

Columbus Bonsai Society

September 2021 Newsletter
Vol. 51, No. 9

Columbus Bonsai Society
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Meetings start at 2pm unless otherwise noted



COLUMBUS
BONSAI
SOCIETY

What's up for July 17-19

It's show time! And all members are invited to participate. Even if you don't have a tree that you think is worth sharing, you can be a docent, answer questions, make sure people are not touching the displays, help a vendor, and generally be a presence to help people understand our passion.

The Columbus Bonsai Society annual show for 2021 is a mere 8 DAYS away.

At this time Tree registration is very low. There is space for your tree - sign up now! There are currently only 26 trees registered. The club usually has last minute registrations, but this is ridiculous.

Consider showing a tree this year. CBS tries to balance the need to make a good looking show with wide membership participation. Every club member has the right to show.

What to consider when picking a show tree;

If you've shown it before, perhaps choose another plant.

Is the plant healthy and looking good ?

Is the plant "yours" if recently acquired, have you done anything that shows your imprint?

Avoid plastic pots. Wire is acceptable if neat and unobtrusive.

Never shown before? Take the plunge!

We are encouraging members to pick good trees. We will make room for as many as possible, but due to many factors, some trees may not be shown.

See the article on Show Preparation for more details of things to do and ways to improve your display.

Questions? Ask this board member!!!! mpasserrello@rocketmail.com

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Submit info on trees to show to Show Registrar Rich Urick at:
uhrick.richard@gmail.com

Include this info:

Common name and latin name (if known) of tree.

Age of tree/length of training (if known, age guesses are called 'approximately'.

Approximate size- L x W x H so show chairs can work out spacing.

Do you have display furniture like stands, scrolls etc you will use?

Sometimes an unusual fact about the tree can be interesting, collected from ____, significant or interesting source, rare cultivar, etc.

**WE REALLY WANT TO AVOID ANY WALK IN REGISTRATIONS,
PLEASE EMAIL RICH BY 6:00pm THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH.**

Speaking of the show-due to COVID protocols Franklin Park Conservatory is requiring everyone who enters the building to have a paid admission ticket. This helps them keep everyone-us and our guests-safer.

This is a change from previous years, when the CBS show was free admission. We plan to get back to that model next year, but for 2021 it makes sense to work with our partners at FPC so we have a safe event. It's the only way we can have a show this year, so let's do our part!

If you have guests and friends coming, remind them that FPC members always get in free. It may be a good time to get a membership CBS members will get in to work the show at no cost, with identification: your club name badge, a club shirt or your CBS membership card.

Check your wallet now. If you have not received a current membership card, reach out to club Treasurer Wendy Mizanin at wendymiz1@att.net

See you at the Show!

CBS Vice President
Mark Passerello

Remember that Masks are required in Columbus. FPC will enforce this.

News From the President

Happy September!

Hope everyone had a great Labor Day Weekend and got some rest, because CBS is going to be very busy for the next 2 weeks! Our 1st show since 2019 happens next weekend at Franklin Park Conservatory, set up is 3-7 on Friday the 17th and the actual Show is 7-5 on Saturday, 10-5 on Sunday. Saturday's early start is to give us a last minute finish up. A number of members have already volunteered to help, but we can always use more help, it makes things go smoother and faster, so if you can, please join in!

Also, while we're at it, it's not too late to register your tree(s) for display. Rich does a great job as our Registrar, so please follow his suggestions and register today!

We have a great lineup of Vendors bringing lots of good stuff to tempt you and as a CBS member, you don't have to pay the Conservatory admission. Just wear Club Clothing, your name badge or show your membership card! We're expecting several demos and a lottery, so make sure you don't miss these great events!

So I hope to see you all at the Show next weekend and I hope you can bring at least one tree to show(preregistered please).

Also, since it's September, we also need to offer positions on the Board, anyone with interest please give us your name! We need to have a list for next month's newsletter, so let us know if would like to participate now! Currently there are vacancies for Treasurer, Board Director, Librarian, and Webmaster. Although we take nominations from the floor, If you are interested, please contact an officer to find out particulars about the position.

