

Columbus Bonsai Society

August 2021 Newsletter

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Columbus Bonsai Society

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Meetings start at 2pm unless otherwise noted



COLUMBUS

BONSAI

SOCIETY

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What's up for Sunday, August 15.

Our Club Picnic and Member Sale begins at **12 noon** at Oakland Nursery on 1156 Oakland Park Ave, Columbus, OH 43224. The general location is between Karl Road and I-71. Google Maps will get you there. If you don't know where it is.

The club will provide protein, buns, and drinks. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share.

There is a sale of member plants – starter material, prebonsai, bonsai that has become extra, and other oddments that are not loved by the current owner. A bonus opportunity to pick up a tree that you don't have at a good price. There are often pots available - I know of at least one member who will have small pots, plus some of us who want to downsize will have larger pots. And of course, Oakland has lots of trees in the rough waiting for you to discover them.

News From the President

Welcome to August! I Hope everyone is having a great summer, but it's coming to an end soon. But that doesn't mean there isn't still a lot of things happy! This Sunday, from 12:00-5:00 our annual Picnic and White Elephant Sale is going on at Oakland Nursery. If you. And, please bring a dish to share, CBS is providing the protein and drinks, as usual!

Don't forget, our Annual Show is happening at Franklin Park Conservatory on September 18 and 19, with setup on the 17th from 3:00-7:00. We need everyone to help out, some have already signed up, but we need more help at all levels, your help is appreciated! Since we didn't have a show last year, this should be well attended. To register your trees, Rich Uhrick has agreed to be our registrar, so please let him know what trees you'll be bringing. Richard Uhrick uhrick.rich@gmail.com

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And in October, Todd Schlafer will be coming to see us, with workshops and a demo, don't miss this one!

So as you can see, there's lots going on in the next few months, so make sure you get involved, we need everyone participating!

Thanks

Jack

CBS Promoting Bonsai at a New Event - the Upper Arlington Labor Day Arts Festival

Dear CBS Members,

Many of you may have already heard of the Upper Arlington Labor Day Arts Festival - I myself walked through the crowd at this outdoor festival of small artists as a kid - but this year will be a different year as it is the first year that CBS will be in attendance as a non-profit organization representing and sharing the art of bonsai! According to UA's coordinator for this event, they typically have 20,000 people walking through ~200 artist booths every year at this event. We plan to engage and possibly inspire those passing eyeballs with a day of bonsai demonstrations and discussion. We have reserved a 10'x10' tent space which we will use for display of a couple mature bonsai and our demonstration. In addition, we plan to have a couple of volunteers on hand to talk with people passing by and hand out promotional information about our club, our upcoming show (which is the following month), and other related local bonsai businesses. If you would like to participate as a volunteer or bring trees for display or demonstration, please fill out this form [here](https://forms.gle/puxTGW1xuBF69AFA9) (linked again at bottom to make sure you can get the link). I'll consider my own trees as the backup for display and demonstration but would love to have others join me!

<https://forms.gle/puxTGW1xuBF69AFA9>

Sincerely,

Ryan Huston

Columbus-area bonsai artist.

Former Dan Robinson apprentice.

Random Thotz

There are two ways to experience August. It's either the slow summer month of tree dormancy – except for this year with cooler temperatures and wetter weather – I'll take it. Or a frenzy of activity that may be totally unrelated to bonsai. That is my reality this year. Major Zoom meetings with several groups. Out of town for the rest of the weekends and then thru Labor Day. I fortunately have reliable watering set up to cover for me. My daughter and grand daughter are going to stay at the house to care for the beasts and my trees.

If you vacation, family members are often the best caretakers as they understand the importance of your trees to you. Just be sure they know

a couple of simple rules that you can set for them. Mine are: Water if it hasn't rained yet today. Look to be sure there aren't any plants on the ground from vermin attack (AKA squirrels). Put them back on the bench and replace lost soil. (I have pots of soil around the yard because I pick up pots almost every day -Have I said I hate squirrels yet?) Give them extra water (I have a free draining soil mix.) I also make sure they know where all the trees are and walk them thru the easiest path to get to all the trees in the yard and deck without tangling the hose. ~Zack

Articles

One of the giants of American bonsai passed away in July. Mary Madison, a Florida grower who came to be so closely identified with one species she was nicknamed "The Buttonwood Queen" died at the age of ninety one .

She grew up helping her dad plant and work in the yard of their home south of Miami, where she first cultivated her love for growing plants. Madison also had a knack for drawing and other art forms, and a former boyfriend who served in Japan after World War II would send her pictures of bonsai. After looking at the pictures, she decided to try tree training for herself.

