

Columbus Bonsai Society

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Columbus Bonsai Society
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Meetings start at 2pm unless otherwise noted

What's up for Sunday, August 20

A Tropical focus session with Bring Your Own Tree or more than one, Ficus conversations, styling, What you can do this month with tropicals (see August Care article), and help, hands on and possibly some trees to purchase. Bring trees that you bought at the show and find out what you can do with them and the timetable for that work.

Down the Rabbit Hole by Mark Passerello, President

Wow! Summer is getting by and it is August already. Summer seems shorter every year and winter seems even longer.

It is hard to believe after all the planning and discussion, the hard work and long hours that our annual show is over and now is part of club history. This year's show had a rocky road to travel before getting to the finish line, but was surprisingly smooth travel once it actually took place!

An undertaking like our show is the work of many people. A tip of the hat and a very sincere Thank You to every one who gave time and effort to make the show successful. We had a good crowd going through the exhibit, lots of interested folks taking work shops and our vendors report a very good weekend, so all told, a great success.

Now we can start thinking about the show in 2024, and there will be some changes to look out for. Although Dawes Arboretum is a beautiful place, and an arboretum is a natural space to think about trees, the distance from Columbus is a real drawback. So the hunt for a new venue is on. Unfortunately our longtime partner Franklin Park Conservatory is not able to host show type events in 2024 (although they WILL be hosting meetings!!) so we will once more be looking for a location for the annual show, this time easier to access from Columbus and hopefully with fewer "additional challenges" than we encountered this year.



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As our search begins again, we do have some possible leads, and are open to suggestions.

Speaking of shows-something to put on your calendar: The All Michigan show that happens over Mother's Day weekend at the Meijer Gardens on Grand Rapids Michigan will also be the 2024 American Bonsai Society annual convention/learning event. Hugo Zamora, Jack Sustic and Suthin Sukosolvisit are head liners. Grand Rapids is an easy 5 hour drive from Columbus, and it would be great to organize a carpool caravan and have a really good representation of CBS at the event!

The grapevine informs me that the weekend of October 7th Chase Rosade will be having a large event at his New Hope Pennsylvania nursery. He will be doing a massive downsizing, selling off trees, stones, books and other bonsai items gleaned from a 50+ year involvement in the hobby. More details will be shared when they become available.

Random Thotz by Zack Clayton, Editor

Echoing Mark's show thoughts, It was a great show. The crowds were bigger Saturday with the Japanese Festival but still respectable on Sunday. I spent most of my time out in the education area with my stand up QnA session. I have found that people are more likely to stop look and ask questions about what I'm doing than at a static table display. Saturday I had a couple of 15 minute stretches with no visitors but the rest of the time was a pretty constant stream of visitors. In spite of that I gave 11 boxwoods initial styling and set their future direction over the weekend. I encourage other members to try this. We could coordinate shifts to give everyone a chance at this activity. That said, I really do enjoy the chance to work on my trees like this and explain what I'm doing at the same time.

It looks like the constant rain is finally coming to an end. There have been some weeks where I didn't need to water at all. I didn't lose anything, but I know some people have had plants drown and root rot. The importance of well draining soil and aggregate that will hold moisture for a day or two becomes very clear when you lose trees. Be alert, it is going to be in the 90s next week.

Articles

The articles will be a separate send after I get back from no service in KY.

August Seasonal Bonsai Care for Central Ohio

Many of these tips are not from Central Ohio and some are from sunny California – use caution.

Placement

As the heat of summer continues, most deciduous bonsai will benefit from a bit of midday and afternoon shade. Watch for sun damage and move your trees if necessary and before their leaves are damaged too late. Continue to rotate each bonsai regularly for even growth.

Watering

Summer heat means your bonsai needs to be watered more frequently. Monitor soil conditions closely; as sometimes it will be necessary to water twice daily if you have a “traditional” Japanese shallow pot. My pots are oversized and slightly deeper than the “rules” and I can miss a day of watering unless it's above 85 degrees (Fahrenheit). An aggregate that holds water internally helps with this as it will drain freely but the grains remain moist.

If it rains, remember you still may need to water, especially if you don't know how much rain you got. Of course, if it is creating puddles on the sidewalk or street, that's a good sign that you maybe able to skip watering. Check your pots.

Defoliation

Defoliation should not be performed at this time, unless it is a tropical. You may pinch the terminal bud on native tree branches that are running free as this will encourage back budding. Only do this on healthy trees that are way outside their planned silhouette. Otherwise wait until winter and prune back to just outside the silhouette outline to allow for any dieback.

Broadleaf Tropical Bonsai (except Ficus and Buttonwood). Defoliate finished trees only (web Advice*). If you defoliate the trees in training, they will not grow correctly. Consult with someone who has a buttonwood for their care and defoliation. The Web information is all over the place and I know that they can be picky. I do know that they like to be humid year round. The conservatory's button woods do much better in the humid greenhouse rather than the ones that are just warm over winter.

Ficus can be hard pruned, defoliated, repotted, and fertilized. Healthy trees can tolerate these all at once if you have a humid area or can mist them a couple of times a day (like before and after work) in addition to the normal watering. I have had good luck with defoliation into mid September. If you have a leaf drop issue when you take them indoors, you may want to partially defoliate them or look at your humidity levels they are kept in. Ficus will drop leaves in response to the wet/dry seasonal changes in the tropics as well as for light changes from relocating them inside or out.

