

# Columbus Bonsai Society

November, 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 November 21

First off, we have club elections, The slate of officers is:

President, Mark Passerello	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Rob Hoffman
Treasurer, Amy Mourot	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Ken Schoenfeld
Secretary, Wendy Mizanin	1 year Director, <i>vacant</i>
Editor, Zack Clayton	2 year Director, Kevin Faris
Librarian, Ryan Huston	3 year Director, William Holterman
Web Master, Daniel White	Tree Curator, Ken Schoenfeld
Past President, Jack Smith (Ex Officio)	

Noniminations are accepted from the floor for persons in attendance. Directors Membership should be more than one year or more per the by-laws.

Then Ken Schoenfeld will lead a discussion of winter care-how to determine what you tree needs and how to provide it. Ryan Houston will also present on the specialized care for indoor tropical bonsai using artificial lighting. Both of these topics should provide active discussions.

## News From the President

Happy November!

As our year winds down, we come to our annual election. This is our first item of business at the November meeting, this never takes long but continues our Society for the next year! So we'll start off with our annual election followed by a discussion on winter issues and tool sharpening, both very useful topics. So hope to see everyone on Sunday at the Education Building at Franklin Park @ 2:00!

Jack

## Club Officers

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Also, we have a new way to pay for workshops and dues. It has been tested and works.

The Square link is ready to go:

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/ML6JW712AJSGQ/checkout/OA72ZZJ5YTXJIFXUAXIUZOQHN>

You can use this link for anyone who doesn't want to use PayPal. It will let them pay with a credit card, Google Pay, Square, or Cash App. And it costs less than the PayPal app per transaction.

## Hospitality ~ Mark Passerello

CBS members

If you enjoy having hot coffee and tea, as well as tasty snacks at each of our monthly meetings, we'd like to ask for your assistance. For a long time now, our hospitality chairs, Sandy and Ken Schoenfeld have made sure the hostility supplies have come to every meeting. Every meeting! They are ready to take a well deserved break, which means we are looking a new hospitality chairperson.

This is fairly easy assignment. You'll need to arrive a bit early for every meeting to set up, and stay to finish time to do a bit of clean up. Hospitality supplies are stored in plastic tubs for easy transports, and include an electric coffee pot, electric tea kettle, coffee, tea and sweeteners and creamer, as well as cups and napkins. You will need to monitor inventory and replenish as needed. Also, bringing some snacks of any kind is always appreciated. Home made is awesome, but the "reduced for quick sale" rack at Krogers is just as good. There is a tip jar set out every meeting, and this is usually enough to keep things going.

If this sounds like a great way to help the club and provide you with an excuse to come to every meeting, we'd love your help. Speak to any board member.

An **alternative** to this plan has been suggested. This would mean that each month the hospitality duty is taken up by a different member. Essentially Member A brings the items to a meetings, sets up, runs the store, then tears down and then hands off all supplies to Member B. Member B promises to bring it to the next month's meeting, AND Member A gives them a friendly reminder call or email ahead of time. Next month Member B sets up shop, runs the store then after clean up and tear down hands off to Member C....and so forth.

You can see one plan has the reliability of being handled by one person. The other option spreads the effort around a bit, which makes things easier but also possibly a bit easier to loose track of who has the coffee pot.

We're open to either plan. If you have an interest in helping out either long term or short term, please speak to any board member.

## Random Thotz ~ Zack Clayton

I brought 10 full cartons of pots to the October meeting and took two partial boxes back to the storage unit. A Big thank you to all who purchased pots during the workshop and meeting.

The last few weeks have been a roller coaster. Beautiful weather days and chilly nights. This is one of the two times of year when many of us do the “Bonsai Shuffle” out to get sun, and in protected from cold at night. The other time is in spring. I choose not to participate in this ritual by picking a tolerance night temperature and leaving everything out until it is forecast. Then everything comes in the day or two before it hits. I have noticed no real slowdown in growth in fall and the time and effort saved by one move works to prevent forgetful missing of a move. I do prestage my trees in the weeks prior to the move, probably starting when a lot of people start the shuffle. This lets me go over what is on my benches several times to be sure everything is off the benches and on my deck prior to the big move inside. For me, this year, everything moved in November 1-3 as I was leaving for a long weekend 4-8 and wouldn't be able to respond to a sudden freeze if it happened. I also gave the Ficus and Portulacaria a haircut and some major pruning in the premove time and the cuttings are starting to push new buds.