"The first tree I started on was a buttonwood," Madison said. "I just kept on at it and couldn't stop. I still can't, and I'm 90 years old."

Madison studied with masters Ben Oki and John Naka, Naka pronouncing she had natural talent after seeing a planting of cypress she made that mimicked the Everglades. Active as a teacher and yamadori collector until very recently, Madison was was passionate about the bonsai art as well as helping spread it far and wide.



Mary Madison tends to a bonsai, courtesy of Orlando Bonsai.

A reflection from a workshop weekend with Chase Rosade and Jim Doyle at Nature's Way Nursery ~Kevin Faris

In July, CBS came back from the COVID hiatus with our first live, in person meeting in more than a year. A large, lively crowd gathered in our old stomping grounds, the classrooms at Franklin Park Conservatory for an engaging and fascinating program. The appeal may have had something to do with finally being back at FPC, and at last getting to all be together, but for me at least the appeal was having not one, but two compelling guest artists.

We were joined by Jim Doyle and Chase Rosade. Jim has been with us before, and his low-key, slightly folksy, slightly artsy style seems to fit perfectly with a bonsai workshop. For this visit, we had a two for one special-two guest artists. And I am not sure about other folks, but having Chase Rosade along was more than a big deal. I recall hearing and reading about Mr. Rosade when I got into the hobby 30+ years ago. He was at that time a big name in the art of bonsai and a pioneer, earning a world wide reputation.

A little Background on Jim Doyle: Jim went to college at what is now known as Delaware Valley University for a B.S. in Horticulture and opened Nature's Way Nursery in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1973. He has been practicing the art/study of bonsai full time since 1980 with the help and influence of Chase Rosade. Jim continu

es his push for greater access to the art of bonsai for America by continuing to visit Japan and import pots, trees, tools and other related items.



Jim at the Sunday morning workshop.



Chase at the Sunday morning workshop.

A little background on Chase Rosade. Chase went to College for a degree in Horticulture and has been practicing the art of Bonsai since 1963. He has studied Bonsai in Japan for an extended period of time and when he returned to the U.S. from Japan in 1970, he started his Bonsai studio: Rosade Bonsai Studio located in New Hope, Pennsylvania. He was good friends with some of the pioneers who established American Bonsai such as John Naka and Yuji Yoshimura

Jim and Chase spent a long weekend in Columbus, leading a small group study, a bring your own tree workshop as well as a double headed demo during the regular meeting. That meeting was really special, seeing Jim hold forth on trident maples, while Chase wrestled with a big bushy juniper. Jim's material was in proper bonsai pots and required some detail work, and he explained maple style and husbandry as he went along. To say that Chase wrestled with that juniper isn't really an exaggeration, it being almost three feet tall and a similar width.

As the meeting progressed-over the course of two hours or so- that juniper gained a lot of dead wood and lost a fair amount of foliage. It went from being a fairly undistinguished green blob with lots of "potential" to the beginnings of a really attractive bonsai. As this is happening, Jim is bringing several maples from basic good looks into a state of high polish. It was great to see the easy interplay between these experts, as well as the give and take.

Prior to the regular meeting, Chase and Jim lead a bring your own tree workshop. Sessions like this can be an excellent way to learn not just about the tree you brought but about the pieces others have brought in too. There was a great variety of material-a few large old pieces that had "lost their way" and needed some major refinement, collected items needing a firm direction and even a couple of bits of nursery stock fresh from the big box.

I was both pleased and impressed that neither artist shied away from any plant, or said it wasn't suitable or ready for training. They found the merit in every piece of stock. It was a real inspiration to see Chase Rosade, someone who could truly be called a legend, sit down and spend an extended time turning a seemingly undistinguished mugo pine, a piece of stock no different from the hundred other it sat beside at the big box, into a great looking little bonsai, almost ready for a pot! Both Jim and Chase had that attitude as they circulated around the group, giving each tree and each grower personal attention without judgment or reserve, no matter the history of the tree or the experience level of the grower. This egalitarian spirit was refreshing.

One of the trees I brought to the study group was a juniper whip that I've grown out for five or six years, its been wired and trimmed a good bit, and needed to make the jump to real bonsai styling. I had an idea that some branching should be removed and emphasize the verticality of the tree, and when I expressed this idea to Jim, he asked for permission to spend a few minutes alone with the tree. He went so far as to take a three panel display board and set it up to give a clean, uncluttered background to view the tree against. He produced a sketch that I spent the rest of the afternoon molding the tree to follow, and which will guide its future growth. It was a real honor and privilege to get that kind of creative feedback and guidance.

