



November 2012 Newsletter

President

Zack Clayton

Tree Curator

Dan Binder

Director Emeritus

José Cueto

1st Vice President

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Denny Sackett

1 year Director

Jack Smith

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Sandy

Schoenfeld

Librarian

John Young

Web Master

Ed McCracken

Newsletter Editor

Richard Uhrick

Education

Tom Holcomb

Have you renewed
your membership
yet? If not, then this
could be your

NEXT TO
LAST
ISSUE

Columbus Bonsai Society PO Box 1981 Columbus OH 43216-1981

ColumbusBonsai@hotmail.com www.ColumbusBonsai.org



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Columbus Bonsai is a proud member of the American Bonsai Society and Bonsai Clubs International.





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Tom Holcomb

“A Pinch of this....”

...Bring on the mini-geraniums....

Sorry for the lateness of this issue...

Well, there I was all set to put out this issue, when...BING a new mail item popped into my inbox. I will not say which article it was, but it needed to get into this issue.

See you Sunday!

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick

Inside this issue:

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**Join us at Oakland Nursery
on November 18th for
Erodium with Mark
Passerello**



Columbus Bonsai Society PO Box 1981 Columbus OH 43216-1981

ColumbusBonsai@hotmail.com www.ColumbusBonsai.org



**This Month's Program—
ERODIUM WITH MARK
PASSERRELLO**

Mark will discuss the use and care of Erodium as bonsai.

**FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY
SUNDAY 10/21/12 1:45P,—4:00PM OR
SO.**



UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

**DECEMBER: HOLIDAY
DINNER AT LITTLE
DRAGONS**

**2013
JANUARY: JUDGING
CRITERIA/ SLIDESHOW**

**FEBRUARY: GRAFTING WITH
KEN HUTH**

MARCH: SAIKEI DEMO

APRIL: MAPLES WITH ZACK

MAY: COTONEASTER

JUNE: WILLIAM VALVANIS

JULY: ANNUAL SHOW

**SEE PAGE 14 FOR MORE
DATES AND LISTINGS**



The Columbus Bonsai Society receives meeting space and other support and assistance from Franklin Park Conservatory and Oakland Nurseries

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Rich Uhrick, Editor
ruhrick@otterbein.edu

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT....



Random Thotz - now from the President

Well, I think we have seen the last of the warmth for awhile. I still have things to do but they will wait for spring. Now I am looking at moving trees to storage under my benches. As I mentioned in January, I take this opportunity to take a reference photo that shows the tree in a naked state (no leaves) and make simple plans for spring work indicated by colored sticks in the pot. This gives me all winter to look at the pictures and make plans for pruning styling, and future work. As absurd as this may sound, type up your thoughts on this, as next spring you will surely forget otherwise. You can keep the notes in the same folder as the picture on your computer. Now if I can only remember to look in the computer when spring comes and I want to be outside with budding trees.

Ah, putting plants away.... There are several considerations. Where do you live? Jose reports that out in the cornfields he is usually 5 degrees colder than he was in the city. There is more wind in the country that will desiccate a tree fairly quickly. He has planted a wind break and mulches his trees in next to the house to provide protection and a stable soil temperature. His mulch is on the deep side of coverage due to the wind and colder temperatures.

Some of us have working greenhouses. Tender trees (half hardy) and trees that do not go totally dormant can go into a green house to help ameliorate the extreme cold of January and February, but remember, when the sun comes out it will get hot. You have to look out for trees breaking dormancy early and then you have to deal with tender foliage when temperatures can still go below freezing. Even an unheated greenhouse will get up to the 80's in winter sun and then crash to the 20's that night. I find that the greenhouse is a great place to work during the winter where it is warm and dry. The dry part is an important point. If you keep trees in a greenhouse you **HAVE** to keep up with the watering. It is almost worse than trying to keep trees inside a house in terms of keeping the soil moist as it does freeze at night and then thaws out during the day and humidity drops way down in the sudden warmth.

