



## NEXT CLUB MEETING: Wednesday, June 27, -7PM

### Bring Your Own Tree!

If you need assistance working on your bonsai, bring it to this monthly meeting. Members will be on hand to assist you with your question and concern. "In this workshop, members can bring in bonsai along with their tools, wire and supplies needed to work on their trees.

Members not working on bonsai 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.



*Please, do not be shy, bring in your bonsai!*

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#### TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership expired at the end of March. Renew your membership, pay by check, \$25, written to Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Talk with the treasurer at the next meeting or you can mail your check to:

Treasurer, Ann Arbor Bonsai Society  
Joan Wheeler  
2295 North Harris  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

**NOTES FROM THE SIDELINES**

**Almudena Veiga-Lopez – Recording Secretary**

May 23, 2012 Monthly Meeting  
Dawn Redwood Forest with Kurt Smith.

At 6:30PM, AABS members started gathering at MBG. Our president Jay Sinclair welcomed all attendees. After a few announcements about upcoming events he introduced Kurt Smith, tonight's speaker. Kurt has been a long standing member of AABS and currently owns a bonsai nursery down in Monroe (one of our preferred vendors in the area). Kurt started the program by introducing the Dawn Redwood, a deciduous conifer known to be fast growers. They also like to be under bright light with constant moist soil. They are pretty hardy and will come back after they have been cut back. In general, they are very tolerant trees.

After this brief introduction, Kurt went into converting a Red Dawn nursery plant into a pre-bonsai forest.

Hands on, Kurt explained the steps to create a forest. Plants need to be taken out of the original container. Once individualized (Figs 1A, 1B), each



Kurt Smith presenting at MBG

Kurt Smith demonstrating how to create a Red Dawnwood Forest



tree needs to be cut the right height and the branches need to be trim back. Removing some of the roots is also necessary (Figs 1C, 1D). Kurt then prepared the pot with wire to attach the trees and some soil to set the base for the trees (Figs 1E, 1F).

Last step is to organize the trees onto the pot using the wire and the roots of the larger trees to sustain the smaller ones. Spacing of trees is key in any forest arrangement; try to avoid even spacing –he said. Finally, fill the pot with soil and immerse the forest in a water container.



They also require constant maintenance in terms of pruning as they tend to grow straight up and more heavily from the top than the lower branches.

Thank You Kurt for such an informative program!

### **Tom McCue Takes Home A Dawn Redwood Forest** **Paul Kulesa – VP/Program Chairperson**

Many of you remember the last meeting; Kurt Smith turned a collection of trees into a forest of dawn redwood. Arrangements had been made with Kurt to raffle the forest to the membership at the end of the evening.

Prior to the start of the meeting, I was speaking with Bill Struhar and Tom McCue, when Tom mentioned he purchased raffle tickets for the “Kurt Smith Forest”.

At the time, Tom was participating in the Saturday morning workshop with Kurt Smith to assemble

his own redwood forest. “Hey Tom”, I asked. “Are you going to participate in the workshop, if you win the forest in the raffle?” Tom assured me he has the winning ticket and plans to participate in the workshop.

Sarcastically, I told Tom he is now paying \$80 for Dawn Redwood forest workshop.

As it turned out, Tom McCue had the good fortune of purchasing the “right ticket”. That’s Tom McCue – 2 (Redwood Forest taken home) : PaulK – 1 (humble pie warmed and eaten).



Left to right: Tom McCue (our raffle winner), Red Dawnwood Forest (the raffled forest), and Kurt Smith (our bonsai artist).

### **Thank You Note – Kurt Smith** **Paul Kulesa – VP/Program Chairperson**

I want to thank Kurt Smith for taking time out of his works schedule to prepare for a demonstration and a workshop. The members appreciated the demonstration and the workshop was great. Tom McCue really likes his dawn redwood f-o-r-e-s-t-s (2). Thanks Kurt!

### Dawn Redwood Forest Workshop

Saturday, May 26, 2012 - MBG

Paul Kulesa – VP/Program Chairperson

After their arrival, the workshop participants were eager to get started assembling their forest. Following a brief introduction by Kurt, the participants began by preparing their trays; drilling additional holes in the floor of the tray, covering the drainage holes with plastic screening and positioning several tie-down wires in the “right places”.

The trees were individually prepared for the forest; the roots were examined and prepared for transplanting, replacement apices were selected and wired into place and some branches were removed or shortened.

The group puzzled over the layout of the trees before a final plan was settled on and the installation of the trees began. By noon the last of the forests were assembled and watered. Before leaving, the group agreed to pose for a group photograph.



Dawn Redwood Forest Workshop Participants; (from left to right) Greg Schmolt, Kurt Smith, Carolyn George, Don Wenzel, Joan Wheeler, Tom McCue, Dan Angelucci and John Foley.

### Jack and Jeannine Thank You

This is our heartfelt thank you from Jack and Jeannine Wikle to everyone who passed on information about our outdoor bonsai sale, to the people who helped so much with many of the sale associated chores, and to those who helped us by giving our bonsai new homes.

