

# Columbus Bonsai Society

February 2022 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, February 20

February will feature soils and wiring. Soils will cover water retention of soil components and soil mixes that work in Central Ohio for CBS members. So if you have (for example) maples, ficus, or pines you can determine what you need to mix up for those trees. Most of us have a standard mix and add or subtract ingredients depending on tree preference. If you don't have the means to do that, the standard mix will still keep them healthy, just perhaps not prime.

FPC just told us we will be behind registration – rooms B\_CD. So – easy to get to and good parking.

## Down the Rabbit Hole ~ President, Mark Passerello

### Welcome to February

Some big things coming up for CBS in the coming months, and perhaps the biggest is about our annual show. Our long national nightmare is over. We have a show venue, and a pretty special one at that. We will partner with Dawes Arboretum to present a club show worthy enough to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee. This will be the 50<sup>th</sup> show that CBS has put on, and Dawes will provide a magnificent setting for what promises to be a really great show.

As part of the effort to make this event extra special, CBS will welcome Chase Rosade and Jim Doyle as our special guests. Chase and Jim need no introduction, as they have been guests at our club before and both have extensive bonsai credentials. They will be presenting an exhibit critique as well as serving as judges for the competitive portion of the 2022 show. We also hope to have each gentleman present a workshop or demo.

Jim will also be bring some select items to vend, other vendors (subject

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to change) will be Mark Fields, April Grigsby, Rob Hoffman, Ken Huth, and myself. Every vender has been invited to present a demo, so we intend to have lots of learning and bonsai info being shared.

Watch for further plans as they are firmed up, and keep your calendars open. You wont want to miss this! Since Dawes is a bit farther away than we're used to, plans will shape up for car-pooling, group tree delivery and other methods to make sure everyone gets to participate.

I have some excellent memories of bonsai shows held at Dawes. It's shocking to think that there was a vital, active club based there that could rival anything that was happening in Cleveland, Columbus or Cincinnati. Much of what energized the club there came from one person: Dawes staff member Aret Patznick. The Dawes club seemed to draw not just from Ohio, but West Virginia and Kentucky as well. Im pretty sure it was a Dawes show that was my first ever bonsai show, and at the Dawes gift shop that I bought my first real bonsai tool-a 'melon baller' that I still have (this was back in the good old days before shows had vendors). It was at a Dawes show that I first came face to face with that wonderful Natal plum cascade, grown and styled by CBS founding father Max Puderbaugh, that now resides in Franklin Park Conservatory. It might have been the same show where I broke a cardinal rule and surreptitiously removed one fruit from a green island fig, hoping to start some seeds.

My hope is that the CBS show can bring back some of those glory days at Dawes and renew a bonsai presence in one of Central Ohio's premiere tree venues.

Some health updates on two long time CBS members. Treasurer Emeritus Richard "Doctor Dicky" Guervitz is currently staying at Paramount Senior Living on Maxtown Road. He's on the mend and says he's feeling better all the time. Also on the mend is former President Ken Schultz, who had some extensive heart by-pass surgery but is recovering well. Best wishes to both these bonsai veterans for speedy recoveries. A phone call, email or visit would be very welcome ( we are told).

Let me circle back to a show topic. If you've just read the paragraph above about Doyle and Rosade judging the show you might now be wondering: will this make it harder to get my tree in? I am I required to submit my tree for judging?

Simple answer there is no and no. The show committee will have to work out exactly how competition and judging will be organized, but I am committed to the principle that our club has always held to when running a show-every member who wants to show and has a live tree that they have put effort into has the chance to show. My thought is that a simple arrangement is to have treeS entered in one of two classes: competitive class or exhibition class.

Also, leading up to the show, count on having in-meeting opportunities to talk about showing trees and what it takes to get prepared. This is the 50<sup>th</sup> show that CBS has produced, and we aim to make it the very best yet. We can achieve that level of excellence working together as a club, so help is always available if you have questions or want some advice.

