

Columbus Bonsai Society

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Columbus Bonsai Society
PO Box 7741
Columbus, OH 43229



COLUMBUS
BONSAI
SOCIETY

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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

What's up for Sunday, October 15, at 12:00 pm

Remember that our meetings for the rest of the year will NOT be at Franklin Park Conservatory. Our October meeting will be a Pot Sale/ Swap Meet/ Picnic Pot Luck which will happen at Jack Smith's place in Powell. Exact address will be shared in the email that delivers this newsletter. Note that this starts at 12:00.

Since it's a picnic, the club will be providing the following items: cold sodas, hot dogs & smoked sausage and buns. If you're able, please consider bringing a side dish or dessert to share.

For the swap meet portion of the afternoon, feel free to bring along any bonsai or plant related items you like to pass on to new homes. CBS asks that you tithe 10% to the club from your sales total.

As far as the pot sale, the sale also includes so great books and rocks. All items are on display and there will be no sales for the first hour of the event. This gives everyone a chance to look at and handle the wares, as well as making sure latecomers have some chance at the goodies. All proceeds from this will go to CBS.

We'll be having a real meeting during this event as well. It's time to talk about officers for the approaching new year. Several board members are stepping down, and a few new hands are needed to row the ship! We'd welcome your participation!

Our November meeting will be hosted by one of our members Trey Gilmore at the church that he pastors in Grandview. The address is 1540 Gerrard Ave, Columbus, OH 43212, it is just off King Avenue near Natalie's Pizza. It will be at 2:00 pm.

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Down the Rabbit Hole by Mark Passerello, President

Welcome to October! Recently one of the my Facebook memories was a shared meme that said “summer sure clocked out quick once its shift was over!”. I feel like that happened again this year as well. Autumn is here for certain. Leaves are falling, temps are dipping hard and those who enjoy pumpkin spice and all related signifiers of Fall are happy. I am not. High summer is my favorite time of year and as each year passes the heat bothers me less and the snow bothers me more.

With luck all your tropical and cold sensitive trees are inside now. This is also the time to plan on your winter protection needs. Lay in that supply of mulch or straw NOW, and keep it in the garage so it doesn't freeze. Frozen mulch is mulch that is darn hard to spread!

One thing to keep aware of is that as leaves fall and trees that may have shaded your bonsai are bare, is very possible for those bonsai to get lots more sun. This can lead to dried on bonsai if you're not attentive to your watering. It may be worth rearranging a few trees to make sure they don't get baked.

Random Thotz by Zack Clayton, Editor

Tropicals need to come in now if they haven't yet. Living inside the heat dome of Columbus. I can get away with them being out longer than folks in rural areas, but it's time. I heard on the radio that Tuesday's low would be 39. So yeah, the time of the shuffle may be over. I have good luck just leaving mine out until that magic number and then bringing them in to stay, but as I said, the city is usually warmer than the countryside. Also, as Mark pointed out as the trees loose their leaves the bonsai get more sun, but it also means the leaves are no longer there to reflect heat from the ground back to the ground for a little extra heating. That is why early frosts don't extend under the trees. The leaf canopy can make a couple of degrees difference in ground temperature.

A Sincere Thank You from Sandy Schoenfeld

Dear fellow CBS club members;

Words cannot express the gratitude I am feeling for all of your support during Ken's illness and subsequent passing away. You all have been there whenever I needed anything, assisting without hesitation. As you can imagine, this has been a horribly stressful time for me but it was reassuring knowing that you all would be right there if I needed anything.

Working with bonsai and the Columbus Bonsai Society meant a lot to Ken. He found working on his own trees to be relaxing. And he felt it was important to encourage new members and share information. He wanted people to learn that the bonsai basics were not difficult or mysterious. We were fortunate to have traveled to participate in many bonsai educational opportunities, which provided Ken with new information to share. Ken also believed in supporting the success of CBS, having participated on the board in several positions. We have been members of CBS since 1987 and have seen the tremendous growth of the club.

