

NEXT CLUB MEETING: April 24, 2013

This Meeting Is Dedicated To Wiring Your Bonsai. The repotting is done and now is the time to refine the features of your tree. Bring your bonsai, tools and supplies to the meeting. Experience members will be available to assist you with your work, to offer suggestions and encourage your work.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Your annual membership expires at the end of March. Annual membership dues are \$25. You can talk with the Treasurer at the next meeting or renew by mail. Information below

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Kurt Smith's Nursery Visit Saturday, April 27, 2013 10 AM

Are you looking for bonsai material, tropical or hardy material to work on? Join other members visiting Kurt Smith's bonsai Nursery and Greenhouse, 8930 S. Custer, Monroe, Michigan.

DIRECTOR 2013-2014 - ELECTED



Tom McCue was introduced as a candidate for the position of Director, a 2-year term, at the March Meeting. The members in attendance approved the nomination and elected him to the position by a majority voice vote.

MARCH MEETING

Richard Smith, author of "NEW METHODS IN MOSS GARDENING", joined us by video link for a presentation on *The Cultivation and Care of Moss*. Richard began with a survey of the variety and uses of moss, followed by tips on the propagation & care of moss and rounded out the presentation by responding to questions.



Bryum caespiticium, common green sidewalk moss
Photo by R. Smith

MONTHLY RAFFLES

Bill Struhar will raffle bonsai items at the April meeting.

Notes From The Sidelines - Moss

by Paul Kulesa

The use of moss in the bonsai world is often associated with the formal display of a bonsai. Few of us have tried to cultivate moss; some have succeeded. Cultivating moss for this purpose may benefit you.

Mosses are the largest division of bryophytes and have existed on Earth before other land plants. Mosses do not have roots and do not draw their nutrients from soil. Mosses are short, usually less than an inch tall, having a primitive root-like system that serves to anchor the moss to a surface. Most structures of mosses are one cell thick. There are nearly 1800 species of moss in North America. Individual moss species prefer an acidic or alkaline environment.

Mosses can be grown on most surfaces, including artificial structures. A simple artificial surface for supporting moss development is made of two-three layers. A waterproof barrier is used at the bottom to prevent moisture from being drawn from the mosses. Above the moisture barrier is a layer of moisture retaining sub-surface. An artificial felt or multiple layers of an artificial mulch fabric will fill this requirement. A top layer of small sized hardwood mulch can be used below the cultivated moss. You can protect your developing moss from bird and marauding rodents, covering the moss with a fine netting or screen. Remove weeds and debris by hand.

CULTIVATION

Richard Smith offered a simple and effective formula for propagating moss. Select the moss you want to cultivate and air dry for several days, away from direct sun. Pulverize the moss between your hands, collecting ½ cup. In a blender add, either 1 cup of beer or ½-cup of buttermilk, and ½-cup of rainwater, then blend. Add the dry moss and 2-3 cups of rainwater. Blend the mixture to a consistency of thin cake batter. This mixture can be painted on any non-porous surface. For the next 4-6 weeks keep the surface moist by misting with rainwater and protect from heavy rainfall and direct sun exposure.

FEEDING AND WATERING MOSS

The nutrient requirements of mosses are minimal. Mosses receive nutrients from dissolved mineral in rainwater, dust and organic matter blown its way. If you

want to fertilize, Richard recommends a 10% solution of a recommended dose of a water-soluble fertilizer for acid loving plants. Use a spray bottle to apply every eight weeks during the growing season.

Artificially watering your moss is unnecessary. Rainfall, fog, mist and humidity are sufficient. If you chose to supplement the naturally available moisture, use a spray bottle to mist rainwater onto the surface of the moss. Tap water carries dissolved mineral and has an alkaline pH, both harmful to mosses. Supplemental watering using a fogging nozzle is useful during dry spells.

CAUTIONS

Herbicides and zinc (as found in galvanized metal) are harmful to mosses. Mosses do experience die-off common during hot and humid conditions. If you see white or brown patches on your mosses, there are steps you can take to mitigate the problem.

- Remove the discolored dead spot
- And, spray the surrounding area of the dead spot with a solution of 1-part hydrogen peroxide (3% solution) and 10-parts distilled water. Re-apply this spray solution in three days.

Richard Smith's book, "New Methods In Moss Gardening" can offer more information.

MBG BONSAI AND PENJING GARDEN

The carpenters were putting the final touch on the infrastructure of the Bonsai Garden during the week of April 8-12. The staff of Matthaei Botanical Gardens is waiting for warmer weather to install the foundation landscaping in the Garden. The entrance gates to the garden, constructed by Bill Sloan, will be ready for the opening. As you may recall, Bill constructed the display benches in the conservatory and the garden. The dedication and opening of the garden is scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 2013. The garden will showcase more of the permanent bonsai collection than has been previously possible. Additional events held throughout the summer will showcase the Bonsai and Penjing Garden.