Unheated garages are also an option for half-hardy trees that go dormant. The same caveat on watering applies for a garage, but they tend not to get as warm during the day. Never the less, you can freeze dry a tree in a garage if you forget to water.

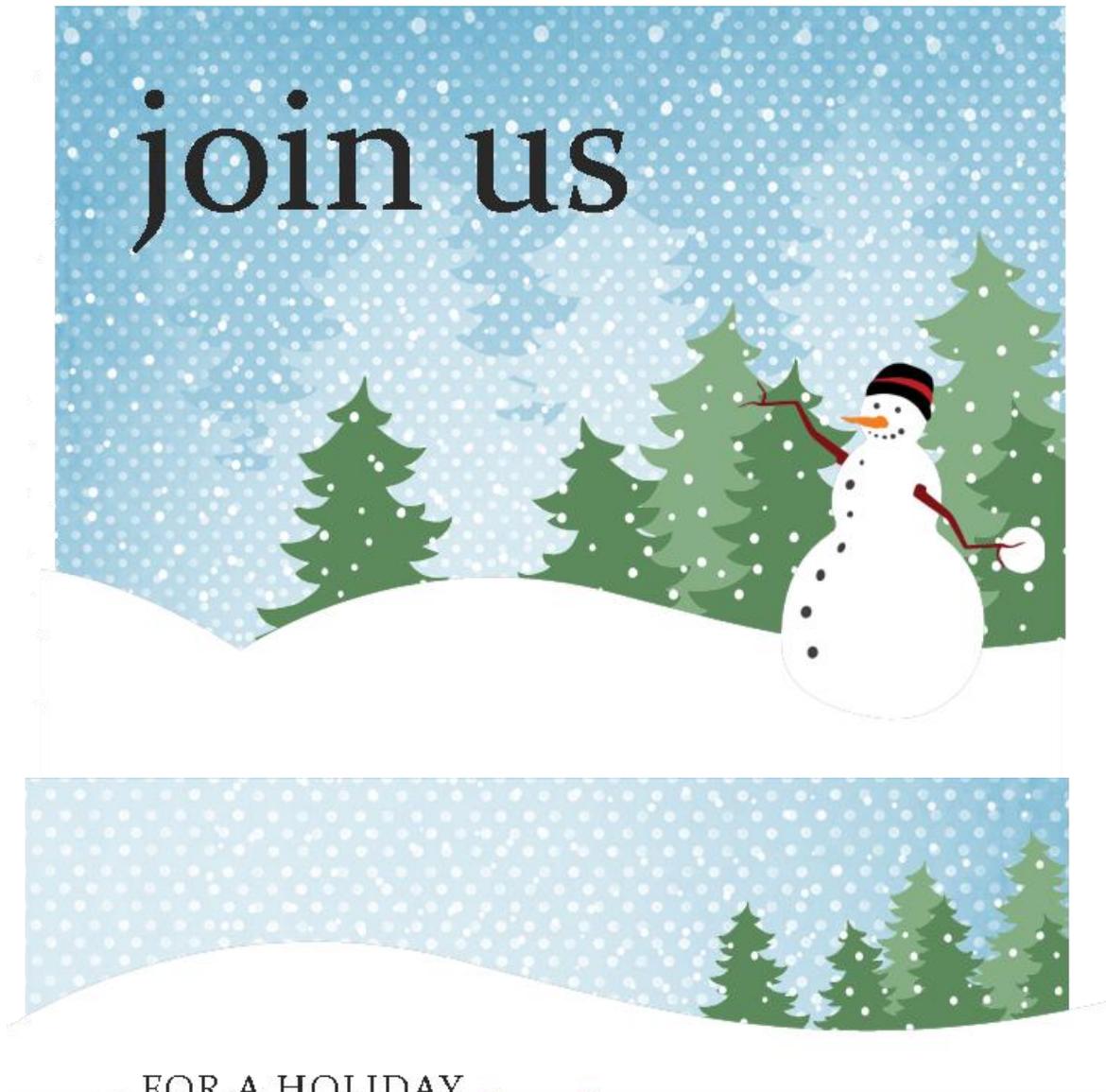
I have no experience with cold frames. If anyone does, email me and I will post it out as a supplement.