Thanks

Jack

Random Thotz

I appologize for the late newsletter, and the lack of photos. I have been off the grid from 8/27 to 9/7 camping in BFE and needed some recovery time for heat stroke. I ran out of time to pair pictures with the articles.

Here are Ken Schultz's notes from the Knoxville show workshop with Bjorn Bjornholm.

Most of the workshop participants brought some sort of Juniper to work on. Prior to the date, there was some discussion as to "What trees can I work on in late august to fall? Here is the list of trees members brought to work on:

Colorado Spruce, Scotts Pine, Holly, Virginia Pine, Hindi, Ficus, Japanese Maple, Elm (Cork Bark?) Forsythia, (though it wasn't gotten to.), Boulevard Cypress and 3 kinds of Juniper. Shimpaku was most common, J procumbens Nana and a Common Juniper.

I heard these statements by Bjorn during the workshop.

Colorado Spruce are nice trees, but their growth tends to make them look a bit messy. (The demo tree was also a Colorado Spruce.)

Procumbens - at this time of year focus on keeping the undersides of your foliage pads clean. He issues a combination of pinching and cutting to keep the foliage pads open. If you have 3 branches originating from one place, you probably can remove one of them.

Bjorn was telling one of the club members during the workshop that he should leave the growth tips on the Shimpaku he was styling on 8/28 so that it has more strength during the winter from auxins. Ever hear that before? Bjorn said you should get 3 growth periods from properly cared for Junipers during their growing season.

Scotts Pine - Bjorn says this along with Junipers is one of his favorite species, He says Scotts are particularly good because they back bud. When you bend a branch, buds are likely to form where the bark has cracked during bending.

Holly - Bjorn showed the member that he can chase back growth to a good downward facing bud to make the tree more compact and less pom-pom like.

Virginia Pine, similar back budding traits as Scotts. So flexible you can practically bend a branch into circles.

Japanese Maple - while Tridents can be fully defoliated, it is best to only partially defoliate Japanese maples. Do do this cut off 1 of the 2 leaves in a pair; or fold and cut the leaves in half. To get branching where you need it grow some long new growth on the tree so that it can be thread grafted in the position its needed. On a Trident, you can do this by defoliating the branch.

Hinoki - Trim your foliage both by plucking new from from the edge of their leaves and by trimming growth that grows on top of the older growth. Unless you are lowering the branch and the top may be preferred.

Boulevard Cypress - Bjorn says they are one of the most frustrating to maintain as they don't back bud. Branches end up being wired into shapes to bring the foliage closer to the trunk. Look for good growth inside to make sure its getting enough light to grow, or the tree will sacrifice it.

Air layering continues to cause questions to be asked. I was asked by someone with 20 years experience how late you can air layer?

The answer is - start it early enough so that when you take it off, there is enough time for the tree to establish its roots before the normal 1st frost date. Depending on what you're air layering, it may take 6 weeks to a year or two before its ready to cut off. If you're doing conifers, which take a longer time, you'll need to protect the tree over the winter to keep the roots from being killed from the cold. On a very large elm, I did a round layer that I left on over the winter, the pot was so big, I didn't worry about it freezing. The trunk was 1.75" in diameter. Sufficient time usually means 6-8 weeks before freezing weather. So 3-4 months before cold weather may be enough time for a Maple

Second question was how early can I air layer? To clarify, I was asked - during bud push? Before leaves harden, or after?

You need to wait until the sap is flowing reliably, so after the early spring rise and fall of temperatures. I usually wait until after the leaves have hardened, just because it takes me until June to catch up on repotting. If the tree was repotted, wait until the following year so that it can push enough energy up to your air layer.

Articles

Bonsai Show Tree Preparation Revisited ~ By Ken Schultz

I'm sure everyone has their own procedures to get your bonsai ready for showing, but I thought it might be useful to share my procedure as a cross check. I have highlighted the language you can use as your checklist.

