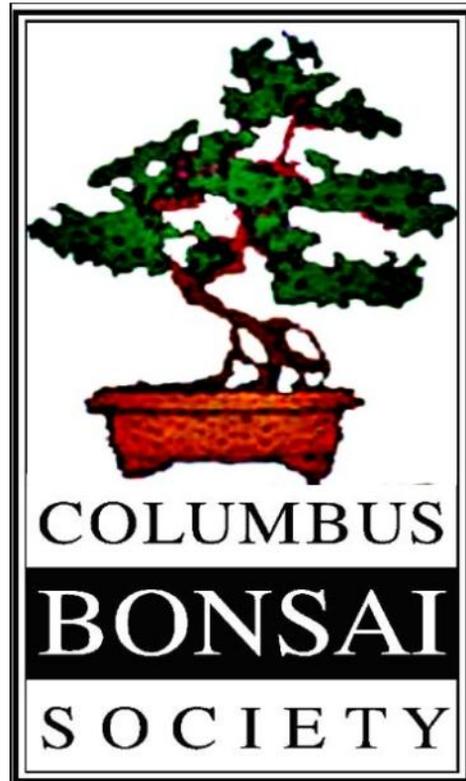


Columbus Bonsai Society
PO Box 1981
Columbus, OH 43216-1981

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

Regular Club meetings on
3rd Sunday of the month
Meetings Start at 2:00 pm
All are welcome to attend

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



Erodium with Ken Huth

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2/15/15
FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY**

**2:00 PM BUSINESS MEETING
2:15 PM PROGRAM BEGINS**

February 2015 Newsletter

President
Mike Thornhill

Tree Curator
Rick Wilson

Director Emeritus
José Cueto

1st Vice President
Zack Clayton

2nd Vice President
Denny Sackett

1 year Director
Jack Smith

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Mark Passerrello

3 year Director
Ben William

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Schoenfeld

Librarian
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Web Master
Amelia Harris

Newsletter Editor
Richard Uhrick

Education
Tom Holcomb
Mark Passerrello

“A Pinch of this....”

The reichardii are coming, the reichardii are coming....

They are coming by land, but be forewarned they are coming. Even though some think of them as their “kryptonite” species, they are just like all bonsai—You can not have just one. Once you experience their beauty and ease you will want several for yourself.

Bonsai=Perseverance



Rich Uhrick

Inside this issue:

Program Info	3
RABBIT HOLE	4
BOOK OF THE MONTH	6
ERODIUM FACTS	8
A STORY OF MOVING....	10
Calendar of Events	12

**See you on the 15th at
Franklin Park Conservatory**



Columbus Bonsai Society PO Box 1981 Columbus OH 43216-1981

ColumbusBonsai@hotmail.com www.ColumbusBonsai.org



2



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

This Month's Program— February 15—Erodium Workshop — With Ken Huth of Ken's World of Bonsai.

The February meeting of the Columbus Bonsai Society will be a chance to get your hands dirty! Ken Huth, of Ken's World of Bonsai will present an Erodium workshop. Erodium is not a tree—they are related to geraniums, but with a little bonsai styling they look like pretty convincing. Erodium bonsai always draw a lot of attention for their persistent pink flowers and high 'cute' factor. They can be styled as a small bonsai or allowed to grow a bit fuller and make good accent plants.

Ken will be bringing lots of plant material and suitable pots—The plan workshop participants will pot up 5 or 6 specimens, and will be able to take home their favorite, included with the \$15.00 cost of the workshop. Additional plants and pots can be purchased from Ken.

Erodium are appealing and easy to grow, so this will make a great first time workshop for those starting out in bonsai. More experienced hobbyists will enjoy the change of pace these quick to style little plants provide. Everyone ought to have a few in their collection!



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

DISCLAIMER

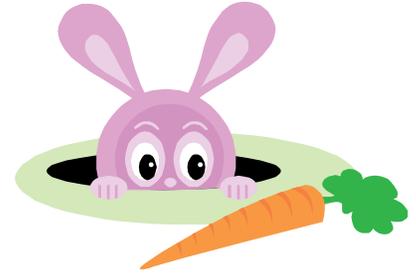
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Rich Uhrick, Editor

Uhrick.richard@gmail.com

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

SEE PAGE 12 FOR MORE
DATES AND LISTINGS

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT....**THE RABBIT HOLE**

Well it's official; the groundhog saw his shadow so we have six more weeks of winter ahead. This can be a good thing; six weeks gives us plenty of time to prepare for spring. With the departure of Ken Schultz, I have taken on the responsibility of ordering pots and tools for the club and its members. The club will maintain a small inventory of pots and tools that will be made available at as many meetings as possible. The "special" pottery and tool order will be a once a year event. I will do my best to maintain the reasonable inventory mentioned earlier. The annual order will be the only chance for members to "piggyback" on a club order. The benefits of ordering along with the club are numerous, with lower wholesale prices and savings on shipping being two of the more obvious benefits.

