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AT THE HOME OF DAVID CONLIN

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Please be aware that our club's newsletters are now archived on-line -- Google (and Bookmark!) "Pikes Peak Bonsai" and on the left side click on "Newsletter". While there, also check out the link to see some 70 other Bonsai Club Newsletters On-line from around the world.

NEXT MONTH'S MEETING: SEPTEMBER 12TH

- At the usual place, Colorado Springs Senior Center

 ur final away-from-home meeting for this year was held at the home of our President, David Conlin.

As most of you know, David comes to us from Pittsburgh, PA where he was an avid collector and student of Bonsai. But unfortunately he had to sacrifice many of the trees in his collection because he knew they would not make the trip to Colorado. But that has not stopped him from having a very nice collection. Most of his trees are mature Bonsai, as you can see from the photos.

After the arrival of sixteen members and two guests, David gave us the tour on his home in Manitou Springs. Perched on a small hillside, you would think that you would have no room for eighteen people, but David and his wife did a beautiful job of landscaping the front of the property. Complete with a Bonsai display area, a gas fireplace and a sun awning. We all fit quite comfortably around the fireplace.

A quick meeting was held where we took a vote on the new club logo. There should be a final version ready for display at our next meeting.

Charlie Richards gave us our treasurer's report; we have \$1,259.00 in checking and \$36.40 in savings. After an auction was held on one of Dave's ponderosa, we man-



aged to up our kitty by \$40.00 and several items were donated by members for the raffle, to include a Bush Cherry, a Juniper and a clump of elms from Matt McFarland, a couple pots of sedum from Claudia Eley and I donated one of my new stands. All together our raffle brought in the most ever, \$67!!

Just a little note here, since we started doing the raffles, we have brought in close to \$300. That will be more than enough to pay for the new club banner!! So don't forget, if you have any straggler trees that you just don't know what to do with, bring them to the next meeting, we will find a new home for them!!



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We had several spotlights on member's trees this month. Mary Jane brought a Mugo Pine to be worked on and Ross had a ponderosa that he did a presentation on how to trim that he learned from visiting the Denver Club the previous month.



OLDEST BONSAI TREES



This Japanese White pine began as a bonsai in 1626. It was presented by Masaru Yamaki in celebration of the bicentennial of the U.S.A. in 1976.

SEPTEMBER'S MEETING

Next month's meeting, on the 12th of September, we will have a lot to go over concerning our show on the 26th and 27th. So please be sure to make it to this meeting, your input is very valuable, not to mention your help come show time.



Bonsai Show of 2008



This magnificent trident maple was presented by Princess Takamasu of the Imperial Household. It dates from 1880.

DISPLAYING BONSAI IN PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

With our upcoming show, I thought it appropriate to do an article on how to prepare your tree for the show. I downloaded this article moons ago from the internet, long before I become old and wise enough to remember to get sources!! I apologize for not knowing the source. Whoever you are, forgive me!

Exhibiting bonsai trees in public is often the culmination of many years of training and can be a very proud and satisfying experience for the exhibitor. The venue may be in a flower tent at a local horticultural show, a society display staged in a school hall or at a national exhibition in a large venue. It provides the chance to encourage and educate other enthusiasts, whilst also promoting the hobby. Take the time to study other trees at eye level.

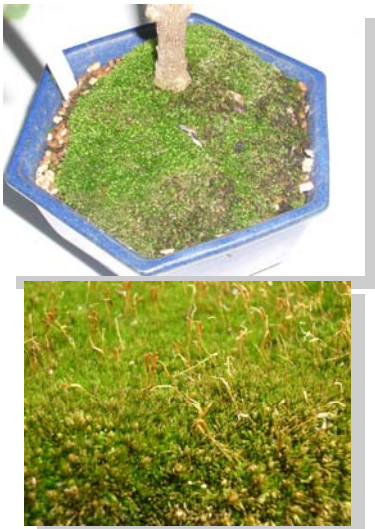
What makes them a successful or poor bonsai? What techniques have been used in their training? Where possible, bonsai should be displayed against a plain background, untextured and neutral in color. To display bonsai at their absolute best requires meticulous preparation prior to the exhibition.

Important points to remember when displaying bonsai:

- N Ensure that the soil surface is free from weeds, dead leaves and other debris. Remove the top centimeter of soil and replace with finely sieved Japanese Akadama clay or Terface. The soil should be level with the sides of the pot, mounding up slightly to the buttress.
- N Use a toothbrush to clean off unsightly algae and surface lichens from trunks and branches. Show the buttress to its best advantage by ensuring that it is fully exposed, together with all surface roots. Trim any visible root hairs that may be sticking up out of the soil.



- N Underplant with a selection of moss, forming a green 'island' around the base of the tree, but not completely covering the soil. This will create a natural landscaped feeling. Use a variety of different size moss to emulate the many colors and contours of plants that grow underneath trees in the wild, trimming off moss seeds with scissors. Accentuate the surface roots by carefully positioning moss on either side of some roots and if possible, cover any ugly roots that spoil the overall appearance.



