier the position the more crimson it becomes in the fall. Originally from eastern Asia, this plant is now considered invasive in many areas. Birds spread it by eating the tiny elliptical orange-red berries that follow the small greenish flowers.

You’ll need another Burning Bush nearby for cross-pollination if you want to set fruit. Since most of us treat it as a common landscape plant and trim it with hedge clippers, you may not know that left to its own devices a burning bush will grow to about eight feet tall; some sources said fifteen feet. Nursery cultivars that may be sold as “dwarf” burning bush are the ones that stay 8-10’. Not dwarf by my standards, but apparently this is a subjective term of art. “Dwarf” also implies a slower rate of growth. It is hardy to zone 4. The bark is a grey brown with light colored vertical striations on the trunk. This makes a rather interesting bonsai even in fairly young plants.

When I Googled *Euonymus* as bonsai, I discovered an article that said there are more than 175 *Euonymus* varieties, some make very good bonsai and some don’t. In Europe the *Euonymus* they use doesn’t have the “wings” on it as the plant material commonly sold here does. Due to these “wings” it is suggested that most of your styling be accomplished by pruning and not wiring. I read that cutting off the wings may kill the branch. I haven’t cut off the wings on our *Euonymus*. Linda has one that we’re been growing as bonsai for over 13 years. In this time I’ve discovered

several things about this plant.

- 1) It has large buds and opposite leaves. This makes ramification difficult to achieve. New growth should be cut back to 2 -3 leaf sets to encourage branching.
- 2) The wood is hard and therefore if you are shaping by wiring, it needs to be done before the new growth sets.
- 3) Once you place this plant into a bonsai pot, rather than the ground, the trunk thickens exceedingly slow.
- 4) While the leaves will reduce slightly, they are 1” to 3” long and serrated. So the bonsai you plan should take this into account. They grow opposite (across from each other) on new growth. The leaf size along with this plant’s relatively upright growth habit will result in a tree about 16” tall or a bit more.



When selecting a plant to use as bonsai, you may have to look for a while to find one with a single “trunk”. You may want to plant it in the ground for awhile to thicken up the trunk. If you do this, you may allow it to grow unchecked except for a seasonal pruning. When you decide to begin its bonsai training feel free to severely cut it back. As a hedge plant it will respond by back budding. This initial reduction should be done before it leaves out in the spring.

Soil should be well draining. Since in nature it tolerates clay and slightly acidic soil, it doesn’t seem to be too fussy. The caution when growing it, as a bonsai is to keep it moist and to avoid letting it dry out. Several sources said repotting is only needed every 2-3 years. In the

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

photographs the roots look fairly fibrous and white. More frequent repotting may be needed for young vigorous plants. Repotting needs to be done in early spring before the plant leafs out.

According to OSU's fact sheet, problems that may affect this species are:

Coral spot Nectria canker is a fungal disease that may infect the bark, cambium, and sapwood of the stems, branches, and/or trunk; this opportunistic pathogen is especially infectious after late Summer pruning, severe Winter freezes, or severe drought, transplant shock, or root pruning, and causes significant dieback of the shrub in Spring, or eventual death of the shrub. I read in a Toronto bonsai article that keeping your plant to warm in winter may cause this problem.

Winged Euonymus scale is a significant pest problem when it occurs, sucking the sap from the stems and branches and leading to a significant decline or slow death of the shrub; this pest is brown- to gray-colored and is a different species of scale as compared to the common white-colored "Euonymus scale" (which typically does not infect Winged Euonymus), but the result is the same.

Hardwood mulch-induced nitrogen deficiency is a common physiological problem that can be remedied by a yearly fertilization regimen, or by switching to one of several slower-degrading mulches (for example: pine, cypress, or cedar) other than hardwood mulch (which decomposes relatively quickly by microbial action; these bacteria and fungi may rapidly deplete essential nutrients [especially nitrogen] from the soil beneath, thus depriving the plant's roots from absorbing the same nutrients). Must be why we use sequoia bark in bonsai. And our regular fertilization program should present this problem too.

Placement of this shrub in alkaline soils may result in mild leaf chlorosis, which once again can be remedied by a yearly fertilization program. Again, you should be fertilizing your bonsai weekly during its growth period.

The last three of these problems may manifest themselves in their early stages by the common symptoms of leaf chlorosis and premature fall color; which one (or more) of the three possible causes is the culprit requires a combination of close scrutiny (looking at every branch, are scales present in the usually green portions of the stems?) and common sense. I spray Sevin or Orchard spray regularly and it seems to keep the bugs away.

A website called Absolute Bonsai (http://absolutebonsai.com/burning_bush) listed several varieties of Burning Bush that are suitable for use as bonsai; however, they might not be as hardy or locally available.



Ken Schultz

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.

2014

JAN 19	SOIL, SHARPENING, AND (POT) SELECTION—OAKLAND
FEB 16	HORTICULTURE AND ENTYMOLOGY—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

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