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NOTES FROM THE SIDELINES

Almudena Veiga-Lopez – Recording Secretary

June 23, 2010 Meeting - Invited Guest: David Kreutz

Today, a silent and a live auction of the Robert Cotman's bonsai collection took place. Robert was a long time member of the AABS and passed away within the last month. AABS thanks Robert's family for ensuring that his collection would be cared for in the future. AABS board members started gathering at MBG to help organize the auction. Thanks to you all!



Silent auction: The Robert Cotman's bonsai collection

Club members started gathering at MBG around 6:45pm to contemplate and bid for the silent auction. The live auction started and thereafter Alfonso Tercero started the meeting at 7:30PM sharp. Lary Howard then announced that AABS Annual Show 2010 posters were available in 3 sizes to be posted by AABS members. Raquel Vega commented that she is still working on improving the website and would like members to contribute with a few pictures of their bonsais to be posted on the website. Photographers will be acknowledged.

Alfonso Tercero welcomed Bonsai Master David Kreutz (<http://www.satsukibonsai-en.com>). David started in bonsai art back in 1990 as a hobby and encouraged by his daughter it slowly developed into a life style for him. His specialty is Satsuki Azalea Bonsai; today's topic! David started by explaining the enormous variety of azaleas available and the different bloom shades (up to 16) and the different color patterns (up to 23). He mentioned some interesting books worth reading that are available at his website:

- 1) *Japanese Satsuki Bonsai - How to Grow Satsuki Bonsai and Introduction to Their Varieties* printed in Japan by Tochinoha Shobou Co., Ltd.
- 2) *Azaleas - Revised and Enlarged Edition* by Fred C. Galle
- 3) *Floral Treasures of Japan - The Satsuki Azaleas* by Alexander Kennedy
- 4) *Satsuki Azaleas for Bonsai and Azalea Enthusiasts* by Robert Z. Callahan

We thank David for his generous donation of the *Japanese Satsuki Bonsai* book to our AABS library collection.

David worked for an hour on an azalea that was raffled at the end of the evening among participating members and was awarded to Ed Hughes at the end of the evening. David explained major features to consider when growing a Satsuki azalea. He described azaleas as mountain trees that like sun all day and love to be misted! Not constant humid/wet soil, though! He explained the main stresses for an azalea: bare rooting, flowering which takes lots of energy out of the plant, repotting, wiring, heat, windchill and bugs. He strongly recommends not provoking two of these stresses at the same time. He mentioned that to protect azaleas from bugs never use an oil-based product as it will damage the foliage and may kill the plant. However, azaleas are very forgiving plants.

David grows azaleas only on Kanuma soil, but mentioned that any other soil will work as well. *Azaleas are like weeds* if you keep them in conditions they like.

It is impossible to summarize all of David's recommendations. Here are a few: water azaleas from top to bottom. Use the mountain moss 'Yamagoke' to cover the soil and retain humidity in the soil. He recommends to not use sphagnum moss since it does not attach to the soil and it is difficult to get wet again once it has dried out. Azaleas will root very well on soil with no need of rooting hormone. In the years you do not repot azaleas, it is a good idea to partially remove the top of the soil to increase the nebari. Never touch an azalea's bark with metal and never wire on the nebari.

He patiently explained the different kinds of buds and when and where to cut. As a rule of thumb; remove big leaves before the Fall. In the Fall, cut unwanted branches to provide good structure. In the following Spring, cut the early inner bud. David worked on the azalea until the evening was unfortunately interrupted by an unusual tornado warning. David's take home message for all bonsai enthusiasts is *remember always that one should not be interested in the instant bonsai as much as in enjoying the way towards the end result.* Thanks David!



David Kreutz lecture: Satsuki azaleas

2010 AABS BONSAI SHOW

Jay Sinclair – AABS Show Chairperson

Start getting your trees ready! It's nearly that time again – the 2010 AABS Bonsai Show will be held on August 28 & 29, at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, from 10:00 Am until 4:30 PM each day. The show will feature member's trees and accent plants, along with specimens from the Matthaei collection.

In addition to the display, there will be demonstrations of bonsai technique, and vendors will have bonsai supplies, pots, and tools available. AABS members are invited to come to the Saturday evening potluck and critique. Special guest Jerry Meislik will be discussing selected trees from the show.