Let us start with the details of joining in on the pottery order. The pots will be ordered through Green Products. They maintain a website where you can view their selection. Their web address is abbonsai.com. They have both glazed and unglazed pottery available. If you are unable to access their webpage, I will bring a catalog of their products to the club meeting on February 15th. The prices in the catalog do not include shipping. The shipping charges vary, but a safe estimate is 20%. For example, a \$50 dollar pot will cost you \$60 dollars with the shipping included (still a bargain). The order will be placed on February 18, 2015. I will need all orders by then if you wish to be included. Payment will be made to the club when the pottery arrives and is picked up at the March meeting. You will notice that some pottery is available only in case or by multiple quantities. If you are interested in any of these items and don't want the whole case, please contact me. I will evaluate on an individual basis if the club would be interested in "splitting" a case or set, and carrying the additional pots in inventory. If you are interested in ordering any non-pottery items from them, let me know and I will try to include with our order as well.

Last year we placed our tool order with American Bonsai Tool and Supply Co. The members who purchased these tools, myself included, have provided positive feedback as to the value and quality of the tools. We will be purchasing more of the tools for the club inventory and would like to invite club members to join in the order. The Club gets a 15% discount on the prices that are listed on their webpage and free shipping. There will be no markup on the cost of tools ordered through the club. Members will realize the full 15% savings and free shipping. Their full product line can be viewed at americanbonsai.com. I will also be placing this order on February 18th for delivery at the March club meeting. Payment for tools ordered will be made directly to the club at the March meeting when they are delivered.

If anyone has any questions regarding either the tool or pottery orders, or would like to place an order please contact me at cfdmike@aol.com.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the February 15th meeting featuring Ken Huth and the Erodium workshop.

*Mike*

HOW DO I CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER?

A: HERE'S HOW: BOARD MEMBER CONTACT LIST

President

Mike Thornhill cfdmike@aol.com

Director Emeritus

José Cueto jrcueto@hotmail.com

1st Vice President

Zack Clayton zclayton@yahoo.com

2nd Vice President

Denny Sackett sackeka@wowway.com

1 year Director

Jack Smith jsmith4753@aol.com

2 year Director

Mark Passerello mpasserello@rocketmail.com

3 year Director

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Treasurer

Richard Gurevitz rgurevitz@aol.com

Secretary

Sandy Schoenfeld slschoenfeld7@yahoo.com

Librarian

Beverlee Wilson Beverleewilson777@gmail.com

Web Master

Amelia Harris apharris21@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Richard Uhrick Uhrick.richard@gmail.com

Education

Tom Holcomb tholcomb@columbus.rr.com

Mark Passerello mpasserello@rocketmail.com

Tree Curator

Rick Wilson rickwilson134@gmail.com

FROM THE CBS CARE GUIDE**USDA Hardiness Zones 5-6 (5 Northern Ohio, 6 Southern Ohio)**

February - Late Winter - 39/22

- Wire conifers now through early summer.
- This is the best month for repotting conifers.
- Use a dormant pest spray to keep pests away in early spring.
- All tips from January apply in February.

BOOK OF THE MONTH—The Art of Indoor Bonsai: Cultivating Tropical, Sub-tropical and Tender Bonsai

By John Ainsworth

Photography by Bob Challinor

The text of this book was copyrighted in 1988 and 1992 and published first in the United States, later it was published in Great Britain. It is a larger book 10"X8" and has 128 pages. Part 1 of the book is *Cultivation, Care and Training*; Part 2 is *A-Z Selection of Tropical, Sub-tropical and Tender Bonsai*.

Chapter 1 is *Introduction and history*. Having reviewed more than 60 bonsai books over the past dozen years for the newsletter, I found that this chapter contained fresh information, including a reference to Egyptians who kept plants in pots 3-4,000 years ago. In India plants were grown in pots for their medicinal uses. He defines *Indoor Bonsai* as a bonsai tree not being grown in its natural habitat. We normally think of tropical in a colder climate, but he points out this could include temperate plants being kept in a hot climate. He also notes that in ancient times bonsai were grown in styles we would now consider "ugly". He also notes to compare the cost of bonsai to a non-bonsai plant would be like comparing a paint by number to a Rembrandt.

