

Columbus Bonsai Society

September 2022 Newsletter
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Columbus Bonsai Society
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Meetings start at 2pm unless otherwise noted

What's up for Saturday and Sunday, September 24-25, 2022

Our 50th Annual Show at The Dawes Arboretum. The **forth** Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25, 2022. Setup and tree drop off is Friday, September 23. We have an all star cast including Jim Doyle, Chase Rosade, Mark Fields, Rob Hoffman, Ken Huth, Jason Parrish, and Mark Passerello. There is still some room in most workshops.

In the Display area there is a judged category as well as our regular "unjudged" section that is included in Members Choice and Peoples Choice. There will also be raffles running through the day with drawings every 2 hour sd you can take your prizes home with you.

The Dawes Arboretum is located on St Rt 13 south of Newark and north of I-70 at 7770 Jacksontown Rd, Newark, OH 43056.

Down the Rabbit Hole ~ President, Mark Passerello

Random Thotz ~ Zack Clayton, Editor

I can't believe this, but I have no trees for display this year. I had several that were possible, but trips corresponding with hot dry spells damaged them due to inadequate watering. None died, but the damage still shows and they are not appropriate for the 50th.

I was very worried about a Japanese maple that I took to the Sergio Cu-an workshop. Not as a show tree, but I had air layered it and it was crispy for over a month before pushing new growth—above and below the air layer. The sphagnum stayed moist but I didn't know it the roots supporting the top had survived. They did. Now the question is what effect that had on the new root ball. I will not be detaching the top until next spring at the earliest even if I see roots growing in the moss. It will get treated as half hardy this winter.



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I will be taking advantage of the raffle(s) at the show to donate some of my collection of smaller potensai trees. There will be a nice assortment of material available in these.

I have a Parrots Beak cutting from one of the recent workshops that was stalled most of the summer. It is in a pot in a noodle soup bowl the pot has the soil in it and the soup bowl stays about 1-2" full of water. It has recently pushed new growth and looks like it will take off going into winter storage. I have determined that most of my Ficus and other tropicals do well in a small amount of standing water in my soil mix and indoor environment. You may want to try this on some of your plants if you have problems with them drying out over the winter. Don't do them all unless you have a well draining mix. Your Milage May Vary.

Articles

Tree of the Month: *Schefflera arboricola* by Ken Schultz

You may also know it as Umbrella Tree. A name used to describe its umbrella like long stemmed palmate leaves. Most of us know this plant as office greenery. It is frequently sold among the selection of tropical evergreen plants suitable for indoor situations that are less than ideal for most other plants. The type more commonly sold *S. actinophylla*, has leaves that are up to 8" across. *S. arboricola* is much smaller. One reference reported that the plant is toxic to pets, the others did not mention this, but if you have a cat that eats plants, be careful.

My first attempt to bonsai Schefflera started when I trash picked a pot of plants on trash night that someone had given up trying to grow in some of the nastiest spent potting soil that I have seen. When I got the pot of Schefflera home and took the plant out of the soil I'd found it in, I ended up with seven cuttings that had been grouped in the pot at the nursery for quick sale. I separated these cuttings and potted them separately in extra pots that I seemed to have accumulated. I eventually sold all of these plants for at least the cost of the pot. A few of them were developing into decent specimens for bonsai, but they were not the preferred dwarf variety that Jose' provided for the August workshop he led. By the way, after re-potting my find, I placed them outdoors in a shady area, and eventually placed them under fluorescent lights for the winter, in my basement. I did do some light wiring and light pruning. Watch out for mealy bug or scale – especially on new plants or after they have been indoors for a month or so. I swear, some bugs materialize out of thin air! But they also do well in those indoor conditions with tasty plants to suck on.

Schefflera are not trained in the traditional Japanese triangular shapes, rather they are developed into umbrella shaped trees, frequently with multiple trunks and if you are able to provide sufficient humidity, aerial roots. Young plants grow rapidly, and should provide you with a number of opportunities to practice your pruning skills. Some wiring can be done but the new trunk growth is soft. However, it is also very flexible. A healthy plant improves the likelihood of growing a successful bonsai plant. When maintaining the umbrella shape of your Schefflera think of the shape, and trim branches that grow outside that shape, below the

silhouette. The thickest stem should be the focus of the tree you eventually develop. While it may be possible to force smaller stems to catch up, you will get quicker realistic results this way. This thicker stem should also be the tallest, eventually becoming the center of your umbrella. Wiring the thinner branches out into a fan shape. When a stem is cut the first three or four leaves to develop will be smaller; however you will notice that when six or several leaves had grown they will get larger. Cut the stem shorter again when it is at least ¼ to 3/8" thick, within the imaginary outline of your final tree. You may also look to see which direction the dormant bud is likely to grow to help you to decide where to cut. Remember, this may mean that your tree will temporarily be way out of shape; perhaps having shoots as long as 2-3' long. Ideally pruning is done in late spring when temperatures are over 75. Again, unlike regular bonsai styles where "less is more"; you will be developing a tree with many trunks and branches this time.

