

January 2013 Newsletter

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“A Pinch of this....”

...Renew, Reenergize....



CHOKKAN: “Correct Tree”, Formal Upright style

NEW YEAR, NEW FEATURES

Lest we succumb to a midlife crisis as a society, the board has many new and exciting things planned for this year. Make sure and check out page 5 for more information about them.

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick

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See you on Sunday at
Oakland Nursery—
Columbus Store



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

This Month's Program— Judging Criteria and Bonsai of the Carolina's

Over 80 trees from thirteen clubs were shown at the 17th Bonsai Expo in Asheville North Carolina, October 13 & 14th 2012. First, to assist in understanding how the ribbons were awarded, Dan Binder will present two criteria on how trees are judged. These criteria will also help you to select pre-bonsai that may become future show winners. Then Ken Schultz will lead you around the trees in the show, finally revealing the trees that were awarded ribbons.

During our meeting you will also have an opportunity to sign up for the Grafting Workshop that Ken Huth will lead on February 17. Ken will be teaching the important skill of grafting using two types of pine, Black and Cork Bark. The cost is \$15. Grafting is a skill that not only allows you to grow a difficult to start variety on a hardy root stock, but it also allows you to add a branch where one has refused to sprout. I've even seen the foliage or a tree entirely replaced through grafting on a more desirable variety. It is also possible to graft roots to improve the nebari of a tree.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

2013

FEBRUARY: GRAFTING WITH KEN HUTH

MARCH: SAIKEI DEMO

APRIL: MAPLES WITH ZACK

MAY: COTONEASTER

JUNE: WILLIAM VALVANIS

JULY: ANNUAL SHOW

SEE PAGE 13 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

Whew, last weekend was nice. I was out looking at my trees and noticed that a few Elms had started to swell up and looked ready to break out. Check your trees. The cold weather this next week could do some real damage if you have anything that actually broke.

That said do you have any tropicals indoors? Are they growing at all? Dan posted a short video on his Facebook page that shows me cutting off a 3/4 inch trunk of a ficus at the conservatory. There were three growing together, now there are two wedged apart. If you know something is not going to make the grade later this year, now is the time to get rid of it. As long as the tree is not completely dormant you can probably even get it to root. I dipped the cut trunk in rooting gel and it is on a warming bed with netting over it to conserve moisture. When the major rush of growth starts in the spring it will now go into the parts of the tree that will be developed instead of what will be cut off.

Most of my tropicals are doing well this winter, I have them where I see them almost every day and they are getting the water they need. That is what kills mine the most often, in winter, dehydration. Do not forget some fertilizer to go with the water.

Now is also the time to start thinking about pots and supplies for repotting. I also got a black cloth at JoAnn's Fabric to use as a backdrop. Its a couple yards by 60 inches. The color of the backdrop really makes a difference in the way the tree looks. The eye gravitates to lighter, brighter colors. Healthy green foliage stands out against a dark background and makes the tree appear fuller and more dramatic. That is why so many coffee table books have a black backdrop. The tree appears to float in space. A white background on the other hand will emphasize the spaces between leaves, branches, and foliage pads so you can see where development needs to occur. It is also nicer to draw your styling plans on if you do not use a paint program to do that work.

If you are shooting bare branch trees with no foliage, it is going to depend on the color of the bark. Lighter bark will show up better against a dark background and vice versa, for your planning. A white background is still easier to doodle with a pencil tho.

Zack

TREE OF THE MONTH: *Grewia occidentalis*—Lavender Starflower

I first saw *Grewia occidentalis* offered as pre-bonsai under the name “Star of Bethlehem.” Linda bought it for about \$14. The one we have now was a cutting offered as *Grewia* at Oakland nursery’s pre-bonsai area for \$7.99. I suspect it has a number of common names. Linda sold the first one to one of our club members at a club picnic when it was at our home, many years ago.

The *Grewia* genus number about 400 and are found in Africa, Asia, Australia and Florida. *Occidentalis* is a shrub that in nature may be found in a variety of habitats ranging from arid areas, coastal dune bush, evergreen mountain forest and wooded grasslands, mostly in Zone 9. In Africa on the Highveld, it grows in clumps of bush and rocky places, often in the shade of trees.