Volunteers will be needed to help with setup and teardown, to work the information table, and to do demos, run the raffles of demo material, etc. We also need members to provide food for the people working during the show, and for the potluck/critique. If you are willing to help with any of these things, please contact Jay Sinclair at showchair@annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Trees can be dropped off after 5:00 PM on Friday. Be sure to fill out a registration form for each tree. We ask that you plan to pick up your trees immediately after the show ends at 4:30 on Sunday. Bring your copy of the registration form so that we can verify that all trees are being picked up by their owners.

Members are also encouraged to spend time at the show – enjoy the display, visit the vendors, and talk to visitors about what we do. See you there!

NEW BOOKS ARRIVE IN THE LIBRARY

Vicki Norfleet – Librarian

Thanks to David Kreutz's generous donation the following two books have been added to our library.

1) Satsuki Dictionary - published in 2004 by Tochinoha Shobo Co., Ltd.

There are 581 varieties classified

2) Japanese Satsuki Bonsai, How to Grow Satsuki Bonsai and an Introduction to Their Varieties - published in 2004 by Tochinoha Shobo Co. Ltd.

If you are interested in checking out these books, please contact Vicki Norfleet at mailto:librarian@annarborbonsaisociety.org.

BONSAI YARD SALE

Anita Buckowing, Tim Cox and Sue Smalley

Saturday, July 31st, 9am—3pm

Join your bonsai friends for a bonsai yard sale at 958 Alles Drive SW, Byron Center MI, 49315, just off of the 84th Street Exit of US 131. Located roughly 10 minutes South of Grand Rapids, 30 North of Kalamazoo and 60 East of Lansing.

This is not just an invitation to join us and buy, but also an encouragement to bring items of your own to sell; all you need is a table to set up and maybe a chair. There is no cost to participate and plenty of room, but please call or email to reserves space: Tim Cox, 616-240-4440 or timcox102@hotmail.com. Trees, Pots, Tools, Soil, Books, Growing Boxes, and more, all of course, for bargain prices.

So clean out your bonsai closet, bring some cash and come snatch up those bargain deals! See you on the 31st!

UPCOMING AABS EVENTS

Paul Kulesa – Program Chairperson

Annual Club Picnic, August 14, 2010

Members are invited to this Annual Picnic, August 14, 2010, 12 Noon - 4 PM. Please bring a dish to share. Members are encouraged to bring a small bonsai for all to admire. LOCATION: Lary Howard's home. A map will be distributed during the July 28th monthly meeting. You can contact Lary for additional information.

The Annual Club Show, August 28 - 29, 2010

Now is the time to look over your collection and select a few trees to begin preparation for the show. As the show approaches, you can narrow your choice of bonsai you want to show.

On a separate yet related note, The Bonsai House has a selection of bonsai display stands made of mahogany and marble, just in time for the Show.

Jerry Meislik will visit Ann Arbor in late August, just in time for our Annual Show. He will critique individual trees and the Show on Saturday evening, "An event worth planning to attend".

Ficus Workshop with Jerry Meislik, Tuesday, August 31, 2010, 6 - 9 PM. Jerry will lead a workshop using the material he has "written the book on." You may bring your own ficus or you may purchase ficus from Kurt Smith, The Flower Market – Dundee, or Pria at the Bonsai House – Westland. Plan to acquire you material early and study your ficus over the summer.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

July 25, 2010, Sunday. Hidden Lake Garden with Jack Wikle. Join Jack and others for an afternoon of bonsai. Bring a bonsai to display and for others to enjoy. The afternoon will be filled with the critique of trees brought in for this process. This event is chock full of useful information presented in a relaxing format. Come early and stay until the sun dips below tree level.

August 20-22, The 23rd Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit hosted by Midwest Bonsai Society @ Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe, IL. Visit www.midwestbonsai.org for details.

September 9-12, 2010 Bonsai Symposium – North American Bonsai, in Rochester, New York. Dial 585.334.2595 for additional information.

October 3, 2010, Sunday. Noon until dusk - Spend an afternoon appreciating the Jack Wikle Collection.

NEXT CLUB MEETING: July 28, 2010

Paul Kulesa – Program Chairperson

This monthly meeting is dedicated to those members who need an objective view to evaluate and suggest modifications to their bonsai. The Three Amigos, William Heston, Cyril Grum and Jack Wikle, will review and critique trees that members are seeking advice on. The goal of the evening program is to improve the overall design of the bonsai reviewed. Members can request assistance with design, pruning and wiring.

