

Columbus Bonsai Society

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Columbus Bonsai Society
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Meetings start at 2pm unless otherwise noted



COLUMBUS
BONSAI
SOCIETY

What's up for Sunday, March 19.

Our March meeting is the almost annual event Huth-A-Palooza. New members ask - what exactly is a Huth-A-Palooza? I believe the name was coined by long term CBS member Ken Schultz back when he was president of the club. Canton based bonsai nurseryman Ken Huth (Ken's World of Bonsai <https://kensworldofbonsai.com/>) is a long time member of the club, and in addition to vending at our annual show, has been making an early spring visit to a club meeting for a wide ranging bonsai free-for-all. Essentially he'll bring a van load of plant stock and give some guidance on how to start a variety of bonsai projects. This year he'll have a variety of seedlings and whips, which are great starting points for forest plantings, Tanuki (trunk fuse or phoenix graft) projects, and root over rock.

There is no workshop cost for this meeting. Any cost for plant materials you need is paid directly to Ken. We suggest you bring your toolkits and necessary supplies. Rob Hoffman (Yume-en Nursery www.Yume-enbonsai.com) will be selling soil and other necessities if you don't have them to bring.

As if all that wasn't enough-the March meeting will also include a report and slide show from Kevin Faris, who recently won the Ben Oki scholarship given by the California Bonsai Society. Kevin used his scholarship funds to attend an intensive weekend workshop with Denver based bonsai grower Todd Schlafer, and he'll share some stories and images of that experience with us.

Also, there will be an auction of several trees and a complete collection of tools and supplies from the estate of Amy Maurot. Amy passed away recently and CBS is assisting her family in sorting out her bonsai items. Funds raised go directly to the family.

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Down the Rabbit Hole by Mark Passerello, President

Welcome to March in Central Ohio. If you don't like the weather, just wait an hour. Many have begun the repotting process, but thus far the trees in winter storage are mostly still asleep. A privet is almost leafed out, and the red crabapples and quinces are budding. The green crabapples should start soon-I find they are about 2 weeks behind the reds. Im crossing my fingers that so far the outdoor trees will make it through the whiplash temperature changes. This was a tough year for all my "half hardy stock" stored in the relative shelter of the garage. Heavy losses, what the sports people call " a rebuilding year" for that segment of the collection.

If you missed the February meeting - the ceramic workshop - I will be honest with you, you missed a tremendous event. Nineteen participants got their hands dirty and produced some very fine looking items-big pots, little pots and lots in-between. Some photos have been posted on the club's Facebook group if you'd like to get a preview.

Our hosts for the workshop at The Kiln Room thought it went well and suggested making it an annual event. I am all for that but think there may be enough interest to do it more than once a year. Stay tuned for updates, and if you have thoughts or suggestions let me know.

Random Thotz by Zack Clayton, Editor

Well, climate weirdness continues. I have to agree with Mark about a rebuilding year. I didn't lose many half hardy trees, I only had one in the garage, but it's crispy. I think there are a couple of outdoor trees that didn't like the weather. This would be the wet end of things rather than freeze drying. I was out during the warm week and noticed shriveled bark on several young trees and some sort of pin point fungal spore pod on the trunks of several native maples. The shriveled bark was on several group pots of 3 yr old trident trident maples. Sigh, into the fire circle.

Not sure what the cold forecast for next week will do. - Update: I'm still not sure, I got hit with some respiratory bug and haven't been out at all. Negative covid test but I still sound like a tuberculin yak. It played havoc with choir and Carmina Burana rehearsals.

Articles

Growing Pines for Bonsai By Julian Adams, Published 2021 A Book Review by Ken Schultz

This is a large soft cover book written by Julian Adams who has grown bonsai, mostly pines, for 50 years. CBS has had him provide a pine workshop which featured his PowerPoint presentation, "Pines Are Easy". The book's text focuses on growing and caring for single flush and two flush pines. If you get confused on when to do what with these two categories of pines, then I recommend this book.

Julian has divided the book into these two growth categories because the care for all single flush is similar. And the care for two flush pines is also similar. There are only three commonly used two flush pines used for bonsai; Japanese Black, Japanese Red and Pitch pines. Julian says Single Flush pines are the better choice for novice pine growers because their care is less complicated. Mugo, Scots, Ponderosa and White are common bonsai subjects. Julian specializes in Zuisho White Pine, which has its own peculiarities. Two of the book's chapters are devoted to this shorter needled Japanese White Pine.

