

AABS August Monthly Meeting

presents

Pedro Morales

Demonstration and Lecture

7:30pm at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium.



Pedro Morales

(Photo courtesy of Creative Commons. See: <http://flickr.com/photos/ragesoss/2506874559/>)

This program will be a demonstration and lecture by Puerto Rican bonsai artist Pedro Morales. Mr. Morales is the third and final speaker of the AABS Invited Master Series. He will be working with material with which Mr. Morales is very familiar, the Willow Leaf Fig (*Ficus neriifolia*). The fig tree used for the demonstration will be raffled at the end of the meeting, so you want to be sure to attend and to purchase a raffle ticket.

Pedro Morales will also be leading a workshop on August 28th at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens in room 125, 4pm-8pm. Registration for this workshop may be closed, but if interested contact Alfonso Tercero (bonsai_cho@att.net) VERY soon to learn of vacancies for participants and observers. Registration and material fees apply.



Ficus neriifolia

(Photo courtesy of Alfonso Tercero)

Upcoming Events

--Aug. 27th, 2008, 7:30pm Monthly AABS Meeting
Invited Guest Speaker – Pedro Morales – Demonstration and Lecture on Ficus.

--Aug. 28th, 2008, 4pm – 8pm. Room 125 Matthaei
Pedro Morales Workshop – Bring your own tree. Bonsai material will also be available for sale from Mr. Morales. Details forthcoming. (Registration required: Contact Alfonso Tercero at bonsai_cho@att.net)

--AABS Club Auction.....Sept. 24th
Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium

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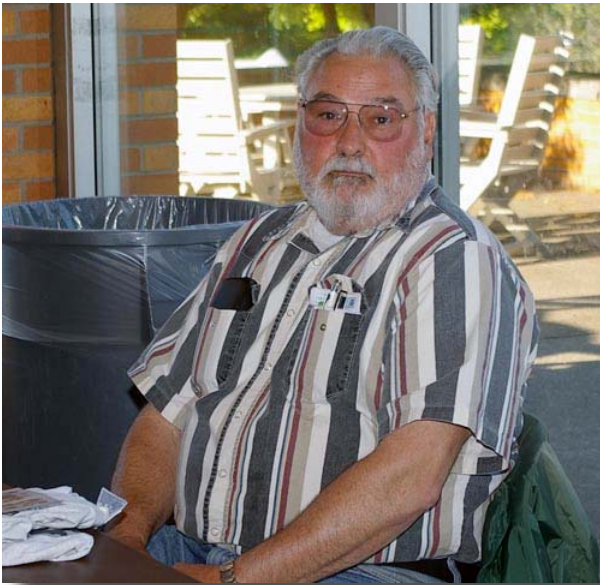
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Notes From the Sidelines

July 23rd, 2008 AABS Meeting Minutes

By Paul Kulesa

Members began to gather in the auditorium at Matthaei Botanical Gardens at 6:45 PM. Much of the talk revolved around two topics, George Randall's recent hospitalization and the cache of pots and tools that were offered for sale by Dennis Quienville. Bill Heston, President of the Society, brought the meeting to order at 7:30 PM welcoming thirty-one members and two guests.



Roger Gaede had several shirts and aprons available for sale. A new selection of clothing and utilitarian items will be available in the new future.

Alfonso Tercero, Vice President and Program Chairperson, announced that there is an Ohio Bonsai Exhibit, October 25-26. The first ever Ohio Bonsai Exhibition will be held in Columbus, Ohio at Franklin Park Conservatory. Additional

information is available at www.columbusbonsai.org.

Alfonso is asking for suggestions for future program themes. If you have any particular topic you would like to see covered at a monthly meeting, a bonsai artist or lecturer you would like to have visit our Society or a *bring-your-own* workshop you would participate in, let Alfonso in on your interest. [Alfonso may be reached at bonsai_cho@att.net]

Alfonso introduced the speakers at the evening program, Bill Heston, Cyril Grum and Jack Wikle. The evening program, *Focusing on Maples*, follows *on the heels* of similar programs offered in past years and was intended to discuss a popular species for bonsai cultivation. This species adapts well to a variety of styles and is often used in forest planting.