## Articles

### Tree of the Month: Bougainvillea By Ken Schultz

Bougainvillea was one of the tropicals that I wrote about in 2009 as a flowering tropical used for bonsai. There's an article that Jose Cueto offered sometime ago on our club website. However, I couldn't find an article that covers Bougainvillea care. I have to confess that I sold the Bogie I had to Sarah before moving south, so I'll rely on a number of sources and my past experience on successfully keeping one alive in Columbus Ohio.

Bougainvillea are native to South and Central America which means that they are a tropical that needs winter protection. In nature, they are a woody evergreen vine. At Disney World I've seen them used as a hedge and as a vine to cover a retaining wall. They come in a variety of colors, red, violet, orange, copper, white and fuchsia. There is a cultivar with variegated leaves too. The “flowers” are not made up of petals but are actually colored bracts that appear at the end of new growth. The true flower is a tiny white trumpet that appears at the tip of the bracts. They have two negative features, one is that they have thorns; the other is that because they are a vine, if you buy a starter plant it will take “forever” to thicken. Specimen Bogie bonsai are usually landscape salvage material.



Specimen Bogie bonsai are usually landscape

## **Cultivation:**

**Temperature:** While they are tropical (zone 9 and above) they can survive a frost but will lose their leaves and may go dormant. Their optimum growing temperature range is 70-85 during the day and 60-70 at night. Mine survived nicely in the basement under fluorescent lights during the winter. I suspect that the lights raised the temperature several degrees when they were on, so I got diurnal variation that triggered blooming.

**Lighting:** I used 3 and 4 light fixtures with the timer giving them 14 hours a “day” while they were inside. Once the temperatures were above 60 they went outside until fall temperatures were below 55. Again they may drop their leaves moving in and out and won’t have good leaf cover if they aren’t getting enough light.

**Watering:** Water when they are dry. When you do water make sure it flows out of the bottom of the pot to ensure deep root development. Bogies are reported to be drought tolerant and if you continuously over water, you’ll get root-rot. Outdoors in the summer, you’ll need to adjust your watering. One of my sources said that summer flowering is encouraged by letting them dry out to the point of wilting for 3-4 hours then water. But only do this once and flowering should follow within two weeks.

**Fertilizing:** Bougainvilleas are acid loving, so use a fertilizer that is for azaleas or camellias. Use it at half strength every two weeks.

**Pruning/Training:** Because they bloom on new growth pruning should be done right after the old blooms fade. To a point shorter than the silhouette you’re trying to maintain. Seal your cuts to prevent rot. The bloom cycle is 4-6 weeks, so a healthy Bogie will take lots of pruning. Each time you prune the plant should respond by creating multiple shoots, so selective thinning will be needed to maintain your foliage pads.

Wiring is more difficult as the wood is difficult to bend once it lignifies. This hardness is noted by the use of deadwood on large specimen Bougainvilleas. Normally you won’t see deadwood on a tropical plant, as it would rot quickly. This also means you’ll need to wire new growth before it fully hardens.

Bonsai styling may be informal upright, cascade, twin trunk and literati.

**Pests:** They are susceptible to fungus so spraying with a fungicide is good prevention. You should also watch for aphids and scale. Use the Bayer systemic regularly. In the summer I sprayed mine with Orchard spray when I sprayed my apple trees.

**Repotting:** It seems that Bougainvillea like to be pot bound so they may be repotted every 2-3 years. Repot in the spring when you see new growth, usually April – June. A good mix is 25% Turface, 25% small lava rock and 50% potting mix. When repotting, do not prune the roots to severely. Remove only too long or woody roots that are circling. Keep as much of the finer roots as possible. Be careful, the fine roots can easily be ripped and damaged. Use a deep pot.

**Propagation:** Cutting may be taken in the spring (April-June). Air layering is also possible. Nurserymen use bottom heat to promote rooting. Keep them moist. Cuttings 2-12” may be rotted.

