

Columbus Bonsai Society

May, 2023 Newsletter
Vol. 53, No. 5

Columbus Bonsai Society
PO Box 7741
Columbus, OH 43229

Web: <https://columbusbonsai.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ColumbusBonsai/>
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/248412035864133/>

Email columbusbonsai@gmail.com

Meetings start at 2pm unless otherwise noted



COLUMBUS

BONSAI

SOCIETY

Table of Contents

Article	Page
What's Up	1
Down the Rabbit Hole	1
Random Thotz	2
Articles	3
Seasonal Care	6
Found on the Web	7
Coming Attractions	7
Bonsai Here and Beyond the Outerbelt.	8
NEW Membership Information	9

What's up for Sunday, May 21 at 2:00.

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. A BYOT session is an excellent learning opportunity as you get to choose a tree you want to work on, the club has people knowledgeable about most of what you would bring in and we can all learn about that species. If we don't know we can use google and sort out the chaff of obviously wrong stuff and keep you on the right track. You will get various opinions of things to do with a problem child, and best of all, you get to choose what advice you want to follow. You can bring in more than one tree if you choose.

Down the Rabbit Hole by Mark Passerello, President

It may be the end of winter-real beginning of summer-at last. Before writing this I moved the last of the 'indoor' plants out of the basement and out into the backyard. The plant lights are turned off for the summer. This means going forward the electric bill might be a touch lower, though the water bill will of course be going up.

A big thanks you to all the folks who purchased items from the Amy Maurot estate. The club was able to provide her family with over a thousand dollars that will be used for final expenses. There are just a few odds and ends left that the club will use for workshops and demos as those come up.

One item that may not be used is a canning jar with a screw on lid filled about halfway with a white powder. Since it is not labeled it is hard to know what it is. Bonsai can involve the use of substances that must be handled carefully, and which might prove to be downright dangerous. Some good advice: always leave things like pesticides and other chemi-

Club Officers

Mark Passerello President

mpasserello@rocketmail.com

Jack Smith Past President

jsmith4753@aol.com

Rob Hoffman 1st Vice

President

rhoffman2382@gmail.com

Dane Kirk 2nd Vice

President—Show Chair

kirk3263@gmail.com

Ryan Huston Treasurer

Ry2tree2@gmail.com

Brent Douglas Secretary

Brentworkster@gmail.com

Kevin Faris Membership Director

kevinfarispnwbonsai@gmail.com

Ralph Landers Director-at-Large

ralph@1pse.com

William Holterman Director

-at-Large

William.Holterman@gmail.com

Ken Schoenfeld Tree Curator

slschoenfeldsandy@yahoo.com

Zack Clayton Newsletter Editor

zclayton@yahoo.com

Daniel White, Web Master

Cable22001@gmail.com

Wendy Mizanin Librarian, Video

wendymiz1@att.net

Columbus Bonsai Club email

columbusbonsai@gmail.com

cals in the original containers when ever possible, and if you must 'repackage' always label the contents.

After Ryan Houston delivered his talk about bonsai from seed at the November meeting, some of us were inspired to go check out a rich source of ginkgo seeds he mentioned. The stand of mature trees is in Wolfe Park, not far from the Conservatory, and it was a mild, pleasant day-ideal for collecting the fallen fruit. At the time of year we were collecting, almost the entire crop had fallen off the tree, and had freeze/thawed a few times, but the freeze treatment didn't really diminish the signature aroma of ripe ginkgo fruit.

As we were scooping up plastic bags full of seeds, a car pulls up and a number of Asian folks got out. They seemed to be amused at these Americans gathering seeds, but also frustrated-in the way that a fisherman would be if they showed up at their secret spot and found some other folks with their hook in the water. My guess is they were hoping to gather either the fruit or nuts for eating.

My stash of seeds stayed in the refrigerator over the winter. My family is used to the presence of a bag or two of stratifying seeds in the fridge and make no complaint if there are no leaks or spills. The seeds went into a tray of recycled bonsai soil at the end of April. This seemed late to me, and when I have pulled such seeds as elm out of the fridge after a winters nap, they had already started rooting, but the ginkgo were still inert.

The sun and warmth of the outside environment did its work and those seeds are now starting to show signs of life. One interesting thing I've noticed about these seeds-which are eaten like nuts and have the hard protective case associated with a nut-is that the developing tree doesn't waste energy trying to 'crack' the nut. It sends out its strong tap root into the soil through a crack just big enough for that exit, and as the tree grows the seed leaves stay inside the nut shell for the whole process. Seed-leaves (properly called cotyledons) are the meat of the nut, and are the fuel tank or stored energy for the developing plant. On plants like beans or maples the cotyledons are very obvious. You may have seen time lapse video of a plant shooting skywards, it seed leaves opening like the solar panels on a satellite to help start the photosynthesis process and energize the developing plant.

