

# CUTTINGS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
BONSAI SOCIETY OF GREATER CINCINNATI

August 2007

www.cincinnatibonsai.com

## FROM THE EDITOR

### **HOT, HOT, HOT!!!**

Of course, I do not need to tell anyone about how hot it has been this past week, just step outside anytime after noon and see for yourself. I have been seen working up a sweat, just walking to the mailbox. Now is not the time to let up on checking the moisture needs of your trees. One missed day and you could end with a crispy bonsai.

Your deciduous trees should be shaded during most of the day. Early morning sun is fine, but by

noon, they should be in dappled shade. Conifers will even benefit with some shade during the heat of the day. Tropicals are the only trees that can manage the extreme heat we have had. You still need to check and monitor their watering schedule, it may require twice daily watering or more to keep them happy.

This is the best time to repot those tropicals in need of fresh soil. Be sure and protect them for a week or so after. New growth is a good sign that they are ready for reintroduction to full sun.

Take it slowly, to prevent sun scald to the tender new leaves. The one good thing about this weather is that my hot peppers are going like crazy. I have picked a few Cayenne peppers that must be at least 10 inches long and they are nice and warm. For those of you know how I like hot and spicy food, for me to say something is hot means the majority of sane people will not even touch it.

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

2007 New Talent Competition-- See details of this year's competition in the July newsletter or contact me by phone or email. Anyone with 5 years or less in bonsai should give participation serious consideration--it's fun, you learn a lot & you come away with a free tree that you styled. The limit is 8 participants & we only have room for 3 more. To get your name on the list, contact me by phone or email or see Tom McCormack or Mike Scheid at the August meeting.

Summer Heat--Suggest you watch the temperature of your pots that are exposed to the heat of the day. It is not unusual for pot temp to exceed 100 to 120 degrees--often more. This can fry young roots. You may want to consider moving your sun exposed trees into partial shade until this period of extreme heat passes. A simple cooking thermometer with a probe can be used to measure pot temperature.

July Pot Luck--It looked to me like everyone had a good time at last month's pot luck--Judy & I sure did. We all owe Joe & Mary Kayata a THANKS for all their preparatory work--thanks guys.

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

### **August 16, 2007**                      **Matt Ouwinga**

Matthew Ouwinga started in the art of bonsai when he was 16 years old. After seeing a bonsai at a local nursery, he immediately got hooked. After several years in a local bonsai club Matt took bonsai classes under a few local bonsai artists. As Matt's collection and love of bonsai grew he began going to the Mid-America bonsai contest, just north of Chicago, on a yearly basis. It was there where he met Bill Valavanis. Matt's first trip to Japan was with Bill when he was 21 years old. Matt knew that after this trip he needed to go back and study more. 2 1/2 years later after some contact with people doing bonsai in Japan, Matt had an opportunity to go and took it. For one summer Matt was an international student of bonsai under Mr. Kunio Kobayashi, who at the time had more prime minister Kofufu-ten prizes than anyone else. For nearly 3 months Matt worked with Mr. Kobayashi and his three apprentices.



Since Matt's return he has spoken to about 15 bonsai clubs around the U.S. with many more lined up for the summer of 2007 and 2008. Matt will judge his first show in Nashville Tennessee this coming summer, and was recently asked to be part of the artists featured at the MABA convention in Indianapolis during the summer of 2008.

Matt focuses his work on trident maples and other maple species, however has a vast collection of temperate trees.

### **September 20, 2007**                      **White Elephant Sale**

This is one of the most popular annual events and an important fund raiser for our club. Here is an opportunity for buyers and sellers to add or delete from their inventory of trees, tools, pots and other related bonsai paraphernalia. If you are a seller, you should plan to arrive at 6:30 to allow time to price and tag your item(s). Tags will be available for your use or you can use your own. EVERYTHING you bring for sale must be tagged and priced. You may sell your items with all proceeds going to the society or with 80% to you and 20% to the club. If you choose to retain 80% of the sale price, your name MUST be on the tag along with the price. Be sure you put your name and 80/20 on the tag. This way we will know that you get 80% back on your item/s Buyer, bring plenty of cash or your checkbook. This is a great opportunity to get some super deals on some really good stuff. Also, please give the treasurer a list of the 80/20 items you are offering for sale.

