



The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society generally meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens: 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Ann Arbor. Please join us at 7:00 pm for socializing. The program starts at 7:30 pm. Dues are \$25.00 for the year 2011. <http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

April 2011

Volume 8 Issue 4

NEXT CLUB MEETING AND RELATED WORKSHOP:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2011 7PM

During the April meeting Marco Invernizzi will discuss the ins & outs of wiring your bonsai.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011 6PM AT MBG GREENHOUSE #5

Marco Invernizzi will work with workshop participants to develop their wiring skills and techniques. Participants should bring their tools, wire and a bonsai on which to demonstrate their wiring skills. Participant, \$30; non-member participants add \$25, observer - \$10.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

You can still renew your annual membership, dues are \$25. Make a check payable to Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Look for the renewal form on the web site or at the treasurer's table during the monthly meetings.

A QUESTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Paul Kulesa – Program Chairperson

Should the Executive Board change the starting time of monthly meetings?

Currently, members begin to gather in the auditorium at 7 PM and the business portion of the meeting starts at 7:30 PM with the evening program to follow. The president, Alfonso Tercero, and the Executive Board have discussed moving the starting time of the business meeting to 7 PM. Understanding that this change impacts members getting to the meeting, we want your input.

What do you think of gathering in the auditorium at 6:30 PM and starting the meeting at 7 PM?

This matter will be discussed at future meetings and no decision will be reached without the overwhelming approval of the membership. The Executive Board wants to emphasize that we are offering this idea for discussion. No decision has been made. You may offer your opinion at upcoming

meetings or email your thoughts to our president at president@annarborbonsaisociety.org.

THE FINAL AABS WORKSHOPS - 2011

Paul Kulesa – Program Chairperson

You can participate in a workshop by registering at the meeting or contacting Paul Kulesa at programs@annarborbonsaisociety.org.

June 23, 2011 (Thursday, 6-9 PM) at MBG
Lindsay Shiba will conduct a workshop using boxwood provided for the participant of this event or you can bring your own boxwood. Participant should bring their tools and wiring supplies. Participants, \$40; non-member participants add \$25; observers - \$10. The workshop fee is \$30 for those who bring their own boxwood.

NOTES FROM THE SIDELINES

Almudena Veiga-Lopez – Recording Secretary

March 23, 2011 Meeting- **Shimpaku shohin bonsai with Pauline Muth**

Welcoming the Spring, members of AABS started gathering at the MBG around 6:45 pm. As usual, our president Alfonso Tercero started the meeting at 7:30 pm welcoming two new members and reminded the audience to renew the membership for the society.

He announced that the raffle of the Chinese Chrysanthemum stones donated by Judith Wright stone will have to be postponed because Hugh Danville that had the raffle tickets is not here. The night though would turn out a very different outcome since few minutes later some improvised raffle tickets would be sold and the stone would be raffled at the end of the night! And this time Lary Howard was the awardee. Congratulations!

Our vicepresident, Paul Kulesa announced upcoming workshops and encouraged members to sign in. He brought up the following question to all members: Should the start time of the AABS monthly meetings be shifted to 7:00 pm instead of the current 7:30 pm? This will allow more time at the end of the night. Something to think about!

At 7:50 pm Alfonso introduced our invited speaker Pauline Muth. Pauline is a well-renowned bonsai artist that has been growing bonsai since the 70's. She started with a definition of shohin, mame and shito bonsais. They are all small-sized bonsais but they are classified according to their height; shohin bonsai (between 6-10"), mame bonsai (3-6"), and shito bonsai (<3"). She started defining a mame bonsai, those that fit in your palm, have a thick and well tapered trunk with branches that are of perfect proportions and has tiny leaves or must be able to take leaf reduction. This type of specimen will need a strong root system that will allow harsh pruning without damaging the tree. It may be styled in any classic bonsai style.

Pauline mentioned that the key is to use a good bonsai medium and also keep a good fertilization regimen. We could use liquid fertilizer (which is what she recommends), or organic fertilizer (which is difficult to use in such small pots). If the release of micronutrients is too much -she said we are at risk of causing reverse osmosis, which will push water out of the plant. When she keeps these small bonsais outdoors she recommends keeping them on a deep gravel tray to keep the plants cool over the summer months. This way you may get away with watering your bonsais once a day. But if you do so, then you need to keep cutting the roots that stick out of the pot on a regular basis.

Pauline also had a few words for shohins grown indoors. They have to be grown between 55-65°F and should receive between 12-14 hours of light. Trees can be grown up to 6" away from the lights. Water should be checked on a daily basis and regular inspections to check for disease/insects are strongly advisable. Pauline recommends frequent washes with soap and rinse afterwards. A good start is to grow species under the category of tropical or semi-tropical.