I have a LOT of trees. It is not possible for me to find the "one" perfect tree. The longer I do bonsai and participate in more shows than most, the more critical I am of my own trees. Also, I've learned that bonsai look better if they are prepared in the right month for the work they need, not a day or two before the show. This means that I may begin preparation on pines in January, deciduous in March, with the idea that I may want to show it in the spring or in the fall. I also don't like to show the same trees in the same show in consecutive years, though I do have my favorites. Different trees are showable at different times of the year. Many of my trees still need years of development before they would meet my standards to show.

Some issues that would cause me to pass over a tree are; wrong pot, damaged leaves or needles, the front needs to be adjusted and if I show one tree, then I may not have a stand to use with a tree of similar pot size.

Tree Selection: I go through all my trees, carrying a tablet, though I have a good idea which ones are close to ready, and write down perspective candidates. Then I take them one at a time to the garage where I have a blue backdrop to **photograph them**. I download the pictures and Linda and I pick our favorites. Sometimes I vet the finalists with a small group of my bonsai buddies. It is amazing how a photo will highlight faults that your eye over looks and help with the trimming and branch placement.

Once I've narrowed the field, I **clean up all the foliage pads** on the finalists. **The silhouette should be within the boundaries of the style your tree.** Make sure each pad has sufficient empty space below or above it. As you do this, you may need to **adjust the branch's position** or remove "extra new growth", or sometimes, old growth with has been replaced by the new. The overall shape of the tree's silhouette needs to be within its boundary. Usually the bottom of the branch has gotten "fuzzy" and needs to be trimmed off. This is especially true of junipers. Also the Apex tends to grow faster than the lower branches. **Snip off foliage that has grown below the primary branch of the pad or has grown up from the pad.**

Begin at the bottom branch and work your way to the top. This will ensure your tree's silhouette ends up smaller at the top than the bottom. As you go, **clean off dead needles or leaves**. On maples remove the biggest leaves. If moss has grown up the trunk, use a brass brush to **clean the trunk and nebari**. If you have jin or shari brush it too. It may save you from needing to reapply lime sulfur. You don't want your tree to be lime sulfured within a week of the show – P-U! I've notice timing is critical as some freshly trimmed junipers foliage will brown no matter how careful you think you were, which can be distracting when you show the tree. **Ideally trees you show should not have heavy wiring, especially structural wiring.**

Pull all the weeds growing with your bonsai. While I try to do this while I water, there are always fresh weeds. **Clean the pot's surface** so that it's free of dirt and calcium deposits. (Ideally the pot should be damage free and plastic is frowned on. They are considered to be grow pots, not show pots.) You may need to add a bit of fresh soil to bring it up to the pot's edge. Some use a top dressing of soil that is finer or is a single component.

Gather some nice **moss**. It may be a bit hard to find good moss. Save your moss in a well-watered flat and **apply it a few days before the show**. If you're lucky you may find the tight moss that I call "parking lot moss." It grows up against the sides of building, in sidewalk cracks or bumpers in shady parking lot. Deep woods moss tends to be taller, some almost fern like. (In Japan, and some professionals grow their tree in "gro-pots", before the show, their trees are then moved to a "Show pot" of same size and shape, these pots may be priceless antiques of highly valuable hand made pots, that were created just for that tree. You don't want to risk storm damage or winter frost damage.)

Take another photo and decide if all is ready. We are allowed to show trees with **wire** on, but only if the wiring is excellent. Look to make sure you don't have any loose loops or ends hanging beyond the branch. You may need to rewire a branch or two, I have.

A proper display is composed of **the tree, its pot, a stand and an accent**. Accents may include plants, scrolls, Suiseki, or figures. Small animals such as frogs or bugs have become popular. I have seen a water buffalo on a water stone and combinations of scroll and figure. Keep your display simple, bonsai is an art where less is more, not the other way around. **Accents also need a stand**. Frequently these are slabs (Jitta). Burls slabs are currently popular. Accent pots and stands do not need to match the tree's pot color and stand shape, though that was once the "rule." As with the pots, the stand for the accent should not match the stand for your tree.