Bill Heston briefly discussed some common aspects of maple. Maple is a deciduous tree, having opposite leaves. This feature has its weakness, forked branching. The maple grows fast and produces long internodes and broad surface roots. Maples are often developed into a broom style design and produce a profusion of buds, which can be rubbed off.

Cyril Grum was the next presenter who claims he has been struggling with maple for at least sixteen years. Cyril's first maple was a collected sugar maple, once standing twelve feet tall. Cyril promptly reduced the tree to a manageable size removing eleven feet off the top, leaving only a

side branch. New growth has long internodes and the large leaves have gorgeous fall color.



Cyril brought several maples to demonstrate particular attributes and ongoing projects he is conducting. He raised a shohin Japanese maple, *Acer katsura*, which has a good base and which has branches he is allowing to thicken.

He next presented an experiment in which small whips of trident maple (young thin seedling trees) were bound together on a frame. The goal was to have the whips fuse with each other forming what appears to be a large caliper trunk with taper and minimal weight.

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A third demonstration tree was a trident maple with a bulky trunk and no nebari (root flare). Cyril approached-layered twelve saplings near the base. The approach layering involves notching the base of the trunk and setting one-half of the saplings' diameter with a nail.

Cyril has gleaned a wealth of information from a book by Peter Adams, *Bonsai with Japanese Maples*, © 2006. Some of this information is presented below.

- The Japanese use two varieties of maple for bonsai, trident maple (*Acer buergerianum*) and the Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*). Why? Because they work as bonsai.
- An open, gritty, well draining soil with sharp particles has proved beneficial for the developing root system of maple.
- The maple will benefit from being placed in direct sun for only part of the day.
- In the spring, water only when needed. Long internodes may be directly associated with over watering.
- When repotting, cut root first. Later cut the stems and branches. This may prevent the sap from being lost.
- When trimming growth, reduce to two internodes.
- When removing the terminal bud and the end two leaves on a branch you will contain growth on the branch.
- Maples can be defoliated to balance growth throughout the tree and to reduce leaf size and promote twig development.
- A heavy branch can be removed and replaced with new appropriately sized

growth. Reduce the branch to a two-inch stub. With enough time, buds will form near the collar of the branch (the area where the branch meets the trunk). Select a *well-positioned bud* to develop a new branch.

- The root structure of the maple can be manipulated to further develop surface roots. Use a shallow dish and remove all but the surface roots.
- Repot every 2-3 years to work on the roots.

Defoliation can be accomplished by removing all the leaves at one time in mid-June. This will most likely result in smaller leaves and more twigs. On the other hand, the tree may not sprout new leaves and die, a branch may be lost or fine growth may be lost on a branch. The warning is, “only defoliate a healthy tree!” Defoliation may also occur in increments. You can cut leaves in half, you can remove one of a pair of leaves or you can remove the largest leaf (leaves) on each branch.

Cyril recommended some personal favorites from the maple bonsai world. Included are varieties of the Japanese maple, Katsura, Kashima, Koto Hime, Deshojo, Shideshojo, Kiyohime and Yatsubusa.

Jack Wikle was the final presenter of the evening. Jack made the bold pronouncement that a Japanese maple forest is *God's gift to bonsai*. Of the two dozen maples that grow natively in Japan, the Japanese uses the Japanese maple and trident maple. The maples available domestically are not as appealing as the trident and Japanese maples.

Jack shared a couple of horticultural *pearls* regarding the maple.



- Deadwood on a deciduous tree will not last.
- As a pair of leaves open on a maple, remove the growth extension.

Robert Bishop, Carlos Díaz and Lois Vorrath brought maples to the meeting to share with the membership. Thanks!



There is no excuse! As the heat of the summer season builds, get out and water those bonsai regularly.



Notes From the Sidelines

June 25th, 2008 Meeting Minutes

By Paul Kulesa

President Bill Heston called the monthly meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Twenty-seven members were present for this meeting.