For me, I have a privacy fence with my benches set against it. My normal routine starts the weekend after Thanksgiving. I take a tree off the bench, clean it, check it, decide what color stick it gets, if any, and photograph it. The tree may get several photographs from several angles taken if I am deciding on a major styling. After that it goes under a bench. Rinse and repeat. Notice that I don't include a step in there that says mulch. I have not noticed any difference **IN MY YARD** as to whether I mulch or not. My trees are against a nearly solid fence, under a wooden bench that blocks the sun and wind, and when it rains the water drips through the benchwork. And I check periodically to make sure everything is still moist. Well, nearly everything, I missed one last year. I pack the pots in tightly so there is not a lot of space between them. My biggest problem is a lumbering yellow dog, but the neighbors have moved out and their pooches will not be yapping at him to create an attractive nuisance. (They had beagles.)

I know that other members swear by mulching pots, even under benchwork. It doesn't hurt, and if I didn't have the fencing I might need to use it also. It depends on what level of risk you are willing to take. With squirrels and other vermin I would rather not provide a warm nesting place for them with a free food supply built in. Besides, my dogs dig them out and that is a real pain in January.

Zack

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AWAITING A NEW
AUTHOR....**



... FOR A HOLIDAY

celebration!



December 18 at 7:00
P.M.

Little Dragons Restaurant
1508 Morse Rd.
Columbus, OH 43229



R.S.V.P. by December 8 to
Zack Clayton
zclayton@yahoo.com

BONSAI TRIVIA

TREE OF THE MONTH: ERODIUM—ERODIUM SPP.

After the *Erodium* grouping that I entered in our most recent show attracted some favorable comment, our program chair Ken Schultz, ever alert for a meeting topic, asked me if I would be interested in doing a program about these delightful little plants. Part of his motivation may have come from the comments of one attendee who had trouble keeping *Erodium* alive.

Every bonsai grower has at least one “kryptonite” species—a type of plant they just cannot keep alive even though, other growers, web site and guide book says it is easy to grow. I certainly empathize with any grower who feels a particular species of plant has turned against them. Nevertheless, it is a surprise to hear an *Erodium* mentioned as the trouble maker. Most reports of this plant are that it is a tough, adaptable customer that performs well under many varied conditions.

Erodiums are part of the family Geraniaceae, which also includes *Geraniums* and *Pelargoniums*. This kinship is evident in leaf shape and general form. Linnaeus grouped all three of these now separate genera in one genus, *Pelargonium*. Later they received their separate classification based on the number of stamens in their blossoms. This change in nomenclature is the reason that those popular red flowered plants that invade garden centers and front porches every spring commonly labeled *Geraniums*, are more properly grouped as a *Pelargonium*.

There are about 60 species of *Erodium*, native mainly to the Mediterranean basin and

western Asia. They often receive common names such as stork’s bill, heron’s bill or crane’s bill, because their long, narrowly pointed seed pods resemble a bird’s beak. This resemblance is echoed in the scientific names each of the related genera bears: *Geranium* for the crane (geranos in Greek), *Pelargonium* (Greek for stork), and the heron (erodios). From my point of view, these three birds have what seem to be identical beaks, and this similarity may account for the fact the use of these three common names interchangeably for members of all three genera.

This indiscriminate name use reflects how similar in appearance most of these plants are, and how closely related. The plant we use for bonsai is frequently sold as *E. reichardii* and as *E. variable*. The name *E. variable* came from Dr. Alan Leslie of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1980 to describe an intermediate species between *E. reichardii* (synonymous with *E. chamaedryoides*) native to the Pyrenees of Northern Spain, with *E. corsicum* native to Corsica. Though attempts to cross these species intentionally failed, apparently spontaneous hybridizations had been occurring in alpine gardens for some while before conscious selections were made for cultivation.