### **October 18, 2007**                      **Cheryl Manning**

Cheryl's love of bonsai began in 1981 with her first basic skill course from Murata Bonsai Nursery in Orange County California. Since then, she has studied with bonsai masters such as John Naka, Ben Oki, Harry Hirao and Jim Barrett. In 1994 she did a one year apprenticeship with bonsai master Yasuo Mitsuya in Toyohashi Japan. Cheryl has been published in all the North American bonsai magazines. Cheryl has given numerous demonstrations, workshop, and slide presentations to bonsai clubs all over this country and overseas.



Tom McCormack    (513) 563-0473    [bonsaicin@aol.com](mailto:bonsaicin@aol.com)

## WORKSHOPS

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**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.**

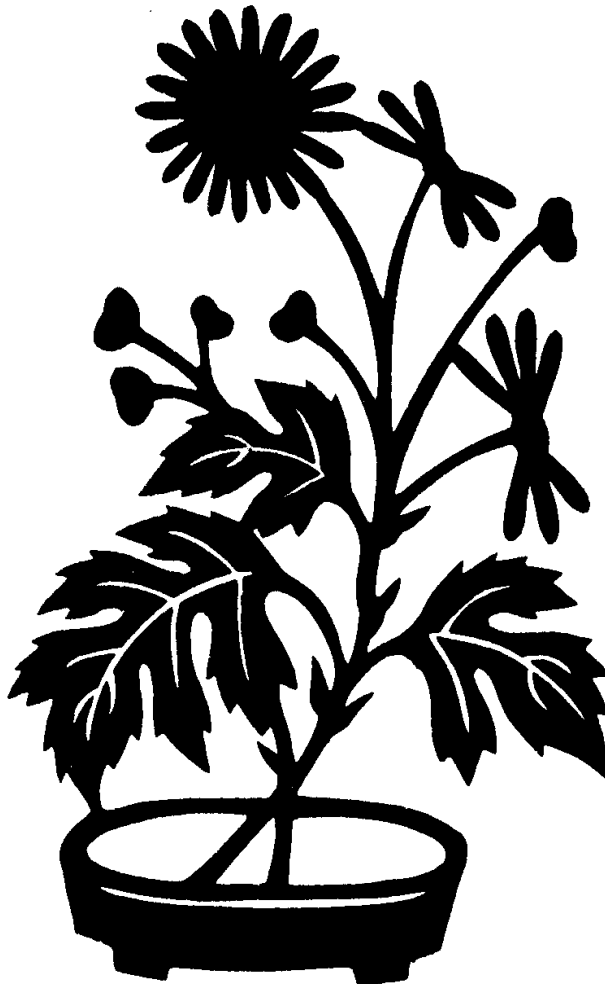
### August 18, 2007      Matt Ouwinga

In August we are having Matt Ouwinga as our guest. This is a chance to see and work with a new upcoming talent. The word that is out on the grapevine is that this young fellow is fascinating talent and has a great future. We still have several openings for his workshop.

### September, 2007      No Workshop - White Elephant Sale

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

*Mike Scheid*  
(513) 984-0289  
[mscheid1@cinci.rr.com](mailto:mscheid1@cinci.rr.com)



***Bonsai Society  
of  
Greater Cincinnati  
Annual Fall Bonsai Show***



***October 13-14, 2007  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm***

***Krohn Conservatory  
2100 Eden Park Drive***

***FREE Admission***

## NOTES OF INTEREST

### Thinking Ahead

The Christmas Dinner party is already scheduled. All the members should mark their calendars for an evening of great food and a lot of good fun at the Krohn Conservatory on Friday, November 30. The showroom will be decorated and the Christmas tree will be trimmed in the entrance hall.

Activities will start at 6:00 PM. There will be a cash bar and a catered buffet. Don't forget about the door prizes after dinner.