If you are new to keeping ficus and they are loosing, or have lost, their leaves do not despair. It is one of the ways the trees cope with indoor conditions and lighting changes. As long as the branches and twigs are plump and/or green, the tree is still alive. If the bark looks dehydrated and wrinkly on the twigs and branches, you need to do a scratch test on the trunk to see if you find green cambium. If the bark is dry, loose, or the inner bark is brown, that portion of the tree is dead. If the branches have died but the trunk still shows green, then you still have a live tree, but you now have the opportunity to develop new branches on a thicker trunk. Do not drown the tree, but keep the soil damp, not wet. Cut back watering to once or twice a week and put it in the brightest light you have. You should see buds starting to push in 4 to 6 weeks. Wait until there are new leaves to go back to a normal watering schedule. Ficus will tolerate wet soil for a short time, but they also need to get some dry time as long as it is not more than a few days. In my plastic storage bins, I'll keep a ½ inch of water in the bottom for humidity and to ensure the soil doesn't dry out completely.

You may see some articles that are recycled from several years ago. Ken Schutz went in for a heart catheterization Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> and they admitted him and did bypass surgery on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. He is home and recovering well, and is starting to get feisty, but probably will not be writing articles for a while. He has a friend who is coming in to water for him as Tennessee is warmer than we are. A big thank you to Wes for this.

Remember last month I asked for articles from our other members? Yeah, I'm asking again. Tips, tricks, a tree of the month for your favorite tree, or just about anything bonsai related will be welcome. As editor, I can clean up grammer and spelling for you, it's my job.

## Articles

**Tree of the Month** by Ken Schultz                      Reprinted from 2002 January newsletter.

Scientific: *Ficus benjamina*. Common: Benjamin or Weeping fig. Family: Moraceae

The *Ficus* genera is large, with over 800 species and thousands of cultivars. Most of these are from the old world tropics. *F. benjamina* is native to India, SE Asia and Northern Australasia. It can grow to 40 or 50 ft. in the wild and prefers full sun to dense shade and moist well drained soil. The amount of light will influence growth habit.

It is common in most plant shops and is a good starter for beginners, being a fast grower and fairly tolerant of growing conditions. In full sun, a fig will have a full dense canopy, but in deep shade it will have an open canopy and fewer leaves with thin weeping branches. It is a tropical, and must be kept indoors for the winter, and anyone who has gone through more than one season with a Benjamin will know they shed. A lot!

Even though it's a tropical, the *F. benjamina* has a distinct seasonal variation that it evolved to. Dry and Monsoon. *Benjamina* prepares for the dry season by shedding its leaves. It reduces leaf mass because in the dry season it would not be able to support the full canopy. When the monsoon returns the leaves are replaced with new growth and the canopy returns. So, the survival mechanism for *F. benjamina* is leaf drop. They prefer to be kept in the same environment and will drop leaves for any change. This includes fertilizing and using "leaf shine".

We can use this to our advantage in bonsai. Bringing it into the house in fall will cause leaf drop. Trying to acclimate it won't help much. Let them drop. Prune and bend to shape with the branches clean. Fertilize and let it grow out. In the spring, return it outside after the temperatures are back above 50 deg F and let the leaves drop. Prune and bend to shape.

Now the growth pattern is going to be very thick and dense and (eventually) give you those nice thick trunks we all seem to like.

Fertilize when growing with a balanced fertilizer. Wait for those leaves to start coming out after

leaf drop. The leaf color can help you diagnose what is going on. Moisture stress will usually cause yellow leaves to drop, and light changes will usually cause green leaf drop.

Jose Cueto does a lot of his maintenance shaping to make a nice canopy silhouette. He keeps the growth in bounds by pinching and bending the branches by hand. He says, "As far as keeping the figs looking 'neat', I'm constantly pinching them, especially in the summer months when they are growing most vigorously. I normally let the shoots elongate 2 or 3 nodes before cutting them back into the silhouette, which is usually the "umbrella" I liked to use for this variety. That's another reason why it's good to have a drawing, sketch or picture showing the 'right' size and silhouette intended for the bonsai, to ensure it doesn't grow out of proportion."

Jose doesn't use much wire on established figs. He bends the branch in his hands until he can just feel or hear the cambium start to break and then he leaves it. He does this when he waters and says he gets very quick results with this method.

The main problem with Ficus in general is they are poisonous! They can cause dermatitis, and allergic reactions are caused by exposure to the sap. Symptoms are itching, cough, and wheezing following frequent contact and exposure to sunlight. People with latex allergies are commonly susceptible. So, after working on your figs, wash your hands!