The natural distribution of the *Grewia occidentalis* ranges from the Western Cape up to Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and thus often described as a fast-growing, sprawling South African native. Left untrained it grows 6 to 10 ft. tall (sometimes taller) with equal spread. It tends to branch freely in a flat pattern, making a natural espalier. The good news for bonsai artists is that it becomes dense with pinching and pruning. The website that assumed you were planting them as a hedge or a trellis plant, said to wait until after flowering to do your heavy pruning. The two we have had developed into nice informal upright specimens. *Grewia* are also suitable for cascade styles. Due to their leaf size in bonsai cultivation (1”-1.5”) a tree 12 - 24” would be a credible sized tree. Inside under lights mine re-blooms in December and January.

This genus gets its name from Nehemiah Grew (1641-1712), an English physician. *Occidentalis* means from the west. In South Africa the purple star-shaped flowers (measuring about 1” across) appear in October - January), followed by distinctive four-lobed fruits, hence it’s other common names “cross-berry” and “four-corner”. The yellowish fruits turn shiny reddish-brown to light purple when ripe (January - May) and may remain on the tree for long periods. The fruit are also about an inch in diameter. They are technically “drupes”.

(Drupe: Fleshy fruit with hard inner layer

(endocarp or stone) surrounding the seed. (E.g. peach, plum, nectarine, apricot, cherry, olive, mango, and almond.)

The leaves are alternate and simple with three distinct veins from the base. When not in bonsai cultivation the leaves grow up to 3” long and they are shiny deep green and may be slightly hairy on both surfaces. (They remind me of forsythia leaves.) The leaves usually appear in a horizontal plane, leaning towards the light.

In the wild *Grewia* leaves are food for cattle, goats, and game (black rhino, giraffe, nyala, and grey duiker). Various birds such as louries, mousebirds, bulbuls and barbets as well as certain mammals (including man) eat ripe fruits. Larvae of the rufous-winged elfin butterfly (*Eagris nottoana*) and buff-tipped skipper

(*Netrobalane canopus*) feed on the leaves of this species. When planted for landscape use they attract butterflies and birds.

In certain areas where the sugar content of the fruits is high, they are collected and dried for later use. Sometimes the dried fruits make a milkshake by boiling in milk-- a bush milkshake! The ripe fruit are part of the brewing of beer in certain areas. Other human uses of this species include using the wood, which is fine grained and light colored, to make bows and spear

shafts. The cross-berry is an important species in traditional herbal medicine and used for a variety of purposes. Bruised bark soaked in hot water may treat wounds. Pounded bark, which is smooth and light grey, used regularly, as a shampoo to prevent hair from turning grey. (Is it too late?) Parts of the plant supposedly treat impotence and sterility, and root extracts believed to help in childbirth.

Maintained in a moist environment is vital to optimum development. Fertilize weekly with an acid loving plant fertilizer. The plant tends to become chlorotic, so an iron supplement is recommended at least once a year. Prune after blooming to keep a desired shape. Propagation of *Grewia* is by cuttings of new growth in spring or by seed. (Offered @ 5 for \$2.50 on one website) Seeds germinate in 14-21 days at 70° F.

The bonsai reference said they have a



(Continued on page 8)

NEW IN 2013!

MEM IN 5013!

As we move into CBS' forty-first year, there is the persistent question; "What can we do to support our members in having success in all levels of bonsai"? At the January board meeting we discussed several educational opportunities.

First up is the pre-meeting community "Bonsai Bee". All participants are encouraged to bring trees and questions. Experienced members will be available to work with members of all levels, but especially beginners. Leaders will bring their own trees as well. The leaders will assist with trees, questions, advice, and, guidance. This is an opportunity to work and share in an "it takes a village" atmosphere. We plan to kick off the Bonsai Bee at 12:30 before our March 17 meeting.

The regular meeting will follow at 2 PM. José Cueto will be creating a Saikei.

Our next goal is to develop a mentoring project. The initial step will be to see if there is interest at both ends. We have several individuals who would like to work as mentors and we hope to find more. Now we need to know if anyone is interested in being a "mentee". The pairings should be based on mutual interests, geographical proximity, and development of a plan to work on bonsai goals. If interested in participating or if you have suggestions, please email

Tom <mailto:tholcomb@columbus.rr.com> or the club <mailto:columbusbonsai@hotmail.com>.

