



SPRINGFIELD BONSAI SOCIETY

# Palmatum Press

June 2014

## From the Editor's Desk

### Pearl Fryar Lecture and Topiary Demonstration

[In Korea I saw my first real garden], a garden that inspired me and not something that made me groan at the thought of harvesting. Everywhere you looked there was something beautiful.... Could I ever make something like this? Even just one small corner?"

- Pearl Fryar



Pearl Fryar has created an internationally known topiary garden in Bishopville, SC. Pear will be giving two presentations in Springfield on Tuesday, June 17. He has been the subject of wide circulated documentaries including *A Man Named Pearl*, TV appearances on CBS Sunday Morning, Martha Stewart, and Victory Garden, and articles in a variety of publications including the Wall Street Journal and New York Times. He gives garden tours to 300-500 visitors a week and a number of lectures, but his subject is not horticulture but the power of the individual to make a difference within his/her community. His story is one of social and moral responsibility.

On Tuesday, June 17, at 11 am, Pearl will demonstrate and discuss "The Art of Topiary." This presentation will be held at University of Illinois Extension office, 700 S. Airport Drive, Springfield, IL. Cost is \$5. Advanced registration is required by visiting the University of Illinois Extension Logan-Menard-Sangamon website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/lms/> .

At 6:00 pm Pearl will give a lecture at Brookens Auditorium on the University of Illinois Campus. The evening talk will focus more on his life story and community involvement.

After serving in Korea, Pearl worked at a job in manufacturing that took him from New York to Atlanta and finally the small town of Bishopville, South Carolina. He purchased 3 acres of cornfield outside of town, the first land he ever owned. The stereotype was that an African-American man would not keep up his property so Pearl decided win the "Yard of the Month" award from the city garden club. At a local nursery he came across a topiary and thought it would make a good centerpiece for the garden he wanted to create. The owner

wouldn't sell it to him, saying that people buy these plants and don't know how to take care of them. He did take Pearl out back and gave him a 3 minute lesson on how to make simple topiary. With some trees and shrubs, many salvaged from the discard pile at the nursery he set about to "transform them in shapes of soothing beauty, patterns of shadow and light." To transform his cornfield into a place a beauty. He did win the award, but realized that his garden was a needed outlet for his creativity as an artist.

As publicity about his garden brought a stream of visitors from all over the world, Pearl used his creation to spread his message of "Love, Peace, and Goodwill." His message is that success comes from hard work with a passion for the task and happiness comes from making a difference in the lives of others.

Presentations are sponsored by U of I at Springfield ECCE Speaker Series and University of Illinois Extension.

## G. Jackson

G. Jackson has been an enthusiastic member of the SBS and has been serving his term as President this year. Due to a family situation, he will be spending a great deal of time in Texas helping his parents. It is with great reluctance that he felt the need to resign as President. We wish G. and his family all the best.

## Future Tense

### Monday June 9 - SBS March Meeting at Washington Park Botanical Garden - 7:00 pm

Manish Sumant will present a program on Azalea Care & Development. Also, bring a tree to work on. Remember we are focusing on finish styling so bring one of your best specimens to share and refine.

## Upcoming 2014 SBS Meetings

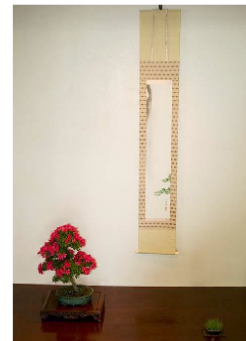
Regular meetings are held at Washington Park Botanical Garden, 1740 W. Fayette Ave. Springfield. IL.

| Meeting Dates                                  | Topics/Activities                          |
|--|--|
| Monday, July 14 <sup>th</sup><br>7:00 p.m.     | Tropicals<br>[Garden Tour to be arranged ] |
| Monday, August 11 <sup>th</sup><br>7:00 p.m.   | Display – companion plant, rocks           |
| Monday, September 8 <sup>th</sup><br>7:00 p.m. | TBA  |
| Monday, October 13 <sup>th</sup><br>7:00 p.m.  | TBA  |
| November 10 <sup>th</sup><br>7:00 p.m.         | Planning Meeting for 2015                  |

# Bonsai Events Around the Country 2014

| Date             | Event   |
|------------------|---|
| August 13-17     | 37th Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit<br>Chicago, IL<br>( <a href="http://midwestbonsai.org/">http://midwestbonsai.org/</a> )   |
| September 13-14  | 4th US National Bonsai Exhibit<br>Rochester, NY<br>( <a href="http://www.internationalbonsai.com/">http://www.internationalbonsai.com/</a> )                                |
| October 2-5      | Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association<br>25th Anniversary Celebration<br>Victoria, B.C.<br>( <a href="http://victoriabonsai.bc.ca/">http://victoriabonsai.bc.ca/</a> ) |
| October 11-12    | Carolina Bonsai Expo<br>North Carolina Arboretum<br>Asheville, NC<br>( <a href="http://www.ncarboretum.org/">http://www.ncarboretum.org/</a> )                              |
| October 30-Nov 2 | Bonsai Visions of the West<br>GSBF37<br>Sacramento, CA<br>( <a href="http://gsbfconvention.org/">http://gsbfconvention.org/</a> )   |

## Azaleas



Azaleas from the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, Washington DC

Azaleas and rhododendrons are grown for their striking spring flowers. The relationship between these plants is well summarized by the Missouri Botanic Garden plant guide.

Taxonomically, all azaleas and rhododendrons are classified as belonging to the genus, *Rhododendron*; this is a point of confusion for many people. The name azalea is commonly used to distinguish those plants which lose their leaves at the end of the season (deciduous) and have funnel-shaped flowers with 5 stamens. Rhododendrons, on the other hand, are considered to be larger, evergreen, shrub-type plants with bell-shaped flowers and ten or more stamens. There are exceptions to these rules, for instance many garden azaleas retain their leaves all year long, depending upon where the plant is being grown and the climate conditions.

References:

[Growing Azaleas and Rhododendrons](#) - an excellent guide from the University of Missouri

[Rhododendrons and Azaleas](#) - Missouri Botanical Garden

[Azalea Bonsai](#) from New England Bonsai Gardens

[Pruning Azalea Bonsai](#) - Bonsai4Me

[Rhododendron Species Guide](#) - Bonsai4Me

## 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.

June - Early Summer - 82/59

- This is a good month to air layer trees.
- After you remove dead flowers, Rhododendron and Azalea are ready for pruning.
- Wiring stiff deciduous is easier now that sap is flowing. Foliage makes this task more difficult though.
- Continue pruning deciduous and tropicals for shape and to force growth that is more compact.
- All trees will be in full growth mode, so water usage is significantly increased.
- White or 5-Needle Pines: Cut stronger/top candles first, then lower/weaker candles a few weeks later.
- Black or 2-Needle Pines: Cut weak/lower candles first, then strong/top candles a few weeks later.
- You may completely defoliate strong and healthy deciduous trees to produce smaller foliage and ramification. Do not wait any later than June, or the tree's new growth may not harden up enough in time for winter. This technique should not be completed in successive years, as it is stressful on the tree. This technique is usually reserved for maples.

## Administrivia

Your 2014 Officers are:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| President         | – G. Jackson   |
| Vice President    | – Ken Schaal   |
| Treasurer         | – Tom Applebee   |
| Webmaster         | - Manish Sumant  |
| 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](mailto:BonsaiSBS@gmail.com)) or visit our website at <http://www.BonsaiSBS.com/>.