In our imaginations these trees, that were a big part of our lives for many years, are going on to outlive us bringing pleasure to others in the years to come. Those trees were small but the feelings were big. And, since all of our outdoor bonsai have now been sold, we are canceling our last Wikle Bonsai Open House days which had been planned for Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

With great appreciation to all our bonsai community friends,

Jack and Jeannine Wikle

### Bonsai and Penjing Collection at MBG

#### The Bonsai Garden

Paul Kulesa – VP/Program Chairperson

For many years now, staff and volunteers at the U of M - Matthaei Botanical Gardens have been caring for a bonsai collection. This collection has been maintained out-of-sight of the public until recently, when a few bonsai were displayed in the conservatory on a rotating basis.

A long-held dream has been the creation of a permanent, dedicated garden open to the public for this collection.

Fund raising has already brought in two-thirds of the goal, allowing construction to commence late summer 2012. A working bonsai studio will be integrated into the garden.



Joan Overmire and Bill Caver working on the Matthaei Collection.

In this space, professional and volunteers will maintain the bonsai in view of the public. This will be an exceptional educational opportunity for the public to interact with knowledgeable bonsai people.



Carmen Leskoviansky (Collection Specialist - MBG & AABS member)

### In Memory Of Eunice Corp

**Jack Wikle**

We have received word that Eunice Corp, a longtime member of our Ann Arbor Bonsai Society, passed away on June 1 of this year.

Eunice joined our Society in late 1976 or early 1977 and maintained her membership even after moving north with her husband Glen to their retirement home in Cadillac.

It was after leaving the Ann Arbor area that Eunice began teaching bonsai classes "up north" and soon founded the Sakura Bonsai Society of Northern Michigan, a Traverse City area club. She held most of the offices in that group at one time or another and wrote frequently for their newsletter, the Gnarly News. Sakura members have spoken often of Eunice with great affection as the "mother of our club." Some of her articles have also been published in nationally and internationally circulated bonsai magazines.



Eunice Corp next to a flowering cherry bonsai (courtesy of Dean Bull)

Later in life, Eunice donated the bulk of her personal bonsai collection to Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids where it became the seed for the still-growing Meijer Gardens bonsai collection.

In 2008, our Ann Arbor Bonsai Society honored Eunice by granting her one of the few Life Memberships this group has awarded. Also, it was Eunice who conceived the idea and was the driving force behind a proposal to the United States Postal Service Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee that a postage stamp be issued featuring bonsai. Eunice's three page proposal, dated August 19, 2006, was the result of more than a year of personal effort. As many bonsai enthusiasts know, those U. S. Postal Service stamps featuring bonsai became reality this year.

Eunice leaves behind many friends who remember her with great appreciation as a quietly determined, little lady who had a great impact in our bonsai world.

Jack Wikle

### UPCOMING AABS EVENTS

Paul Kulesa – VP/Program Chairperson

#### **Saturday, June 16, 2012, 10 AM – 12 Noon** **Beginner Class – Session #4**

A Discussion of Wiring and Hands-on Wiring Practice - Class participants will wire their own bonsai with Dustin Mann.

#### **Saturday, July 7, 2012, 10 AM – 12 Noon** **Beginner Class – Session #5**

“Discussion of Ongoing Care and Maintenance of Your Bonsai”

Routine maintenance, pruning, repotting, pest control and wintering your bonsai will be discussed. This is the final class and opportunity to work on the trees the bonsai class participants potted during this class.

#### **Saturday, July 25, 2012, 7PM** **July Monthly Meeting**

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. This program features Connie Crancer, Hugh Danville and Ron Milostan

### BONSAI CONVENTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

- ✓ **The Annual AABS Bonsai Show, August 25 & 26, 2012.** At Matthaei Botanical Gardens – Auditorium.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### **August 22 - Monthly Meeting**

- Fertilizing Your Bonsai – This presentation will discuss feeding your bonsai, feeding options and current concern of our fertilizing practices. Producing fertilizer balls will be demonstrated.

#### **August 24 - Annual Show Setup** **August 25-26 - Annual Show**

#### **September 26 - Monthly Meeting**

- Annual Auction

#### **October 24 - Monthly Meeting**

- A Study of Bonsai In Winter Silhouette

#### **November 5 - Monthly Meeting**

- Annual Banquet and Critique of Bonsai

### 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](mailto:treasurer@annarborbonsaisociety.org). Please make your check payable to AABS for \$25.00.

### 2012 AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President:** Jay Sinclair  
**Vice-President:** Paul Kulesa  
**Corresponding Secretary\*:** Almudena Veiga-Lopez  
**Recording Secretary:** Almudena Veiga-Lopez  
**Treasurer:** Joan Wheeler (734) 485-6306  
**Librarian:** Ray Domzalski  
**Past President:** Alfonso Tercero  
**Director 2011 & 2012:** Raquel Vega  
**Director 2012 & 2013:** Michael Field  
**Show Chairperson:** Jay Sinclair  
\*Will serve in a temporary position until a replacement is elected.

### 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

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:members-owner@annarborbonsaisociety.org)

Hours: Mon - Fri: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Sat: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Closed Sunday & Tuesday



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