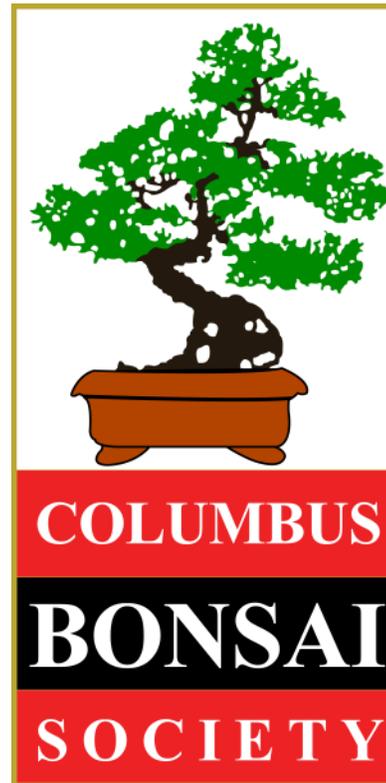


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Questions to:  
cbusbonsai@outlook.com  
[HTTP://Columbusbonsai.org](http://Columbusbonsai.org)

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

CBS Board meets  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month  
at 6:30 pm



***MAURO  
STEMBERGER***

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 11/17/15  
FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY**

**5:30 PM SOCIAL TIME AND SETUP**

**6:00 PM BUSINESS MEETING (APPROXIMATELY)**

**6:30 PM PROGRAM (APPROXIMATELY)**

**THIS IS A TUESDAY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

# November 2015 Newsletter

**President**

Mike Thornhill

**Tree Curator**

Rick Wilson

**Director Emeritus**

José Cueto

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Zack Clayton

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Denny Sackett

**1 year Director**

Jack Smith

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Mark Passerrello

**3 year Director**

Ben William

**Treasurer**

Richard Gurevitz

**Secretary**

Sandy Schoenfeld

**Librarian**

Beverlee Wilson

**Web Master**

**Newsletter Editor**

Richard Uhrick

**Education**

Tom Holcomb  
Mark Passerrello

“A Pinch of this....

## MAURO STEMBERGER OUR FEATURED ARTIST

Mauro Stemberger was born in 1978 in Feltre, Italy and works as an architect and Bonsai artist. At the age of 14, he became fascinated about the art of Bonsai and started his passion with the local Bonsai club Feltre. In the period 1994-2001 he had the chance to join workshops from well-known bonsai artists like Hotsumi Terakawa, Marc Noelanders, Horst Crekler, Edoardo Rossi and Salvatore Liporace.

In 2002, during a meeting in Arco, he had the chance to meet Alfiero Suardi and Enrico Savini. Thank to them he could improve his bonsai techniques and in the meanwhile studying architecture at the IUAV university in Venice.

In 2005 he founded the Italian Bonsai Dream, a workshop place with a group of enthusiasts to work with and enjoy the Bonsai art for the fully 100 percent. In 2006 he graduated as an architect and started working in his own town.

Since 2008 he's a recognized BCI (Bonsai Club International) Bonsai Instructor and from 2008 till 2010 he was President of the UBI (Italian Bonsai Association) and director of the UBI Bonsai Magazine.

### Bonsai=Perseverance

Rich Uhrick



See you on **TUESDAY** the  
**17th** at Franklin Park  
Conservatory.

Inside this issue:

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| Mauro Stemberger in November | 4  |
| TREE OF THE MONTH            | 6  |
| CARE GUIDE                   | 8  |
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2



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

## This Month's Program —MAURO STEMBERGER

**O**ur meeting this month will feature Mauro Stemberger on a **TUESDAY** night for a demo on a Shimpaku.



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

Uhrick.richard@gmail.com

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

**MAURO STEMBERGER OF  
ITALIANBONSAIDREAM.COM  
JOINS US FOR TWO SPECIAL WEEKNIGHT EVENTS ON  
NOVEMBER. 16-17.**



**On Monday night, November 16, 2015, we will host Mauro Stemberger for a Bring Your Own Tree Workshop from 5:30pm —8:30pm at an offsite location for eight participants at \$50.00 fee (no observers). Deciduous trees should be dormant in November so you can work on pruning. You can also wire pines but should protect them from freezing for 2 – 3 weeks after working on them.**