Carlos Díaz brought in a marvelous maple for advice and suggestions on future design. This particular tree was acquired at Auction 2007 from the Rita Bencuya collection. This is another good reason to shop the AABS Auction.

Alfonso Tercero, Program Chairperson, talked about a number of upcoming events.



- The upcoming Pedro Morales workshop is scheduled for August 28, 2008. There remains room for participants in the workshop. Additional information is available elsewhere in the newsletter.
- The July membership meeting will focus on discussing the maple. Bring in your maple

that needs further development or simply a fresh perspective.

- Alfonso announced that the Society soon would have a fresh supply of shirts, hats, apron and tote bags for sale. Many of these items will sport the updated AABS logo. These items will be available at the meetings.

Larry Howard has again displayed a varied selection of pots he had produced for your examination and purchase.



Alfonso Tercero introduced the evening program, air layering with Bill Heston and Jack Wikle. Bill was prepared to work with a fig tree, *Ficus neriifolia*, while Jack offered *color commentary*. Bill began with a short hand description of the mechanism involved in air layering.



Generally, water and minerals rise in the sapwood to the top of the tree, providing the essentials for photosynthesis, while nutrients and carbohydrates are transported downward through the cambium to the root system. When the nutrient flow is interrupted one of three outcomes is expected.

- Roots will develop where the flow down the cambium has been interrupted.
- Roots will not develop and the tree dies.
- The interruption in the cambium is bridged, reestablishing the nutrient flow to the root system.

The procedures for performing an air layer are simple as outlined here. Sometime in middle spring, choose the woody material that you want to air layer. At an appropriate location, girdle the trunk to inhibit the downward flow of nutrients. This can be accomplished using wire tightly bound around the trunk or by removing a half-inch width of cambium from the perimeter of the trunk. Piercing the cambium above the girdle with small needle-like holes will increase injury to

the cambium and encourage root development in the immediate area.



Rooting hormone can be used on difficult-to-root material and should be applied above the girdle. Moistened sphagnum peat moss can be wrapped around the trunk in the area of the girdle. This mass can be held in place with a vapor-proof barrier, (e.g. black plastic), tied in place at the trunk, above and below the girdle.

The plant material growth above the girdle should be given plenty of direct sun exposure to encourage root development. All sides of the sphagnum peat moss bundle should be exposed to the warmth of the sun to encourage development of the root. When roots are visible within the peat moss bundle, remove the air layer from the host



plant and pot in an appropriate soil mix. Care should be given this newly rooted material during

the upcoming winter, protecting the roots from the extremes of desiccating winds and the freeze/thaw cycle.

To foster the development of roots, a rooting

hormone can be used. A product like HORMODIN™ comes in three strengths to meet

your air layering needs. Air layering at ground level can be used to develop root flare to be envied by most. An air-layer that transects the trunk of a woody material at an angle can be used to develop of slanting trunk style tree.



During the intervening silence, Jack Wikle talked about maintaining a bonsai through the growing season. Using the maple, belonging to Carlos

Díaz, Jack was able to discuss several techniques. The goal of these maintenance techniques is to increase the number of active growing tips that are present, producing a larger number of smaller leaves.



- In spring as a bud extends into a stem, new buds will form along and at the tip of that stem.
- As a stem extends, the inter-nodal distance between buds will progressively lengthen.
- A stem should be allowed to extend to 6-7 buds / leaves, and then cut back to 2-3 buds. The inter-nodal distance between these remaining buds will be shorter.
- As buds open into leaves along the stem, a new bud will develop at the base of the leaf stem or *petiole* and the terminal bud will later extend. When the terminal bud is removed, fine twigs are likely to develop.
- You can balance growth over the entire tree by trimming stronger growth, sparing the weaker growth (this is sometimes referred to as *partial defoliation*).
- Complete defoliation of a healthy tree will set the stage for a second flush of leaves, which are usually smaller.

- You can successfully defoliate a tree by cutting through the petiole, the stalk that joins the leaf to the stem.

These techniques can be applied to your bonsai. When you understand how your tree responds to each technique, you will improve the appearance of your bonsai.

With the Summer Solstice just passing and the summer ahead of us, there is no excuse!