Members are invited to bring a bonsai (or multiple trees in case we have time to do more than one round of name drawing) they would like advice on. The names of members seeking advice will be put in a "hat". As names are drawn, our panel and anyone from the audience who wants to contribute will offer

their suggestions. In the course of this discussion, the tree's owner will be encouraged to do any appropriate work in front of the group with an understanding that nothing needs to be done the owner is uncomfortable with. The drawing of names will continue until all trees have been discussed or our meeting time is up, whichever comes first. Please bring your bonsai, wire, tools and a stand.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Paul Kulesa – Program Chairperson

The Society is looking for a member to take over the responsibility of Club Sales. Up until now, Roger Gaede has managed this operation. This responsibility involves sales of AABS shirts, sweatshirts, aprons, hats and pins at club meetings. Included with this activity is the storage of stock, reordering stock as needed and maintaining the necessary accounting records. If you chose to take on this responsibility, Roger and Members of the Board will work with you until you are comfortable with the operation. If you are interested in taking on this responsibility, contact Paul Kulesa at programs@annarborbonsaisociety.org.

Help Spruce Up Our Web Page Appearance

Raquel Vega, AABS web master, is soliciting photographs of members' trees to appear on one of the many pages of our web site. You can hand deliver a photograph of your favorite bonsai to Raquel at the meeting or send a photo via email to her. members-owner@annarborbonsaisociety.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January Club Meeting.....Jan. 27th**
Bonsai Multi-Media Slide Presentation, featuring Don Wild presenting conifer collection.
- February Club Meeting.....Feb. 24th**
Yew Styling Demo with Guest Speaker Will Heath.
- February Class.....Feb 27th**
Beginner and Intermediate Classes, Part I with Connie Crancer.
- March Class.....Mar. 6th**
Beginner and Intermediate Classes, Part II with Cyril Grum.
- March Class.....Mar. 13th**
Beginner and Intermediate Classes, Part III with Jack Wikle.
- March Club Meeting.....Mar. 24th**
Pests and Diseases with Jack Wikle.
- April Special Event.....Apr. 3rd**
Maple Forest Workshop with Jack Wikle.
- April Special Event.....Apr. 11th**
Yew Workshop with road trip to Ken Huth's Greenhouse in Ohio.
- April Club Meeting.....Apr. 28th**
Invited Guest – Marco Invernizzi working on a yew tree.

April Special Even.....Apr. 29th
Invited Guest – Marco Invernizzi (BYOT).

May Club Meeting.....May 26th
Deciduous Bonsai Refinement with Bill Heston.

June Special Event.....Jun. 12th
Workshop with Jerry Peters. Create a Watercolor of Your Favorite Bonsai Tree.

June Club Meeting.....Jun 23rd
Invited Guest – David Kreutz Demonstrating on Azaleas.

June Special Event.....Jun 24th
Invited Guest – David Kreutz Azalea Workshop.

July Workshop.....Jul. 10th
Mugo Pine Workshop with Vance Wood "Mr. Mugo"

July Club Meeting.....Jul.28th
Working Review and Critique – Expert advice from Cyril Grum, Bill Heston & Jack Wikle (BYOT).

August Special Event.....Aug. 14th
Annual Pot Luck – Lary Howard's Home.

August Club Meeting.....Aug. 25th
Tropical bonsai – Repotting techniques with Dustin Mann.

AABS Bonsai Show 2010..... Aug. 28th-29th

September Club Meeting.....Sep. 22nd
2010 AABS Club Auction.

October Special Event.....Oct. 9th
Prospecting Field Trip to Plymouth Nursery and Landscaping led by Jack Wikle.

October Club Meeting.....Oct. 27th
Winterizing your Bonsai – Expert advice from Cyril Grum and Bill Heston.

November Special Event.....Nov. 8th
Annual Banquet and Mini-Exhibit.

2010 AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alfonso Tercero (734) 216-2708

Vice-President: Paul Kulesa (313) 930-1305

Program Chairperson: Paul Kulesa

Corresponding Secretary: Ryan Liu

Recording Secretary: Almudena Veiga-Lopez

Publicity Chair: Lary Howard (313) 812-5702

Treasurer: Joan Wheeler (734) 485-6306

Librarian: Vicki Norfleet

Past President: Bill Heston (734) 662-8699

Director 2010 & 2011: Dustin Mann

Show Chairperson: Jay Sinclair (734) 439-2982

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: R. Vega

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 newsletter@annarborbonsaisociety.org 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 that 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 newsletter@annarborbonsaisociety.org.

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

Contact AABS at: newsletter@annarborbonsaisociety.org.

MEMBERSHIP

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: treasurer@annarborbonsaisociety.org. Please make your check payable to AABS for \$25.00.



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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:



Visit us on the Web:

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

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