Once I have cleaned up the tree, I find **a suitable stand**. Usually about 1" of exposed wood on all sides, but slightly bigger is OK. The right height is also important. It should raise your tree to the proper viewing height. Your eye should be about the middle of the tree if you're 5'2". CBS uses raisers on the table legs, so your stands don't have to be overly tall, The clubs I belong to here, does not, so I need a stand that is at least 9" tall, even for big trees.

When you place your accent, look at the direction your tree flows and place your accent in the

direction you eye flows to. Many times you may want it on the side of your second branch. Part of your display includes the negative space between the tee and the accent. Suiseki may be placed behind a tree if it is a mountain stone, or in front, if it's an animal or chrysanthemum stone. I take more pictures, with digital camera, there is no cost and photos are instant. Tweak the set up. Take a photo with you to the show to help reset the display. (Don't be surprised if your tree is moved by the show display coordinator to a new location, there are "rules" of show set up, and the number of trees in the show may result in crowding.)

I could go into multiple tree displays, but not this time. Interesting to me is that I had a tree selected for a show in Asheville because its movement was to the right (facing the viewer) and the club needed it on the right end of their tables. That year we won "Best Overall Club Display." Last year one tree was passed over, because the pot was "the wrong color". Such is life. Remember, two 8' tables may only hold 4-7 displays. Shohin or Mame allow multiple tree displays. We strive to alternate, conifers and deciduous trees in the total display; with a formal upright in the center. A larger tree on either end that flows towards the center.

Good Luck and good show!

[Editor] These are good guidelines for your best presentation. Bear in mind that Ken shows in a club that has very high quality trees. Bjorn commented that one of the trees shown would probably qualify for Kokofu Ten in Japan. Several of the members in Knoxville have their trees styled professionally. We generally do not have that luxury, but still have good trees to show. And, since our show is not juried, you can be assured that your best tree(s) will still be appreciated by other members and the public.

Monthly Care

This could have been in Found on the Web, but it is so topical for Monthly Care I put it in here. It is good advice regardless of location as it is generically "late Summer" - no matter where you are located. For central Ohio, this is good for September and early October.

<https://bonsaitonight.com/2021/08/27/tips-for-late-summer/>

Found on the Web

<https://bonsaitonight.com/2021/09/04/pacific-bonsai-expo-website-launches/> The first of these was impressive for both the quality of trees and the innovation of display. Truly outstanding.

And here is a study of development on grafted material. It is a good reminder that less is sometimes better, and that Bonsai is not a hobby for instant gratification.

<https://bonsaitonight.com/2021/08/20/developing-a-grafted-juniper/>

I would do this in September, but I have good lighting and humidity set up for my ficus inside when it gets cold. This is a spring project for someone who keeps their ficus on a windowsill with no extra light or humidity.

<https://adamaskwhy.com/2021/08/24/a-collected-yes-collected-ficus-microcarpa-from-sw-florida/>

Coming Attractions

Our October artist will be Todd Schlafer of First Branch Bonsai Where He specializes in collected trees. <https://www.firstbranchbonsai.com/> Looking at his page, I see many beautiful Douglas Fir, Pines, Juniper, and Spruce. I think there are some deciduous trees in the background.

Todd presented one of the workshops at MABA 2021 on Pines and Spruce, and offers classes at First Branch Bonsai in Denver, Colorado. His class schedule for 2022 is on his website and includes April -June sessions on elongating conifers, broadleaved, and deciduous species. Sessions are three consecutive days and there are 19 offered from March thru October.

Todd will be offering workshops Saturday, Oct 16 and Sunday Morning, Oct 17 in the Education Building at Franklin Park. Details will be emailed out next week as I have not received them from the coordinator at this time.

Bonsai Here and Beyond the Outerbelt

Currently, limits are off at Franklin Park Conservatory, 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. Please stay tuned for new developments. Thanks for your understanding and patience! Remember that Masks are required in Columbus.

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

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 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, December 2 the new rate of \$35 kicks in for individuals, \$40 for families. **New Members** signing up at the show get the current rate and next years dues included.

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.

November 12-13 2022 Pacific Bonsai Expo, Bridge Yard event space, Oakland, California

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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:

Name:

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(Optional)

City, State, Zip

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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.