



SPRINGFIELD BONSAI SOCIETY

# Palmatum Press

October 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. This is a unique opportunity to share our interests with the community and to acquire some new plant material. We need **everyone** to help by displaying trees, bringing trees and bonsai related materials for sale, and helping setup and talking to visitors. Even if you don't have a tree to display we need your help supervising our display, assisting with sales and promoting our hobby with guests. We will setup at 8:00 am and the festival is over at 4:00 pm. Food and beverages will be available. Also participants get into the event free. For directions and more information about Lincoln Memorial Garden check out their website at <http://www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org/>.

Our October meeting on Monday October 13 will follow our show. After our show we will be inspired by the work of other members of the Springfield Bonsai Society and be looking for ideas to develop the material we acquire at the sale. To give us some ideas we will show and discuss the Colin Lewis video: *Bonsai Design Techniques*. As always, bring trees to work on and share ideas with others. This would be a good time to discuss winter care for our trees.

## Future Tense

**Monday October 13 - SBS March Meeting at Washington Park Botanical Garden - 7:00 pm**

"Bonsai Design Techniques" video and discussion. Bring material to work on.



Sargent Juniper Rock Planting from Colin Lewis' Collection.

This tree won the **Ho Yoku Award** for Finest Innovative Bonsai Design at the 2014 4<sup>th</sup> U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition

# 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
Saturday, October 11	Fall Show Lincoln Memorial Garden Fall Festival
Monday, October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Bonsai Design Techniques
November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Planning Meeting for 2015

# Bonsai Events Around the Country 2014

Date	Event	Website
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

At our September meeting Gary Trammell showed the online course on wiring by Colin Lewis. This led to a good discussion on wiring techniques. Members worked on trees for the October show and sale.

# Bonsai Fall Care

This article is modified slightly from Ed Hake's column in the Fort Wayne Bonsai Club Newsletter.

After a series of above normal temperatures it looks like we will be returning to fall temperatures soon. Now is the time to start planning on storing your trees for winter.

Start to reduce nitrogen this month, eliminating it completely by the last week. This will reduce the risk of forcing new growth that will remain tender and may be injured by frost. Continue to apply phosphorus and potassium to promote the growth of roots and trunks, strengthen the plant against disease and frosts, promote back-budding, and encourage the development of flowers and fruit, as well as hardening off late growth before winter, ie: a fertilizer with the numbers 0-10-10.

Watch closely trees that are still wired. In autumn trunks and branches will thicken, so you must check the wires and remove any wire that is too tight as the bark can easily be disfigured. Many deciduous branches will already be set. Remove wire as needed by cutting with wire cutters along the curves, it is not worth breaking a branch to try to save some wire by unwinding it.

Bonsai should be checked often for signs of pests and diseases. Since bonsai are small and compact, it doesn't take long for a problem to spread over the whole tree. Treat immediately. A systemic insecticide may be applied to tropicals that will be moved indoors. The active ingredient should be imidacloprid.

Prune only if really necessary. Pruning now may encourage new growth which will not harden off before winter. This becomes progressively less necessary this month, with the exception of junipers which may continue to grow for awhile yet. Trim where necessary to maintain the desired shape of the tree.

Continue to rotate trees at least once a week so that all sides receive the strongest light available. Toward the middle to the end of September start to "harden off" indoor bonsai that have been kept outdoors by gradually moving them to a location with less light. Continue to do this over the next two weeks to condition them for movement indoors. Many of you have heard me say, "Start to bring your tropical bonsai indoors mid to late September, before you close all the doors and windows, before the furnace starts to kick on at night and the humidity inside drops."

Autumn is a good time for repotting one type of pine--mugho. I was going to start at the end of August but I think it has been still too warm. Rapidly growing trees such as and willow can stand a second repotting. Nursery stock can be root pruned, but do not cut back as much as when root pruning in the early spring. The roots will not have as much time to adjust before cold weather comes.

It is about time to begin hardening-off your trees for the cold months ahead, and preparing a safe place to keep them. For the most part you should not attempt collecting, air-layering or drastic pruning at this time of year.

Please note that fertilization must be handled with sensitivity, or else you risk pushing too much new growth that will not harden-off sufficiently before the cold weather sets in. If your fertilizer blocks have not completely broken down, now is the time to take what is left off. Those pieces can be crumbled into your tub of soil. Following the needs of outdoor plantings, it can be said that deciduous trees may benefit from a low-nitrogen (that is, higher in potassium and phosphorous) feeding after the leaves have fallen but prior to November 1; this can promote bud formation and strengthen the trunk and root system for winter. Similarly, evergreens may be fed a low-nitrogen fertilizer, until the end of October. Most reference books refer to a single Autumn feeding.

Many needed evergreens are most successfully wire-trained during the autumn months, but most sources say wait until October or November.

Start planning how and where you will store your trees for the winter.

Here are three points:

1. Continue to look for pests and fungal diseases. Overnight humidity begins to increase this month, which increases risk of unwanted pests and diseases. Slugs are active and are drawn to organic fertilizers.
2. Removing yellowing needles from pine trees. White pines tend to shed old growth before black pines.
3. Start to remove fallen leaves from the soil surface to prevent fungal problems.

## 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 - 65/43

- 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 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/>.