Soon after the hybrid status for *E. variable* was described, Dr. Leslie's fellow enthusiasts began expressing doubts that it was a hybrid at all, but merely a variant-leafed form of *E. reichardii*. Eventually the issue came before the Royal Horticultural Societies Advisory Board for

(Continued on page 8)

(Erodium Continued from page 7)

Nomenclature & Taxonomy, and the decision made to spring for the cost of DNA investigation, which found that Dr. Leslie's surmise of spontaneous hybridization, was indeed the case.

Although the question of identity is a tough one to unravel, it may not matter much since the plants in question require identical care and culture. Outside of bonsai, Erodium are popular as rock garden plants, and given their origins in the rocky hills along the Mediterranean Sea, that should be no surprise. Mediterranean climates are not just found around 'The Med' but the South African Cape, Southern and Western Australia, Central Chile, and much of California are considered Mediterranean climates as well. This is an area where the familiar Rosemary, Lavender, Olive, and Cypress thrive. Plants from this area are adapted to deal with a cool wet winter and dry hot summer. Many plants from the area go dormant to avoid summer heat rather than winter cold.

This is reflected in the growth habits I have seen my Erodium demonstrate. Though they are probably borderline hardy, I have always taken them indoors over winter. They live from October to April under shop lights in the basement, and then find a place on the bonsai benches over the summer. Outdoors, the small pots sit in sand trays, which mean they can stand the all day sun. The plants stay a healthy green and bloom freely over the summer, but the intense sun seems to encourage such compact growth (leaves and leaf stems are very small) that they do not seem to grow much. I am convinced that not only are the leaf structures kept small by the sun, the internodal length—the space between each leaf stem is kept small too, an ideal situation for maintaining a bonsai, though it can make for a lengthy process if you are trying to develop one.

I think this adaptation to a hot summer and cool winter makes it easy to take Erodium inside and use that winter break for real development as shohin bonsai. Erodium really show the result of what could be called the 'bonsai effect' that is, being dwarfed by pot culture. In that respect Erodium really are ideal bonsai material, in that they already have a form and habit that are small in scale, and will reduce even further in bonsai culture.

A few years back, we did a program on accent plant and highlighted Erodium. At the time, Ken got together a good "Plant of the Month" article about care requirements. The article is worth seeking out for basic care and feeding of these plants. At our November meeting, we will review some basic care requirements and I will share my secret soil recipe and multi-year development program for Erodium as bonsai.



Mark Passerello

AN ALTERNATIVE BOOK REPORT—INTERNET COMPILATION

I know that this article should wait until the spring when you can immediately put this information into practice but I have been watching video clips called the Bonsai Art of Japan with Owen Reich, Demos by Ryan Neil and Bjorn Bornholm. From these I learned that it is important to trim your maples to allow light in to the trunk of the tree to encourage buds that will add to the ramification of your maples. At our show in July 2012, Ken Huth mentioned that he removes the larger leaves on maples so that the tree develops more small ones. When Linda and I were in Japan, we saw workers' cutting the better part of maple leaves off, leaving a small portion of the leaf and petiole. I assumed this was to allow light in. This cutting allows inner buds to develop and prevents branch dieback. It also improves air circulation and prevents mildew. (It did seem humid in Omiya Village.) I recently learned from these videos that Japanese maples and Trident maples require different techniques of leaf management. And within the group that we call Japanese maples, the cultivars of Shishigashira require slightly different care. Owen and Ryan noted it in their videos; Ryan's was a critique of the Midwest Bonsai show in Chicago. A great deal has been written about the care of maple bonsai. This article only presents leaf management. There is an article on Trident maple care on our club website. They are also candidates for air layering and trunk chop.

