

CUTTINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
BONSAI SOCIETY OF GREATER CINCINNATI

November 2005

www.cincinnati Bonsai.com

FROM THE EDITOR

I hope everyone had a safe and fun Halloween. If you were to see my house on Halloween night, you would never guess that it is one of my favorite holidays. There were tombstones surrounded by a cemetery fence, at least five pumpkins, and a fog machine on a timer. I know that I scared many of the younger kids and at least startled a few of the parents.

Every year it seems to get bigger and bigger.

That also seems to be the way with my collection of trees. I have just started working on putting my winter quarters together for my trees and am left wondering why last year's accommodations are a little too small for this year's trees. I had to build a new bench and rig up another couple of fixtures in the base-

ment for the tropics. I designed and built a larger cold frame for my hardy trees and a few of the really cold tolerant ones will be heeled into my raised vegetable beds.

Just think Christmas is just around the corner...

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Indian Summer-Dance of the Tropics, I think this is the last time I will be taking my tropics out for some natural daylight. Unlike what the books tell you to do, I like to keep my tropics out until the night we are getting down to 35 degrees. I don't know if I am trying to toughen up the trees or if I just procrastinate, probably the latter. I am now keeping my large ficus on a 4-wheel cart so that I can move it in and out of my garage with ease. It is the second week of November and the temperature was 76 degrees today. Pretty nice! Winter is not far away though. I usually try to keep my hardy trees out until Christmas. Last year I kept most of the hardy trees in a heated yard shed, which seemed like more work than sealing them up in a cold frame which is how I have wintered my trees for the last 10 years. In the cold frame I only had to water once or twice over the winter, but in the shed it was every week or two. Everyone has their own way of overwintering, I think that I am going back to the cold frame. Plus I think that my trees looked better when they were in the cold frame.

Bonsai by Committee went well last month. I think all the teams had a good time and the Society got 3 nice trees, which will be raffled at the Christmas Dinner.

Don't forget to bring a tree to the meetings for tree-of-the-month. The Society will give you 1 raffle ticket for the current raffle item. This is a Bonsai Society meeting so we should have bonsai trees at the meetings. It doesn't matter if you are the Tree-of-the-month person or not. If you have a tree that you like or is flowering, bring it in.

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PROGRAMS

Date—normally the third Thursday of each month (watch Newsletter)

Time—7:00 PM to whenever you want to leave

Place—Civic Garden Center—exception, Xmas Party (watch Newsletter)

November 17, 2005 Doug Hawley & Tom McCormack

Each year in our Program planning, we try to leave room for one or two programs wherein our own “in-house” group of experienced Bonsai artists can show case their talents. People like Hawley & McCormack always seem to be repeat performers--& for good reason—they are talented. Tom & Doug will do a forest/grove demonstration at the November meeting—DON'T MISS IT!!!

December 2, 2005 Annual Christmas Party

This has become a very festive event & not one you will want to miss. It will again be at the Krohn Conservatory starting at 6:00 PM with a cash bar of wine & beer @ \$1.00 & free soft drinks, followed by a catered buffet. The cost will be \$20.00 per person over the age of 14, under 14 are free. There will be door prizes as well as the three trees from the October “Bonsai by Committee” will be raffled. You must make a reservation to attend & Mary & Joe Kayata will take your reservation at any time but will be personally available @ the November meeting with the sign-up sheet. If you can't make it to the November meeting, you can make your reservation by calling Mary & Joe @ (513) 631-3762 or e mail @ mkayata@aol.com

2006 Program Schedule

The following is our Program Schedule for 2006. Please pay careful attention to the dates. Several are a departure from normal dates—thus the importance for maintaining a bonsai calendar. An * indicates a special date to accommodate the master.

January 19th Dr Doug Hawley

This will be Doug's traditional program on Pine maintenance for cultivars in our area.