A Style for Consideration : Cascade Bonsai or Kengai By Ken Schultz

I rarely write about a specific bonsai style but this month I was inspired to write about Cascade or Kengai styled bonsai trees. As it turned out, this topic was not only inspired by my own collection but it was also the topic of Bill Valavanis's demo at the Winter Silhouette Show in Kannapolis N.C. on 12/1/18. In general, I avoid creating cascade styled bonsai, but with nearly 200 bonsai, I've discovered that sometimes the creation of Kengai is unavoidable and is dictated by the material. As a result, I now have several cascade bonsai in my collection and when I brought the tropical in for the winter, I have 2 Natal Plum cascades that came in and a Serrisa that I recently turned into cascade. Most commonly *J. chinensis* "Nana procumbens" are found as cascade in a hobbyist's collection. However as I discovered in writing this article there are many species used.

When I styled the Serrisa "Kyoto", I placed the main cascading branch to the front. The 2 Natal Plums have their main branch to the left side of the pot. One has 2 branches and the other 3 down over the side of the pot. I began to wonder, "What is the correct number? And how many branches is acceptable?"

Hopefully, you have all seen the cascade Natal Plum (*Carissa macrocarpa*) in Franklin Park's Tropical Bonsai Collection. Its main branch/trunk is down the front. In checking through my bonsai book collection, I found there is an equal distribution of Cascade images to the right and left side of their pot, but only 20% were shown down the front of the pot. In total, only a few cascade examples appeared in any book, perhaps because they are a difficult style to develop? Also I noticed that many cascades used as examples had no foliage above the bend over the edge of the pot. Also there were only single trunked examples shown. I thought, I know I've seen multiple trunk cascade trees. In fact one year Colin Lewis selected a multiple trunk juniper as "Best in Show" at the Expo in Asheville.

"Cutebonsaitree.com" presents 6 key points in styling cascade style bonsai; these are:

1. The trunk and branches must grow below the edge of the pot.
2. Create curves and twists to create interest.
3. The crown of the tree must be below the pot.
4. Wiring is required; you may need to double wire.
5. Its best if the trunk has a slight "U" shape to create the illusion that's its trying to reach the sun. (They mean towards the crown at the bottom.)
6. Use the front and backspace to maintain depth. A simple technique is to bend the side, so that the viewer can see that the tree is tough and surviving in the severe wild. (Species they suggest are Junipers and Azaleas.)

"The Bonsai Learning Center" (Charlotte, N.C.) reminds their readers to use a tall and heavy pot to counterbalance the visual weight of the tree. They suggest round, square or hexagonal shaped pots. (Discovered I have used all of these.) Matte or glazed, depends on the material used but they recommend that the tree terminate below the bottom of the pot. Their examples were Pines and Junipers.

I felt vindicated when I reached a description of "Single line cascade" and "Double line cascade." I seem to favor the "Double Line Style." Single line are described as an upside down upright and Double Line are created when the #1 branch is used to create the cascade. At the Silhouette Show, Bill Valavanis's Demo was to create a "Double Line Cascade" from a Juniper. The illustration provided on the Bonsai Learning Center's website shows the apex turning directly below the apex, but Valavanis said this isn't correct.... hmmm. The website says this is to create balance, but they hedge by saying, this is not a hard and fast rule.

They note that branch placement in cascade is often at conflict with the norm as the pot is in the way. This results in branches being directed to the front and back. In their care note, they say nutrients may not want to go to the apex; therefore, foliar feeding is necessary. They site Naka and Tomlinson as their information source.

I found a YouTube **by Herron Bonsai that was made by Peter Chan** in the UK, creating a cascade from a *J. comminus* nursery plant. He notes that *J. chinensis* "Nana procumbens" is often used due to availability and price. The video began by removing the plant from its container to expose its lower trunk. Bill Valavanis stated never place the trunk straight up out of your bonsai container unless you're creating a "Formal Upright." Chan states choose a plant with lots of branches to give you a choice. Identify 1 or 2 cascading branches and begin to wire. In the video he uses 2.5mm Al wire. He says, "don't be afraid to prune to make progress." In the video he points out there are 2 or 3 on this tree. He looks for movement and talks about saving branches to create Jin, so he doesn't totally remove them. He comments that he doesn't draw a picture like some, because it forces you to rigidly follow it. He prefers the material to guide him as the bonsai emerges from it. The video show long branches being shortened as he wires them out into shape. His design has the main cascading branch to the right and apex above the bend, using the 1st branch as the cascade. "A Double Line Cascade."