As with all maples, Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*) leaves grow in pairs. One leaf in each pair should be removed. Use sharp scissors to cut the stem holding the leaf in half. This method does not weaken the tree like total defoliation does. Ryan Neil said you should never defoliate a tree as it weakens them too much. Leaf removal should be confined to the leaves growing on the outer edges of the foliage mass, not the leaves growing in the interior of the tree. If removing a single leaf of a pair does not allow the light to reach the interior, then half of the remaining leaf may need to be removed with sharp scissors. Fold these leaves in half along the vein in the middle and cut at an angle, the results should look more like a normal maple leaf. Special scissors are sold for just this purpose. This pruning of Japanese Maples is usually done sometime in May, depending on how early the buds opened in the spring. Remember that you will get die back if you prune at the wrong time and you will get die back to the first healthy bud behind where you cut. Ryan Neil also stated that he is a big fan of cut paste use on maples to prevent die back from moisture loss. It also prevents fungus from developing at the wound. When you select the leaf from the pair and remove it, your next bud and hence the direction of branch growth will be on the side with the leaf as the leaf is feeding the bud at its base.

Shishigashira Japanese maples actually consist of two cultivars, *Acer palmatum* 'Mejishi' and *Acer palmatum* 'Ojishi', whose names are based on the mythological female and male lions in Japanese drama. Shishigashira Maples have the typical paired leaf growth pattern; however, their internode lengths are shorter than other Japanese maple cultivars. If the branches are not properly trimmed they will develop unsightly bulbous branch tips. So cut the branch tips back to the second set of leaves rather than the first set as recommended for other *Acer palmatum* cultivars. Use tweezers to pinch off the first set of leaves so that only the second set of leaves remain. It is not necessary to remove one of the leaves from the pair, or to cut individual leaves in half, as Shishigashira leaves are naturally smaller. The small leaves and limited availability usually mean that these cultivars are quite expensive.

Acer buergerianum (Trident maples) leaves harden off in late April through May. The new elongated growth should be trimmed back to the first pair of leaves, unless you're developing length in that area. From late May until July, depending on the weather, you can defoliate a healthy Trident maple. Defoliation can vary from complete, to outer canopy, or individual branches. Leaves are removed by cutting the petioles in half. Though plucking them all off with your fingers reportedly doesn't hurt the tree. (We did not see the finger plucking method used in Japan.) This defoliation and pruning allows light and air in to the inner buds and creates shorter nodes and smaller new leaves. I understand that there is a fine science to the timing, so that the new leaves will be in place by our show in July. New leaves reportedly sprout in 2-3 weeks; this means the end of June should work this year. If it is rainy after your new leaves sprout, watch for fungus. While it wasn't mentioned, I suspect that the same direction of growth by leaving a leaf on would occur with Trident maples as for Japanese maples. It was mentioned that complete defoliation should only be done once in any year, and not in consecutive years on the same tree to allow it to rebuild its energy.

Do not remove leaves on any maple varieties once it gets really hot, in 2012 this was late June or July, as it may cause dieback. Failure to cut new growth back to one set of new leaves will result in longer internode distances, less ramification and less taper in the branches or trunk. Healthy properly fertilized maples may need to be trimmed as described three or four times each growing season to maximize ramification and refinement.



Ken Schultz

SAVE THE DATE



**40TH ANNUAL BONSAI SHOW
JULY 20-21, 2013
FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY
LOWER LEVEL where admission is
Free!**

Sumo Bonsai Created by the Chopping Technique

I recently took a workshop with Colin Lewis and ended up essentially chopping most of the top off to grow a new one with shorter internodes. While I knew many branches would fall, I do not know if I was prepared for the temporary new look. I have read articles about creating “Sumo” Trident maples and I have reduced the growth on a number of trees in my collection, but I do not know if I have ever been brave enough to do a full chop until now.