Ginkgo and other nut bearing trees seem to have a different strategy. The heavy nut shell offers great protection. Im pretty positive that the ginkgo's natural history involves some large animal eating the entire fruit, digesting the pulp and excreting the nut, safely encased in its sturdy shell, far away from where it was eaten. This is how plants can "walk". And considering the age of a living fossil like the ginkgo, the animal doing the eating and transporting might have been a dinosaur! Once that seed lands on the soil, the tap root goes out, and just enough of the seed leaves exit the shell to put the growth point for the future tree outside of protective cover.

Random Thotz by Zack Clayton, Editor

I'll echo Marks observation of moving tropicals outside now. I've followed the last frost is before Mother's Day – so that is when seeds and plants go out in the garden – and

tropical bonsai are safe to go out also. I'm a couple of days behind that as most of my tropicals are still inside. But when I get the newsletter done they will be going out.

When I had my deck built, I saved the scraps of decking and joists for building benches. Those are now starting to rot out so I'm looking at replacement. I tried concrete blocks for leg support last year on a couple of tests and they seem to be holding up well for vertical and horizontal stability. So now on to replacing the surface. I want to use synthetic decking, but that costs even more than wood. It may be a couple of years project.

Articles

Styling and Repotting Tips by Ken Schultz and Zack Clayton

A set of photo essays based on pictures and commentary by Ken plus what I know of the intermediate steps between the pictures.

A Hinoki Cypress repot back into the same pot. This hinoki not only went back into the same pot, which is a good shape and color for this tree, it also was accidentally repotted at the same angle. When I saw this I commented that it would look better rotated about 5 degrees left so the main trunk would be more upright. This would minimize the slingshot effect of the trunk split. Design choices could then be to turn the left side into a first branch, and improve the silhouette of the canopy to something less irregular. Ken's response was he meant to do that, but forgot. Lesson 1: take notes of what you want to do during the repot. A Post-it on the pot might have been a good reminder. Note that in a pot this deep there would have to be some serious alteration of the root ball, shaving the bottom off the left side and the top soil on the right. A deeper pot might have been safer for a less experienced grower, but Ken has a lot of hinoki trees.



Here is a **Balsam Fir with a Japanese Maple** growing in the same pot. Many people would just amputate the maple at the ground as a weed. Ken thought it would be worth saving.



As you can see the fir has a sizable trunk and the maple is well off to the side of the pot with a half inch trunk. The reason to sacrifice the maple is to preserve the roots of the fir. They are probably entangled such that saving the roots of both trees is probably not a possibility. This came from a Japanese Maple grower who was selling off his stock.



There is a lot of Maple there and Ken is considering air layering the top and seeing what the bottom produces. The decision to separate the two is because the fir is in need of re-potting and an air layer in the pot would take too long.

In this picture the top of the Fir looks like it could be another tree. Since there is literature that says you can take greenwood cuttings from a Fir, Ken is considering trying an airtayer in case that would take root.

Here is the maple separated. When the Fir was lifted from the ground most of the maple roots were left behind. The roots were not seriously tangled and both trees will likely survive. I don't know the shape of the maple rootmass, but I would consider a larger pot to allow roots to develop on the side next to the pot wall. Maybe even some injury and rooting hormone to help that growth along. This area gets shade most of the day.



In March of 2016 Ken got this Boxwood, I think at a workshop or a club meeting. It has grown on with some styling since then but Ken has not been able to get it to backbud. As a result it has gotten leggy as you will see in the next photo from last year



Ken kept this in direct sun, and fertilized it heavily. That is the standard recipe for getting backbudding on a Box, but this one was resistant. It has thickened nicely, and individual parts are good, but overall is it unkempt looking.

What to do?

Different pot.
But the foliage is still sparse.
And most of the foliage is on the upwind side.



Ah Haa!





What to do with the rest of the tree?

There are 5 air layers that Ken took on this Box. There is one almost blocked behind the vertical one in front.

Boxwoods will strike cuttings with a low success rate, and they can take two years to finally take. Not a good proposition. However, they will ground layer in nature, often prolifically, as I have gotten more than 30 to survive off of three bushes I collected in summer from a friends landscape . Some were more than a foot tall and almost 1/2" in diameter. Air layering is faster and easier than cuttings. They are best done in shade. If you got any rough boxwood at the raffle at last years show, Those were from natural ground layers.

And here is the final tree. The bending of the first branch to become the leader/apex was challenging, Boxwood is very hard and brittle after a year and that branch was on the tree when Ken got it. Very slow bending and very strong wire to hold that in place. I looks like he has brought it up to level in the air layer photo. So I'm thinking that was a two year incremental movement.



Seasonal Care for Central Ohio

It is not too late to repot most trees, but you may want to limit root pruning. I repot native maples up to the end of June with some extra care of watering and shade. For trees with ranges that go south from here (a specific example would be Boxwood per request) you are probably safe to follow that advice. Those species are adapted to warmer weather than we can expect here, but watch the water requirements and consider shade under a tree or shade cloth.