I want to say thank you for CBS's consideration of creating a scholarship in Ken's name, which could support people wanting to further their bonsai education but struggling with financial constraints. So much information is

available via the internet however Ken and I always found it more beneficial to have learning opportunities in person. I also am appreciative of the lifetime membership award. Even though Ken has passed on, I do plan to stay involved with CBS. My biggest challenge will be how to maintain a personal collection of trees that previously took two individuals to care for. I so appreciate all the offers of support I have received. Believe me, I will be calling on folks.

As we went through Ken's decline and subsequent passing away, my brother frequently remarked about the amazing support he witnessed from CBS members. He often said how lucky I was to have such supportive people around me. Again, a sincere thank you to everyone.

Sandy Schoenfeld

Articles

Three Clearance Trees and Initial Care. By Zack Clayton

Last month I wrote about shopping clearance sales at the end of the year. This month I want to share three plants I got at Menards. They are in 2 gallon pots and I got them for 50% off. I paid \$12 to \$15 for them. They were a little the worse for lack of water during the hot spell we had in September but they were putting out new growth and buds in addition to some surviving foliage. In these pictures I trimmed off dead branches and anything that obviously wasn't needed for any future styling to lessen the stress on the tree. I did not touch the roots other than checking to see what the soil was like. It was fine. They are doing well at this point and I anticipate being able to work on them in the spring.

Juniperus squamata v. Blue Star

These are described as slow growing and about 2' tall by 3' wide at maturity. They keep the blue hue on the foliage year round and have a needle foliage habit. The heat and dry spell does not seem to have impacted it much as there were very few browned branch-lets to clear.



The Missouri Botanical Garden website indicates they tolerate dry soil well which may explain the good health of this one. <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=k780#:~:text=%27Blue%20Star%27%20is%20a%20slow,to%202%2D3%27%20high.>



This shows a potential new front and planting angle for the Juniper. There is still plenty to do in Spring.



Prunus pumila v. 'UCONNPP002' Jade Parade

This was impacted the most by the heat and dryness. Many branches were dead and surviving foliage was mostly at the tips. There were abundant buds along the branches however and if half of them come out in spring this will be a very dense plant to work on.



This had the most cutback of the three but there are still plenty of branches to form structure.

Part of what attracted me to this is the single trunk that Y's fairly low on the tree. Either one of the branches has potential as the new trunk. Winter survival will make that determination. Along with what is below the surface.

Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea v.
'Morelli Select' Cabernet

As a barberry this was a bugger to work on but the trunk is interesting and thick. I do not know what it looks like below the soil but the visible trunk promises good things.

CABERNET®

BARBERRY

Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea 'Moretti Select'



There are several stems that come off the trunk below the soil line, but the part that is visible shows promise after a little work.

The takeaway here is there is stock that has been picked over for yard planting and the rejects are often of interest to the bonsai artist. You just have to look at the health of the plant, what shows up as interesting to you, and a willingness to wait 6 months to start serious work. This last is important, as I, and several friends took a while to learn this last thing. Trees do not generally like to be repotted this late in the year. If the pot is damaged and a repot is needed for survival, slip pot it into a larger pot without disturbing the roots. The pot does not need to be huge, maybe an inch extra on each side and bottom. In addition to pot damage, if the planting medium from the nursery is not something you have had success with, a repot may keep it alive even with the weird soil. Fertilize lightly with low nitrogen slow release fertilizer. Maybe even just a teaspoon sprinkled across a 12" nursery pot will help them as they are probably under fed from the retailer.

Oh, you will notice that circled R and sometimes a TM next to the popular name. This means the plant variety is either Registered or Trademarked. Sometimes you will see patent information as well. This means what you bought is what you have. It is illegal to propagate these plants by cutting or grafting. Technically this includes for your own use. I am not aware of any private growers that have been prosecuted for this for private use, but nursery wholesalers and suppliers can and have been prosecuted. I mention this as two of these plants are registered. The Blue Star Juniper does not have that tag on the pot label but it is good information to keep in mind.

