



SPRINGFIELD BONSAI SOCIETY

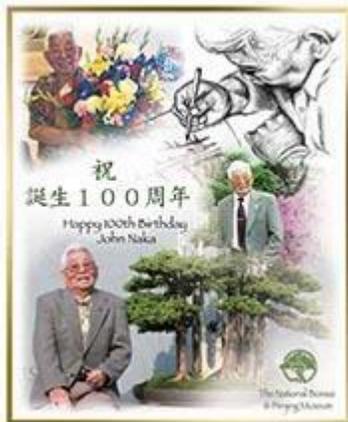
# Palmatum Press

August 2014

## From the Editor's Desk

Our Fall Show and Sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 11 as part of Lincoln Memorial Garden's Fall Festival. We need **everyone** to help by displaying trees, bringing trees and bonsai related materials for sale, and helping setup and talking to visitors. We all need to take advantage of the plant sales and style some trees for the sale. In preparation for the show our August meeting will focus on display and final shaping and wiring. For the August meeting members are encouraged to bring trees ready for display for an informal critique. Also bring accent plants, stands, rocks, etc. Dr. Folse will talk about getting ready and setup for showing. In addition, bring trees needing final shaping and wiring.

Happy 100th Birthday to John Naka. John would have been 100 this August. He has left a legacy of bonsai, including the famous forest planting "Goshin", publications, and pupils including Cheryl Manning who has worked with the Springfield Bonsai Society. You can sign his card for his children and grandchildren at <https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/>.



John Naka Birthday Card



John Naka and Goshin in 2003



Sketch of a Roland Folse tree from "John Naka's Sketchbook"

A reminder that the annual Japanese Festival will be held at the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis on Labor Day weekend, August 30-September 1. This festival features many displays and demonstration of aspects of Japanese culture including bonsai.

## Future Tense

### **Monday August 11 - SBS March Meeting at Washington Park Botanical Garden - 7:00 pm**

Dr. Folse will discuss how to prepare your bonsai for the fall show and ways to display bonsai including stands, stones, and accent plants. Bring trees to refine for the show or those ready for display for an informal critique. Also bring accent plants, stands, rocks, etc. as examples for the group.

## Upcoming 2014 SBS Meetings

Regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at Washington Park Botanical Garden, 1740 W. Fayette Ave. Springfield. IL.

Meeting Dates	Topics/Activities
Monday, August 11 <sup>th</sup>	Display – companion plant, rocks
Monday, September 8 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
Saturday, October 11	Fall Show Lincoln Memorial Garden Fall Festival
Monday, October 13 <sup>th</sup>	TBA
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Meeting for 2015

## Bonsai Events Around the Country 2014

Date	Event	Website
August 2-3	Prairie State Bonsai Society Show Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL	<a href="http://prairiestatebonsai.com/">http://prairiestatebonsai.com/</a>
August 13-17	37th Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit Chicago, IL	( <a href="http://midwestbonsai.org/">http://midwestbonsai.org/</a> )

August 30 - September 1	Japanese Festival Missouri Botanical Garden St. Louis, MO	( <a href="http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/things-to-do/events/signature-events/japanese-festival.aspx">http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/things-to-do/events/signature-events/japanese-festival.aspx</a> )
September 13-14	4th US National Bonsai Exhibit Rochester, NY	( <a href="http://www.internationalbonsai.com/">http://www.internationalbonsai.com/</a> )
October 2-5	Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association 25th Anniversary Celebration Victoria, B.C.	( <a href="http://victoriabonsai.bc.ca/">http://victoriabonsai.bc.ca/</a> )
October 11-12	Carolina Bonsai Expo North Carolina Arboretum Asheville, NC	( <a href="http://www.ncarboretum.org/">http://www.ncarboretum.org/</a> )
October 30-Nov 2	Bonsai Visions of the West GSBF37 Sacramento, CA	( <a href="http://gsbfconvention.org/">http://gsbfconvention.org/</a> )

## Past Tense

### Tropical Bonsai

The July meeting featured a presentation on tropical bonsai by Dick Adorjan and Gary Trammell. They discussed some examples of tropical species suitable for bonsai and care of these plants. Dick Adorjan prepared this handout for tropical bonsai care.

### **Tropical Bonsai Winter Care**

Tropical bonsai winter care can only mean one thing - bringing your trees indoors. You will also need to understand what temperature ranges your tropical can and cannot be exposed to in order to prevent damage. As an example, a Brazilian Rain Tree or a Fukien Tea has a less tolerant temperature range than a Ficus.

Tropical bonsai do not go dormant. They do, however, need a period of rest during the fall and winter months as they store energy for spring and summer growth. In nature this happens naturally as the rain amount lessens and the weather cools triggering the natural process compared to spring and summer growth. As a general rule, when the temperature reaches 60 degrees, bring your tropical trees indoors. Most bonsai seem to do fine at about 70 to 72 degrees.

Even with care, the stress of moving the trees indoors may cause them to drop some leaves.

