

What's up for Sunday, August 21

August looks like Pot care and maintenance and selecting stands. Hopefully you have your tree selected and are putting finishing tweaks on it. Selecting a tree, may be straight forward for most of us, as we average 3 or 4 that are ready to show. Other members have a different situation. It was inspiring for Jack, Mark, and I for Ken Schultz to be going through 15-16 of his trees for the Knoxville show, narrowing them down to 6 and then asking us what we thought were the best two.

And after the August meeting it is run up to the show in September.

Remember to signup for volunteer positions for the show this meeting and online in the Facebook Group or on the website. And Please get your tree registration(s) turned in ahead of time so we can get the space planned out. Since three and more point displays are increasing, we need to know your space requirements to get them placed properly. That is also why we are asking for a photo or drawing of your display, so we get them set up properly.

Also, bring your raffle donations to the August meeting. If you are unable to attend, I will find out any other ways to get raffle items registered and send the information as a separate email. I will not be able to attend so I need the information as well.

Random Thotz by Zack Clayton

The intermittent rain has been good for our trees but don't let your guard down. The rain provides mineral free water and some pH adjustment if you have hard water, but it's also a sucker play to make you think you don't have to water that day. I keep a small container out where it collects rain and if it doesn't get a 1/4 inch or more, I water. I do dump it out every day as I am not fond of mosquitoes.

I think I mentioned that I have been at war with the bamboo growing in the yard this year. I finally got it cleared from where it is blocking the sun on my benches. The new growth that my trees have put on is impressive. Even things that are shade loving have benefited. Now I just need to finish off the rest of it so I start off next spring with some control. I have not discovered any chemicals that kill it. So mowing and cutting are still my main attack.

I have several carts that have pneumatic tires that have failed. I saw a YouTube video for a DIY hack to fix these. If it has an innertube, get it out of the tire. Reseat the tire as best as possible, and put a piece of masking tape over the axle. Drill 1/4 inch holes in the side of the tire near the rim every 3-4 inches to insert the spout of a can of spray foam into it. Spray a little water into the holes to help activate the foam. Using a Big Gap foam, spray foam into the holes you drilled until it starts to ooze out of the hole. Repeat for each hole. It should start to ooze out of the inflation stem hole – that is why you needed the tape over the axle. Let it cure overnight. Break off and trim the excess that oozed out. You now have a tire that won't deflate and can handle as much weight as a pneumatic tire. The youtube tested several

types of foam and the Big Gap foam worked the best with the insect block a close second. I have tested this on a hand cart with a stack of four concrete blocks that I am replacing the legs of my benches with.

Article

Rules of Bonsai

Ken Schultz found this among other “Golden Rules of Bonsai on the internet. A Bonsai Guide/ You, Me and Bonsai”. (He has added his 2 cents after each of this guy’s Golden Rules.) Something to remember is that free advice is often worth what you pay for it.

1. Bonsai soil should be uniform, not layered.

(This is contrary to the old teaching about a drainage layer.) Editor's note: And is probably the only experimentally verified statement here.

2. Increase humidity by using a tray of pebbles and water or by keeping the area under the bench wet, not by misting.

(Another guideline debunked, toss out your spray bottle??) Editor's note: I have found misting helps deter spider mites, especially indoors in winter. It also helps new cuttings.

3. Water the bonsai plant from above, not by submerging; this will prevent the build up of salts.

(I have too many trees to dip them in a tub. And other than when they are repotted, they don't get submerged. I've also read that the idea is to dip the tree twice to draw out salts. Who really knows?) Editor's note: Watering from above will aid in bug control by washing the critters off that are not physically attached – Spray up under the leaves for best results. So much for not misting.

4. Use only coarse particles for bonsai soil.

(Subjective. Define coarse. Is coarse relative to the tree size? Agree that fines blown away when you mix your soil on a windy day will plug your drain holes and cause your tree to stay too wet.) Editor's note: The last sifting pass of fines 1/16 -1/8 inch is good for small mame, and is really good for striking cuttings. If it is not windy, use a fan to blow away the dust.