Julian warns that using single flush techniques on a two flush pine or Vice versa will lead to disaster for both. He uses pines annual growth cycle as the key to explain the differences in care. The growth cycle is divided into Dormant stage, Awakening stage, Candle Extension stage, Shoot pines development stage Summer Growing stage, Quieting stage, then back to Dormant. Styling, Bud selection, Candle management, repotting, fertilization, wiring, styling, are assigned to their appropriate stage for the two types of pines.

Repotting is done in the Awakening stage. This is determined by seeing white growth tips on the roots. Rough styling and wiring is done during the Dormant stage. For Single Flush pines, fertilization is done during the Summer Growing stage.

For two flush pines candle length is equalized during Awakening stage,, then removed at the end of Shoot development. Don't do this to single flush! And unlike Single Flish, Fertilization starts at the beginning of Awakening and continues until Quieting(Oct. Nov.). In December needle quantities per branch are equalized.

Other tidbits in this book show how to take and start pine cuttings, air-layering and diseases. Julian says he uses the same soil mix in all his trees for fifty years. 4 parts Turface MVP, 1/4 part grower grade chicken grit, 1 part fine peat sifter through a 1/4" screen. He says no tree has ever died from his use of Turface. He says 1 bag of Turface will make 11 gallons of his soil mix.

His book is filled with photos showing what he's talking about. Each type of pine has a separate annual care chart. These alone make the book worth the price. I got my copy as a Christmas gift, but I believe it must be purchased from Adams Bonsai.

Free bonsai?

Here's a short bit on starting new bonsai from cuttings. by Ken Schultz

Both soft wood and root cuttings are possible. The advantage over seeds is that you'll end up with a genetically identical plant as the parent tree, and you'll shave years off of waiting for the tree to thicken. I won't cover air-layering here, but will discuss soft wood cuttings and root cuttings.

Root cuttings can be taken while you're repotting your bonsai. They have the advantage of being thicker and perhaps having more interesting trunk shapes; also they already have feeder roots when you are cutting roots that have gotten too long or are circling in your bonsai pot. Plants that freely sprout "new" trees in your bonsai pot, or in your yard are good candidates. Examples are; Crabapple, Quince, Elms, Privet, Wisteria, Serrisa and Ficus. I watched a Peter Chan YouTube video on this topic. He included English Hedge Maples.

Select a section of root then trim off feeder roots that will be above the soil line. Pot the root at an interesting angle, making sure up stays as upright as possible when placing your cutting in your rooting medium. Use finer textured soil to ensure contact with the feeder roots. Water in using SuperThrive or other transplant solution. Place it in a location protected from

wind and sun until the cutting sprouts new buds and leaves. [Editor note: In a series of classes by Jeff Carr, he had increased success with brushing a dilute rooting hormone solution like Dip and Grow on the areas that you cut the feeder roots off. Basically the exposed root above the soil.]

As you prune back your bonsai's new growth, or unwanted branches, keep rooting the better ones in mind. A few years ago when I did a first styling on a Seka Hinoki, I struck 22 cuttings in a tray of sand mixed with potting soil. Each was dipped in a rooting hormone and given SuperThrive on their first watering. Eighteen of them took.

In a YouTube video on rooting cuttings they provided six tips on taking successful cuttings. They didn't mention that the cuttings should be 5-6" long, nor did they mention that two year old wood is most likely to be successful. Experience tells me that strong new growth is a good selection. And cutting that are too big are likely to move during the rooting process, reducing their success rate.

1) in the video, the ends of the cuttings were stripped of their bark and cambium for about an inch, much like the area bared for air-layering. It was explained that this prevented callusing over and encouraged better root development around the entire trunk. [Note: you should make sure at least 1 bud is in the soil, better two. This means cut the section about an inch below the buried bud. You can leave as much stem above the exposed buds as you want for a handle and for it to reabsorb any nutrients in it.]

2) make sure you firmly pack the rooting soil firmly around the cutting to prevent it from moving until the roots develop, which should occur in about six weeks.

3) They used a liquid rooting hormone and placed 1 drop in a deep saucer with about 1' water in it, then the potted cutting, in a smaller container, was placed into the water to keep it wet during the rooting process.

4) Don't remove leaves or foliage at this time, you need them to provide the energy to sprout new roots.