**Watering:** Figuring out how often to water will depend on what type of soil mix your plant is potted in and size of the pot. Remember, dry air and the lack of humidity in a home with forced air heating increase the need to water trees. A bonsai tray will aid in providing humidity, but make sure the pot does not sit in water. Bonsai sitting in water will kill the tree. Plants with large leaves and masses of leaves require watering more often because water is lost through leaf transpiration.

One way to test for soil moisture is to stick your finger into the soil a half-inch deep. If the soil feels dry at 1/4 to 1/2 inch down, the plant needs water. In small pots, this is hard to do, so if you can get wood coffee stirrers (such as at Starbucks) these can be used to test for moisture. Insert in soil for 30 seconds and check.

**Lighting:** Lighting is extremely important. Insufficient lighting will result in weak foliage and eventually a sickly plant that will not survive. Trees should be placed in a bright sunny window or use fluorescent lights. Also, moving air really helps keep the tree healthy by increasing cell growth. If you have a bright west or south facing window, the tree needs time to transition to that light condition. Sun coming in through glass can burn leaves and new small growth.

**Fertilizing:** Fertilize during the spring and summer months, but lower the strength or increase the time between fertilization after bringing indoors. You can use a dilute solution of Miracle-Gro or slow release fertilizer with low nitrogen, such as 2-10-10.

**Pest Control:** Indoor bonsai are more prone to pest problems than deciduous trees. Scale and aphids are two of the most common problems. You can spray them with Neem oil or insecticidal soap before bringing indoors. Trees should be monitored closely during the winter months. I have started using a systemic insecticide which contains the chemical Imidacloprid which really works well on aphids. If you catch the problem soon enough, you can shower the plants with warm water followed by several treatments of insecticidal soap.

Here is a link for bonsai pests -- <http://www.bonsaimary.com/plant-pests.html>

**Cleanliness:** Always remove dead leaves from the tree and particularly from the top of soil. I use a small dishpan in the kitchen sink and shower down the foliage periodically. This helps to get rid of pests. The dishpan keeps your wife from getting angry at you for fouling the sink.

### **[Davidsan's Japanese Maples](#)**

Several of us made a field trip to Davidsan's Japanese Maples Nursery, 919 S. Farmingdale Road, New Berlin (<http://www.davidsansjapanesemaples.com/>). David and Gale Myers have an amazing collection of Japanese maples and statuary.



## Bonsai Display for a Show

When we have a public show we want our trees to look their best. Here are a few pointers to consider.

- Selection - pick your best trees for display. Ones that have been styled, potted appropriately, and are healthy
- Foliage - remove foliage that is discolored or has pest damage.
- Branches - any wiring should be neat and not distracting
- Soil - remove weeds and other debris from your soil. You may use moss or decorative rock to cover the soil. A stone may be used to hide a defect in the roots or trunk.
- Pot - the pot should be cleaned to remove dirt and mineral deposits. Some people use olive or mineral oil to enhance the appearance of the pot.
- Stand - Bonsai are usually displayed on a stand to provide a better viewing height or to separate it visually from the table. Stands may be wooden tables, a mat of bamboo or reeds, or a slab of wood.
- Accents - a small plant, stone (suiseki), scroll, or figurine is often displayed next to bonsai. The accent should compliment the bonsai and not distract from the tree, the star of the show. Some of the references below provide pictures of accents for your inspiration. Accent plants should be appropriate for the season and should harmonize with the tree.

References:

Accent Plants for Bonsai

[http://www.yamadori-bonsai.info/Putz\\_Beistell\\_Engl.html](http://www.yamadori-bonsai.info/Putz_Beistell_Engl.html)

Bonsai Accent Plants

<http://www.bonsaiempire.com/origin/related-arts/accent-plants>

Bonsai Accents

<http://bonsaitonight.com/tag/accent-plants/>

Bonsai Accents

<http://crataegus.com/tag/bonsai-accent/>

Bonsai Display: A Western Viewpoint

<http://www.bonsailearningcenter.com/IMAGES/PDF%20Files/Displayawesternviewpoint.pdf>

Displaying Your Bonsai

<http://www.bonsaiprimer.com/display/display.html>

Hostas as Accent Plants

<http://www.bonsai4me.com/AdvTech/AThostaaccentplants.htm>

Kokedama Accents

<http://magicalbonsaiaccents.wordpress.com/categories/kokedama-accents/>

Preparing Your Bonsai for a Show

<http://www.buffalobonsaisociety.com/PrepareForShow.html>

Preparing Your Bonsai Trees for Display

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/Notes/Preparing%20Your%20Bonsai%20Trees%20for%20Display.pdf>

## 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.

August - Late Summer - 84/62

- Continue pruning, but watch for buds and think about next year's growth.
- Use lime-sulfur on jin and deadwood in summer. The heat and sun helps it absorb into the wood, and the sunlight bleaches it quickly.
- Most deciduous and pines have a semi-dormant period in the extreme heat of summer. Be cautious of watering.
- August-September is the ideal time for repotting tropical trees.
- You may start lowering the Nitrogen content of your fertilizer to slow foliar growth in preparation for fall and winter.

## Administrivia

Your 2014 Officers are:

President	– Ken Schaal
Vice President	–
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/>.