## Book Report

Reprinted from 2003 January newsletter

The Bonsai Book of Practical Facts by Jerome Meyer

This is a book I checked out of the Club library. It isn't an easy read, but its packed with jems and information. It's like an organized scrap book of 25 years of notes about bonsai. I would say its primary value is as a reference to use with a specific problem. This would be my first "go to" book to find a solution to a problem. There is a good chance there is something in here to help you out. To just read it is a little like reading a lecturer's notes. If you've heard the speech its easy enough to follow along, but tough going if you haven't.

That said, there are some really good parts for just browsing. There are sections with before and after pictures (all B&W, no color) and a half page of text explaining what was done, and why. This is one of the real strengths of this book. It not only tells what was done to a tree, but the reason for doing it that way.

The chapters include; styling, "birth", soil, training, wiring, moss, watering, fertilizing, winterization, pest control, and display, with small nuggets thrown in as one or two page items. These are detailed in the Table of contents and an extensive index. If I had a problem that was covered in this book, I am confident I could turn to it in 30 seconds or less. This book is 126 pages of collected bonsai wisdom. ~ Zack Clayton

Editors Note: I really hope this is still in the library and wasn't culled in a clean out. I know several B&W books were disposed of as being "out of date".

## Monthly Care

ts winter, and colder than the last several winters. Keep an eye on your trees that are down outside and water if needed when the temperature gets above freezing. If you let them get to dry, the roots will freeze dry and kill the tree. Keep your inside trees watered but not soaked. For some reason lot of trees die about this time of year – usually because we slack off

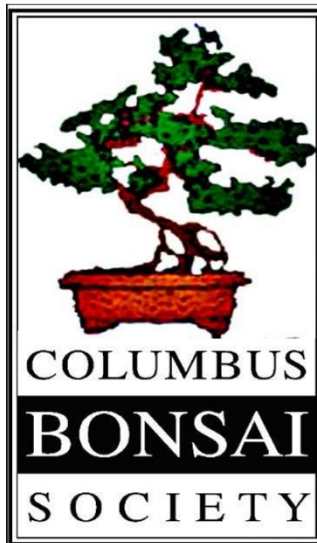
watering and don't notice the desert like soil that occurs. Wet roots may come back with care, dry roots are dead roots.

Are you starting to consider what you will be repotting next year? Will you need a new pot, different shape, larger size, different color or texture? Start thinking about this now. The board is considering placing a pot order for spring repotting. That decisions will be made by popular demand and "pre order pot sizes. We can order special pots for you as easily as we can order generic crowd pleasers but the preorders will be the decision point. . If you have a favorite pot supplier, share it with us. Order your pots from the club and save on shipping. We will be placing a wire and tool order also, so figure out what you want to get. Again, demand will be the decision point.

## Found on the Web

The Columbus Bonsai Society now on YouTube!  
By Ryan Huston / Ry2Tree2 Bonsai ([www.Ry2Tree2.com](http://www.Ry2Tree2.com))

In an increasingly digital age, the CBS is now offering selected recordings of our general meetings on our new Columbus Bonsai Society Youtube channel. As I mentioned at our January meeting, as our club librarian I will be recording meetings and periodically editing them for release to the public. The club hopes this will aid our educational mission around bonsai as well as cater to



members who cannot always make it to meetings due to other obligations. We look forward to continuing to build one another's bonsai knowledge through our in-person workshops and meetings and hope that this online opportunity becomes a helpful supplement to our regular bonsai learning opportunities. See the links below to subscribe to our channel as well as see the two meetings we have posted so far from October and November of 2021.

CBS YouTube channel -  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMUx-TwUO5Ja2zXIRetMqjPQ>

Todd Schlafer Finds the Trunkline - Full Demonstration - Oct 2021 -<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdDGJGTmBdA>

Time-Saving Tools for Growing Healthy Tropical Bonsai Indoors – Nov 2021 -<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYuTftTWNYA>



<https://bonsaitonight.com/2022/02/04/four-year-progression-making-a-shimpaku-juniper-from-graft/>  
Four Year Progression: making a shimpaku Juniper from graft – Jonas Dupuich. A styling study with fresh grafts and a rebuild of the tree.

<https://bonsaitonight.com/2022/01/28/developing-chojubai-tips-from-left-coast-bonsai/> development and pruning tips on chojubai—Jonas Dupuich.