5) You should place your cuttings into a covered tray with a translucent or clear vented cover to provide higher humidity but not so much that there is a risk of mold. If you have placed many cuttings into a single pot, you can use a clearish freezer bag over the pot. I used to use a concrete mixing tray with a bag of play box sand and some soil that I'd rooted other cuttings in, mixed in. It seems that auxins released from earlier plants aids in higher success. [So does a crushed aspirin or two in the first watering.]

6) be patient, don't repot your cuttings until after you see new growth. I usually wait 3-4 months with deciduous cutting and up to a year with conifer cuttings.

Material listed as easy; Elms, Larch, Zelkova, Willow, Azalea Boxwood, Pyracantha, Olive, Ficus, Pomegranate, Cotoneaster, and Privet. More difficult, Pines and Junipers. (Personally, I have had very good success with most Juniper varieties). Beech and Hornbeam were also listed as difficult. I also successfully rooted a Little Leaf Linden cutting. I have not had success with Maple cuttings, though Zack says he has. [I have on tridents, native maples, hedge maples, and occasional Japanese maples. Usually the suckers on the graft base for JMs.] I find air-layering to be a better choice for propagating new maples.

Seasonal Care

As buds break, it is time to repot that tree. Unless the forecast is for freezing temperatures in the next week. Repotting will stress your tree, so will freezing after a thaw. Jim Doyle advises only doing one stressful thing at a time to your bonsai. Interesting. The usual advice is to make any major cuts to your tree before bud break so the growth goes to the parts you want to keep. I would consider this to be a stress factor. But I never see any warning about not repotting after this. Often when we collect a tree from the ground we prune it back to compensate for the root reduction. I guess the difference is tree in a pot vs. tree going into a pot. There may be a scale difference there.

For trees not being repotted, fertilize deciduous trees and single flush pines. Julian Adams recommends a micronutrient application to pines at this time as it is your chance to get those into the tree before the growth is set for the year. As you are inspecting your trees, look for egg sacks and remove them unless you recognize a predator insect. They will be your first line of defense against the herbivores.

As you repot, consider composting your soil mix in a large container and keeping it in the sun during the summer. Temperatures will kill bugs and organics will break down so you can sieve them back to your sizes in the fall or late winter. That soil can be reused if you want. If you are worried about sterilizing it, an oven set at 200 for an hour, or get a turkey fryer kit and heat the soil in it. 200 degrees will do it for dry soil, or steaming for wet soil.

Sharpen your tools.

Found on the Web

Repotting a lot of trees - <https://bonsaitonight.com/2023/03/10/three-repotting-tips/> Jonas talks about his work this spring. Work in batches, timing, and big moves.

Adam's Art and Bonsai Blog – Bonsai Empire Intermediate Course 2: A review.

<https://adamaskwhy.com/2023/01/25/bonsai-empire-intermediate-course-2-a-review/>

This is a nice overview of the course and explanation of how all of the Bonsai Empire courses work. Students have free access to any course they have taken so they can review.

Why Adam? Just why? "...I am a student yesterday, I am a student today, I am a student always..." <https://adamaskwhy.com/2022/10/17/why-adam-just-why/> This is an excellent essay on beginners mind. In this example, determining trunk chops.

Is Lava Good For Bonsai? <https://crataegus.com/2023/03/10/is-lava-good-for-bonsai-media/>

Michael Hagedorn says probably not. Article and extensive discussion QA about lava, pumice, akadama, and other soil components. Mostly lava and pumice.

Coming Attractions

Next month will be devoted to repotting. Preparation tools techniques, wiring in, and finishing for appearance. And of course the perennial discussion of soil mix. I have a couple of Found on the Web that covers portions of these topics.

If you are interested in doing some bonsai related traveling yourself, but can't take the time or expense to go half way round the globe, there are closer destinations well worth your time.

Our friends in the Cleveland club put on a good show, which this year happens the first weekend in June. Location is the historic Rockefeller Greenhouse and admission is free. The greenhouse is situated in a city park that features many cultural gardens-a great way to spend the day.

Two regional shows happen later this summer, and if you have only attended a local or club

show, its great to see bonsai on a much larger scale. The All Michigan show takes place in Grand Rapids on Mother's Day weekend. Venue is the Frederick Meijer Gardens (Yes. That Meijer). It's a phenomenal venue and the show is a collaboration between the many bonsai clubs in the state up north. Another event to put on your radar is the Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition at the Chicago Botanical Garden August 18-20.