Over the years CBS has offered a variety of beginner's classes using many formats. This year a one day class is being planned for a Saturday in late April. We are brainstorming about how to improve the class and especially how to increase success in maintaining the new bonsai. More information about the date and location of this class will be in the upcoming newsletter, on our website and in other advertising. Help us by letting your friends know about this event.

Several other projects are being discussed that are getting me reenergized and enthused.



Tom Holcomb

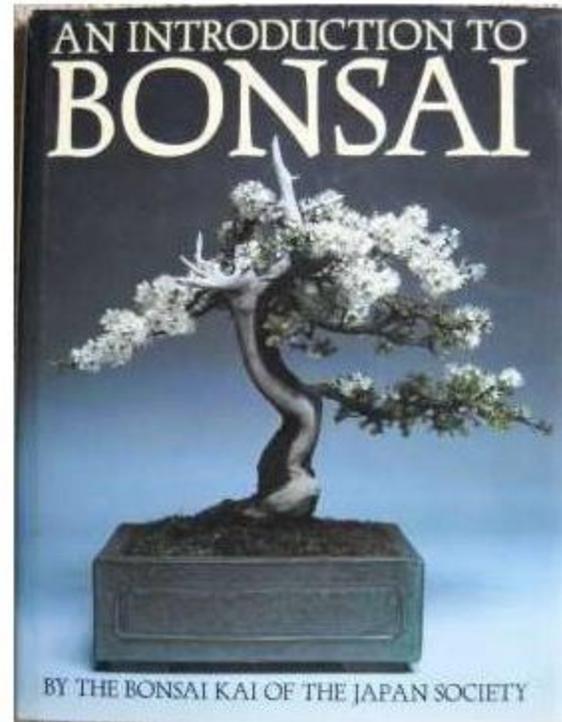
BONSAI BEE

DO YOU WANT (OR WANT TO BE) A MENTOR?

Book Of The Month: An Introduction to Bonsai By the Bonsai Kai of the Japan Society

The Bonsai Kai in London published this book in 1989. The publisher thanked Peter Adams, Dan Barton, Peter Chan, Bill Jordan, Colin Lewis, James McCurrach and Harry Tomlinson for allowing the use of the photographs of their trees in this book. As such, I wondered if the Bonsai Kai of the Japan Society was an English organization as all the bonsai artists are? Anyway, this is a short on text, with large color plates of bonsai presented in some 86 pages. A book that I would refer to as a coffee table book; as such, its pictures are its primary point of interest. I found the pictures on the dark side so that they did not show [good detail](#). [However they are full page and in color so that you might find some that could](#) serve as a role model for one of your trees in training. The trees are identified by scientific name, their approximate age is given and their height. While many were in the 35 to 100 year old range none seemed out of reach of the aspiring hobbyist.

The text is beginner material or “introduction” as the book’s title denotes. Pages 48 – 54 are about appreciation and judgment. Twelve points that make a tree “good” are presented, followed by twelve points that make a tree “bad”. An example of good is “A good fanning out of surface roots from the base of the trunk, gradually disappearing into the soil.” An example of bad is “A tree planted with the soil and bole sunk far below the rim of its container.” a section called Seasonal Work Schedule follows it. Each season is broken into early, mid and late. In Late Spring the note says it may already be to late to repot. Late winter said “not yet” on repotting, but to get tools and soil ready. Wiring is held off until late spring for heavy branches and early summer for fine branches. By mid-summer trimming of new growth is about all that remains besides watering, feeding and inspecting for insects. Both mid and late summer say “do not wire.” In fact only mid and late spring recommended wiring. It seemed to me that the guidance was over simplified because the text is limited.



Ken Schultz

SAVE THE DATE



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

LAVENDER STARFLOWER (Continued from page 4)

shallow root system so that they may dry out rapidly, especially when repotting them. A soil mixture made up of 50% organic (sphagnum, bark, peat moss, and vermiculite) 25% small lava rock and 25% Turface is advisable. They prefer a well-drained soil and sunny to partly sunny location. Mine gets about 4 hours of direct sun when it is outside. When indoors, do not let the pot stand in water, as they do not like wet feet. They also claim it is a rapid grower and as such can stand rigorous pruning to maintain its shape. I have found them slow to develop trunk size. However, they seem to train easily using a combination of clip and grow and wiring. The advice is that you use aluminum wire only.