Try to keep your Schefflera moist at all times but not soggy. While you may be tempted to over water, this will also cause longer internodes and bigger leaves. Use a humidity tray in the winter. Ideal growing conditions include light, temperature and fertilizer. Provide at least 14 hours of artificial light in the winter. The best temperatures are between 60 and 85, though it will tolerate temperature up to 90. Fortunately, the middle of this range is a common temperature range of most homes. You can take your Schefflera outdoors when the temperatures are above 60 degrees. Of course in the fall when the temperatures are below 59 bring them back indoors. Outdoors protecting them from direct sun is probably a good idea, books suggest "bright semi-shade." Unlike Ficus, they should not lose their leaves when you move them indoors, though indoors the leaves will be thinner and larger. More light will give shorter stems on the leaves. Too much light will burn the edges of the leaves.

Do not use strong fertilizers, rather use a steady weak amount of fertilizer. DO NOT use fertilizers designed for outdoor plants, they will burn the roots of Schefflera. Not to be a name-dropper, as I am no relation, 2-3 drops of Schultz's Liquid Plant Food per gallon each time you water should give you steady healthy growth. In general more light and fertilizer results in faster growth. Watering by dunking is recommended. Allow newly repotted plants to soak for 30 minutes. While they do not like to dry out, place your hand on the soil to make sure it doesn't feel wet. If it does – wait. Like too much water, too much fertilizer causes – bigger leaves. When you remove your bigger leaves, leave the leaf stock on. I'm not sure why, but they will fall off by themselves in four weeks. [Editors Note: The plant will resorb the nutrients in the stem.]

One of the styles for Schefflera is root over rock. Lava is frequently used. Roots are tied securely to the rock so that the tree does not wobble. Planting at an angle also will be more interesting than straight up. When repotting use a "soil mix" that includes one part peat moss or other organics plus the usual. Repot every two years. Interestingly I found conflicting advice, one author says keep the pH acidic (5.6-7) while another says to keep them slightly alkaline, - pH 7.2 to 7.9) Be patient, it may take 6-10 years to develop an outstanding specimen, but that is much quicker than a pine or other outdoor tree. Also your cuttings can easily be rooted to create new bonsai challenges, or gifts to your plant loving friends – even if they won't be training them as bonsai. Though a source also claimed that they are difficult to propagate, I didn't have this experience, 3 out of 4 cuttings took, but it did require patience, and I put them in wet sand, not water.

The Show

"Workshop registration & check-in info:

We strongly recommend planning and reserving your workshop spots early as this will make the check-in process go more smoothly! A summary of workshops and demos can be found on the CBS website [here](#), and below. Workshops for the show can be purchased online [here](#).

If you register for a workshop after Thursday 9/22, your name may not make it onto the list of registered participants in time and you will have to bring a receipt or have one accessible in your email/phone on the day of the event for verification. As you sign up, taking a screenshot is an easy way to have this verification info ready.

Workshops with open spots can still be purchased online through the CBS store on the day of the event, but again you will have to show your receipt at the check-in station. CBS would like to keep the sign-up process as 'clean' as possible, and therefore not accept cash/check if possible.

Contact our workshop coordinator with any questions –
Ryan Huston ry2tree2@gmail.com."

9/24 9:15 - 10:00 Exhibit tour and critique - Jim Doyle & Chase Roade

9/24 11:00 -12:00 Make an Accent Pot - Mark Passerello

9/24 12:30 - 2:45 Chinsan Azalea - Jim Doyle

9/24 3:30 - 5:30 Shohin Juniper - Mark Fields **sold out**

9/25 9:15 - 10:00 Exhibit tour and critique - Jim Doyle & Chase Roade

9/25 10:00 - 11:00 Absolute Beginners - Jason Parrish

9/25 11:00 - 1:00 Black Pine - Rob Hoffman

9/25 2:00 - 4:00 Golden Coin Ficus Demo - Ken Huth

9/25 3:00 - 5:00 **Bonus** BYOT no cost 1st come 1st served

Assistance and Volunteers

As you are aware, the CBS 50th Annual Show will happen in 2 weeks at Dawes Arboretum. This event is shaping up to be a phenomenal occasion, and its success will be in large part to the effort of volunteers, both club members and helpful friends.