5. Water when the plants need watered, not on a fixed schedule.

(True, but hard to follow unless you're at home all the time and check 3 or 4 times a day.)

6. Keep Temperate climate plants outside. Only tropical and sub-tropical plants are suitable for indoor bonsai. Temperate plants must be given an appropriate period of cold dormancy if they are kept indoors.

(Ignores the whole enchilada of moving trees out when the weather allows.) Editor's note: Tropicals and sub-tropicals benefit from sunlight in summer. Do a compare and contrast experiment with two similar sized ficus over a summer. Jack Wickle would disagree with this rule as he kept mame and shohin temperate trees indoors year around and dunked his pots.

As with any “Rule” of bonsai, one size does not fit all. There are grey areas in almost all of

these types of definitive rules – different horticultural needs, different material availability, different yard conditions, different climate. The most that can be said is that The Rule works for the author in their growing setup. Most everything else should be taken with a grain of salt. It goes along with my statement that the best soil mix is what works for you in your yard.

Seasonal Care

For our temperate trees water enough to keep them moist, but not wet, and cut back on fertilizer. They have mostly gone dormant and even though it is hot, they are not using a lot of water. Just don't let them dry out. Keep an eye out for insects as they can do a lot of damage quickly. Aphids and spider mites are bad right now, but Japanese beetles and other leaf chewers are a problem as well. I have seen a couple of articles that advise against using beetle traps as they have an attractant as part of their trap strategy. You don't want that around your trees.

There are some of our trees that like the hot weather. Most tropicals will benefit from attention now. Ficus can be defoliated to reduce leaf size and produce new buds for ramification, they will enjoy as much water as you can give them and lots of fertilizer. Late July, August, and early September in Central Ohio is about as close as we get to their native habitat. You can even repot if you keep them shaded a little and well watered. If you want to see what can be done look at Adam Lavigne's blog Adam Ask Why. Keep in mind he is in Florida and the seasons are a little different, but high summer here is similar to spring and fall there and he works through the summer when it is really hot.

As an experiment defoliate a ficus this week. Keep track of the leaf growth and notice what you have the last week of September. Defoliation of a tree is often done in Japan with the timing to have beautiful fresh small leaves on the tree for a show display. I defoliated a ficus the beginning of July and the leaves are about ½ grown and a fresh green color.

Found on the Web

Mark Fields styling Junipers Akron Canton Cluib
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxmTnXNmMfQhGbPjDcBTvCMRxC?projector=1> I include this as several members were working on Junipers at the July meeting. There are several Jin and Shari techniques along with some wiring information that could be useful.

Still Building a Ficus <https://adamaskwhy.com/2022/08/03/still-building-a-ficus/> A client's tree Adam has been working on for three years is defoliated and grafted in late July/early August. Note that he fertilizes Ficus after repotting and styling as the genus is a heavy feeder and grows rapidly. The new pot is wider but almost half the depth.

Bonsai Tonight on "Bonsai Soil Q and A" <https://bonsaitonight.com/2022/08/13/bonsai-soil-q-and-a/> Focus on Akadama. Jonas discusses three types of Akadama. From this reading, Baked Akadama is essentially Turface, but with a rounded profile whereas Turface has sharper edges. Turface is widely used along with Haydite (fired shale) in the Midwest.

Moss by Kevin Farris. The link is on the CBS webpage or you can go directly to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pqvn6_cvPIA&list=UUMUxTwUO5Ja2zXIRetMqjPQ His talk covered the specifics of collecting moss, the benefits of moss, applying moss for show preparation. As a bonus, he even covered why and how to oil pots before you show your trees and what to avoid in the process (slippery drop hazards). This presentation is meant to help viewers prepare their trees for our annual show. Thanks to new member Trey for filming the lecture.