In the vending area at the Bonsai Expo of the Carolinas' in Asheville, John Geanangel and Ken Duncan were sharing a booth under the name “Tall Trees Bonsai”. John had some chopped bonsai “stumps” for sale. He also had some that were “chopped and styled”. I bought three of the “chopped and spouted” azaleas. I bought the first one on Saturday and bought the next two Sunday afternoon, after watching the YouTube videos of how John creates bonsai from his chopped azaleas. Here are the links, which are well worth the time to view.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrwiBVpz0II&feature=relmfu>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWvNeuDbgGg>

While conifers do not lend themselves to the chop technique, as you have to leave green at the end of the direction you want growth to occur; I assumed there are a wide variety of bonsai plant material that would be ideal for this technique, so I started searching for examples. Here is the list I came up with using a search based on “candidates for Sumo chop Mame bonsai.” I am sure it is not exhaustive; it is merely to give you a place to start.

Chinese elm – “Seiju”, “Corkbark”, “Siberian”, “Cedar Elm”
 Maples- “Trident”, “Amur”, “Red”
 Cotoneaster
 Azaleas – “Satsuki”, “Chinzan”
 Honeysuckle
Ficus – F. microcarpa/Green Island”, F. salicaria, F. rubiginosa,
 Crepe Myrtle
Schefflera arboricola
 Privet
 Bald Cypress
 Live Oak



These trees may literally be chopped to little more than a stump and will sprout new growth when the chop is done at the time when new growth is about to take off. On most deciduous trees, this is usually early spring. On tropicals, it is later like mid-summer. It does take time and patience to grow a new – but extremely well tapered trunk on the stump. I remember the first time I went to a demo at the National Arboretum and much to my shock; the guest artist cut all the branches off a 45-year-old Azalea because they were in the wrong place. I did not realize how a well-fed, rooted, healthy plant would rejuvenate. Think about what I just said. You cannot use the chop technique on a newly repotted plant, on a plant that is not healthy, or on one that is not ready to grow anyway.

I would suggest finding nursery stock that is showing lots of new growth in its nursery pot, not one that is freshly potted up for quick sale. Watch the first video and you can see that then, you can drastically cut both the top and the roots back. If it is not showing good growth, you may have to wait. Then after your chop, you will need a year or two of patience while feeding and watering to get that new growth to pop from the stump. The more growth that pops the better, it will give you choices when it comes time to start making styling selections.

In a recent newsletter from Colin Lewis, he touted the benefits of adding “live” Sphagnum moss to the top portion of a repotted plant to encourage new root development, especially at the surface. He says that live sphagnum is also essential in air layering. Dried or chopped sphagnum is not “live” so it may take some looking to locate a source unless you collect it yourself from the wild. (If you do, be careful to leave the source viable) You can grow your own sphagnum by taking a ball of growing sphagnum and putting it into an old oil pan or similar container full of water; by the end of the summer, your container should be full of new moss. Therefore, adding some live sphagnum moss to your soil mix on a new chop would be very beneficial. John Geanangel told me he uses top grade potting soil like “Promix” for his azaleas, not bonsai mix, or Akadama. He told me he does not have a problem of root rot and in summer he may have to water twice a day...but then he lives in Durham N.C.



Ken Schultz

YOUR SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2013

POSITION	NAME
PRESIDENT	ZACK CLAYTON
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	KEN SCHULTZ
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	DENNY SACKETT
3 YEAR DIRECTOR	JACK SMITH
TREASURER	RICHARD GUREVITZ
SECRETARY	SANDY SCHOENFELD
LIBRARIAN	BEVERLEE WILSON
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	RICHARD UHRICK
TREE CURATOR	DAN BINDER

Other members currently holding positions that are either not up for renewal or are appointed positions:

1 YEAR DIRECTOR BEN WILLIAM
2 YEAR DIRECTOR TRACY FREELAND
DIRECTOR EMERITUS JOSÉ CUETO
PAST PRESIDENT MARK PASSERRELLO
EDUCATION TOM HOLCOMB
WEB MASTER ED McCracken