**Tuesday November 17, 2015 will be our open to all in the club meeting to see Mauro do a demo on the Shimpaku purchased from Ken Huth. This will be free to all club members. It is also possible that he may do some work on an Austrian Pine.**

# WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD PEOPLE

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**3 year Director**

Rebecca "Mouse" Olinn

**Treasurer**

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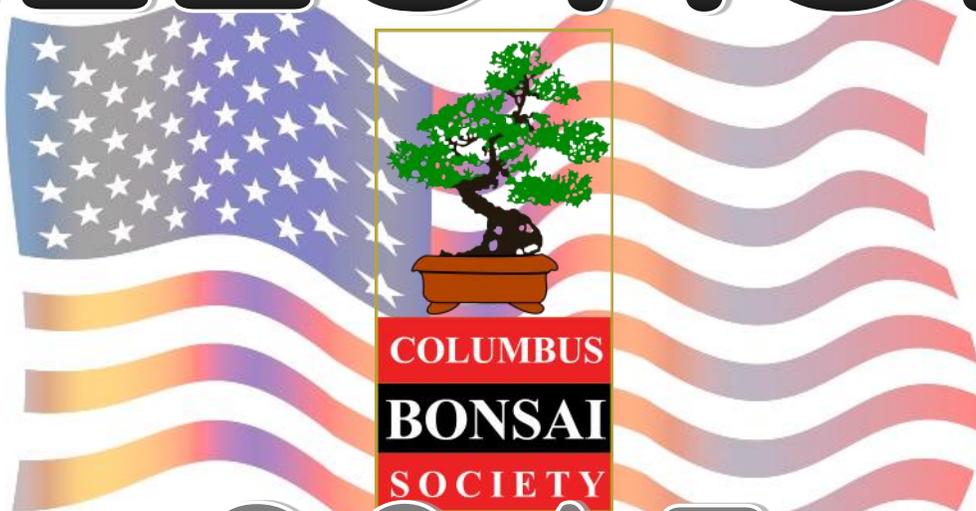
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# ELECTION



# 2015

## TREE OF THE MONTH—Crepe myrtle - *Lagerstroemia indica*

**G**eneral information: Crepe myrtle makes an excellent bonsai due to its easy branch ramification and the exfoliating bark contrasts red upon silver. Native to Asia, the crepe myrtle is very common in the southern US, having been introduced over 150 years ago. It has small pink, white, or purple flowers frequently with yellow pistils. As bonsai, it is often on display in winter to show off its trunk and branch structure. It gets its common name from its crepe-like, crinkled petals and the resemblance of its leaves to the true myrtle, *Myrtus communis*. The tree flowers from mid summer until fall. Each flower has 6-7 petals that occur in spike like clusters. The leaves are opposite and green. Some cultivars have reddish colored leaves. New leaf growth has a red appearance, turning green with maturity. (You will find it spelled both Crepe and Crape. Both are correct, though Crepe is now preferred and refers to the crinkled flower petals. Crape is the older English spelling of Crepe. Both pronunciations are exactly the same.)

Dwarf and miniature Crepe myrtle make an excellent choice for bonsai as some cultivars have smaller leaves and flowers. One website I found features “miniature” crepe myrtle, calling them instant bonsai. Style suggestions are informal upright, and cascade in medium to large size bonsai with the dwarf varieties making good shohin. As bonsai, they usually are multi-trunked trees.

**Lighting:** Grows best in Full sun; though they will tolerate some shade although they will not flower as well. If you do not have full sun, morning sun and afternoon shade is best. Some varieties suffer from mildew with too little light.

**Temperature:** Zones 7-9A, all though some of the

dwarf cultivars can be grown as far north as zone 5. There was a house in Westerville that grew them in their tree lawn with bales of straw to protect their base from freezing. Each year they died back due to the cold. Even here in Tennessee, they tell me many cultivars suffered during the cold of the last two winters. It did not kill the plant, but their tops received damage.

