

April 2013 Newsletter

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“A Pinch of this....”

...4th WEDNESDAY GROUP BEGINS IN MARCH....



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Rich Uhrick

**See you on this Sunday the
21st at Franklin Park
Conservatory—Downstairs
in the Classrooms**



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

This Month's Program— **PROJECT SAIKEI AND BONSAI BEE** [See page 9]—FPC

Saikai is a miniature landscape. Typically it represents a place like a valley, or stream bank; it can represent a path passing through a field or a cliff. Typically they contain more than one type of plant material. I've seen them with up to five types of material, though three is most common. To the right is one with five from the Carolina Arboretum in Asheville. See page 4 for more information.



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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

MAY: BOXWOOD DEMO AND MINI SHOW

JUNE: ROB MacGREGOR

JULY: ANNUAL SHOW

AUGUST: OWEN REICH

SEE PAGE 9 FOR MORE DATES AND LISTINGS

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Rich Uhrick, Editor
 ruhrick@otterbein.edu

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT....



Random Thotz - now from the President

A wise man once told me, “Never eat anything that has grown lower than a dog’s hind leg.”

It was an outdoors kind of weekend. Not what I would have planned for working on trees, but it will serve my trees well. We have new neighbors. One of the items they bring is a 70-pound dog. Now I know that a simple wooden fence is not going to keep that dog and our 65 pounders (3 of them) separated very long. It would not even keep the previous beagle out. Therefore, my yard is now divided. A fence runs the length of yard separating the entertaining and dog space from the bonsai display, work, and storage area - and that common fence. I also now have a space that I can grow vegetables in that are away from the dogs. That side of the yard is also completely mulched other than the growing beds. I will miss the ash tree out front but it still serves well.

Now what I really needed to do was stick cuttings from my big trident maple, repot my boxwood grove for the May meeting, pot my new larch, and various other spring chores. What I got was much unexpected help from Jill and CJ cleaning out the pond. That was a weekend worth of my time that they just gifted me; unsolicited. That is what is nice about it. We were all out in the yard working on our different projects. All I have to do is turn off the water tonight when I finish writing this.

Along the way, I got help moving said boxwood and another even bigger one, plus bench, from the far side of the pond out into the yard where I can keep better tabs on them. Moreover, I unearthed a couple of large trees in training pots that had grown into the ground. You will be seeing a couple of these at future meetings.

I hope you have started your watering habits by now, with the weather warming up the trees are thirsty and it has been dry a couple of days. The rain this week will help, but your schedule needs to start if it has not. I had a bonus in that by draining the pond I got a lot of nutrient rich water to put on my trees. They will smell like nasty swamp water for a while, but it really seems to kick-start the growth cycle.

Take pictures and notes. If you are doing something interesting, write an article. If you think the topic exists already, OK, write it again from your experience, or aim it at a beginner’s level. I find that I learn as much from writing about some bonsai experience as doing it because I am taking it apart and putting it in words for other people to read. The extra thought involved makes it possible to really understand what you are doing, and why.

There will be an email about your experience and a survey. Take that as an example about that extra thought. You might be surprised at what you have done and not really paid attention to. You may see some part of the art that you want to pursue further. Put it in the survey and the Board will use that information for scheduling future programs. Do it for **you**, and do it for your club friends.

Zack

RAFFLE, RAFFLE, RAFFLE!

Bring your wallets and check books for this one folks. Auction Hunters and Storage Wars have nothing on us this month. In the inventory of our library we discovered a book of postcards with pictures of bonsai on them from Japan. For the mere cost of a raffle ticket these could be yours. You could “flip” them into framed photos and give them away or decorate that bonsai themed fan room you always wanted since you saw one for a sports theme.

APRIL'S PROGRAM: PROJECT SAIKEI

Saikei is a miniature landscape. Typically it represents a place like a valley, or stream bank; it can represent a path passing through a field or a cliff. Typically they contain more than one type of plant material. I've seen them with up to five types of material, though three is most common. Below is one with five from the Carolina Arboretum in Asheville.

Last November when the FPC Workgroup was giving a last look at the bonsai collection before it was stored for the winter, and we agreed that the Saikei in the split pot which has three Boulevard cypress and Five Kingsville boxwood needed replanting. In the spring, we had worked on it, pruning the boxwoods and trying to make the Boulevard cypress presentable. However the planting had sat in front of the stone wall in the courtyard and most of the branches on the back of the radiant heat had killed the cypress. (The cypress had replaced some Alberta Spruce six years earlier.)