GET OUT AND ENJOY YOUR BONSAI!

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 25, 2008, 7 PM

By Paul Kulesa

President Bill Heston called the meeting to order with the following Board members present at the meeting were Alfonso Tercero, Jay Sinclair, Joan Wheeler, Larry Hall, Vicki Norfleet and Paul Kulesa. Roger Gaede, Hugh Danville and Mike Simmons were not present.

This meeting was called to deal with a single issue that needed our immediate attention. Linda Neely, event scheduler at MBG, reminded AABS to select a show date for 2009. Because of an agreement* that exist between Karen Sikkenga (Event Coordinator - MBG) and AABS, the Executive Board felt obliged to discuss this matter as soon as possible. The Executive Board wants to evaluate the early October show date and consult with our membership while

exercising an option of returning to the late August show date, before we selected a show date for 2009. Bill Heston will encourage Karen Sikkenga and Linda Neely to discuss the agreement* and ensure our option to return to the late August show date.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

(* This agreement ensures a return to a late August show date in 2009, the weekend one week prior to the Labor Day Holiday weekend.)



AABS Library Donation

By Vicki Norfleet, AABS
Librarian

Many thanks and acknowledgements to Lois Vorrath for her welcomed donation of three books to the AABS Library.

At the July AABS Monthly Meeting Lois donated the following titles:

"Basic Bonsai Design", by David DeGroot

"Bonsai", by Henry Tomlinson

"Bonsai Basics", by Christian Pessey and Remy Samson

Thank you Lois!

AABS Annual Show Reminder

October 4th-5th, 2008

Saturday and Sunday

Location: Matthaei Botanical Gardens

By Hugh Danville

This annual showing of Society member's trees displays over 100 beautiful trees from all sizes and species. Workshops, demonstrations and vendors, will be available. Visitors may vote in the *People's Choice Award* for their favorite bonsai selections from different categories.

Volunteers are needed for many activities including setting up and take down. This is a great opportunity to learn more about bonsai! To participate contact Hugh Danville for more details at hdanville@comcast.net

Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Volunteers needed!



2007 AABS Annual Show

New Logo – New Design – New Clothes

By Alfonso Tercero

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is getting a bit of a face-lift! A new logo has been designed and will begin appearing on all official AABS correspondence.

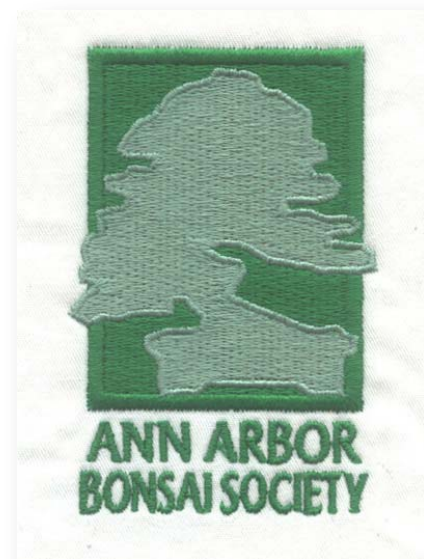
We are excited to share the news that we have just received our new line of clothing with the updated AABS logo. We have more variety to choose from and in different styles.

We have them all: T-Shirts, Denim Shirts, Polo Shirts, Sweatshirts Hats, Explorer Hats, Aprons and Tote bags.

The new items will be available for sale during our next meeting on August 27th.

Below is a sample of the new embroidered logo for your review.

We thank you in advance for your continued support the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society!





A Word of Thanks

By Carlos Diaz

In the very short amount of time, that I have been a member of the AABS, there have been many occasions where I have had cause to be thankful. Since joining this organization, my understanding and appreciation, for both the complexity and simplicity of the world of Bonsai, has grown significantly and I have come to realize this labor of love will last a lifetime.

I am especially thankful for the many individual members who have demonstrated an ongoing willingness to share their wealth of knowledge. They know who they are! And by the way, I am also speaking of the many others who contribute behind the scenes doing paperwork, collecting fees, donating time and coordinating schedules. Just take a moment to consider the range of activities being offered by the AABS.