February 16th Dr Doug Hawley

Azalea demonstration—I can't wait for this demo—nice guy, unbelievable talent.

March 16th Jose Cueto

A Columbus artist of considerable talent that is a frequent visitor to our society

April 20th Boon Manakitivipart

An international experienced artist who is no stranger to our society & is always a star

May 18th Chris Daeger plus a mystery

Chris will present a program on dwarf conifers in bonsai coupled with a mystery.

***June 8th Larry Jackel**

A first time visitor to our society from Denver, Colorado. An accomplished collector & artist.

July 20th Annual summer pot-luck

August 17th Robert Kempinski

A Florida artist that is a first time visitor & I don't know why it has taken us so long.

September 21st White Elephant

***October 20th Guy Guidry**

Owner/operator of North Shore Bonsai in Louisiana—been here before & over due return

November 16th To Be Announced

December 1st Annual Christmas party @ the Krohn

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WORKSHOPS

REMEMBER OUR POLICY HAS CHANGED. YOU HAVE TO PAY UP FRONT TO GET YOUR NAME ON THE SIGN UP SHEET. PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR CHECKBOOK ON THURSDAY.

November 19, 2005 Tom McCormack & Doug Hawley

This is a BYOT workshop at the Civic Garden Center 11am – 4pm.. The cost is \$30.00 There are still openings. (Eds. Note: This is a correction to last month's newsletter. There was a bit of confusion on my part.)

December 2, 2005

Christmas Party, 6:00 pm at the Krohn

January 19, 2006

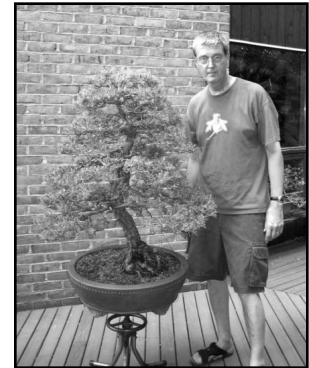
No workshop

February 16, 2006 Doug Hawley

Azalea workshop. The Azalea's for this workshop, thanks to Mike Scheid, will be the workshop material. The cost will be \$50.00.

Don Brown has put together an exciting program for 2006. Workshop information will be announced at the January meeting.

The club will be serving coffee and refreshment at all workshops. There will be *appropriate* refreshments for the afternoon sessions.



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NOTES OF INTEREST

Holiday Planning

The Christmas Dinner party is being held at the Krohn Conservatory on Friday, December 2. All who attended last year had a great time. With the main showroom decorated and the Christmas tree trimmed in the entrance hall, it will be a great start for the holiday season. Activities will start at 6:00 PM. There will be a cash bar and a catered buffet. Please bring any items, either bonsai or non bonsai, to be used as door prizes after dinner. Mary and Joe Kayata will be taking reservations at the meeting, adults \$20 each, children under 14 are free. Wine and beer will be \$1 and soft drink are free.

Are You Ready for Repotting?

Do you mix your own soil or do you need soil for your next potting session? Hollow Creek Farms has a variety of potting mixes which we have ordered directly from him the past two years at a 40% to 50% savings. I will be contacting him before the meeting to see if we can place another order. His mixes are the same as offered by Bonsai Today, Stone Lantern, Jim Doyle, Bill Valavanis and several other vendors from the Northeast. Check your supplies and if you need to order soil, see Dave Radlinski or Greg Robinson to place your order.

New Hipster

It has been seven weeks since my new hip has been installed and I must say I am doing just great. Gayle is glad to relinquish the nurse duties, especially giving me a shot each day. Thanks to all the members that took the time to call or send a card your support was much appreciated by Gayle and me.

Dave Radlinski

MONTHLY TIPS

(Eds. Note: The following article was written by Dave Bogan of the Greater Evansville Bonsai Society and is reprinted from their November newsletter 'Bonsai by Design')

Greenhouse vs. Cold Room/Cold Frame

Some consider them all about the same. Actually there is a big difference, with the main difference being heat, light, and your intentions.