A popular variety for bonsai is Pink Pixie as it has smaller leaves. *B. glabra* is also used for its shinny darker green leaves and magenta bracts.

## Book of the Month

### Bonsai School – The Complete Course in Care, Training & Maintenance – by *Craig Coussins*

Craig Coussins has four books, Totally Bonsai, Bonsai for Beginner's book, this one and Master Class; of them I like this one best. This book was copyrighted in 2002. As some of you may know, Craig Coussins started the Bonsai Club of Scotland but because his family business (Ballet Slippers) has him traveling a great deal; his interests have shifted from caring for trees to painting and restoring scrolls. As a result I saw several years ago that he'd sold his bonsai collection.

I will try to provide an overview but this book covers an extensive amount of information; most good, some subjective. Bonsai School has 256 pages and is 11" X 9". I have worked with and taken workshops from Craig Coussins several times; as a result I have a desire to refer to him as Craig. Craig organized this book into four parts; Part 1 has 2 chapters, Part 2 has 4 chapters, Part 3 has 6 chapters and Part 4 is a catch all covering pots, tools and Suiseki.

**Part 1** covers frequently asked questions and the origins of bonsai. Unlike other books, Craig's book covers pre - Japanese roots in China and its links to Buddhism and bonsai in Vietnam.

**Part 2** begins with trees suitable for bonsai beginning with indoor trees and illustrating each with a photo and a few paragraphs of description. Outdoor trees are presented in a chart that provides more information and would serve as a handy reference for the 16 genus presented. However, I would say that in Ohio Crepe Myrtle and Stewartia are not outdoor hardy, they are here in Tennessee. In the soil section he reminded me of a flaw in my soil – he says not to use grit/limestone in lime hating plants such as Azaleas. He note North Americans use Haydite. His organic list includes rotted pine bark, leaf mold, peat moss and soil-less compost. Grit can also include sand. If you've been buying imported products such as Akadama and Kanuma expect difficulty and greatly increased prices in the near future.

Potting or repotting is presented as a 17point checklist with photographs. Watering follows, then Feeding. Pages 84-86 provide a chart that covers common pests. This is followed by a Seasonal care chart which divides the various care activities you should be doing in each season; for example a Spring chore includes planting moss on your outdoor trees. (His personal note is that he doesn't like late fall and winter wiring.) Under Watering he notes that trees with thick canopies may need to be watered even if it has rained. I find this true for the bonsai I keep under shade trees. They are frequently dry after a rain. Next is a section on propagation from seeds and air layering and cutting.

Starting on page 109 Craig presents "Bonsai Techniques". There are a great many illustrations of wiring. Pruning and "Aging" techniques are presented. Aging includes creating Jin and Shari. This section is very detailed and deserves your close review.

**Part 3** is titled "Styling from nature". The first study presents a bald cypress. I liked the illustrations on how to deal with a sawed off top. It appeared that the trick is to wait a couple of years after branching occurs below the cut. The tree used started out 46' tall and was cut to 35"; it had a 13" nabari. Then several other Geniuses are presented and forest plantings too. Forests using elms and hawthorns are featured.

Under Saikei Tony and Frank Mihalic are featured. Also featured are several root-over-rock styled trees at Wildwood Gardens. Craig's pictures at Wildwood may have been taken when Linda and I were there for a workshop with him. Pages 170-174 features Frank and his dad, Tony creating a Saikei. Tony passed away two years ago at 98.) Chinese, South African and Vietnamese landscapes are also presented.

Bonsai School's last chapter of Part 3 is worth buying this book for the material presented (pages 202-224). First is a 'San Jose' styling by Michael Persiano then a different one by Bill Valvanis. The third is a Juniperus prostrata by Salvatore Liporace. The 4<sup>th</sup> is a Taxus by Craig Coussins; then an American larch by Reiner Goebel, concluding with a Euonymus also

styled by Goebel. Without violating copyright, I cannot provide the photos.