Chapter 2 is *Care of indoor bonsai trees*. Perhaps one of the most important statements is that tropical are used to higher levels of light than trees growing in temperate or sub-tropical areas. But he notes that next to a south facing window can be too much except for cactus even in the winter. He says that a tropical has to be within 5 foot of a window and receive at least partial sunlight for 4 hours a day. If your bonsai are 8-10 feet from a window you will need artificial light for 12 hours a day. Outside he notes some trees may need to be shaded. When he covers watering he notes that tropical also require more humidity and frequent watering during the growing season. He recommends using a gravel filled humidity tray. Unlike me, he's smart enough to say, use a block to keep your tree from growing roots into the gravel. Under fertilized he says that flowering trees should not be fertilized for a month before they flower until the flowers fall off or the fruit is well formed. Under fertilizing makes them subject to insect attack, pale leaves and few if any flowers.

Chapter 3 is *Styles of Bonsai* – he uses drawings.

Chapter 4 is *Propagation* – I liked that he included a short section about Easy seeds for children. An unusual inclusion in this section covers root grafting.

Chapter 5 – *Training indoor bonsai* – Pruning is divided into branch pruning, root pruning, leaf pruning and bud pruning. Ainsworth explains pruning is done

throughout the life of a tree until it dies. Pruning is done to maintain health and increasing its beauty. He says that Tropical leaf pruning is done two months after new growth starts in the spring. He removes only large leaves. He mentions Figs, maples, elms Zelkovas and Beech. Wiring is also covered. To illustrate his pots he continues to use drawings.

Chapter 6 – *Repotting indoor bonsai* – He says that while tropical can be repotted year round he prefers to wait until they are not in dormancy. A solid root mass is a sure sign that you need to repot. His soil mix is compost or loam mixed with sharp sand or grit. (I note that trees **want** to grow and we tend to over think the soil mix thing. The trick is to use a soil mix that provides proper pH and matches your watering style. As long as it doesn't keep your roots too wet too long, you'll be OK.) Wiring in and pot selection are presented too.

Chapters 7 – *Special effects* is 2 pages long and merely 2 pages and introduces forest, root over rock and saikei.

Chapter 8 *Pests* is only 3 pages, Neither chapter has a photo or drawing.

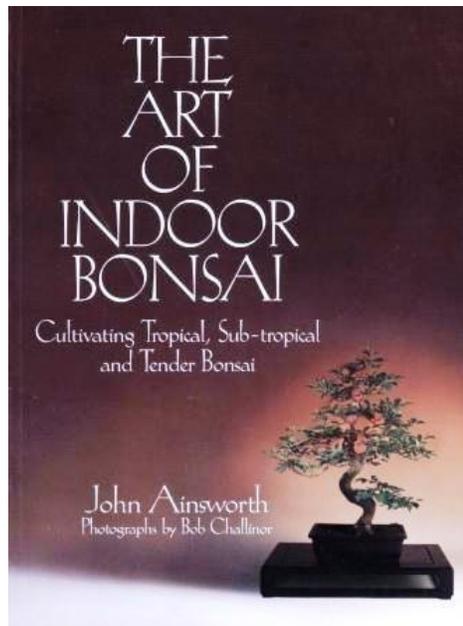
Part 2 A-Z Selection of Tropical, Sub-tropical and Tender Bonsai

As is typical of this sort of presentation one page provides a general care guide for each plant presented and the facing page is a full size picture of a plant in a bonsai pot. While all the photos are professionally staged with the plant on a dais and in a bonsai container, almost all are not specimen bonsai trees. In fact the first tree presented has wire scars.

For me, this book turned out to be too basic, but then I've reviewed at least 40 bonsai books and have twenty years of bonsai experience.



Ken Schultz



MABA 2015

Hello Bonsai Enthusiasts,

I am sending this e-mail to announce the upcoming MABA 2015 Convention, which is going to be held at the Clarion Waterfront Hotel and Conference Center in Indianapolis Indiana. The convention will take place July 10-12. The headlining artist is Suthin Sukosolvisit. Please visit our website, www.maba2015.com for the latest information. We currently have the visiting artists and vendors listed on the website. The complete schedule, list of workshops and demos, along with the registration form will be available on the website by mid January. Please check the website for the latest updates. Also, we will email periodic updates and information to the MABA clubs as we lead up to the convention, so please let me know if this email is going to the correct contact person for each club.