Jose' also commented that since we were going to replant the Saikei, perhaps FPC has a pot in their collection of pots that would look better with a Saikei in it. In December the pot that you will see on April 21 was selected. It is a bone colored pots that is 26" wide, 19" front to back and about 2" deep. Several options on the trees for the Saikei were discussed, as were the understory trees. I suggested adding small azaleas. However, we dropped that idea since the dwarf type used is not hardy to our zone; besides the Kingsville's are very nice.

In January and February, we discussed the trees again and decided that if we could find suitable Black Hills Spruce they would be a good choice. During late February and early March I collected moss that will be used to finish the planting on April 21.

On March 9, a group of four CBS members went to assist in digging and potting Black hills Spruce at Ken's World of Bonsai. Ken Huth donated the ten spruce trees we will be using on April 21. Jose' came to see them to verify that they would be suitable material.

On March 26, Jose and I met at the Something Special Shoppe in Westerville to select rocks to use in the Saikei, as the pot we will be using is a different color. When we finally selected the rock that would look the most natural, we drew the oval outline of the pot on a piece of cardboard and began the process of selecting the ten rocks that fit together to form a natural looking composition. An outline of their position was made and their position and the rocks were numbered. Jose' said he'll make and bring a bucket of "muck" that is needed to create the change of elevations and hold the bonsai soil in position.

We also will bring and consider adding smaller Kingsville to the composition left over from the spring event on 3/17.

On the following day through e-mail Zack, Rich, Jose' and I discussed how to secure the rocks into position so that they would not move in the years that will follow. We decided on hot glue guns because it has the shortest drying time.



The additional accent plants remain unidentified. It may be a green Mondo type grass that FPC has in the Shimpaku Saikei; created by Boon Manakitivipart several years ago.

Be sure to join us at FPC on April 21 to watch the parts of this collaborative effort come together into a wonderful Saikei.



Ken Schultz

VALAVANIS CANCELS, BUT ROB MACGREGOR STEPS IN

Due to surgery - Bill does not think he can drive the 7 hours here and back in June...so he apologizes that this is the first time he has cancelled an event in 20 years. We have decided to have Rob MacGregor, New World Horticulture, in Clermont County on the Ohio River. (<http://www.newworldhorticulture.com/>) Rob has operated his nursery for about 30 years and he has been a member of the Greater Cincinnati Bonsai Society. He recently presented a Root-over Rock workshop for Cincinnati (but June is not good for that) He also makes small and medium sized bonsai pots. Jose' said he is an excellent teacher and artist. He and several of our club members have been to New World Horticulture for some of their bonsai events. You may want to check out Rob's website, he is not that far away.

His favorite bonsai styles are Literati and Cascade. We could not recall having featured either style in a workshop in over 20 years. Therefore, we have asked Rob if he would offer two workshops on June 16. One is featuring Literati in the morning and the other featuring Cascade after lunch. He is offering two plants varieties in three sizes. The workshop price depends on the size of the plant you want.

The first plant is Procumbens "Nana" and the other is Blue Rug Juniper. Blue Rug tends to have a more slender trunk when young and Rob says this makes them easier to bend and more "feminine". The Japanese consider both Literati and Cascade. The plants are One gallon, Two gallon and three gallon. If you choose a one-gallon plant then the workshop cost is \$32, if you choose a two-gallon plant the workshop cost is \$40 and if you choose a three-gallon plant the workshop cost is \$48. You may choose Blue Rug for one workshop and Procumbens "Nana" for the other - or the same species and size for both.

If you want to take both workshops then you can select a different size tree for each, as well as different species. Each workshop is limited to TEN spots.

You can view the Root-over-rock workshop on Cincinnati's Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bonsai-Society-of-Greater-Cincinnati/328865183656>



SAVE THE DATE



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

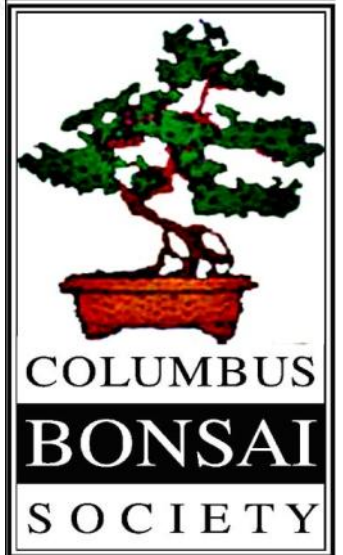
**1777 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43203
7/20/13 10am—5pm
7/21/13 10am—4pm**

WWW.COLUMBUSBONSAI.ORG

COLUMBUSBONSAI@HOTMAIL.COM

**TELL US WHAT
YOU THINK**

TAKE OUR SHORT SURVEY!



COMING IN
COMING IN
MAY

Here are the sample questions for you to think about, then watch your email in May for a link to the Survey and “TELL US WHAT YOU THINK”.