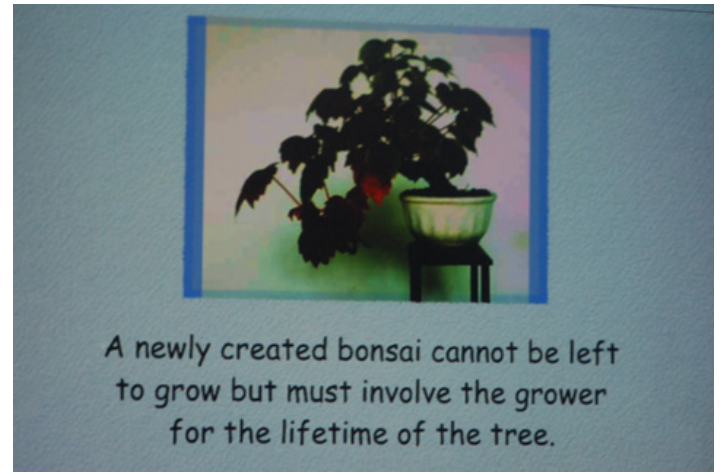
Pauline gave some recommendations to avoid losing our small trees. Some of them seem obvious, but nevertheless they usually die of one of these causes. Poor watering habits that lead to drying (if too little) or rotting (if too much), not knowing enough about the species we are growing (very common mistake in beginners), reducing the size of the pot too quickly, overpruning when styling, pests, and insufficient light or air circulation. Needless to say that these small trees need to be protected in the winter. Several options available here; cool greenhouse (the best), unheated closed garage, basement or attic. If you do this, make sure you keep your trees in a closed cooler/box to prevent mice from damaging your tree.

Pauline also described a few methods to create shohin/mame bonsais. Root cuttings from large trees such as trident maples seem to work pretty good. One needs to keep the tip moist with sphagnum moss to avoid dehydration. Other options are from seed (good option for these small bonsais), cuttings, and air layering. If you air layer -Pauline said, you need to use branches that go horizontally; otherwise branch patterns will never develop right. You can also try to blend a few seedlings using wire. It will take at least a couple years, but it is a good way to get thicker trunks in record time. In trying to create a root over rock the blending system works well too.

Something to bear in mind when choosing species is that flowers and fruits will never reduce their size. If you decide to grow species with large flowers/fruits, cut them before they develop fully, otherwise they will deplete the energy of your tree. Also a common mistake in growing shohin bonsai is that they are

often potted in larger pots than they need. A good technique is to pot them in big pots for a while, let them recover and then place them back in a small pot. These and many other tips about how to grow bonsai can be found in Pauline's bonsai website <http://www.pfmbonsai.com/> Trust me, really worth checking!

Pauline mentioned that there is an annual gathering in California about shohin bonsai that it is really worth the trip. And she finished with a very nice slide that said: "A newly created bonsai cannot be left to grow but must involve the grower for the lifetime of the tree". Thank you Pauline for sharing your knowledge about small bonsais with us.



Pauline's slide about bonsai caring

BOXWOOD WORKSHOP WITH DUSTIN MANN **Almudena Veiga-Lopez – Recording Secretary**

Today, April 9th at 9:00am in Matthaei Botanical Gardens a few AABS members participated in this great workshop. Morris Midget Dwarf Boxwood plants were of very good quality. Each participant got a chance to pick one. The little trees had to be repotted. Since they had well developed roots we had to take out about 2/3 of the total root mass before repotting. After working our way through the repotting process, styling was next; selecting the main trunk line, which branches to keep, and wiring as needed. Dustin Mann, Paul Kulesa, and Cyril Grum helped all of us throughout the process very patiently. Thanks very much to all three! Do not miss some of the pictures of the event. See you next time!



Lary Howard (left) receiving the Chrysanthemum stone from Paul Kulesa (left).



Pauline Muth presenting



Dustin Mann helping Hanne Hugh



Cyril Grum helping Foozaan Zafar



Paul Kulesa helping Tom McCue.



Participants working on trees.



The happy crew. First row (from left to right): Paul Kulesa, Cyril Grum, Ed Hugh, Dustin Mann, Foozaan Zafar, Tom McCue, and Roger Gaede. Second row (from left to right): Hanne Hugh, Alan Atkinson, Joan Wheeler, and Don Wenzel.

UPCOMING AABS MEETINGS

Paul Kulesa – Program Chairperson

May 25, 2011, 7PM

This is a Member's Workshop – BYOT In this workshop during the meeting, members can bring in bonsai along with their tools, wire and supplies needed to work on their trees. Select members will be available to "walk you through" the work you choose to perform on your bonsai. This is more than seeking design ideas; this is hands-on experience with a guiding hand to accomplish a certain task with your bonsai. These tasks include but are not limited to grafting techniques, wiring challenges, the use of guy lines to hold limbs in place, the use of raffia to protect limbs, bud development and selection . . ." This workshop features the advice of Bill Heston, Clive Taylor and Lois Vorath.