## Coming Attractions

March 20, we will have Huth-A-Palooza STRARRING our very own Ken Huth. If you have never been to one, Ken brings an amazing amount of material priced to sell. Many kinds of Bare Root seedlings, up to established specimens.

Plus we will have a corner group covering repotting from start to finish if you have never done that. Ken may have some pots for his stuff, or bring your own and tree. I am not sure about soil.

COCSS are hosting a special Feb event with presenters from Bartrop Plants. If you haven't heard of them they are well worth getting to know. They specialize in orchids and aroids that are environmentally sourced and grown, including many that would be perfect for kusamono.

This year we are focusing on growing our membership and strengthening ties with other local plant clubs so we would like to invite members of the Bonsai club to join us in Feb.

Could you please reach out to the Bonsai board to see if we could post this in the Bonsai monthly newsletter? If not I totally understand.

The Central Ohio Cactus & Succulent Society would like to welcome CAVS members to our **February 19th special presentation by Bartrop Plants** -

Can you grow an orchid on a windowsill like a cactus? And is your plant sourced environmentally friendly?

What once used to be known as a grocery store plant that would typically just rot or “die” after the flowers have fallen off. In the midst of a huge houseplant boom, orchids have been grown and cultivated by growers and hobbyists for hundreds of years. But does anyone actually know much of what's out there besides what you find at your local grocery store? Andres and Dennis specialize in orchids that any newbie houseplant hobbyist can grow just as if it were any other plant. For this talk, we'll be sharing our knowledge about the best indoor friendly orchids to start with. As well as orchids that can grow alongside cactus and other odd ball houseplants and most importantly where these plants come from! Lastly, we'll be sharing the importance of conservation and why you should care about where you get your plants and why conservation matters within the orchid and plant community."

For additional details please check out our Facebook event page <https://www.facebook.com/events/1134466977289714> or our Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/262062883970701>

Hope to see you all there!!!  
C.O.C.S.S

March 20, we will have

## Bonsai Here and Beyond the Outerbelt

Meetings are the third Sunday of the Month unless stated otherwise. 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 as we get short notice from FPC of location changes. Thanks for your understanding and patience!  
Remember that Masks are required in Columbus.

February 19 Central Ohio Cactus Society Meeting with guest Bartrop Plants.

February 20 A Bonsai Fundamentals twofer- Soil and Wiring.

March 20 Its that time of year for Huth-A-Palooza STRARRING our very own Ken Huth. If you have never been to one, Ken brings an amazing amount of material priced to sell. Many kinds of Bare Root seedlings, up to established specimens. Plus we will have a corner group covering repotting from start to finish if you have never done that. Ken may have some pots for his stuff, or bring your own and tree. I am not sure about soil.

April 24 **Note: this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.** Guest artist Will Baddeley, Nationally recognized for natural carving.

April 30 Arbor Day at Dawes Arboretum 11:00 to 3:00

May 15 Sergio Cuan workshop 10 AM, and a Demo/Lecture at the meeting. He has demoed for CBS before at one of our remote meetings in 2019. Details to follow.

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 Jim Doyle, Details pending.

July 17 TBD

August 21 TBD – Picnic at Oakland?

September 16 Show Setup 3:00 at Dawes Arboretum, Tree drop off 6:00

September 17-18 Jim Doyle, Chase Rosade - Special 50<sup>th</sup> CBS Show Guests

September 17 Show at Dawes Arboretum 10:00am – 5:00pm

September 18 Show 10 – 5, and Tear down/tree pickup at 5:00pm

October 16 TBD

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

November 20 Officer Elections, and something late fall and early winter

December TBD Club Dinner

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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.

Payment can be made by check or cash at the meetings, Stripe on the website with a credit card, Paypal Friends and Family at ColumbusBonsai@gmail.com. Or, if you trust the mail service with timely delivery:

Columbus Bonsai Society  
PO Box 297741  
Columbus, OH 43229-7741

Please include your phone number! I still get new members with no email or phone number. And we don't do dead trees and ink.



## Columbus Bonsai Society Membership Registration

Individual \$35 \_\_\_\_ Family \$40 \_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*NEW\*\* \_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_ Joined at event \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_ CC \_\_\_\_ PayPal \_\_\_\_

Please Print This information neatly..

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ In case your Email bounces

Address \_\_\_\_\_

(optional)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

IF Family Membership, Please list other members

\_\_\_\_\_