Here are some of the important tasks that volunteers will lend a hand for:

* Show set up-Set up will begin at 12 PM Friday September 23. This year set up will need to be totally complete on the day before the show. This task will involve table placement, applying table coverings, and tree placement.

* Vendor helpers. Our vendors this year will be outdoors, just outside the show venue in a "vendor's village". Help is needed to unload stock and assist with set up. When the show closes on the first day, all vendor stock must be secured and selling setups taken down-there is no security on the Dawes property overnight. Vendors will then set up again Sunday morning. Willing hands to assist with take down and set up in the morning and evening will be appreciated.

Sat 9/24 set up 8AM-10AM

Sun 9/25 set up-8AM-10AM Tear down 5PM-6PM

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* A point person is needed to keep awards and trophies secure, oversee the voting and tabulation for People's Choice winner, and distribute awards Sunday morning.

* Tree registrar Rich Uhrick has been collecting tree registrations and creating ID tags. Assistance with sign in as well as sign out Sunday after the show would be helpful.

* Staff for the club table, assisting with answers to questions, taking care of last minute workshop sign ups and selling tickets for raffles.

*Raffle point person is Dane Kirk, it may be useful for him to have help taking care of the raffles throughout both days.

* Vendor liaison/workshop boss is Ryan Houston. He will definitely need assistance getting workshop areas set up/prepared then cleaned/rearranged for each individual session.

* CBS will have access to the kitchenette at Dawes, we usually have a potluck going so show volunteers/vendors have food and beverages available easily without leaving the show venue. Someone to oversee hospitality and any clean up is needed. Donations of FOOD, BEVERAGES and SUPPLIES gratefully accepted.

IMPORTANT: if you're signed up to help we need to know now, so you are on the 'guest list" and do not have to pay admission to Dawes (that's \$10).

Seasonal Care

September is a good time to prune tropicals as they are still actively growing. In fact, I just struck a bunch of *Ficus salicaria* cuttings. Temperatures in the day are still reaching the 80's even tho the night readings are low to mid 50's. There is no need to start the in-out shuffle yet. For those that do that exercise it usually doesn't start until the night temperatures hit the mid to low 40's - so sometime next month.

Many older texts suggest removing fertilizer entirely in the next month. Club members who have tracked that say the tree is healthier in the spring if the tree gets a balanced fertilizer up through it going dormant. You can reduce the amount given, but there is no advantage to stopping entirely. Since evergreens don't go dormant entirely until the temperature approaches freezing, in central Ohio, you could fertilize them through the winter safely. Just don't overdo it.

Don't prune deciduous trees from now until dormancy, the tree will recover a lot of resources from the leaves until they drop off on their own. Pruning the tree will remove a lot of those nutrients and minerals before they are recovered. You can mark branches for pruning after the tree goes dormant, but it is usually easier to do after leaf drop so you can see what you are doing with the branch structure.

This is a good time to weed. Many of them are just setting seed now and removing them will reduce the load of what has to be removed next spring. Some growers apply Preen or a similar product now to reduce seed germination.

Found on the Web

Michael Hagedorn Bunjin Part I—What IS This Weird Thing?

<https://crataegus.com/2022/07/22/bunjin-part-i-what-is-this-weird-thing/> Bunjin appreciation.

Michael Hagedorn Bunjin —Building On Weird—Part II

<http://crataegus.com/2022/08/26/bunjin-building-on-weird-part-ii/>

Compare and contrast—positive and negatives in several Bunjin

Michael Hagedorn Patient Magic

<http://crataegus.com/2022/09/02/the-patient-magic-of-michael-roberts-part-iii/>

Repotting an Emperor sized tree.

Jonas Dupuich Bonsai Development Series #5: Selecting a new trunk line

<https://bonsaitonight.com/2018/03/20/bonsai-development-series-5-selecting-a-new-trunk-line/>

Yes this is an older post, but since rob is doing a JBP workshop I thought it would be appropriate.

Coming Attractions

We are diligently working on subject matter for nex month. Please stand by.

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!

September 23 Show Setup 3:00 at Dawes Arboretum, Tree drop off 4:00—7:00

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!

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

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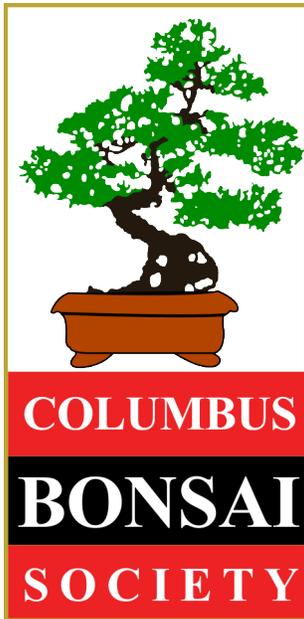
Membership Registration

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, 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