Cold Room/Cold Frame: Key word here is cold. Generally used to over winter your deciduous trees. Typically our winters are not severe enough to require this type of protection but there are some definite benefits. First, even though our winter is not real cold, some species can suffer damage. Most damage is usually apparent in the branching. Fine branches can be broken in the wind or some may have slight die back. Once you have a tree with nice ramification, you don't want to lose all that hard work. So, these structures are first used as shelters. The down or maybe good side to these structures is heat created by the sun. Sun and warmth can fool a plant into thinking it's spring. So your trees generally will awaken early. Temperatures inside these structures should be closely monitored. Manually done - open a door or lift the lid of a cold frame on sunny days or automatically via motorized vents and fans. Generally it is recommended to go automatic here. I have seen temperatures of over 75 degrees during February on sunny days. All it takes is one or two days of sun during which you forget to open the shelter. Also, on these sunny days if your glass area is close to the tree tops, you can experience death of the trees upper areas. Remember, glass can intensify the heat of the sun.

Next, no matter how you vent it, your trees will eventually awaken earlier than their brethren outside. This can be good or bad. Remember, once awakened, they need to continue receiving good light and temperatures. A drop in either can cause unwanted growth -leggy due to low light, or damaged foliage from cold temperatures. The good side, if you maintain proper levels once awoken, you can start your spring work earlier and actually extend your trees growth season.

Greenhouse: Greenhouses are for starting new plants or growing plants on through the winter. Generally in Bonsai, you don't need a greenhouse except for tropicals. There are though a couple ways of using your greenhouse. You can simply maintain your tropical through winter in a warm atmosphere by maintaining a minimum temperature of around 50 - 60 degrees. Tropicals will exist but not grow in these lower temps. If you increase your temperatures and maintain a minimum of 70 degrees they will actually grow through the winter. If you want better growth, you must add supplemental lighting. Utilizing HPS (High Pressure Sodium) lights and a minimum of 70 degrees, your tropicals will grow very well- maybe not quite as well as in summer outside but they will do well. The other huge benefit of a greenhouse is humidity. Tropicals love humidity.

Now, lets take the next step. I am in the lucky position to have both a cold room & a heated greenhouse. The best of both worlds. Generally, my deciduous stay out until Christmas. They then go into my cold room (actual room within my greenhouse. Luckily, my cold room maintains a minimum temperature above freezing. Actually it probably averages around 40 - 50 degrees. Thus the reason my trees stay out till Christmas making sure they enter and stay dormant prior to coming in. By the end of January I am ready to start working on my deciduous. I bring them into the greenhouse, prune, wire and repot them if needed. They then go back to the cold room. By mid February I can maintain a temperature of above 50. My trees start to bud by late February. In March, I now average a temperature of around 60 degrees. My trees start their spring probably 2 months early. The downside to all this is my trees must stay in until late April so they don't get shocked by a late cold spell outside.

The huge benefit of greenhouse is starting early. There's nothing better during a cold winter day than working on your trees.

For those to you that have greenhouses **with** a grow lighting system consider this.

Generally in winter the coldest period at night is just before sun rise -furnace working its hardest at this point you have your lights set to come on in the a.m. consider turning them on earlier in the morning and maybe not run them as late at night My lights are set to come on at 4:00 a.m. and turn off at 8:00 p.m. thus 16 hours of strong light for growth. Almost all types of growth lighting systems add some heat in your greenhouse. You might as well utilize it during the cold part of the morning.

If you question my timing, consider how long our day is during the highest growth periods of summer, I maintain a growing atmosphere in my greenhouse.

ADVERTISEMENTS

The rates for advertising is \$50 for 12 insertions, for card sized ads.

Contact Dave Radlinski at (513) 831-6931

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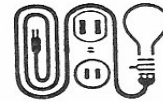


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