In the winter in Ohio, it needs to stay at a temperature between 45 to 54 degrees in the



winter to stimulate dormancy. This means that your crepe myrtle should drop its leaves to stay healthy. I would suggest an unheated garage or porch.

Dormancy should last about 3 months. If exposed to a combination of warm temperatures and low light (as inside many houses in winter), the crepe myrtle's new growth will be leggy and sappy.

If you decide to try keeping it outdoors, try burying the pot, then mulching up to the first branch.

**Watering:** Water

frequently in spring, moderately during the rest of the year. Water when the soil appears dry; never allow the soil to dry completely. Reduce watering in winter and just before flowering to encourage bud formation, similar to bougainvillea. Keep your leaves dust free to ensure good photosynthesis.

**Fertilizing:** Every two weeks in spring-autumn. Alternate a general-purpose plant food or bonsai food with a low nitrogen tomato fertilizer at half strength 12-10-10 or 2-10-10. Crepe Myrtle respond well to foliar feeding, so spray the leaves too when feeding with liquid fertilizers. Be careful, too much fertilizer will cause the plant to grow and not bloom. They prefer a pH of 6.5-7.5, so they do not need Miracid. While dormant, they do not require feeding.

(Continued on page 7)

*(Continued from page 6)*

**Pruning and wiring:** The crepe myrtle flowers at the ends of its shoots, so if flowering is desired, the safest method is to prune only in autumn. In any case, a good autumn pruning will stimulate bud production for next year. (In the ground – I cut my CM back in early April here) Cutting the crepe myrtle back severely, then allowing it to grow freely for a year will thicken the trunk. The next year, pinch the tree constantly to promote branch ramification. If you discontinue pruning shortly before the flowering period, it may still flower. Wiring may take place from spring to autumn, taking care to protect the bark. However, older branches become brittle and may snap when wired. It is just as easy to shape through pruning due to the excellent branch ramification. Since they are a bush, remove any unwanted growth from their base and trunks. When I bought one for my yard, I got a brief lesson in keeping the trunk clean of new sprouts if I wanted to have them thicken into a more tree like plant.

Once buds have opened, do not remove all the new foliage if you want the branch to survive. You can promote ramification through selective pinching and still enjoy some flowers.

**Propagation:** From seed in spring when temperatures are above 50, or by softwood and semi-hardwood cuttings taken in spring or summer. Use rooting hormone.

**Repotting:** Every 2-3 years in early spring to summer, most safely done before buds open. It is best to examine your tree annually to determine if it has become pot-bound. Use a well-drained soil. Do minimal root cutting. Another source said “mid-summer” and that removal of 1/4<sup>th</sup> of the tree’s root mass is possible so that it can go back into its original container. A third source said to wait until the nighttime temperatures were in the upper 50’s. Add enough soil to make sure that the tree was elevated to its original height in the pot. In the

ground, I planted in late May and early September without root work and follow up watering.

**Pests and diseases:** Scale and aphids are other common problems. Spraying blossoms will cause them to brown.

**Diseases:** Powdery mildew. Mildew resistant varieties are available. Avoid over-watering and provide good ventilation and sunlight.

**Crepe Myrtle suitable for bonsai:**  
The Crepe Myrtle Company sells several dwarves and miniatures - □

'Cordon Bleu' - A dwarf with lavender flowers.

“Chickasaw” – 2’ pink-lavender – deep green leaves

“Creole” – 2-3’ watermelon red

'Pixie Pink' - Very dwarf, with pink flowers.

“World’s Fair” mini- 2’ - fuchsia

Here in Tennessee they use “Pokemon” as bonsai. They are sold in nurseries as small hedge plants reaching 3-4’ tall but can be maintained at 2’-3’ tall for sidewalk edging or flower bed borders. A patented variety that have “Dazzle” as part of their names having smaller leaves is available. The ones I saw were a pastel pink. I found plants here in 1-gallon pots at \$16 for “Pokemon” and \$20 for “Pink Dazzle.” At a bonsai show, pre-bonsai plants were more. I did see crepe myrtle seeds on E-Bay for \$4/10 seeds.



