

CUTTINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
BONSAI SOCIETY OF GREATER CINCINNATI

May 2006

www.cincinnati Bonsai.com

FROM THE EDITOR

Do you ever feel discouraged in your bonsai pursuits? Wonder if you have what it takes? After losing two trees this year that I have had since I started, I was feeling that way

One was a pine and the other a juniper, both which I have had over 5 years. They were repotted and styled several times and seemed to be thriving. Just last year, I repotted them into their first true bon-

sai pots. I have done worse things to trees that were not near as strong and had them survive.

I did not even see the end coming. Both trees flourished last year. The pine setting multiple new buds on old wood and it was hard at times to keep up pinching the juniper into shape.

This spring, these trees seemed slow coming out of dormancy, with the pine

slowly turning brown and brittle and the juniper never recovering from its winter dull green color. By the first of May, both were in the compost pile.

It is easy to become depressed, when this happens, but you have to look at the bright side. At least the pots are free to use for other trees.

Steve Parr (513) 248-0160 sparr@cinci.rr.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

I wanted to give my opinion, for what it's worth, on the April meeting and workshop with Boon. I thought that it was a very good lecture/demo and a very good workshop. Boon is one of the premier bonsai artists in the United States. I've heard comments about how different masters that are brought in to do our programs have such different ways to work on and train bonsai trees. I'm here to say that there is no right or wrong way 100% of the time. What works for one person in another state doesn't necessarily work around the greater Cincinnati area. Usually what I try to do is pick up one or two ideas during our monthly meetings and apply it to how I work on my trees, over time you gradually build up your knowledge on what does and doesn't work for you. If a person that is new to bonsai has any questions on how to grow a certain tree they are better off asking one of the members in the society. Over the last 10 years I have heard masters say never repot a tree, which I don't agree with, I've heard at least 10 different ways to wire a tree. Some I agree with, some I don't. I've heard 3 different ways to de-candle black pines and have tried them all, but I prefer one method over the other two. I have heard three different ways to apply raffia. I guess what I am trying to say is that a person has to take a general knowledge of the art of Bonsai and try to add little bits and pieces of different opinions from the artists that the society brings in and come up with something that works for you. I also try to read and reread lots of books on bonsai. But remember, nothing is set in stone, if something works for you, continue to do it. I think that it is harder on newer members of the bonsai society when they hear conflicting opinions on what does and doesn't work, but I go back to the earlier statement that you need to talk to someone local.

Spring Zoo Show Just a reminder about the upcoming spring show at the Zoo. Setup will be on Friday May 19th with the show following on Saturday and Sunday. It will be held in the Safari Gallery, which is next to the food court. The last 2 years have had great turnouts. Last year the Zoo also had an Art Show in the same building, which brought in even more people. We have room for approximately 100 trees so don't be bashful about bringing trees in. I will have a sign up sheet at the next meeting for trees and host & hostesses.

Tom Mounce

(859) 635-5733

tmounce@apollo-hvac.com

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—exceptions, July Picnic & Xmas Party (watch Newsletter)

May 18, 2006 Chris Daeger

Chris is a long-time member of our society. He is director of Rowe Arboretum on Muchmore Road in Indian Hill and is the owner/operator of B.C. Nursery in Batavia specializing in dwarf conifers &, among other things, horticulture consulting & landscape services. Chris is a popular program for many of the garden clubs around the city & will be giving us a presentation on dwarf conifers & their role in bonsai.

June 8, 2006 Larry Jackel

Here is a classic example why you should maintain a bonsai calendar. Pay special attention to this “abnormal meeting date”. Our June meeting will be ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN NORMAL. This will be a first time visit for Larry to our club. He will retire in June of this year from a career as a science teacher—more time to spend on bonsai. Larry moved to Denver in 1976, joined the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society, quickly realized the best of the best was growing wild in the Rockies, became an avid collector & bonsai artist of native conifers of the Front Range. Larry’s favorite is the Ponderosa, which he will be doing here. He has conducted workshops in many U.S bonsai societies, most recently in Salt Lake & Chicago. Folks, I have a feeling this is gonna be one of the good ole good ones. Artists that have a leaning toward the natural are my favorites

July 20, 2006 Annual Summer Pot Luck

Make sure this is on your calendar of must attend events for this summer. Mary & Joe Kayata will soon be taking reservations & pot luck assignments. A big-time family event that is fraught with good food, great conversation & a chance to have enough free time to make new bonsai buddies. Be there or we will talk about you.