You can fertilize (the horror) with a low or zero nitrogen fertilizer after repotting – consider the phosphorous content of Superthrive. The phosphorous and potassium content of the N-P-K analysis support root growth but not much green extension growth. Which is part of the stress that nitrogen puts on the root system. You may hear advice not to fertilize as it will burn the roots. I have not noticed this unless the application is way heavier than the label directions. If you are unsure, use it at half strength. Just stay away from high Nitrogen.

Watch for bugs noshing on the new foliage. Damage now will carry forward through the summer. An application of a systemic insecticide on trees you intend to show is probably a good idea. If you have bug problems now spray with 70% isopropyl alcohol for a fast kill while the systemic distributes through the tree. And for pines, watch out for sawfly larvae. These caterpillars can destroy all the candles on a bonsai pine in a day or two. If you look at your pine candles and it looks like there are grey things on it flapping in and out – SPRAY NOW and spray heavily. Check in an hour or two and repeat as needed. The worst bugs I have seen so far are thrips (curling leaves) and aphids. Ants in a pots will cause damage also and since they are not eating the roots getting an ant poison that will carry back to the nest to kill the queen and placing it near the pot under something to keep the rain off will usually take care of them.

It is really time to start thinking of what needs to be done with your tree to get it ready for the show in July. Eg. Which tree, what pot, do I need a pot, what styling this spring, what grows on for next spring, etc. What grows on for next spring can repeat for several years depending on what stage the tree is in and development time needed for your vision. See the found on the web item Bonsai Wire Podcast.

Found on the Web

Do you visit these links? Remember if you visit a link that provides an insight, solves a problem, shares a technique, or is of general interest then please share. I explore sites but I don't see everything that is out there. For instance I miss sites specializing in subjects I don't think of following. You may want to see these mentioned and should send an email with a link I can share.

Michael Hagedorn <https://crataegus.com/2023/04/24/pruning-decisions-on-a-satsuki/> An overgrown azalea and the pruning decisions to restore it.

Adam Ask Why Rehabbing a neglected Banyan ficus.
<https://adamaskwhy.com/2023/04/20/rehabbing-a-neglected-banyan-ficus/> What the label says, It has been neglected in his nursery for several years and he talks about hard pruning, back budding, and branch dieback. Plus the repot and soil treatment.

Bonsai Tonight – Tips for a successful Workshop. What you should bring and more.
<https://bonsaitonight.com/2023/05/05/tips-for-a-successful-workshop/>

Bonsai Tonight – Tips for Hosting a Successful Workshop. For host and presenters.
<https://bonsaitonight.com/2023/05/12/tips-for-hosting-a-successful-workshop/>

Bonsai Wire Podcast - Show prep – 7 Tips to make your trees look their best.
<https://www.bonsaiwirepodcast.com/> Plus a lot of other good podcasts listed at this site.

Coming Attractions

The June meeting will be a continuation of show prep assistance, and another BYOT (Bring Your Own Tree) . We Upped our show 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. June is also the start of the best time to work on tropicals as they like the hotter weather.

A BYOT session is an excellent learning opportunity as you get to choose a tree you want to work on, the club has people knowledgeable about most of what you would bring in and we can all learn about that species. If we don't know we can use Google and sort out the chaff of obviously wrong stuff and keep you on the right track. You will get various opinions of things to do with a problem child, and best of all, you get to choose what advice you want to follow. You can bring in more than one tree if you choose.

Bonsai Here and Beyond the Outerbelt

Our normal schedule is 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 often get short notice from FPC of location changes. Thanks for your understanding and patience!

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| May 20 | COCSS 12-3 pm |
| May 21 | BYOT (Bring Your Own Tree) and Show Prep. We Upped our showgame 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 Todd Schlafer. https://www.absbonsai.org/national-convention-2023 |
| Price, | |
| June 17 | COCSS 12-3 pm |
| June 18 | BYOT and Show Prep. |
| July 15 | COCSS 12-3 pm |
| July 16 | CBS 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 |

September 25-26 Open House at Wildwood Gardens 10-5 both days. \$20 BYOT with styling help/per tree. 20% off all indoor bonsai. 14488 Rock Creek Rd, Chardon, OH 44024

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 12-3 pm

January 21 CBS TBD

January 26-28 Shohin School Winter Seminar. <https://www.shohinschool.com/winter-seminar>

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.

Membership Information

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/>

The new system has a structure that should solve historic problems. To go with this new procedure, all memberships will expire with the January issue of the following year. After that you can still renew, but you will not get the newsletter to remind you about it. You can go to the website, or the facebook group to link to the website.

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 for example: The FPC class of 2022 membership is also good for 2023. New members who joined at the Club Show or after are also extended thru the next year as well.