



SPRINGFIELD BONSAI SOCIETY

Palmatum Press

September 2012

From the Editor's Desk

Learning from Nature

On a recent family houseboat trip to Dale Hollow Lake in Tennessee, I was captivated by the trees growing along the steep shale banks of the lake. The contorted trunks of the trees as their roots struggled to hold on to the fragile soil and the crowns stretched for sunlight made natural bonsai. When I walk in the woods I like to observe (and photograph) trees to give me inspiration for my bonsai.



Future Tense

October 8 - SBS Meeting

Our October meeting will be devoted to preparing trees for the fall show.

Volunteers needed - Our fall show needs lots of help from our members. Even if you do not plan to display a tree we need help setting up tables, answering questions from visitors, keeping a eye on our plants, and assisting with the sale and auction. Please contact David Kerwin (dkerwin@hshs.org or 217-891-8853) if you can help Saturday Oct. 13.

October 6 - Mark Fields Workshop for SBS Mark Fields from Indianapolis will present a workshop for SBS members on Saturday October 6 from 12 - 4 p.m. at Cass Bonsai in Edwardsville. Mark is a longtime bonsai enthusiast, past president of the Indianapolis Bonsai Club and owner of the nursery [Bonsai by Fields](http://www.bonsai-by-fields.com).

Mark will bring shimpaku junipers in 4 gallon pots for a cost of \$100 each. Pictures of a juniper before and after styling are shown below. The workshop is limited to 10 participants.

Cass Bonsai is located at 6145 Quercus Drive, Edwardsville, IL . Directions can be found on the web site <http://www.cassbonsaigardens.com/>.



October 13 - SBS Show and Sale at Lincoln Memorial Garden

Our fall show will be held on Saturday October 13 at Lincoln Memorial Garden. Remember to prepare some bonsai for our plant sale. This is our big fundraiser for the year and pays for the facilities at Washington Park, materials for our meetings, and guest artists. We need your help to make this a success.

Upcoming SBS Meeting

Meeting Dates	Topics/Activities	Presenters
November 12th 7:00 p.m.	Planning Meeting for 2012	

Past Tense - September Meeting

At the September meeting members worked on trees for the upcoming sale and show at Lincoln Memorial Garden.

Shimpaku Junipers

Since Shimpaku junipers are the subject of our October workshop, I have attempted to summarize some information about this versatile tree.



Juniperus chinensis var. *sargentii*
Sargent Juniper
In training since 1905
Donated by: Kenichi Oguchi
National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, Washington, DC

The Shimpaku Juniper (*Juniperus chinensis* 'Shimpaku') is considered one of the easiest plants to grow and work with for bonsai. Shimpakus have scale-like foliage and brown bark that peels off in thin strips. Shimpaku junipers are also called Sargent junipers which has caused some confusion in the botanical names. The Western name comes from the botanist Charles Sprague Sargent who classified them in Hokkaido in 1892.

Shimpaku junipers are outdoor trees and prefer full sun to part shade. They are hardy from zones 3-9 (a large swath of the United States). They tolerate a wide variety of soils except wet soils which encourages root rot. They will tolerate some drought.

There are many varieties of the Chinese juniper (*Juniperus chinensis*), Shimpaku being a dwarf form. It is native to the mountains of Japan where it develops twisted, gnarled trunks and branches. When branches of the tree die due to stress, the bark and roots connecting the area die and drop off creating a natural driftwood appearance. In creating bonsai jin and shari are often used to simulate this natural appearance.

Pruning is recommended in spring and summer. Pinch back new growth by holding the older foliage between your thumb and forefinger and pulling off the new tips with the other hand. The idea is to develop cloud-like foliage pads.

Shimpaku are dioecious (separate male and female plants). Male cones look like the familiar "pine cone" and female cones are fleshy, violet brown and berrylike.

For more details I found the following sites to be very helpful.

[Columbus Bonsai Society – Tree of the Month](#)

[Bonsai4me Species Guide: Juniperus](#)

[Kuromatsu Bonsai: Shimpaku Juniper](#)

[Missouri Botanical Garden: *Juniperus chinensis* 'Shimpaku'](#)

Bonsai Care Tips

The Columbus Bonsai Society (Ohio) has a [calendar](#) for bonsai care for USDA Hardiness Zones 5 and 6. These are their recommendations.

October - Mid Autumn

- Trees will be using much less water now that the foliage is going dormant. Do not water unless needed.
- Try not to prune deciduous in the fall as it may force new growth that will not survive winter. Wait until the tree is fully dormant.
- Prepare your winter storage area now, before winter sets in.

Administrivia

Your 2012 Officers are:

President	– David Kerwin	217-891-8853 (M)
Vice President	– G. Jackson	
Treasurer	– Tom Applebee	
Secretary	–	
Newsletter editor	– Gary Trammell	217-741-4849 (trammell.gary@uis.edu)

Annual membership is \$20 (family \$30).

To receive our newsletter you may sign up by email (BonsaiSBS@gmail.com) or visit our website at <http://www.BonsaiSBS.com/>.