June 22, 2011, 7 PM

Lindsay Shiba will present information on displaying bonsai in a show format. Members are encouraged to bring to the meeting tree(s), stand(s) and accent plant(s) (a bonsai display like you would for a show). Lindsay Shiba will put each display before the group and critique the setup and suggest improvements. This format will encourage group participation and feedback. Lindsay will choose from the material available to improve a particular display. This sort of program helps experienced members as well as newer members.

July 27, 2011, 7 PM

During this monthly meeting program, three members, selected for their fine eye for detail in bonsai design, will offer design suggestions to members who present a pre-bonsai or bonsai for review. This is an opportunity to hear the collective wisdom of the design panel and the membership. Please bring your bonsai or pre-bonsai to this meeting to hear "3 to 23 suggestions" for future development of your tree. The panel is comprised of Gerald Peters, Deborah Eddy and Trudy Bulkley.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

May 14 & 15, 2011

13th Annual Michigan All-State Bonsai Show. Colin Lewis will be the featured artist and speaker at this annual weekend event in the Grand Rapids area.

June 16-19, 2011

The 2011 ABS/BCI Symposium "Bonsai in the Bluegrass". This 4-day Learning Seminar has scheduled International Bonsai artists from Europe, Asia, Mexico, and the United States. There will be a large number of bonsai vendors on hand to provide a variety of trees, pots, tools, and various other supplies. Part of the program includes a bonsai display of trees from across the United States.

June 25-26, 2011

39th Annual Four Seasons Bonsai Show. A bonsai exhibit and beginner-friendly presentations is scheduled. Bonsai, pots, tools and accessories will be sold. A demonstration by nationally recognized bonsai master, Lindsay Shiba is scheduled for Saturday, June 25, 2PM. The show and demonstration are open to the public and free of charge.

Saturday, June 25, 9AM - 7PM. Sunday, June 26, 9AM - 4PM. Telly's Greenhouse, 3301 John R (between Big Beaver and Wattles), Troy, Michigan. 248-689-8735.

Website: www.tellys.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 26 - Monthly Meeting

Connie Crancer will help us to understand how to propagate and start bonsai from seed, cutting and air layers, to expand to our collection.

February 23 - Monthly Meeting

George Buehler of the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society will discuss bonsai tools.

March 23 - Monthly Meeting

Pauline Muth will discuss shimpaku shohin bonsai.

March 24 - Workshop

Pauline Muth will conduct a workshop using shimpaku.

April 27 - Monthly Meeting

Marco Invernizzi will discuss wiring techniques.

April 28 - Workshop

Marco Invernizzi will conduct a wiring workshop.

May 25 - Monthly Meeting

A Members Workshop, an opportunity to bring a tree to work on and seek advice on specific techniques to improve your bonsai.

June 22 - Monthly Meeting

Lindsay Sheba will discuss show presentation and display of bonsai.

June 23 - Workshop

Lindsay Shiba will conduct a workshop using select boxwood or you may bring your own material.

July 27 - Monthly Meeting

A Select Panel will critique your bonsai, offering design advice and cultural suggestions.

August 24 - Monthly Meeting

Jack Wikle will moderate a presentation on bonsai soil. "More than a recipe, an understanding of the way soils work for you."

August 26 - Annual Show Setup

Plan to help setup the show.

August 27 & 28 - AABS Annual Show

"The premier event of the year"

September 28 - Monthly Meeting

2011 AABS Annual Auction.

October 26 - Monthly Meeting

"Our Bonsai, Then and Now". A member supported photographic review depicting your bonsai, "then and now".

November 7 - Annual Banquet

2011 AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alfonso Tercero (734) 216-2708

Vice-President/Program Chairperson: Paul Kulesa

Corresponding Secretary: Ryan Liu

Recording Secretary: Almudena Veiga-Lopez

Publicity Chair: Lary Howard

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(734) 485-6306

Librarian: Vicki Norfleet

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Director 2010 & 2011: Dustin Mann

Director 2011 & 2012: Raquel Vega

Show Chairperson: Jay Sinclair

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: TBD

Ways and Means Chair: Hugh Danville

Web Administration: Raquel Vega

FOR SALE OR WANTED

All members can offer for sale any bonsai and bonsai related materials in the newsletter or at the monthly meeting with no sales fee. AABS Society Members' ads are free to publish in the Newsletter. Deadline for submissions to the Newsletter is the 5th of the month. Please send your comments or documents to newsletter@annarborbonsaisociety.org.

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.

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

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.

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



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

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