Thanks,

Scott Yelich, President
Indianapolis Bonsai Club



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 guidebook 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 troublemaker. Most reports of this plant are that it is a tough, adaptable customer that performs well under many varied conditions.

Erodium 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*.

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 occur not just 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.

The *Erodium* fact sheet

Scientific name/common name: *Erodium reichardii*, Heron’s bill, also crane’s bill, stork’s bill, baby geranium, alpine geranium.

Native region: Pyrenees Mountains of Southern Spain, and Mediterranean islands. In cultivation worldwide.

Form and habit: Slow growing, mound forming perennial, growing 2-4 inches tall and eventually reaching 12 inch spread. Leaves are bright green, slightly fuzzy and basically oval, with slightly lobed or scalloped edges. Blooms year round in cultivation, plants are dioecious (separate male and female plants).

Care: **Soil**—Prefers a moist but well drained soil, ideal mix should balance organic matter with grit, also prefers alkaline soil.

Light—Can grow in bright shade to full sun. Full sun will yield most compact growth and very short leaf stems desirable in bonsai.

Moisture—Requires good drainage but moist conditions, care should be taken to assure that small pots do not dry out. These plants are somewhat drought tolerant but caution is always advised. A sand tray or pot-in-pot technique will help moderate water demands in small containers.

Fertilizer—Not a heavy feeder, use a balanced fertilizer. A low nitrogen, higher phosphorus feed will often bring on a wave of blooms.

Propagation—Strikes easily from stem and root cuttings. Root cuttings should be completely buried in soil and kept moist, stem cuttings should be trimmed of all but a few leaves. Even very small stem sections will root.

Recommended soil mix: Note that no sand or gravel is included; I feel that in small pots all soil ingredients should hold some moisture.

Mulch fines
 Turface fines
 Coffee grounds
 Ground limestone
 Vermiculite
 “Moisture control” potting soil

YEARLY EVENT MAKES BIG DEAL OF TINY TREES

Annual exhibition will highlight more than four decades of bonsai in Columbus.

The beauty of trees in their summer glory will be a high point of the annual Columbus Bonsai Society's annual show. The Bonsai Society is an educational and social organization for those interested in the classic Japanese form of horticulture, and presents a show each year as a means of educating the public about the art form.

This edition of the annual event will take place at the Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Garden.

During the two day event club members will display many examples of the miniature trees they have patiently trained and nurtured. Workshops and demonstrations will take place during the show, so participants can get a hands on feel for what is involved in creating a bonsai. Three vendors will be on site and offering a wide range of plant stock, pottery and tools needed for bonsai work.

A demonstration of bonsai care & styling techniques will be given each day of the show. This presentation is open to all and suitable for all audiences-no special knowledge needed. Questions from the audience are welcome.

Admission to the show is free and open to the public, a free will donation will be accepted. The bonsai show will be contained in the lower level, class room areas of the Conservatory. Admission to this specific area is free. The Columbus Bonsai Society encourages those attending the show to enjoy the many displays and exhibits that a paid admission to the Conservatory offers.

Onsite parking is available, and the show venue is served by public transportation.

*A youth scholarship will be presented on Saturday-show attendees 14 and under can register for this package, which includes a membership to the Club and a bonsai tree.

* Interactive demonstrations will be given each day.

*An "Ask an expert" table will be staffed all day, both days of the show

Find the Columbus Bonsai Society and Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden on Facebook.

Facts in brief:

What: Columbus Bonsai Society's Annual Show

When: Saturday, July 18th 10:00am-5:00pm and Sunday ,
July 19th 10:00am-4:00pm 2015

Where: Franklin Park Conservatory, 1777 East Broad
Street, Columbus , Ohio 43203



A STORY OF MOVING BONSAI (OR A MOVING STORY....)

As you-all know, Linda and I recently moved 385 miles to the south. The challenge was to move my collection of bonsai. I realized I have way too many trees to just put them in our van and move them, even in five trips. So I rented a 16' truck. Using my bonsai benches turned upside down so that their 2"X4" reinforced bottoms would act as crates. I lined the bed of the truck.