A ROGUES GALLERY OF CARR ON PINES

Have you renewed
your membership
yet? If not, then this
could be your

**NEXT TO
LAST
ISSUE**

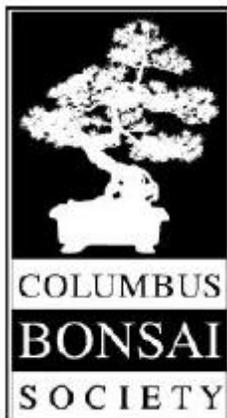
From the Circulation Desk of the C.B.S. Library

In an effort to make the C.B.S. library more available to all of our members (since the library cabinet is being stored at Oakland Nursery and since we aren't meeting there every month), I will do my best to fill any requests that you may have to borrow any of the items that we currently have in our collection. I have a complete list of all of the books, magazines and videos that we have in our library; so, no later than the Friday before our monthly meeting, either send me an e-mail at jyoungjfy@wowway.com or give me a call at 614-267-4168 and let me know what items you would like to borrow from our library.

I will let you know if we have that particular item in our library or, if it has already been checked out by another one of our members, when it should be available for you to borrow. However, if you are interested in a particular article or topic in one of our bonsai magazines, I will need to know the specific issue you would like to borrow, since I don't have a master index for all of the magazines that we have. And to be as fair as possible to all of our members, you may check out only two books, magazines, CD's or videos at one time for a two month period.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions about these new procedures. After all, it is your library, too!

John Young, Librarian
 (614) 267-4168
jyoungjfy@wowway.com



P. O. Box 1981
 Columbus, Ohio
 43216-1981

www.columbusbonsai.org

Columbus Bonsai Society Membership Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ -- _____ Date: ____/____/____

Email: _____

Membership: Individual \$25.00 Family \$35.00

Check # _____

May your phone number be included in our members list? Y N

IF family membership, please list other members: _____

Renewal Memberships may be paid for more than one year at a time.

Bonsai Here and Beyond the Outer belt

Unless otherwise noted, The Columbus Bonsai Society meets the third Sunday of every month at 1:45 pm . Board Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. The board meetings are open to members.

18 NOV 2012	ELECTIONS/ ERODIUM —OAKLAND
18 DEC 2012	CBS HOLIDAY DINNER—LITTLE DRAGONS, MORSE ROAD, COLUMBUS
2013	
20 JAN	JUDGING CRITERIA / SLIDESHOW FROM ASHEVILLE—OAKLAND
17 FEB	GRAFTING WORKSHOP W/ KEN HUTH—FPC
17 MAR	SAIKEI DEMO—FPC
21 APR	MAPLES W/ ZACK—OAKLAND
19 MAY	COTONEASTER WORKSHOP W/ MIHALIC—FPC
16 JUN	FOREST DEMO W/ WILLIAM VALVANIS—FPC
20-21 JUL	CBS 2013—ANNUAL SHOW —FPC
18 AUG	TBA
15 SEP	PICNIC/ MEMBER SALE/ IRON BONSAI
20 OCT	JIN AND SHARI—FPC
17 NOV	RAFT AND CLUMP STYLES W/ FICUS—TBA
DEC	HOLIDAY DINNER—TBD

FPC= FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY
OAKLAND= OAKLAND NURSERY, COLUMBUS LOCATION

FROM THE CBS CARE GUIDE

November - Late Autumn - 51/34

- Stop fertilization for outdoors trees.
- Only water when soil is nearly dry.
- Clean up trees in preparation for winter.