Chan explains pot selection; since the plant is a Juniper he uses a matte reddish pot that is square. His soil mix is peat, orchid bark, pumice and black sand. He selects a flat side as the front. (Valavanis said its OK to use a corner if you need to create the illusion of a wider pot.) His cascading branch only reached ½ way down the side of the pot. (I figured as the plant grows its final length will eventually be below the pot.)

"YouTube Cascade 4 Defining the Pads by Kenet De Bonalt" used a young established juniper cascade in a green glazed square pot which was actively growing as it had brown flower buds on the foliage tips. This video shows detailed pinching and trimming to flatten the pads. Its cascade reached to the bottom right of the pot. He wired some weak branches up into pads until they thicken rather than cutting them off. His lowest tip turns outward away from the upper apex, which agrees with a comment Valavanis made during his demo. In this video the entire top and cascade are to the right of the pot's center, Valavanis said the goal is to achieve a balanced look overall.

In the second segment, the demo is on Semi-Cascade. The lowest branch does NOT go below the bottom of the pot and the tree and directionally sweeps to the right. The material again, is a Juniper in a square pot. However the pot is shorter than a full cascade pot, being about as tall as it is wide. All foliage pads directionally led your eyes away from the pot. Its top was also to the right of the pot and the cascading branch crossed the pot's corner. (I thought an Octagonal pot would have been a better choice.) A key is to create open foliage pads. This

tape showed what I considered to be cascade literati and closed with a series of photographs showing trees suitable for cascade.

I tracked the # of times a species showed up, the shape of the pot and the side the cascade branch went to. On this video, trees were equally divided between right and left, with 20% in the center. There were 9 round pots, 9 Octagonal and 6 square pots. The #1 type of plant was Juniper, #2 was pine followed by Bougainvillea, Ficus, Azalea, Natal Plum, Trident Maple, Forsythia and Wisteria.

Next I read "**gardeningknowledge.com**" on creating cascade bonsai, which provided several bullets:

- Trim away ½ the branches, mostly small branches sprouting from the trunk.
- Wrap 75% of the trunk starting at the base with raffia.
- Afterward secure a thick wire and wrap the trunk: you may add a second layer of raffia to hold the wire in place.
- Now bend the top carefully until you have it below the edge of the pot.
- Wire the branches, removing any that face directly into the side of the pot.

The Austin Bonsai Society also has an article on "Creating a Kengai Bonsai". They recommend they recommend running the raffia to the tip of the tree. (A difficult procedure given trees have more branches as you move to the tip They bend the trunk with 5mm Al wire. (Seems too specific to me.) They also add a covering layer of raffia held in place by fine wire. They added a second 5mm wire 1/4th the length of the trunk. When showing a cascade they say never to use a tall stand with a tall pot. (Maybe they meant not of the same size? Or something that looks unstable?)

In potting a cascade they fill the bottom 1/4th with gravel. (for weight?) Four weeks after potting, they say its OK to place your tree in the sun and begin fertilizing. They caution that allowing the apex to over grow will weaken the cascade, so pinching and pruning is more intense.

Mist only the lower 1/3rd of the cascade at first, then the lower 2/3rds; finally the whole tree. Each step is for 10 days. Foliage feed until the leaves are dripping to keep your apex healthy. Six months after potting, soak your entire cascade in MiracleGro solution for 30 minutes 2Xs/month during the growing season.

In closing, I'd like to add something Valavanis said about the feet on your bonsai pot when you pot up a cascade. He said when you're using a 3 legged pot, he likes to put 2 of the legs in the front to give a feeling of stability.

In my collection I know a few cascades need their apex trimmed back. Now I need to figure out if they mean the top apex (most likely) or the bottom one on single line cascade.

Reprinted from the Dec 2018 newsletter.

Monthly Care for Central Ohio

Work on your tropicals! Repot, leaf prune, style, fertilize. - Basically all the things you are not supposed to do to your main collection. These are plants that thrive in heat and usually high moisture. They are actively growing. Now is the best time to work on them.

All trees: weed, watch for insect pests, weed, look for wild sprouts that would thicken a branch to much, weed. This year with the high humidity, look out for mold and fungus blights. If you cut branches use some spray hand sanitizer on the cutting edges of your tools between trees and after any cut that was on a diseased section. Wipe the sanitizer off the tool with a clean section of paper towel. You can cut back on fertilizer for most trees if they have gone dormant, but JBP and similar pines benefit from fertilizer now.