- N Remove any unnecessary wires, ties and clamps. Remaining wire should be very neat and discreet. Avoid silver wire unless the tree is to be exhibited in an educational 'trees in training' section. Make sure that the tree is completely stable in its pot and that any tying wires are not visible.
- N The bonsai must always be in excellent health and free from pests and diseases. Feed several weeks before so that the foliage is a healthy green color and showing no signs of nutrient deficiency.
- N Clean the pot with water and when dry, carefully wipe unglazed or dull pots with a small amount of oil to improve the color. A very fine oil such as wood-scratch remover is ideal, as this is unlikely to attract dust. This should be done at least two days before the exhibition so that it has time to soak in.
- N Define foliage masses by trimming

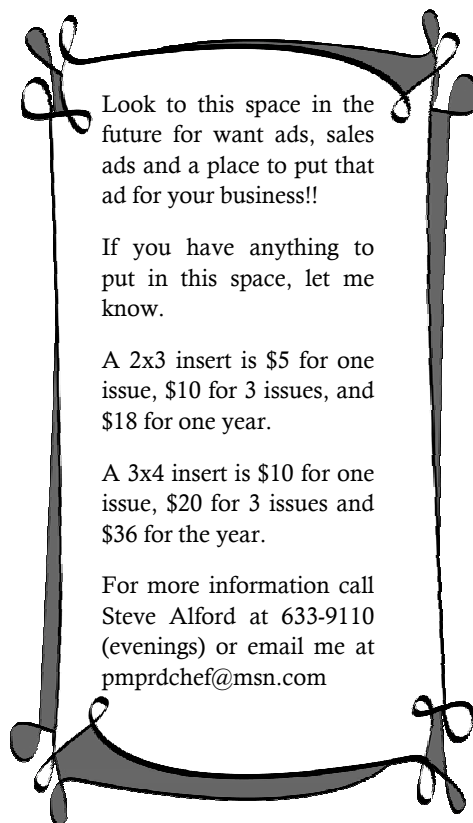
downward growth. For pines, cedars and larches, remove any downward pointing needles by carefully pulling them out. Groom branches by pruning overgrown shoots to shape and thin growth - ideally most foliage pads should be made up from smaller masses. Carry out any leaf pruning at least six weeks before the exhibition, so that the tree has fully leafed out and the foliage is not sparse. However, do not carry out this procedure any later than early summer. Remove any damaged, oversized or dead leaves from the bonsai and protect delicate trees from strong winds and scorching sunshine, so that leaves remain in good condition.

- N Where possible, display the tree on a suitable wooden bonsai stand. Powerful trees are well suited to strong, solid tables and more informal trees favor slightly delicate stands. Conifers are best complemented with dark wood stands and deciduous trees look better when a lighter shade of wood is used. Other alternative stands which can be effective include a 'slice' of polished tree trunk, a piece of stained wood, natural slate, woven bamboo/raffia matting or even painted polystyrene blocks. Well matched with the bonsai, a stand helps to complete the picture.
- N Do not use ornaments, such as figures or animals. A good bonsai should not need these to provide the illusion of scale and they can be distracting, taking focus away from the actual tree.
- N If possible, select an appropriate accent planting or rock that reflects the character and mood of the tree. It is important that these are not overpowering and do not detract from the bonsai being exhibited. A tall literati pine tree would be enhanced by a small pot of tall reeds, whereas a much thicker trunked, heavily barked pine would look good next to a rough piece of stone displayed in a shallow suiban filled with fine sand or water.
- N Over exhibiting can be very damaging, as the environment, differing temperatures and build up of dust may prove stressful for the bonsai. After the exhibition, water well from above to wash the leaves thoroughly.



Japanese Tansu Style Bonsai Tool Chest

- Handcrafted from solid hardwoods with dovetail construction.
- Two deep drawers to store Bonsai tools.
- Attached 10" turntable.
- Two solid doors with carved Bonsai trees.
- Spacious cabinet interior with rod to hang Bonsai wire. Plenty of room for larger tools and even a few Bonsai Pots.
- Wire protrudes through holes in back for easy dispensing.
- All for \$195 (wire not included).
- Contact Steven Alford — 719-633-9110
- **Also ask to see my new Bonsai Stands!!**



Look to this space in the future for want ads, sales ads and a place to put that ad for your business!!

If you have anything to put in this space, let me know.

A 2x3 insert is \$5 for one issue, \$10 for 3 issues, and \$18 for one year.

A 3x4 insert is \$10 for one issue, \$20 for 3 issues and \$36 for the year.

For more information call Steve Alford at 633-9110 (evenings) or email me at pmprdcchef@msn.com

Pikes Peak Bonsai Society

<http://www.phoenixbonsai.com/PikesPeakBonsai.html>

Pikes Peak Bonsai Society
Colorado Springs Senior Center
1514 N. Hancock Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
Phone: 719-385-5933



CLUB MEETINGS

Non-members and those curious about this art/hobby are always welcome at no obligation!

10 a.m. on the Second Saturday of each month, usually at the **Senior Center** (Ceramics Room),

1514 N. Hancock Ave. (corner of Camarillo at the top of Hancock, 1/3 mile north of Uintah St.), just northeast of downtown Colorado Springs.

(719) 385-5933