Both these events draw a large number of attendees, are served by a large flock of vendors and both put on a very impressive display of excellent bonsai. IF you are seeking inspiration, or a great place to shop, these are events to consider. If you're curious about what the MABA convention we will be hosting in 2024 will be like-either of these is a good preview. It would be awesome to see a big crew of CBS members representing at either event, and if there is some interest the club could help coordinate carpooling or (lets go big) van rental!

Bonsai Here and Beyond the Outerbelt

Our normal schedule is meetings at Franklin Park Conservatory, 1777 E Broad St, Columbus, OH 43203, on the third Sunday at 2:00 for general meetings, and 10:00 for scheduled workshops. Please stay tuned for new developments as we often get short notice from FPC of location changes. Thanks for your understanding and patience!

- March 18 Central Ohio Cactus and Succulent Society (COCSS) at FPC, 12-3pm
- March 19 Huth-A-Palooza. Club member Ken Huth (Ken's World of Bonsai) will be presenting his demos, quick styling and other fun mini presentations. Come prepared to replenish your supply of seedlings other pre-bonsai material. Rob Hoffman (Yume-En) will have potting soil there also so you can stock up. There are no club fees for the workshop/demos, just direct payment to Ken and Rob for their material.
- April 15 COCSS at FPC 12-3pm
- April 16 Repotting – preparation, tools, techniques, wiring in, and finishing.
- April 29 CBS at COCSS sale 8-9am at the Ganyard Building, 5031 Northwest Pkwy, Hilliard, OH 43026.
- April 29 Arbor Day at Dawes Arboretum, all Day staffed CBS Table for the public.
- May 13-14 The All Michigan Show at Frederick Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, Michigan. 1000 E Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
<https://www.meijergardens.org/>
- May 20 COCSS 12-3 pm
- May 21 BYOT (Bring Your Own Tree) and Show Prep. We Upped our game in 2022, Lets keep it going. The BYOT is for any tree you want advice on, but it is a good opportunity for working on a tree you are going to show.
- May 27-29 Brussel's Bonsai Rendezvous, Brussel's Bonsai, Olive Branch, MS
- June 3-4 Cleveland Bonsai Club show at the Rockefeller Greenhouse. Admission is free.
- June 8-11 MILE HIGH BONSAI! American Bonsai Society Learning Seminars,. Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, Colorado. Guest artists: Kathy Shaner, Jennifer Price, Todd Schlafer. <https://www.absbonsai.org/national-convention-2023>

June 15	COCSS 12-3 pm
June 18	BYOT and Show Prep.
July 15	COCSS 12-3 pm
July 16 C	BS Final show preparations, staffing and duties, tree polishing, and emergent Issues.
July 28	Show set up - time TBD
July 29-30	Show venue at Dawes Arboretum, see www.ColumbusBonsai.org for details. 7770 Jacksontown Rd, Newark, OH 43056 https://dawesarb.org/
July 30	Show teardown 5:00
August 18-20	Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition at the Chicago Botanical Garden This is a regional show. 1000 Lake Cook Rd, Glencoe, IL 60022 https://www.chicagobotanic.org/
August 19	COCSS 12-3 pm
August 20	Tropicals – Guest Artist TBA
September 16	COCSS 12-3 pm
September 17	TBD
October 15	Picnic, pot luck, member sale
October 21	COCSS 12-3 pm
November 18	COCSS 12-3 pm
November 19	Election and ?
December 16	COCSS 12-3 pm
December ?	Holiday Gathering
2024	
January 20	COCSS (Central Ohio Cactus and Succulent Society) 12-3 pm
January 21	CBS TBD
January 26-28	Shohin School Winter Seminar. https://www.shohinschool.com/winter-seminar
August 29, 30, and September 1	MABA in Columbus. Information is on our Facebook Group https://www.facebook.com/groups/248412035864133/ Columbus Bonsai Society – Group and https://www.mabaohio2024.com/

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Membership Information

Due to a streamlined work flow for handling memberships our dues policy has changed to the website online, credit card, or paypal. There will be no further paper forms. Website is <https://columbusbonsai.org/product/memberships/>

Going forward, the newsletter delivery will run January to January with the exception of class participation membership and early joining members at the show or after. These exceptions will include the current year and the next. So the FPC class of 2022 membership is good for 2023 as well. New members who joined at the Dawes Show are also extended thru 2023.