Other tropicals I have had luck with breaking the above “Don't defoliate” guideline is Schefflera including rooting cuttings. Dracena – not a bonsai, but a nice tropical - cutting a 2 foot section off the top that no longer fits in the house and rooting it in the pot with the parent plant. Striking Jade and Portulacaria cuttings can start in spring and continue through August. .

Wiring

Check all old wires, and remove any before they damage the bark on your trees. If it is pressing in and making a dent, take it off. Wiring ficus now fits in with styling, defoliation, and pruning.

Weeding Feeding And Mossing

Weeds. These will be multiplying in your bonsai all year and should be removed, roots and all if possible, as they appear. Arinaria (Irish Moss) and shotgun weeds are the worst in central Ohio.

Feeding. After weeding, fertilize your bonsai. Danny Coffey likes Biogold Japanese organic pellets, and Bjorn Bjorholm uses Gro-Power tablets (12-8-8). For a liquid fertilizer, use fish emulsion. A light application of Preen or similar product will discourage seed germination. Do not use this on a seed tray you are trying to grow.

Moss. Any live moss that made your bonsai look so good last year has probably overgrown the pot and is climbing the bark. Neaten the pot and use an old toothbrush to remove moss from the bark and about an inch from the trunk. Moss on the bark can cause the bark to rot and kill the tree. This can take a year or two, but why take chances?

Repotting

If you missed the window to repot before your temperate climate tree's leaves opened, you can carefully repot once the leaves have fully matured. Try to keep the root ball together as much as possible and trim fewer roots than you would in spring. Tropical trees can usually be repotted during summer months and most can tolerate severe cutback. YMMV

Fungal and Pest Problems yep still in August this year.

Phomopsis tip blight is a common fungal problem in junipers. Spores are produced throughout the summer, and infection can occur whenever young foliage is available and moisture or humidity is high. The fungus turns the needles or other foliage brown, and most infections occur in April through June and again in late August through September. A good treatment is to spray with Mancozeb and Cleary 3336.

Black spot fungus can attack any plant with fleshy leaves if the conditions are right. Deciduous Hollies, for example, can easily be infected. It begins to develop in the spring when temperatures reach into the sixties and the garden has been continuously wet for six to nine hours. By the time temperatures reach into the seventies, the disease can be running rampant. Treatments include baking soda, Neem oil and chemical fungicides like Mancozeb and Immunox. If you have seen this disease on any of your bonsai in the past, spray those bonsai before the disease takes hold.

Needle Cast is a broad group of diseases that affect the needles of conifers. It is a common fungal problem for pines, including Japanese Black Pine and Ponderosa, as well as spruce trees. It shows up as a discoloration or uneven browning of the needles. Michael Hagedorn suggests spraying with Daconil or a copper fungicide when the new needles are coming out. Also try Cleary 3336 systemic fungicide.

Spider mites are a common insect problem on evergreen bonsai such as junipers, cypress and spruce. As well as jade and ficus. To test for their presence, simply shake some foliage over a solid white sheet of paper; if you see tiny specks moving around on the paper it's spider mites. Spider mites are sap suckers and though tiny, en-mass they can consume a tree's reserves of energy, especially in winter. Outdoors in summer there are predators that keep the mites under control, but those predators don't do well indoors.

A) If present, first pressure spray all the foliage several times with the garden hose. If after a day or so, spider mites are still present, you can use Malathion or a less harsh product like Neem oil or insecticidal soap.

B) Spray with rubbing alcohol or vodka (do NOT use Gin) and recheck. Then go to the chemicals listed above.

Its not time yet, but do this before you bring in your tropicals. Treat them all if you find any spider mites. The mites like the dry condition in houses during the winter and can take a tree down before you realize you have an infestation. Look for fine webs in the branches of your trees or little specks running around on the trunk and branches. Isolate those trees and be aggressive with the alcohol and Neem or soap. Dilute Pinesol works pretty well also.

Found on the Web

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.

Fertilizing Decandled JBP During the Summer - When and Why, Jonas Dupuich <https://bonsaitonight.com/2023/07/28/should-i-fertilize-my-decandled-pines-in-summer/>

Post Bloom Thinning of Satsuki Azalea - Bonsai Tonight - Open it up and Air it Out <https://bonsaitonight.com/2023/08/04/post-bloom-thinning-satsuki-azalea/>

Peter Tea discussing Juniper Structure and Pad Development Golden State Bonsai Federation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcKr_hrgo_Y Time: 2:22.02

GSBF "Home" <https://www.youtube.com/@goldenstatebonsaifederatio6383>

Coming Attractions

The program for Sunday, September 17 is to be determined. Details will be on the facebook group page and the website as well as here once the program is set.

The weekend of September 23-24 there will be an Open House at Wildwood Gardens operated by Frank Mihalic. It will be 10-5 both days. \$20 BYOT with styling help/per tree. You can also purchase a tree, with 20% off all indoor bonsai. 14488 Rock Creek Rd, Chardon, OH 44024 This is an annual event and there is usually a guest artist attending. I do not have that information yet.

Bonsai Here and Beyond the Outerbelt

Our normal schedule is meetings at Franklin Park on the third Sunday of the month 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!

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 –
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>

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Membership Information

Our dues/membership policy has changed to the website online, with a credit card or paypal. There will be no further paper forms. The 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.