**Part 4** is about pots, custom made and then tools, including power carving bits and finally Suiseki.

~ Review by *Ken Schultz*

## Monthly Care

Now is the time to work on Pines, Spruce, and Juniper. They respond well to pruning, needle pulling or cutting (check your species guide). Go ahead and wire them also. The wire does not get any colder than the ambient air and does not cause freeze damage. Remove old wire before it cuts in. Fertilize lightly with a balanced fertilizer because the tree will photosynthesize above 32 degrees. The tree will be healthier and ready to go in spring. Check for insects. In Central Ohio zone 5, I usually put my trees under the benches the first weekend in December.

I hope you got your tropicals in already, If they haven't died yet, they are severely stressed and probably will die the next frost.

Temperate deciduous trees can stay on benches until they go dormant Fertilize lightly so there are nutrient reserves for spring. Check wire. Dewire as needed, and if needed, put on new wire that is not as tight. Do the bug check as for tropicals. In Central Ohio zone 5, I usually put my deciduous trees under the benches the first weekend in December.

Semi Tropical/half hardy trees need to go dormant before bringing them in. Early low temperatures are usually not cold enough to cause damage. The trees need to be protected from the extreme low temperatures of later winter. For a zone 6 plant that means protect it from the low temperatures expected for a zone 5 or 4 environment. This is usually accomplished by a cold frame, unheated garage or other structure that is only gets as cold as the expected low for the zone indication for the plant. Since they are going dormant they do not need light or fertilizer. They do need water to prevent the roots from drying out during winter storage. They should be checked once a week and watered as needed. Since the temperature may go below freezing, pots should be of good quality and not have any locking characteristics such as vertical bulges, an inward lip, and so on. If your pot has any of those items, consider slip potting the tree prior to storage. While you are doing this check for insects. In Central Ohio zone 5, They can probably go into storage any time now.

It is important to get these things done prior to the onset of low or freezing temperatures for the best health of the tree. That is why this is almost a repeat of last months care article. I would suggest getting your winter fertilizer for your tropicals as soon as possible. While you were wiring your evergreens, did you take note of what wire you need for next year? Now is a good time to put in an order with the club for wire. With the supply chain issues in the news lately, this is the best chance to have it in time for spring.

## Found on the Web

Because club members have Ponderosa Pines and Trident Maples

<https://bonsaitonight.com/2021/11/05/wiring-a-ponderosa-pine/> It's the first styling for this tree.

<https://bonsaitonight.com/2021/10/29/fall-cutback-on-a-root-over-rock-trident-maple/> Cutback to silhouette and thinning.

## Coming Attractions

In December there is traditionally no meeting, we have a holiday dinner instead.

January will be a traditional talk – so you got a bonsai for Christmas – (and it died). Hopefully not, but getting a new tree in winter can be challenging even for established hobbyists. If you have friends who have a new tree, invite them to come and learn how to keep it alive until spring.

There will be a tool sharpening class and workstations to sharpen your tools.

And pots need maintenance. Learn how they are made, how to maintain them, and how to pair them with your trees.

## 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.

November 21      Club elections, and Winterization program – how to start next spring with a healthy tree.  
Ken Schoenfeld will lead a discussion of winter care-how to determine what your tree needs and how to provide it.  
Ryan Houston will also present on the specialized care for indoor tropical bonsai using artificial lighting.

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.

December      No Meeting, Holiday Dinner TBD

## 2022

January 16      We will cover three interesting topics:  
#1 So You got a Bonsai for Christmas...guidance for the brand new bonsai owner. Answers to questions and helpful care advice from experienced growers.  
#2 Tool Care and sharpening. An artist and craftsman is only as good as their tools. Keep yours in tip top condition. Tool care and sharpening class. there will be several stations with stones and members to advise you.  
#3 Bonsai Pots Care & Feeding. A complete primer on bonsai pottery, what it is, how it's made, how to care for and maintain it, and most importantly how to choose which pot goes with which tree.

February 20      A Bonsai Fundamentals twofer- Soil and Wiring.

March 20 I      ts that time of year-we cover repotting from start to finish.

April 24      Note: this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

May 15

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.

June 19

July 15 Show Setup 3:00 Tree drop off 6:00  
July 16 Show at Franklin Park Conservatory 10:00am – 5:00pm  
July 17 Show 10 – 5 and Tear down at 5:00pm

August 21

September 18 Club Picnic at Oakland

October 16

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

November 20 Officer Elections, and

December - TBD Club Dinner

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