1. How long have you done bonsai? (How did you start? , When did you first see one?)
2. How many bonsai do you have? (How many could be shown? How many should you just get rid of?)
3. Have you shown trees in a bonsai show? (If yes, where? If no, why not?)
4. How many bonsai workshops have taken? (Artists and subject matter, If no, why not?)
5. What topics / techniques would you like the society to help you pursue? (Try to think outside the “pot)
6. Do you have a particular bonsai artist you would like us to invite?
7. Have you ever presented about a bonsai subject? (How many times, subject would you be interested in presenting for us?)
8. Name your top 3 favorite plants, styles and sizes (S,M,L) for bonsai and a brief statement about why?
9. Would you like to be involved in a mentoring or combined study program? (If yes, where are you located and how far would you travel?)
10. Any additional ideas or comments you have for the Columbus Bonsai Society?

FIRST TIME POTTING NOTES

1. Select an appropriate pot (see the Pot selection article)
 - A. Place screen and wires to tie the tree into the pot ahead of time.
 - B. Have an appropriate amount and mix of bonsai soil ready for use. Different trees need different soils mixes. For example, Azaleas need a mix with peat or other source of acid and organics. Pines may use a more rocky faster draining mix. Small plants need a finer textured mix.
 - C. Have a watering tub that you can dunk the pot into after you are done with step.
 - D. If it is warm or windy, have a spray bottle to mist the roots while you work to keep them from drying.
2. Identify your front - it may have changed if its not a new tree
 - A. Look to see where the main roots are coming out. It is not easy to change this part of your tree. (To do this you may need to cut down the plastic nursery pot and scrape soil off the top.)
 - B. Look for a First branch- it should be the thickest branch - and will become the lowest/first branch. It should come slightly towards the front.
 - C. Look next for your top - it should also come slightly towards you when you plant your tree in its pot.
 - D. Some styling may be possible IF the tree is healthy.
3. Remove undesirable branches - stuff growing up or down or crossing.
4. Reduce the height to the bud or branch that will be your apex.
5. You can do some wiring on new material - some experts say - you should wait until you are sure the repotting has been successful before fine-tuning the trees appearance. It is not what we usually do during a workshop.
6. Remove your tree from its pot.
 - A. Is it pot bound?
 - B. Try not to remove more than 1/3rd of the roots - use the new pot as your guide- don't fold or wrap roots to make them fit. A clean cut near new feeder roots is appropriate. It may take several years of repotting to get your tree into the pot you really want to use. Depending on the health and time of repotting, you may not want to disturb the root ball too much.
 - C. Use a chopstick to comb out the roots, try not to break the roots as you do this.
 - D. For more stubborn root balls you may need to use a metal rake or root hook,
7. Position your tree in its new pot
 - A. Check the height of the nebari. It should be just above the rim of the pot. Put more soil in the bottom if it is not. Wiggle it down. Add more soil under it if needed.
 - B. Check its position in the pot. Except for literati or formal upright - usually in a round or square pot. It should not be in the middle. It should be back and to the right or left- depending on where your fist branch is.
 - C. WIRE the tree in firmly so that it does not rock. If it rocks, the wind can damage the new feeder roots and squirrels WILL pull it out to find the acorn you buried under your tree.
 - D. Check the height again-loosen and add more soil if the nebari has settled below the edge of the pot.
 - E. Use a chopstick to swirl more soil into the root ball. Air pockets in the root ball are NOT a good thing.
8. Water
 - A. Submerge your tree to its edge pot in a tub and leave it until all bubbles stop coming up. Use a little transplant food in the water, such as SuperThrive.
 - B. If your soil settles - you may need to add more and re-water.
 - C. Check the position of the top and angle of your tree - Did it stay where you wanted.
 - D. Add moss and surface water it down. It will help keep your soil from washing out when you water and it makes the bonsai look more complete.
9. Place your newly repotted tree in a protected location
 - A. This location is out of direct sun and protected from drying winds - or winds strong enough to damage your new roots.
 - B. Wait until you see new growth before you move your tree to a bench.
 - C. You do not need to fertilize during the first month or two. The new soil has extra nutrients.



Ken Schultz

Bonsai Bee

We invite everyone to come to the Club's next pre-meeting event (from 12pm to 2pm). We have called this activity the Bonsai Bee because we are trying to initiate a swarm of activity especially for "new-bees". Our goal is to offer advice and recommendations on topics such as styling, branch trimming and wiring, general tree health, and timing on when to re-pot. Remember this advice is FREE. Another free service for April and May, and only available for the beginner, defined as a person with the Club for no more than two years, is free bonsai soil. A repotting table will be set-up and staffed to help the Beginner on a first come first serve basis. Please no 5-gallon repotting projects for the pre-meeting. Veteran members can bring a tree in to repot too but there will be a modest material fee and you may have to wait until the Beginners have gotten the help they need. In addition, any member can bring in a tree to discuss or just display. Finally, we have to respect the needs of our speakers setting up for the main program so repotting will stop at 2 pm sharp. The education committee looks forward to your participation at our next Bee - it should be a very sweet time.