### BSGC 2007 Membership Dues

Just a reminder that membership dues for the upcoming year are currently being accepted. Please see Laurie Brinker at a meeting to take care of payments. Please note that dues have increased to \$30.00 this year, which is still a bargain. Dues remitted after October 1st will be \$40.00. This incentive will hopefully get all of us procrastinators moving, it also allows the timely publication of our membership directory.

As you are renewing your membership, please take the time and verify that the current information we have for you is correct. This includes email addresses, street address, etc., this will ensure that you receive all correspondence from the club.

### BCI Ambassador's Newsletter

In addition to our monthly club newsletter, you will note that those of you receiving it by e-mail, also will receive a copy of the BCI Ambassador's Newsletter (*Bonsai Club International*). You may or not know that our own Dave Radlinski, in addition to his duties as our club treasurer (among many others), is also the treasurer of BCI. There are quite a few pictures of this year's BCI convention in Puerto Rico.



## MONTHLY TIPS

Enjoy your bonsai. Admire what you have achieved. But, think about future ramifications. Selectively pinch, nip, and fine wire all of your trees. Water your trees, check for pests, and continue to work on the refinement of your trees.

Continue to fertilize, until late August, with your regular fertilizer. Then, continue to fertilize but use a fertilizer with no nitrogen - such as 0-10-10. Nitrogen (the 0 in previous formula) promotes growth. You do not want new growth at this time of the year because such growth will not have time to harden off before winter.

If the soil in your bonsai container is hard and compacted use a nail to aerate the soil. Don't think about repotting in August. Instead poke six or more holes in the soil to loosen the soil. The aeration will improve the health of the roots and will aid in watering.

### **WATERING**

In August watering can be a problem. In extreme heat (such as we have had this year in early August) trees become somewhat dormant. There is little new growth and water requirements are minimal. If the soil is damp, don't water. Some exceptions are willows and cypress. It is best to overwater such plants. For most needled evergreens you should wait until the soil feels dry - then water thoroughly. Observe your trees and learn their individual watering requirements.

### **INSECTS**

Watch for bugs! Malathion will take care of aphids. Using alcohol on a "Q" tip takes care of soft shell scale on elms. A strong water spray gets rid of red spider mites. Continue to watch for red spider mites - especially fond of junipers and Alberta spruce. Spray with Kelthane as required. (*Ed.'s Note: Using chemical or organic pesticides is not a good idea when trees are under heat stress.*)

### **IN GENERAL**

As the weather gets warmer, some trees will benefit from more shade and protection from the wind. Maples should be protected from shade on hot afternoons. My experience is that almost all non-tropical deciduous trees should be kept out of the full summer's sun. Most bushes and other small tree varieties that, in nature, grow in the shade of another tree should be in a semi-shaded position in summer.

### **PINCHING**

Pinching is done to maintain and improve the shape of your bonsai by removing some of the new soft growth. For deciduous trees, with alternate leaves, new growth should be pinched back so that only from 1 to 3 leaves remain per limb. Leave just one leaf if you want to maintain a limb as short as possible. Leave 2 or 3 leaves if you want the limb to get longer. When pruning deciduous trees (that have alternate leaves) trim at the point you want the new growth to develop.

Deciduous trees should be pinched every few weeks during the growing season. Any new growth from the bottom side of a limb must be eliminated and any new growth that is growing straight up must also be eliminated.

Keep the area close to the trunk open so that you can see the trunk and the structure of your bonsai.

Continue to pinch your junipers and spruces. But, remember that each tree must be allowed to have some new growth each year

*Jim Hagan*

## ADVERTISEMENTS

The rates for advertising is \$10 for 12 insertions, for card sized ads. Contact Dave Radlinski at (513) 831-6931

### Bonsai Speakers Bureau

For Lectures-Demonstrations-Lessons-Programs-Tours


For information and rates, Call:

Dave Radlinski	(513) 831-6931
Tom McCormack	(513) 563-0473
Mike Scheid	(513) 984-0289
Don Brown	(513) 831-1811

And/or other club members

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## CLASSIFIEDS

(Ed's. Note: This is a new addition to our newsletter, which will allow members to post bonsai related items for sale, with 20% of sales going to the club (similar to the White Elephant Sale). Contact Steve Parr via e-mail (sparr@cinci.rr.com) with notices.