Propagation by cuttings or air layering taken in spring is supposedly easy, as is germinating seeds. However, to date I have never seen it fruit or purchased the packet of five seeds. The following website did a great job showing where the information presented in a number of other articles I found on the web came from: http://ecoport.org/ep?Plant=46397&entityType=PL****&entityDisplayCategory=full



Ken Schultz

More on Defoliation

I came across some additional information on the results of defoliation on several different species on the **Buffalo Bonsai Society** website (by Dan Trzepacz) that I thought would be of interest, if you're thinking you might try defoliation this year. What I found most interesting are the results in leaf size reduction. On their website this is supported by accompanying photographs. Mr. Trzepacz says that he defoliates his trees from mid-June to around the 4th of July, since they are in Zone 5 – this ought to work for us too. He reports a 60% leaf size reduction with **Ficus**, a 50% leaf size reduction for **Hornbeam**, a 40% leaf size reduction for **Maple**, 50% for Red Leaf Maple and a 36% leaf size reduction for **Trident Maples**. I knew about maples, but hadn't thought about Hornbeam or Ficus. He says that new leaves begin to emerge in 10-14 days when performed on **healthy trees**.

Besides conifers, trees grown for their fruit or flowers should not be defoliated (crabapple). It also included the following advice: Do not defoliate in the same year that a tree has been repotted. Besides reduced leaf size there will also be back-budding and additional ramification. Fall color may be brighter. Partial defoliation may control direction of growth and remove unsightly leaves damaged by insects or frost.



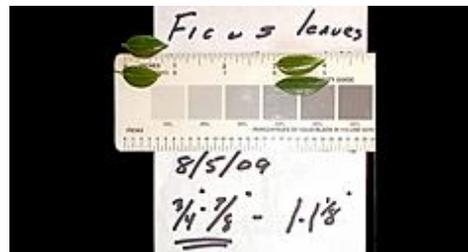
Ken Schultz

DEFOLIATION PHOTOS....

BEFORE



AFTER



HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES AT LITTLE DRAGONS



GOOD FRIENDS

GOOD FOOD



AND GOOD FUN....



**WITH YOUR HOST—
MARK WINKERDALE**

**ON “IS IT A TREE OR
ISN’T IT”**



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 Beverlee.wilson@cardinalhealth.com 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!

Beverlee Wilson
Beverlee.wilson@cardinalhealth.com
 Librarian



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.

2013

20 JAN	JUDGING CRITERIA / SLIDESHOW FROM ASHEVILLE—OAKLAND
7 FEB	AKRON/CANTON BONSAI—WORK ON ROCKS FOR PENJING PROJECT
17 FEB	GRAFTING WORKSHOP W/ KEN HUTH—FPC
17 MAR	SAIKEI DEMO—FPC
4 APR	AKRON/CANTON BONSAI—PLANT TREES ON ROCKS FOR PENJING PROJECT
21 APR	MAPLES W/ ZACK—OAKLAND
19 MAY	COTONEASTER WORKSHOP W/ MIHALIC—FPC
JUN	AKRON/CANTON BONSAI—ANNUAL SHOW AND DEBUT OF PENJING PROJECT
8-9 JUN	33RD ANNUAL REGIONAL BONSAI SHOW—DAWES ARBORETUM—NEWARK
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

January – Mid Winter – 36/20

- Only water when soil is almost dry. Soil may stay damp for many weeks without the need for water.
- Heavy pruning of deciduous trees can be completed in winter, while the tree is dormant. It may be best to wait until early spring, when dead branches from winter are more noticeable.
- Start deciding which trees will be repotted in spring. Make a list of available pots, and which trees will work with them. Having a battle plan is very useful once the chaos of spring arrives. Order repotting supplies such as new pots, soil, wire, drainage mesh, etc.
- Protect your trees from direct winter sun and wind as it will cause freeze dry damage.
- You may place mothballs in the mulch around your trees to prevent mouse damage.
- Extra mulch or protection is needed if the temps fall below 20, especially for elms, maples and other fleshy rooted plants.

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

Judging criteria— Oakland Nursery

