



SPRINGFIELD BONSAI SOCIETY

Palmatum Press

June 2013

From the Editor's Desk



We just returned from a vacation in Kauai. We were struck by the diverse scenery and I took the opportunity to take lots of photographs. I found this inspiration tree at Kealia Beach. In my travels I always take the opportunity to study trees in nature as an inspiration for my bonsai.

A recent article in *Bonsai & Stone Appreciation* (52(2) 2013) entitled "Appreciation Beauty in a Modern World" discussed the Japanese concept of wabi sabi in natural and human creations. The essence of wabi sabi is that all things are transient - nothing lasts forever, nothing is perfect, and nothing is finished. This sounds like my bonsai. Wabi sabi is the feeling we have when observing something simple, yet complex, an object that has the patina and imperfections of time. The emotions we have when we find an interesting tree or visit a mature garden or see fine bonsai invoke this concept.

On June 8, Mike Sudholt will present a bonsai demonstration at the Prairie Art Alliance Gallery Opening. Since several of our members will be out-of-town that weekend we will not do a spring show at the Gallery this year.

Future Tense

Monday June 10- SBS March Meeting at Washington Park Botanical Garden - 7:00 pm

Dr. Folsie will present a program on care of pines including debudding and needle pruning. BYOT to work on.

Thursday and Friday June 20-21 Peter Hatch Lectures on Jefferson's Gardens at Monticello

These programs are not directly bonsai related but should be of interest to those of us who love gardens.

Peter J. Hatch is a professional gardener and historian with 38 years experience in the restoration, care, and interpretation of historic landscapes. A celebrated author of four books on the gardens of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, where he served as Director of Gardens and Grounds for 35 years, Hatch has lectured in 36 states on Jefferson and the history of garden plants. Presently, he gardens and botanizes from his home on Lickinghole Creek in Crozet, Virginia, travels extensively to promote his latest work, *'A Rich Spot of Earth': Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden at Monticello*, and consults on the installation and maintenance of both public gardens and private estate landscapes.

Peter will present "**Thomas Jefferson, Gardener**" on Thursday, June 20, at 6 pm at University of Illinois (UIS) Springfield, Brookens Auditorium, Springfield, IL. The presentation is free and is part of the UIS ECCE Speaker Series. Seating for this presentation is first come, first served. Following the presentation, Peter will sign copies of his latest book, *A Rich Spot of Earth*. Books will be available for purchase.

Thomas Jefferson wrote that "the greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture." Peter will discuss the various themes that defined his passion for gardening and the natural world: Monticello was an experimental garden laboratory. He will also review the restorations of Monticello's flower, fruit, and vegetable gardens, as well as the Grove or ornamental forest, over the last 50 years. Finally Peter will show how the fruits, flowers, and vegetables Jefferson grew at Monticello have evolved over the last two centuries.

On Friday, June 21, Peter will discuss his book, *'A Rich Spot of Earth': Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden at Monticello*. This presentation will be held at 5:30 pm at Illinois Executive Mansion, Springfield, IL. Registration will begin at 4:45 pm. Cost is \$10 and includes hors d'oeuvre and presentation. Advanced registration is required by visiting the University of Illinois Extension Logan-Menard-Sangamon website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/lms/> .

Thomas Jefferson believed that useful plants could transform the culture of the young United States, and Monticello's 1,000-foot-long, terraced vegetable garden was an Ellis Island of new and unusual vegetable novelties from the around the globe. Jefferson wrote that he ate meat only as a condiment to his meals, and this revolutionary garden inspired a revolutionary cuisine in the kitchen at Monticello. Restored in 1984, the garden and the Jefferson legacy continue to inspire the farm to table movement today.

Presentations are sponsored by University of Illinois at Springfield ECCE Speaker Series, University of Illinois Extension and Illinois Executive Mansion.

Upcoming SBS Meetings

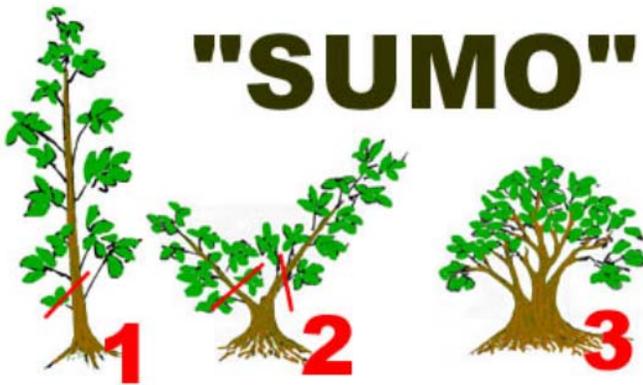
Meeting Dates	Topics/Activities
Monday July 8	Braided Bonsai Workshop
Monday August 12	Finish Wiring for Display Trees
Monday September 9	Fall Show Preparation
Saturday October 12	Fall Show Lincoln Memorial Garden
Monday October 14	TBA
Monday November 11	Dessert and Planning Meeting for 2014

Bonsai Events Around the Country

Date	Event
June 7-9	International Bonsai Colloquium Rochester, NY http://www.internationalbonsai.com/
August 16-18	36th. Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit Chicago Botanical Garden http://www.midwestbonsai.org/augustshow.html
September 12-15	For the Love of Bonsai The American Bonsai Society & Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society Saratoga Springs, NY http://loveofbonsai.com/
	Artisans Cup of Oregon Bonsai Exhibit Portland, OR http://artisanscupofportland.com/ This show scheduled for October has been rescheduled for September 26-28, 2015.
November 2-3	Wigert's Bonsai Nursery Open House North Fort Myers, FL http://wigertsbonsai.com/

Sumo Bonsai

My trip to Hawaii caused me to reflect on the sumo style of bonsai popularized by David Fukumoto. Sumo bonsai have "very heavy stout trunks, strong low branches, and great trunk taper. Often there are multiple trunks, an excessive number of branches, and exceptional vigorous growth." These trees are often shohin bonsai. I have a few trees I am training in this style and I encourage you to experiment when the opportunity arises.



David Fukumoto's graphic for sumo training.



Erik Wigert's sumo bougainvillea

References:

Fuku-Bonsai "Sumo" Training (<http://www.fukubonsai.com/4a6.html>)

Erik and Glen talk about extreme taper: Sumo fig pre-bonsai (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dmbiwx4X57k>)

International Bonsai Academy with Walter Pall - Sumo Maple (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l751ECWSiDQ>)

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 2012 Officers are:

President	– G. Jackson
Vice President	–
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/>.