Ken Schultz

## LED VS. FLUORESCENT LIGHTING FOR INDOORS

I recently bought some LED shop lights for one of my garages. They are bright and now fairly cheap, so I reviewed some info about providing enough light for my indoor bonsai during the winter. I re-read the chapter in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden "Indoor Bonsai book. I have 3 editions and the first one was written by Jack Wikle who has raised some trees indoors for over 20 years without moving them outdoors during the summer. These books are still based on fluorescent light technology, so I did some Internet research too.

In my reading/research, I discovered that much like selecting the right fluorescent light tubes, there is a big difference in LED lights. There are plant growing LED fixtures that provide the full spectrum of light which plants need and people don't. So the shop lights while they do provide 3800 Lumens, which is enough light, do not provide a wide enough spectrum of light. Similarly You can buy "Grolights, but the book says use 2 "Daylight- White" and one "Warm White" bulb. Some of my fixtures have 4 bulbs and some 3. Also the amount of light a fluorescent throws drops significantly after 6 months. Your eye may not see it, but your plants will know. Change at least half your bulbs at a time, too many at once may also shock your plants.

Make sure the tops of your plants are no more than 6" from the lights. Use an old flower pot turned upside down for the shorter ones. To prevent heat build up (yes even with fluorescents heat can become too much. I run a small clip up fan across them 24 hours a day. A tropical day lasts 12 hours, so set your timers and see if its enough. If your plants start to look leggy, bump it up to 14 hours. If they get window light in addition to artificial light you might be able to set them for 10 hours.

They also mention using something reflective on any walls to reflect more light back on your plants, such as Mylar. Second best is white walls. I have some old plate glass mirrors, so I set them along the wall behind my plant racks.

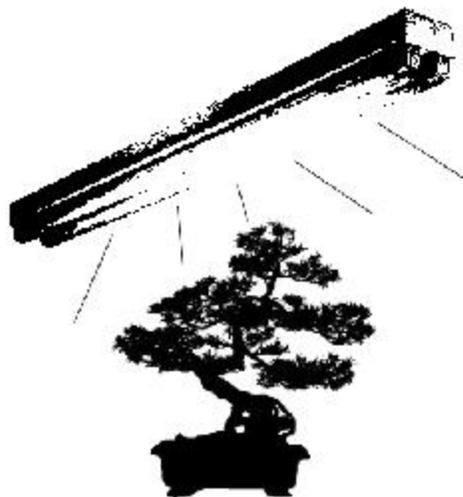
There are other options, such as a greenhouse or Halide lights but most are still using Fluorescent fixtures. If you are willing to make the initial investment for LEDs you may actually save significantly over the long haul due to lower energy consumption. And the actual cost is coming down daily, so keep checking.



Ken Schultz

### Editor's Note:

Zack reports the shop lights he was talking about at last months meeting are providing very good growth on the plants he brought in for the winter, with new vigorous growth on tropicals and herbs. The myth of needing a full spectrum light for growing is as much a myth for LEDs as it is for fluorescent. Perhaps more so as I never got this kind of response from fluorescents.



## WIKLE-ISM AND WHY IT WORKS

**H**ave you converted to Wikle-ism yet? After the fascinating-and well attended program given by Jack Wikle at our October meeting, I know I am not the only one to be fascinated by the little trees he grows and equally interested in the method he uses to keep them growing and healthy. In a nut shell, Wikle's method consists of:

- Trees are small-in bonsai terms shohin or mame
- Trees are grown under ordinary "shop light" florescent fixtures with cool white type bulbs
- Watering is done by immersion, followed by a dose of very light fertilizer at every watering
- Trees are indoors year round

Using this method, Wikle has had great success, both with types of plants we expect to see indoors, but also those that seem better suited to outdoor growth. On of the big hits of Wikle's presentation is when he pulls adorably tiny trees out of a well worn metal ice chest. He produced a dandy looking juniper that astonished many "experienced" bonsai growers when he revealed it had been growing indoors for about two decades.

Seeing and hearing what Wikle was up to was a real inspiration to me. Like many Central Ohio Bonsai growers, I have some tropical/warm weather plants that are very happy outside in spring, summer and early fall. They would come inside and the countdown would begin-it was always a race between them and me to see if I could coax them into living until spring when they would be free from an artificially lighted prison and go outside again to enjoy all the sunshine they could soak up. I started out with fluorescent lights, and had decent success for a couple years, but seeing a need to up-grade the equipment, I invested in a 400 watt metal halide grow light.

