

PRUNE, PINCH, & WIRE

Columbus Bonsai Society

SPECIAL EDITION

Columbus Bonsai Society presents

52nd Annual Show at:

The Ohio State University, Chadwick Arboretum

Saturday Events P2

Sunday Events P3

Shohin Azaleas P4

Warrin Hill P6

Walk through
bonsai show

Local and
midwest vendors
with bonsai
trees, prebonsai
trees, soils,
tools, and more

Live demos and
workshops all
weekend

52nd annual
Columbus Bonsai society show
Chadwick Arboretum
Auditorium of the Agricultural Administration Building
2120 Fyffe Rd, Columbus OH 43210

JULY 20TH & 21ST

For more information visit
www.columbusbonsai.org
or find us on Facebook




**COLUMBUS
BONSAI
SOCIETY**

Sponsored by:

[Yume-en Bonsai](#)
[Black River Bonsai](#)

[Ken's World of Bonsai](#)

[Ancient Art Bonsai](#)

[Kawa No Oka Bonsai](#)

[In Vivo Bonsai](#)

[Pot Punching Potters](#)

[Green Witch Gardens](#)

[Underground Art Studio](#)
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[Cheap-o-Wire](#)

[Hagabon](#)

CBS Show Boad

Show Chair_ Dwight Maxwell

Sponsorship Coordinator_ Bryan Six

Setup/teardown coordinator_ Dane Kirk

Volunteer Coordinator_ Josh Tinyo

Donations Coordinator_ William Holterman

Director_ Ryan Huston

Director_ Keven Feris

Saturday July 20th 2024

Show & Vendors open to public 10:00 AM to 5:00PM

8:00 AM

Show Setup—Dwight Maxwell, Josh Tinyo & tremendous volunteers

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

Workshop:
Jason Parrish
Kawa No Oka
[Twisted Scots pines](#)

Dr. Laura Deeter
Chadwick Arboretum Tour

11:00 AM

12:00 PM

Workshop:
Kyle Boldy
Pot Punching Potters
[Mature Shimpaku junipers](#)

CBS Raffle

1:00 PM

2:00 PM

3:00 PM

Workshop:
Trey Gilmore
Kota Bonsai
[Hawaiian Umbrella Tree Forests](#)

CBS Raffle

4:00 PM

5:00 PM

[Full Show Details CLICK HERE!](#)

Sunday July 21st 2024

[Full Show Details CLICK HERE!](#)

9:00 AM

Workshop:

Rob Hoffman

[Japanese Black Pines](#)

10:00 AM

Dr. Laura Deeter
Chadwick Arboretum Tour

11:00 AM

Workshop:

Ryan Huston / In Vivo Bonsai

[Ficus Rock Slab Plantings](#)

12:00 PM

1:00 PM

CBS Raffle

Workshop:

Ken Huth

Ken's World of Bonsai -

[Shohin Kingsville boxwoods](#)

2:00 PM

3:00 PM

Workshop:

Kevin Faris

[Beginner Juniper Styling](#)

4:00 PM

CBS Raffle

5:00 PM

Show Teardown—Dwight Maxwell, Josh Tinyo & tremendous volunteers

6:00 PM

7:00 PM



Creating Shohin Azaleas

Notes by Ken Schultz

I cannot take credit for these notes. I jotted down the primary steps as I watched a John Geanangel YouTube on how he creates them from Nursery stock. HE reports that this process takes three to five years to get to the point where he offers the ones he creates for sale. John lives in South Carolina, where the growing season is longer than Ohio's, so the results of your efforts may take an additional year. More if you don't fertilize! Currently, I believe he has them offered from \$65 –at least up to \$100, depending on how nice they turn out. At the end of this brief outline, I added a note on what to do after you get to this phase and discover that you not only have small new growth to remove, but perhaps still have some major cuts. These tips came from *"Floral Treasures of Japan, The Satsuki Azalea, by Alexander Kennedy*.

I contacted John and asked about his soil mix. He said since he's not keeping them for long-term development, his initial repotting uses a high quality peat based potting soil. He noted that growers use pine bark and sand with great success in terms of vigor and growth. He noted that he's growing pre-bonsai and workshop level bonsai material, not show trees.

Interestingly, he also noted that he had a county extension service test Kanuma and Akadama and says they found the Kanuma had a higher pH than Akadama. So much for the chatter that you have to grow your trees in Akadama. But, if you are buying imported trees then you may very well wish to keep them in whatever its been growing in. Personally, I've taken notes from several blogs and made up my own mix. Mini Fir bark, Vermiculite, mini lava, Canadian peat, some used coffee grounds and because I had a bag, I threw in a scoop of Akadama, which I don't like. Its soft and decomposes rapidly.



Now if you're into creating our own Shohin sized Bonsai from Nursery stock, here are the primary steps. (Note that these are not the usual method used for creating larger Satsuki Azaleas with flowing sinuous trunks. If those are your end goal, then I suggest you get a copy of Alexander Kennedy's book. It cover initial trunk shaping, which is an entirely different process and requires many more years to develop.):

Step 1

This step is very brief, but critical to the success of your efforts. Find and purchase a nice 3gallon Azalea with a single decent trunk. You might have to visit a dozen nurseries before you locate one. And if you're really lucky you might have a choice of color too! Frequently "White Gumpo" and "Pink Gumpo" cultivars can be found. On occasion you might find other colors; I have one with purplish flowers.



Pink Gumbo

Step 2

Chop all the branches to about 6" in length. Yes, ALL! It takes a giant leaf of faith to do this, I know, especially if you don't take cuttings from what you're lopping off.