I SURE CAN'T WAIT
TO JOIN ALL OF THE
OTHER BEES
WORKING ON BONSAI!



INTRODUCTION TO BONSAI

Columbus Bonsai Society

April 27, 2013 10 am—3 pm

Oakland Nursery—

**Columbus Store on Oakland
Park**

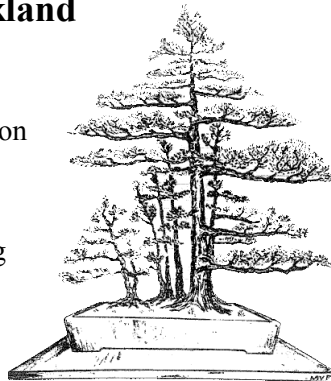
\$45—Space Limited

Registration/ Contact/ Information

Available at:

bonsaibeginners@yahoo.co

[Http://www.columbusbonsai.org](http://www.columbusbonsai.org)



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

The CBS Library Materials List is now available in spreadsheet format on our CBS website's Library Tab.

Users can Sort, Filter and Search the list. There are a few little buttons at the bottom of the embedded spreadsheet that allow you to download the spreadsheet, or open a full page version in a new window. Users can then email the librarian at CBSLibrary@hotmail.com to request materials.

Another new feature is a column indicating if the Book has been reviewed and the information to access the review. For instance "NL Feb. 2011 (Schultz)" would indicate that the review is in the Newsletter, Feb 2011 issue, and Ken Schultz authored the review.

We hope this will make the collection more available to the membership. Let us know your thoughts.

We have completed the Accession Process for all the Books in the Club's Collection. All have a Card and Pocket for ease of Check Out.

Beverlee Wilson, Librarian
John Young, Asst Librarian
CBSLibrary@hotmail.com

There are 14 items
currently missing from our collection...
please see Beverlee if you think you might
have one of them.



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

21 APR	SAIKEI DEMO WITH JOSE—FPC
27 APR	ARBOY DAY EVENT —DAWES , NEWARK, OH
27 APR	BEGINNING BONSAI CLASS— OAKLAND
7 MAY	SANDUSKY BONSAI—SHOW PREP WORKSHOP
19 MAY	BOXWOOD DEMO, REPOTTING AND STYLING OF COLLECTED—FPC
JUN	AKRON/CANTON BONSAI—ANNUAL SHOW AND DEBUT OF PENJING PROJECT
8-9 JUN	33RD ANNUAL REGIONAL BONSAI SHOW—DAWES ARBORETUM—NEWARK
8-9 JUN	SANDUSKY BONSAI SOCIETY ANNUAL SPRING SHOW—YACHT CLUB
16 JUN	FOREST DEMO W/ WILLIAM VALVANIS AND MORNING WORKSHOP—FPC
2 JUL	SANDUSKY BONSAI—MONTHLY MEETING, TOPIC TBA
20-21 JUL	CBS 2013—ANNUAL SHOW —FPC
17 AUG	SANDUSKY BONSAI—PICNIC AND GARDEN TOUR
18 AUG	TBA
7 SEP	SANDUSKY BONSAI—ANNUAL PBLIC DEMONSTRATION—FROST CENTER
15 SEP	PICNIC/ MEMBER SALE/ IRON BONSAI—OAKLAND
1 OCT	SANDUSKY BONSAI—SOIL NIGHT AND PIE/ICE CREAM SOCIAL
20 OCT	JIN AND SHARI—FPC
6 NOV	SANDUSKY BONSAI—OFFICER ELECTIONS
17 NOV	RAFT AND CLUMP STYLES W/ FICUS—TBA
4 DEC	SANDUSKY BONSAI—CHRISTMAS PARTY/ DINNER
DEC	HOLIDAY DINNER—TBD

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

FROM THE CBS CARE GUIDE

March – Early Spring – 50/31

- Repot deciduous trees if their buds are starting to swell. If you wait until the leaves have emerged, you will need to take more care to keep the tree out of direct sunlight and wind.
- Be sure to check wire from last year. The spring's growth will cause tight wire to cut into the tree. Remove any that is tight. This should be done year round as well. If the branch did not hold its shape, reapply wire.

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

SPRING EVENT AND BONSAI BEE—FPC