Tree of the Month: Quince – *Chaenomeles speciosa* by Ken Schultz

Quince appear as bonsai in a wide number of books. When Linda and I visited Japan, we were lucky enough to be there when quince were in bloom. It is extremely difficult to find good Quince pre-bonsai material. Sometimes you may find a plant in a nursery that has a single trunk, but more likely, they will be multiple stemmed. If you do find a quince with a single stem, it will take a very long time for it to develop a significant trunk; in one reference they report that you will do just as well with the plant in a 5 gallon pot as in the ground in developing the trunk. The advice is to remove all suckers. Reportedly, it takes 5 years to develop a 3/4" trunk.

I have tried to grow quince, but I must report that I have killed all three that I tried; but this past year, I found two plants at Lowes that I decided to try to develop into bonsai. I thought that perhaps I was a victim of quince-disease or climate. I seem to have certain plant material fail on a regular basis as noted, Quince being one of them. We really need to look at the climatic preferences of our trees, they struggle when we try to grow a plant that is not hardy to Central Ohio zone 5. While some varieties are not hardy, many are, so there is hope. Be careful though, if you buy "bonsai" varieties, that may need protection below 40 degrees. In winter you may need to place them in an unheated garage or porch. (You will need to check them twice a week to make sure they don't need to be watered.) Buying nursery stock should provide a better hardiness. They are native to China and some grow up to 6 feet tall in the ground. There is also a Japanese variety that has smaller leaves and flowers that blooms in February in Japan. In Ohio, we usually see blooms in April.

Quince has been in and out of the pear genus and the Rosacea family. I understand that they have been placed into their own genus. They are susceptible to some of the rusts and fire blights that attack pears and apples. I could not find any information on varieties that are resistant compared to those that are not. The descriptions focus on the various colors (white, pinks, orange and reds) or the edibility of the fruit. "Hime" is a red variety reported to have smaller flowers and fruit that is preferred for bonsai. "Jet Trail" is white; "Falconette Charlotte" is a double pink. Spitfire is another red reported to be twiggy. The two that I bought are "Double Take – Orange Storm". As the name indicates, their blossoms are many petaled, not single 5-petal blossoms, as with some. The hard yellowish fruit is used for preserves. Too many fruit will weaken the plant, so if you must, allow only one or two per bonsai. Chinese Quince are *Pseudocydonia sinensis*. They tend to be a larger plant.

Location: Quince like sunlight. Books caution that they will suffer from leaf scald in the hottest of summer months if left in full sun. At Franklin Park, their quince stays in a semi shady location. Perhaps this or root tenderness is the reason why most specimens are grown in deep pots.

Repotting: The experts are in disagreement on the frequency of re-potting; some say yearly, others every two to four years. One book even said that it prefers re-potting in autumn; I would be very careful following this tip. The same source said that the root could be reduced by half, others by 1/4th. I am guessing this is dependent on how healthy your plant is. Water heavily for the next few weeks. Use a good quality bonsai mix; add a pinch of bone meal to the pot. You may use a medium depth glazed dark blue, green or red pot that is round, oval or rectangular.

Fertilization: Quince require feeding every 2 weeks from the end of flowering to leaf drop. One source says that you need calcium if you want good fruiting. Remove faded flowers and control the number of fruit to keep your plant vigorous. Too many fruit will weaken a bonsai. Since Quince are deciduous, no fertilization is needed in the winter, but because they bloom early you should apply an organic fertilizer in September or October.

Pruning & Wiring: When they grow 5 to 7 sets of leaves it's OK to prune them back to 1 to 2 sets. Don't remove all new growth at the same time. The leaves remind me of a cross between pomegranate and apple leaves- smaller than apple though, 1"- 2" long. Some varieties are early flowering; blooming before the leaves emerge. (The buds on the cultivar I purchased most recently are swelling already.) After heavy pruning, some may re-bloom. The leaves are dark glossy green and have a slight serration along the edge. Some have a thorny like growth, but not sharp like pyracantha. Because of their tendency to want to be a shrub, you may see clump style plants and cascade styled quince bonsai. Prune or pick off growth that makes your bonsai too bushy. More "trunks" reduces the rate of thickening of those remaining. Wiring may be done in the spring through the end of summer. Wire early to get movement, as the older wood is very hard and brittle. Because they thicken slowly, the wire may stay on for 4 months without digging in. Quince are thin barked, so you may want to wire loosely or wrap the wire in floral paper. Large cuts will heal very slowly, so use a cut paste/sealer.