One of the most recent activities, I participated in, was the Marco Invernizzi Workshop on April 9th. Although my particular tree was not worthy of much attention, I learned a great deal by watching Marco work on more deserving specimens. Overall, this was a unique opportunity to observe a true "master" in action.



From a very personal perspective the workshops, demonstrations, lectures and conversations have taught me two things of great importance. First is the understanding that a great deal of what results in successful bonsai practice is obvious. Everything happens for a reason and once understood, makes good sense. Secondly, confidence in one's own abilities is essential and experimentation and carefully considered chance taking, is a part of this and can on occasion lead to success.

So as a fairly new member I must say, what a wonderful group of people to be connected to and what a great journey to be on!

[Carlos is also a photographer and contributes to the AABS Newsletter.]

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Only forthcoming events listed)

August Meeting.....Aug. 27th

Pedro Morales Demonstration and Lecture on Ficus

August Workshop.....Aug. 28th

Pedro Morales Workshop

AABS Club Auction.....Sept. 24th

Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium

2008 AABS Bonsai Show

Oct. 4th – 5th Saturday – Sunday

Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

October Meeting.....Oct. 22nd

Problem Tree Review and Critique – Connie Crancer, Cyril Grum, Bill Heston, & Jack Wikle.

AABS Banquet & Mini-Exhibit

Nov. 10th Monday

Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium

December – NO MEETINGS

Happy Holidays!

NOTE: Always check the AABS website for changes and added details to this calendar.

<http://annarborbonsaisociety.org>

2008 AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Bill Heston (734) 662-8699

Vice-President: Alfonso Tercero (734) 216-2708

Program Chair: Alfonso Tercero (734) 216-2708

Corresponding Secretary: Mike Simmons (517) 896-0076

Recording Secretary: Paul Kulesa

Publicity Chair: Bill Cavers (248) 477-0665

Treasurer: Joan Wheeler (734) 485-6306

Librarian: Vicki Norfleet

Past President: Roger Gaede (517) 592-2249

Director for 2006: Arnold Wingblad (313) 255-1769

Director 2006 & 2007 - Larry Hall (248) 477-0665

Show Chairs: Hugh Danville (313) 455-7922 & Pete Douglas (313) 867-8644

AABS AD-HOC COMMITTEES

The AABS President is exofficio member of all committees with the exception of the Nomination Committee.

Auction Chair: TBD

Membership Chair: TBD

Show Staging: Paul Kulesa

Demonstrations: John Parks

Ways and Means Chair: John Parks

Web Administration: Mike Simmons

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society (www.absbonsai.org) and the Mid American Bonsai Alliance.

Contact AABS at: aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com.

Society Membership is for the calendar year. Use the membership form on the Web and bring it to the next AABS meeting or mail it to:

Joan Wheeler

2295 North Harris

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

(734) 485-6306

Email: owheeler5@hotmail.com

Please make your check payable to AABS for \$25.00.

FOR SALE OR WANTED

10% of all sales go to the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society.

AABS Society Members' ads are free to publish in the Newsletter.

Send the information of your items for sale or wanted to aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com include a small digital file if available.

Wanted. If you have a tree, bonsai pot, tool or anything else bonsai related that you don't need anymore and it is still in good condition, consider donating it to the Society. Donations to the Society are always accepted. In most cases many donated trees or other materials have been raffled among the attending members during our monthly meetings.

Please note: All Society members are required to give 10% of the total sales for any items that are sold at AABS monthly meetings to the Society. The 10% fee will apply to all sales at AABS Meetings or through the AABS Newsletter.

Deadline for submissions to the Newsletter is the 5th of the month.

Please send your comments or documents to aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com.



Place
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Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
1800 North Dixboro Road ~ Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9741

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society and the Mid-American Bonsai Alliance.

Send To:



Next AABS Club Meeting is Wednesday August 27th, 2008
 ~ Pedro Morales Demonstration and Lecture
at 7:30 pm ~ Matthaei Botanic Gardens Auditorium
 (Socializing begins at 7:00pm)

Visit us on the Web:

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

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