Next repot your 3gallon nursery plant into an 8" training pot. John uses 8" grow bags. This may mean you're going to have to take a saw to the bottom portion of the root ball. Mist or wet the fine fibrous roots when repotting Azaleas to prevent them from drying out. And trim the sides hard to make enough room to add fresh soil around your future Shohin Azalea. Then follow the normal repotting protection measures, no direct sun, protect them from strong wind for at least a month.

Remember, the best time to repot an Azalea is immediately after they are done flowering, but you can do it earlier when the plant begins to push vigorous new growth. You can use sifted Turface, Pine Bark and Granigrit (Grower size) as your soil mix, Top dress with chopped sphagnum.

New growth should be pinched back to keep it compact and to encourage back budding. Your efforts should be rewarded with an insane number of buds up and down the reduced sized Azalea. They do back-bud on old wood.



Azaleas cont..

Step 3

Years 2 – 3, Sheer to develop ramification. John says later you can be more selective in how you prune. Normally, after flowering there are 5 new buds from the site where the flower was and you pinch off all but 2, usually, the strongest and one growing straight up or inward, but this can wait for Step 4 and definitely Step 5.

Step 4

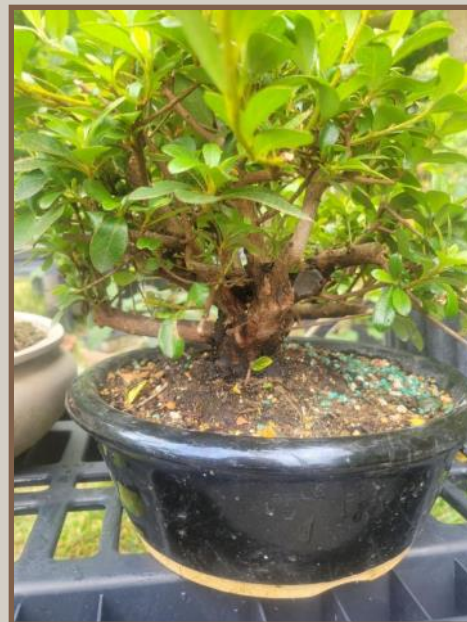
Continue sheering and start branch selection:

Snip out dead shoots and branch ends.

Remove branches that are too thick. Use a fine saw on any bigger than a pencil. Use cut paste on larger cuts.

Improve branch structure.

In Kennedy's book he says not to remove large branches to the trunk all at once. This will cause dieback on the trunk and perhaps of the roots below the branch. When removing a larger branch, it may take a series of cuts, leaving a few sets of leaves on the stub afterward. Eventually you should be able to take it all the way to the trunk.



Wakamatsu

Step 5

Beyond 3 years – 4-5 years and on – begin to develop foliage pads.

Jin and Shari

The wood on Azaleas is relatively soft, so deadwood is not desirable on them. If you end up with a dead area on the trunk below where a branch was removed, or if your Azalea undergoes some sort of stress, this may result in the upper portion of the trunk dying, as Azaleas aren't strongly apical dominant. You will need to take steps to preserve the wood. I suspect Jin of branches isn't addressed, because the effort it takes is not rewarded with a long lasting feature. Also there wasn't a mention of creating deadwood as it's not desirable, nor of removing the bark. The bark on an Azalea is smooth and thin and might be removed by scraping or sanding. I have an azalea with Shari and the bark seems to have disappeared over the area.

There are several methods to preserve the wood. The least preferable on an Azalea is the use of lime sulfur. Wood hardener can be applied. Some feel that it causes a slight discoloration and dries shiny. The shiny surface can be dulled with 000 steel wool or a fine grit wet/dry sandpaper (220 or 440 grit). A member of the Knoxville club says he likes to use a good wood glue that dries clear. He finds that lasts as long as Wood hardner and doesn't cause discoloration and isn't as shiny.



In memory of

WARREN HILL

NOVEMBER 27, 1938 - JUNE 10, 2024



Warren Hill, Bonsai Artist, passed away on Monday evening, June 10, 2024. Graveside services are Thursday June 13, 2024 at 1pm, Graceland Memorial Garden, in Greenville, TN. Services will be followed by a celebration of life.

Warren's interest in bonsai began in 1960 when he attended a California Bonsai Society exhibition. Warren's pursuit of Bonsai, lead him to become an associate and friends with bonsai masters John Naka, Saburo Kato and Frank Nagata. In 1974, he started to teach, give lectures, conduct demonstrations and workshops locally and internationally to various bonsai groups. During this period of teaching, he met and married Sharon in East Tennessee.

Warren became the second Curator of Bonsai at the US Arboretum from 1996 to 2001. After his retirement in 2001, he and Sharon moved back to Tennessee and he opened *Tree-Haven* in Greenville. A bonsai study group and classes lead by Warren in Kingsport became the Mid-Appalachian Bonsai Kai, (MABK).

For years of teaching bonsai, the *Golden State Bonsai Federation* awarded Warren the "Circle of Sensei Award" in 2013, others who have received this award, include: Ben Oki, John Naka, and Harry Hirao.



Bonsai Time Podcast

From America to Japan: A Bonsai Odyssey with Bjorn Bjorholm
- Ep35

After spending 6 years as a full-time bonsai apprentice in Japan, Bjorn Bjorholm moved back to his home state of Tennessee, USA, to create his own bonsai nursery known as Eisei-en. Now, years after success in this endeavor, Bjorn has just relocated his family and his nursery to Kyoto, Japan! Find out what's in store for those who visit his new nursery and for those who utilize his bonsai learning platform, Bonsai-U, as it will now be based in Japan.

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