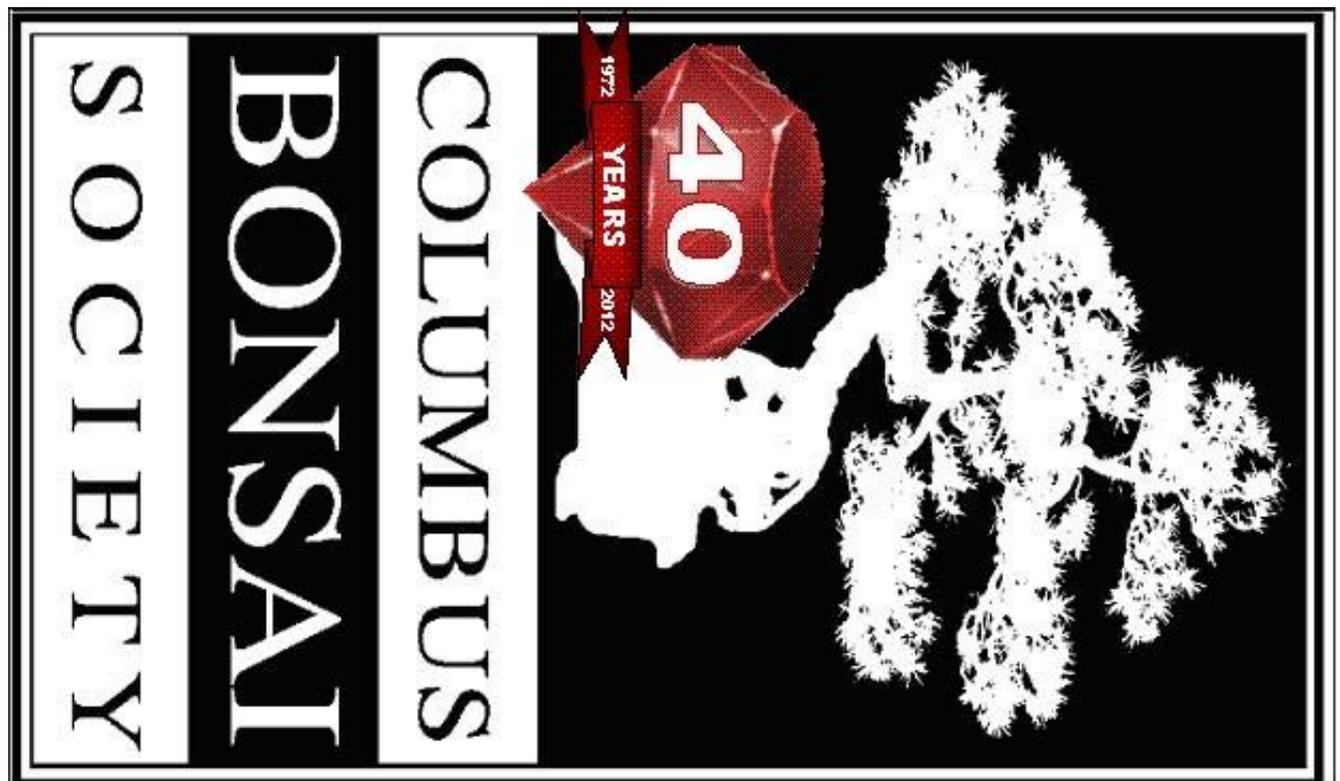
Columbus Bonsai Society
PO Box 1981
Columbus, OH 43216-1981

Questions to:
Columbusbonsai@hotmail.com
[HTTP://Columbusbonsai.org](http://Columbusbonsai.org)

Regular Club meetings on
3rd Sunday of the month
Meetings Start at 1:45 pm
All are welcome to attend

CBS Board meets
1st Tuesday of the month
at 6:30 pm

ERODIUM WITH MARK PASSERRELLO





P. O. Box 1981
Columbus, Ohio
43216-1981

www.columbusbonsai.org

Columbus Bonsai Society Membership Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ -- _____ Date: ____/____/____

Email: _____

Membership: Individual \$25.00 ____ Family \$35.00 ____

Check # _____

May your phone number be included in our members list? Y N

IF family membership, please list other members: _____