Ten years later, I'm glad to not be using it. It made the growing area hot-about 10 degrees, and would singe leaves that got to close. It certainly added to a heftier electric bill, and I never saw good steady even growth in the plants, they seemed to be very etiolated, though that may have had as much to do with watering and fertilizing as it did with light. I watered with a traditional watering can and fertilized on a very hit or miss basis.

Every year I would lose a plant or two because I missed a watering and it dried out, or it got over watered and the roots got sick. I didn't invest in any of the expensive gear that moves or

adjusts the lights position to cover a wide area, so I had a smallish circle of usable light and beyond that a no-mans land (no plant land) where things did grow well. It was worst for the taller plants, since their tops got light but the bottom part of the foliage mass faded away.

Through attrition or choice I have gotten rid of any indoor tree that isn't shohin or mame. A Green Island Ficus that I have had for 15 years, a tree that I wanted to develop into one of those barrel trunked trees that impress on first sight-and which was never happy all winter- is now cropped and trimmed to a height of 7 inches. All my indoor plants are arranged in two lines under a pair of shop light fixtures. I immersion water and use a dilute fertilizer every time.

So far things look very good, plants are growing, I'm enjoying being around them, and I'm shelling out less money to American Electric Power, so I'm sold on the virtues of "Wikle-ism".

Observing even for this short space of time here is why I believe Wikle is successful with his set up-and how the rest of us can emulate that success.

First the size of the trees is ideal for indoors where light is at a premium. Small trees are much easier to provide more than adequate illumination. Watering by immersion is the most thorough way to insure the trees have proper moisture, and makes sure that every part of the soil mass than can absorb and hold water will do so. Pots watered by immersion also drain better, the large volume of water being worked on by gravity to insure that all excess water leaves the pot. Fertilizing at every watering makes nutrition available on a continual and regular basis-no guess work or complicated record keeping. Being indoors gives the trees a very consistent and even environment, so growth is regular and predictable, and there are no extremes of temperature or rain to make life hectic. Tiny trees that would need extensive pampering and special care if kept outdoors are much easier when grown indoors in this manner. I think it is an ideal way to grow small bonsai.



Mark Passerello  
Originally Published in 2004

# HOW DO I CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER?

## A: HERE'S HOW: BOARD MEMBER CONTACT LIST

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Rick Wilson [rickwilson134@gmail.com](mailto:rickwilson134@gmail.com)

**FROM THE CBS CARE GUIDE**

**USDA Hardiness Zones 5-6 (5 Northern Ohio, 6 Southern Ohio)**

**November - Late Autumn - 51/34**

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

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

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](mailto:CBSLibrary@hotmail.com) to request materials. The librarians will bring the Materials to the Monthly Meeting.

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/>

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](mailto: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.

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

Asst. Librarian: John Young

[CBSLibrary@hotmail.com](mailto:CBSLibrary@hotmail.com)

#### Try this recipe – Enjoyed at the CBS September Picnic Sausage Balls by Sandy Schoenfeld

Glad to hear everyone enjoyed the sausage balls. It is the easiest recipe I have... Enjoy -Sandy

1 lb. hot sausage

1 cup Bisquick

2 cups shredded cheddar cheese (prefer sharp)

toss the cheese and Bisquick. mix in sausage, kneading like a meatloaf. roll into small balls. bake for 20 minutes at 350 degrees (I stop and stir at 10 minutes so they do not stick to the pan). I use older cookie sheets with a lip/side as the grease does run out of them.

Serve with any hot mustard - my favorite is Woeber's supreme honey mustard - the sweet is a nice balance to the hot.



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

NOV 16-17

Mauro Stemberger—FPC (WORKSHOP ON 16TH)

DEC

ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NOVEMBER MEETING DATE IS THE 17TH A TUESDAY NIGHT.**

**WE ARE BLOWING UP OUR EMAIL.**



**STAY TUNED FOR THE  
NEW  
COLUMBUSBONSAI@?????**

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