Coming Attractions

Our 50th Show is September 24 and 25, 10:00 to 5:00 at Dawes Arboretum on StRt 13, South of Newark (N of I-70). Google Maps 7770 Jackstown Rd. Newark OH, 43056.

For starters, we have two prominent headliner artists – Jim Doyle and Chase Rosade – who will share their knowledge with audiences and critique exhibited trees. We also have more vendors planned for this show than ever before! These vendors include Mark Fields, Rob Hoffman, Ken Huth, Mark Passerello, Dan White, & April Grigsby. Many of our vendors have also generously agreed to participate in leading workshops and demonstrations for our visitors. Please see the detailed schedule On the CBS Website <https://columbusbonsai.org/2022-cbs-show/> scheduled workshops are in Section IV.

There will also be ongoing raffles both days with several drawings during each day.

A tree registration form is included below. Please make a copy for each tree you submit.

There are some new categories of awards for the show this year. Since we have two excellent judges the awards have expanded to include:

- Best Deciduous
- Best Conifer (larch and bald cypress included here as well)
- Best Shohin (small bonsai)
- Best Tropical
- Best Native (Ohio native? North American? judge's discretion)
- Best in Show

Remember to register your tree(s). Registration form is in separate attachment. Use as many as you need. One per tree or display.

Bonsai Here and Beyond the Outerbelt

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!

- August 21 Determined! Regular meeting at Franklin Park Conservatory. Also, BYOT for general help and show preparation advice.
- September 23 Show Setup 3:00 at Dawes Arboretum, Tree drop off 6:00
Please note that this is the 4th weekend in September. If you have a formal display or more than a couple of trees, bring them on Friday!
Google Maps 7770 Jackstown Rd. Newark OH, 43056.
- September 24-25 Jim Doyle, Chase Rosade - Special 50th CBS Show Guests
September 24 Please bring your trees Friday afternoon or evening.
Show at Dawes Arboretum 10:00am – 5:00pm
- September 25 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
See Bonsai Tonight for details.
- November 20 Officer Elections, and something pertaining to late fall and early winter
- December - TBD Club Dinner

Information in this newsletter is freely re-publishable. Bylines and Articles may be republished with appropriate attribution to the authors and reciprocity with the newsletter or magazine issue.

Tree registration form EXAMPLE

The fillable .doc is attached to the email and is not a .pdf so it can be emailed to the registrar,
Richard Uhrick uhrick.richard@gmail.com

Set up & tree drop off will be Friday September 23rd 11AM till 7PM. Our guest judges will be doing an exhibit critique at 9:15AM Saturday, so a very narrow window Saturday morning for set up & tree drop off between 8AM and 8:30 AM - obviously, the bulk of the work needs to happen Friday.

*****Example*****
Columbus Bonsai Society
Show Tree Registration
One Tree or Display per page

Member Name: Zack Clayton

Page 1 of 1 Total forms

This tree is: **Show Only** _____ **Submitted for Judging** Yes

This is a: Single Tree _____ and companion plant _____ , or Display yes

Tree: Genus species: Buxus microphylla var. Winter Gem

Common Name: Korean Boxwood Years in Training: 10

Est. Date Sprouted Propagated: 1960 Source: Urban Yamadori

Additional tree(s) **IF** part of a Display:

Companion Plant(s): Genus Species: Hydrocotyle sp. Common Name: Dollarweed

Other: Scroll, sculpture, etc. Suiseki, Animal Stone, Seal on Rock, Daiza, and Stand

Table Space needed (Width of Tree or Display): 24 inches.

Please include a picture or diagram of a display so we set it up correctly.

<Insert picture here>

Please fill out all information in the form. Including the address. If you want a club member to give you a ride, pick up, 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



Columbus Bonsai Society Membership Registration

Individual \$35 ____ Family \$40 ____ Date: _____

NEW ____ Renewal ____ Joined at event _____

Please Print This information.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____ - _____ - _____ In case your Email bounces

Address _____

(optional)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____