August 17, 2006 Robert Kempinski

For a club that historically hosts the nations leading bonsai talent at least once in any given five year period, I have no notion as to why Kempinski has never been here before now. I have just finished reading his bio & he is unquestionably a rising star in the global bonsai community. His accomplishments are endless as is the versatility of his talent. Enough said for now—more later—better get this one on your calendar.

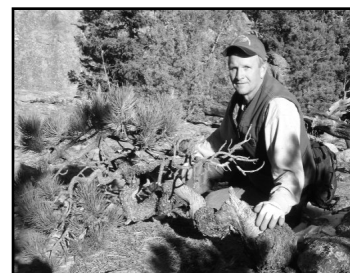
Don Brown (513) 831-1811 djbrown@cinci.rr.com

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.

June 10, 2006 Larry Jackel

Larry is an exceptional talent from Denver Colorado. The workshop trees are collected Ponderosa Pines. The cost of the workshop is \$145.00. The workshop will be at the Civic Garden Center noon – 5pm. **This workshop is full.**



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

Tom McCormack (513) 563-0473 bonsaicin@aol.com

MONTHLY TIPS

The Art of Watering

(Ed.'s Note: The following article was taken was taken from "Bonsai News" the newsletter of the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society.)

Warm weather, longer days, flowers and bright new leaves are sure signs that your bonsai's need for water is rapidly increasing. Be diligent. Spring is no time for neglect. The Three basic rules of watering are:

1. Never allow the soil to become bone dry. Never. Absolutely never.
2. Completely saturate the soil when you water.
3. Wait until the soil is only slightly damp before you water again.

Basically, that is all there is to it. If you are interested in how and when water is absorbed by plants, read on. The roots of plants are able to absorb water and oxygen only when the moisture content of the soil is between 30% and 20%. Therefore, the best soils are those which allow for rapid drainage of excess moisture. This rapid drainage achieves the optimal 20% and 30% moisture content as quickly as possible. Once the excess water drains out the remaining water should be retained for as long as possible.

The right soil mix is very important. The mix that we use is: 40% coarse sand, 40% fired clay particles (Terra Green) and 20% aged organic compost. The sand provides for much of the drainage of excess water. The fired clay allows excess water to drain while holding and slowly releasing a small amount of water which has collected on the surface of each particle. The remaining water is retained by the organic compost. This water becomes enriched with nutrients from the compost and is absorbed by the tree's feeder roots.

What happens if the moisture content is never allowed to drop to the optimal 30% to 20% range? When the moisture content is always above the optimal range, the roots are unable to take in oxygen and the plant eventually drowns.

What happens when the moisture content of the soil drops below 20%. Nothing, providing the soil is not allowed to dry out completely.

What happens if the soil completely dries out? If the soil is allowed to become bone dry, then the moisture is drawn out of the feeder roots. These roots then collapse and the tree goes into stress and may die. It is very important to avoid this situation, by watering very regularly. That's it. Enjoy the spring, enjoy your bonsai and...Don't forget to water!

NOTES OF INTEREST

Accent Plant Sale

If you are looking for accent plants, here is your chance. Over this coming Memorial Day weekend Joan Day is having her annual yard show and sale. There will be miniature hostas, irises, and other alpine type plants available, as well as hypertufa troughs and planters.

Hours and Dates:	Friday, May 26	10:00 AM—5:00 PM
	Saturday, May 27	10:00 AM—8:00 PM
	Sunday, May 28	10:00 AM—6:00 PM
	Monday, May 29	10:00 AM—6:00 PM

The address is 6215 Cavalcade Dr. in Fairfield

Going north on I-75, take Hwy. 129 West (this is the first exit past Tylersville Rd. in West Chester), exit at Hwy 747, turn right on 747 and go to first traffic light, which is Princeton Road, turn left and go to Liberty Fairfield Rd., turn right. Go to Stonybrook Dr. and turn left, then right on Calvacade Drive.

2006 SPRING PROGRESSIVE DINNER

It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon for the 2006 progressive dinner, I would like to personally thank the four members who had the courage to let us into their homes. The action started at Tom McCormick's house, moved to Dave Radlinkski's and Don Brown's, and finished at Doug Hawley's. The food and company were enjoyed by one and all. Hopefully, this can become an annual event with a rotating group of hosts.

I would like to apologize to Doug, as there are not any pictures from our final stop. I was a bit preoccupied with admiring his four wheel hobby to take any pictures.

Steve Parr



2006 SPRING PROGRESSIVE DINNER





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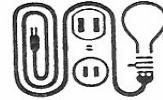
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