Found on the Web

Searching for the front of a broom-style zelkova July 23, 2021 by Jonas Dupuich
<https://bonsaitonight.com/2021/07/23/searching-for-the-front-of-a-broom-style-zelkova/> A before, defoliated, and pruned presentation with a discussion of several different possible fronts.

Initial cutback on a coast live oak August 6, 2021 by Jonas Dupuich
<https://bonsaitonight.com/2021/08/06/initial-cutback-on-a-coast-live-oak/> showing an “over grown” coast live oak and the cutback needed along with a 4 week after set of shots and care.

Coming Attractions

The show in the atrium at Franklin Park Conservatory is coming September 18 and 19. Look around for your best trees and select a couple to share. Also consider signing up to work the show. Club members who are working the show get free admission to the event **IF** we have you listed as an assistant and have the list in to Franklin Park staff. Don't expect to walk up at the last minute and claim you are working. They are willing to give us as many assistant passes as we need, but they like prior notice. Note that the show is in the Atruim and not in the downstairs classrooms. The last time we were upstairs was for the All Ohio Show over a decade ago.

Places to assist include:

Show set up, Friday 17 at 3:00 – 6:00 pm

Tree check in Friday 17 at 5:00 pm and Sat 8:00 – 9:00 am

Vendor set up Saturday 18 8 – 9 am

Final Staging Saturday 18, 8:00 – 9:30 am

Docent Saturday 18, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm in several hour shifts. Not on duty the whole time.

Watering and care, Saturday 5:00 pm after the close.

Docent Sunday 19, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm in several hour shifts. Not on duty the whole time.

Vendor take down Sunday 5 – 6 pm

Show teardown/ tree pickup 5 – 7 pm

To sign up for assisting See the FB page at

<https://www.facebook.com/events/364064951249564>

This link may be under construction.

Bonsai Here and Beyond the Outerbelt

As of July 1 all limits are off, so our schedule is back to meetings at Franklin Park on the third Sunday at 2:00 for general meetings, and 10:00 for scheduled workshops. Thanks for your understanding and patience!

There is no plan to Live Stream our in person meetings at this time.

August 15, Noon to 4:00 Club Picnic and member sale at Oakland Nursery. See What's Up for Location.

August 28-29 Knoxville Bonsai Society – 20th Annual Bonsai Expo at Knoxville Botanical Gardens with guest artist Bjorn Bjoholm (workshop sold out already.)

September Wildwood Gardens, guest artist Pauline Muth, from NY (10-5 pm)

20% off sale on bonsai trees 14488 Rock Creek Road, Chardon, OH, 44024. Phone 440-749-4252 Please see the website for details.

- September 11-12 7th National Bonsai Show and Exhibition. Rochester, NY
- September 17-19 Club Show in the Atrium at Franklin Park Conservatory
September 17 Afternoon – set up and Tree drop off
September 18-19 Public Show
September 19 After the show: take down and tree retrieval
- October 17 Guest Artist Todd Schlafer
- November 21 Club elections, and program TBD
- December 1 Last chance to renew at this year's rate of \$25, tomorrow the new rate of \$35 kicks in for individuals, \$40 for families.
- December TBD No Meeting, Holiday Dinner
- May 27-30 2022 Brussels Bonsai Rendezvous and Memphis Bonsai Society coordination of the next ABS Learning Seminars. Shuttles will run the entire weekend. This is still in the early planning stages and information may change.

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Membership Registration

Please fill out all information in the form. Including the address. If you want a club member to give you a ride, pick up and deliver your tree to the show, or water your trees while you are on vacation, we need your address to match you up with someone close by. The same goes for people willing to provide these services. In any case we must have your correct email for you to receive your newsletter. We get several people at the meetings each year wanting to know why they don't get the newsletter. Failure to provide a correct email is almost always the answer, and if you don't give us your phone or address, we can't contact you to ask why its bouncing back to us.



Columbus Bonsai Society Membership Registration

Individual: \$25 ☐ Family: \$35 ☐ Date: _____
NEW ☐
Renewal: ☐ No longer a member ☐

Name:

Email:

@

Phone: - -

Address:
(Optional)

City, State, Zip

If Family Membership please list other Members: _____

Payment can be made by check or cash at the meetings, PayPal Friends, or mailed to:

Columbus Bonsai Society
PO Box. 297741
Columbus, OH 43229

Electronic Payments with PayPal - Friends and Family made to ColumbusBonsai@gmail.com.
You will need to have or create a PayPal account linked to either a credit card or your bank account.

Please include your phone number! I got a new member with no email or phone number. And we don't do dead trees and ink.