In true Ohio retaliatory weather fashion, the afternoon I started loading was -3 and windy. The bonsai were frozen to the ground and I had to use a flat-nosed shovel to pry them up. They came out of their winter storage with mulch and leaves frozen to their pots. It was -5 when we stopped that evening. The next morning was not any warmer, or the ground any more willing to let me pry the bonsai from it. It took another 3.5 hours to load the truck because each tree had to be pried from the ground and moved from the back yard to the drive in front where the truck was waiting to be loaded. Due to the extreme cold a few branches especially on spruce snapped. But overall the trees got packed into the truck until it was full. Then we had a seven-hour drive to get them to our new home.

Unloading waited until the following day. I unloaded them to an area just at the drip line of the deck that extends the length of our new house but fortunately has a northern exposure. The yard rises 18' from the west to the east and there is a break of landscaping along the western edge of the property. So I was hoping that the situation would lend itself to some protection from the winter elements. In consultation with the Knoxville Bonsai Society president, Tom Bjornholm, he said some of their members leave their bonsai up on their benches in the winter; others put them on the ground or into an unheated garage. I worry that it may be too warm a zone for the six Larches I brought with me but Tom says that some members are able to keep them alive. It was 35 the day the hardy bonsai were unloaded and sunny with no wind to speak of.

Next were the Tropicals. I had to wait until we actually moved. The van seats were moved by our movers and the van itself was stuffed with the tropicals. I used 4 nursery crates, 3 plastic pop crates and 3 plastic cement mixing pans to put the bonsai into. It kept them from shifting around unchecked; the stands with lights went into the moving trucks. There were two 28' trucks. Much to my delight, there was enough room in the second truck that it allowed me to move my bonsai soil and amendments! They will move anything, as long as you are paying.

Again, because of the late hour, the tropicals stayed in the van overnight in the garage where it stays in the 50s. They were brought into the basement the next day which has a lower garage entrance. It took a few more days until I had time to reassemble the racks and set up the light timers. It has been 10 days since our move and all the tropicals, except one of my smaller Erodium seem to be thriving.

The snow melted off the hardy trees and they have pretty much thawed out. It has been as warm as 50 here and now I wonder when the buds will start to move. I suspect repotting season will come before I'm ready. And the bench tops are stacked in the separate garage from the house. I had to leave the concrete blocks that held them up behind, so there will be a great deal of work in my future to get them all set up for the growing season. The slopping yard will present a new challenge in displaying them this summer. I consider the move a huge success as there were NO broken pots.



Ken Schultz, Your (now) Zone 6/7 Correspondent

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

New – Keyword Search and DVD & CD List - New *

The CBS Library Materials List is available on our CBS website's Library Tab.
Sort, Filter and Search or Download the list.

Click the link to Email the librarian CBSLibrary@hotmail.com to request materials. The librarians will bring the Materials to the Monthly Meeting.

The Booklist has been updated with a Keyword Column to help you search.

Scroll to the bottom to select the DVD & CD Tab

Magazines are not included on the Website

CBS Subscribes to 3 Quarterly Magazines. These are also available to be checked out

Bonsai Focus: <http://www.bonsaifocus.com/>

Bonsai & Stone Appreciation: <http://www.bonsai-bci.com/>

American Bonsai Society: <http://www.absbonsai.org/>

Check out the Magazine Websites for Forums, Videos, Tips & Techniques, Care Guides, Helpful Links, Seminars, Bonsai Societies, Supplies and Nurseries.

If you are unable to attend the Monthly CBS Meeting/Workshop you can still check out materials...Contact The Librarians - via the Email at CBSLibrary@hotmail.com

Identify the materials you want to check out. Coordinate with the Librarians for a time to meet at the Oakland Park Nursery to check out the materials or if Oakland Park Nursery is not convenient, suggest another meeting location. We will make every reasonable effort to connect with you.

The Librarians.....

Librarian: Beverlee Wilson - H: 740-548-4857 Cell: 614-361-4943

Asst. Librarian: John Young

CBSLibrary@hotmail.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: _____

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 2:00 pm . Board Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. The board meetings are open to members.

2015

[In the planning Stages—Watch for updates]

FEB 15	ERODIUM WORKSHOP WITH KEN HUTH—FPC
MAR 15	REPOTTING — FPC
APR 11	BONSAI BEGINNER'S CLASS—OAKLAND
APR 19	TBD— FPC
MAY 17	TBD—FPC
JUN TBD	TBD— FPC
JUL 18-19	ANNUAL BONSAI SHOW —CBS 2015—FPC
AUG 16	TBD—FPC
SEP 20	ANNUAL PICNIC AND MEMBER SALE—OAKLAND
OCT 18	TBD—FPC
NOV 15	TBD—FPC
DEC	ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

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