Watering: When it comes to watering, be generous; never allow the soil to become completely dry. As with other plants avoid watering the flowers as it causes them to rot. In winter make sure they do not dry out.

Pests: Watch out for a variety of insects including stem borers and leaf miners. In the ground, you may discover that rabbits find them irresistible.

Propagation: While cuttings will root, they will do so slowly. I did see a site on the Internet selling Quince seeds. However, with their slow rate of trunk thickening, I am sure great patience would be required. (I took the photos in Omiya Village, Japan, April 2008.)

Quince at a unidentified nursery in Japan. Note the uniformity across the length of the lower shelf.



Quince in a Tokonoma at Kobayashi's nursery. Ken thinks this was probably started as two trees and trained together over a very long time. This tree has shown up frequently as an example of chojubai in books and video.

Seasonal Care for Central Ohio

Treat anything coming inside with a systemic herbicide. If you did this last month a fresh application just before you do this will not hurt, and it may save you an infestation of white fly or spider mites. If you use a rose formulation, you will probably get a bonus fertilizer application that will carry you through the first month of indoor growth.

Weed any trees coming in and watch for new ones starting in the house warmth. These can use a lot of the nutrients your tropicals use for growth. It is also a good practice to weed any temperate trees that will be staying out. Perennial and biennial weeds will overwinter and are programmed to start growth early and strongly – they will sap a lot of nutrients your trees need for spring growth.

If you have increased your collection or are starting out, notice where the sun shines during the day. Actually notice where it doesn't shine. That shade is where you will want to put your

trees to overwinter. The north side of fences, buildings and hedges are good spots. Some eastern exposure is ok, but stay away from southern and western exposure if you can. The sun at midday and afternoon can work on soil that is warmed in the morning and the pots will dry out faster. Shade at those later day times will help keep the soil (and trees) from dehydrating. If south and west exposure is all you have, consider a sunscreen or shade cloth tacked to stakes. That will also protect from drying wind as well and may help the plant in permanent shade.

If you are sheltering half-hardy material in a garage or shed, set up a watering schedule and post it where you can see it. The best laid plans to water unseen plants regularly need a reminder to actually do it.

Found on the Web

If you visit a link that provides an insight, solves a problem, shares a technique, or is of general interest then please share. You may want to see these mentioned and should send an email with a link I can share.

Climbing Hydrangea as Bonsai, Michael Hagedorn. A flowering vine bonsai. <http://crataegus.com/2023/10/09/climbing-hydrangea-fall-color-and-pruning/> It also looks good after leaf drop. Revisit: Twintrunk hemlock on a Nylon Board, Michael Hagedorn. A then and now look.

Revisit— A Twin Trunk Hemlock on a Nylon Board, Michael Hagedorn. <https://crataegus.com/2018/05/01/revisit-twin-trunk-hemlock-on-a-nylon-board/> An experiment gone right. Also how this was treated after a borer infestation kill the top of one of the trunks.

It's All Sacrifice—The 6 Uses of Sacrifice Branches. Growing Bonsai by Jelle <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJOPwOv0o5s> (copy and paste) He has a series of videos with close ups of what he is doing on several subjects.

Bonsaify—three Examples of Fall Work on Two Year Old JBP, Eric Schrader. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pN41R6LtGo> Eric is in the Bay Area so the climate is warmer. He does caution about waiting for root work until spring in colder climates. A shohin, a 14" bunjin, and a mame. Wiring now is ok.

Coming Attractions

Our November meeting will be hosted by one of our members Trey Gilmore at the church that he pastors in Grandview. The address is 1540 Gerrard Ave, Columbus, OH 43212, it is just off King Avenue near Natalie's Pizza. The meeting will be at 2:00 pm.

There will be elections for new officers, and at least a discussion of preparation for winter. I say at least because this discussion is active and generates a lot of questions. If we finish there will be member driven Q&A.

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!

October 21 COCSS 12-3 pm

November 18 COCSS 12-3 pm

November 19 Election and Winterization discussion

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/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.