Members of the Bonsai Society will have an opportunity to walk among some of the new acquisitions on display in the garden. Those who had a hand in giving birth to this dream will share their thought during our May monthly meeting.



The Carpentry Work in the Bonsai Garden Wraps-up

APRIL REPOTTING WORKSHOP

On Saturday morning, April 6, several members brought trees to the workshop in Greenhouse #5 at MBG with the hope of repotting them. Judith Rose brought in a small juniper, “a volunteer” as Jack Wikle would describe it. Galina Malkin repotted a large maple grown for several years in a bonsai pot and a smaller pine. Theresa Ross moved her ficus into another pot. Richard Pomorski moved his elm into a new pot with fresh soil mix. George Parks brought in a shimpaku, which was reported last year, and settled on some design advice. Leslie Olsen dropped in to checkout the repotting process.



Repotting Equipment; Soil Mix, Tools And Supplies

CALENDAR OF AABS EVENTS

April 24 - Monthly Meeting

Members Wiring Workshop – Bring your tree and supplies to wire your bonsai, guidance provided.

April 27 – Nursery Visit

Are you looking for bonsai material, tropical or hardy? Join other members visiting Kurt Smith’s nursery and greenhouse in Dundee, meet there at 10 AM.

May 19 - Dedication of the MBG Bonsai and Penjing Garden

May 22 - Monthly Meeting

Come explore the recently opened Bonsai and Penjing Garden. Our Monthly meeting will be held in the Garden offering the opportunity to examine the *nooks & crannies* of this “Jewel of Bonsai”.

June 26 - Monthly Meeting

Literati - Jim Doyle, Harrisburg, PA.

June 27 - Thursday Evening Workshop with Jim Doyle

The workshop will be held at MBG – 6PM.

July 25 - Monthly Meeting

A Three Member Panel will offer advice and discuss design options for members who bring their bonsai to the meeting

August 23 - Annual Show Setup

August 24-25 – Our Annual Show

August 28 - Monthly Meeting

Jack Douthitt, respected bonsai artist on the National stage, will provide his view on Bonsai in America.

August 29 - Thursday Evening Workshop with Jack Douthitt

The workshop will be held at MBG – 6PM

September 25 - Monthly Meeting

Our Annual Auction

October 23 - Monthly Meeting

Bill Cadman will discuss the process of developing his bonsai with the help of Ryan Neal.

November 4 - Monthly Meeting

Annual Banquet and Critique of Bonsai

REGIONAL BONSAI EVENTS - 2013

Saturday - Sunday, May 11-12

Michigan All-State Show - featuring Ryan Neal.
The Michigan All-State Show is held at the Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
<http://www.wmbonsai.org/index.htm>

Saturday - Sunday, May 18 - 19

Midwest Bonsai Society Spring Show
The Midwest Bonsai Society Spring show will be held at the Chicago Botanic Garden.
<http://www.midwestbonsai.org/show.htm>

Friday - Sunday, May 24-26

Brussel's Annual Rendezvous is a regional bonsai event held in Olive Branch, Mississippi.
<http://www.brusselsbonsai.com>

Thursday - Sunday, June 6-9

International Arboretum Collegium, Rochester, NY.
<http://www.internationalbonsai.com>

Saturday - Sunday, June 29-30

40th Annual Four Seasons Bonsai Show, Troy, Michigan.
<http://www.fourseasonsbonsai.com>

Friday - Sunday, August 16-18

Midwest Bonsai Society presents the Mid-America Bonsai Show, featuring Bjorn Bjorholm. The 36th Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit will be held at the Chicago Botanic Garden.
<http://www.midwestbonsai.org/show>

Saturday - Sunday, August 24 & 25

Annual Show of the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society, Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

Thursday - Sunday, September 12-15

The 2013 American Bonsai Society Learning Seminar, Saratoga Springs, NY.
<http://www.loveofbonsai.com>

Saturday - Sunday, October 12-13

Carolina Bonsai Expo - One of the last big regional bonsai shows of the season held every year down in Asheville, NC at the North Carolina Arboretum. A great show worth the drive down. <http://www.ncarboretum.org/plan-a-visit/events/carolina-bonsai-expo>

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD IDEAS

I am looking for programs ideas to develop and add to the 2014 calendar and I am seeking your advice. Is there a bonsai related topic you want to explore in depth, a speaker you have heard and you want to hear more, a workshop leader you want to work with, a tree you want to study in depth . . . ? Let me know. Paul Kulesa

UNFILLED POSITIONS ON THE BOARD *

There are three positions on the Executive Board, considered critical to the full expression of our club. Top of the list are the two positions important for the publishing of the monthly newsletter, the recording and corresponding secretaries. Then there is our annual bonsai show. We need a member to manage the operation and activities of our show.

2013 Executive Board

President	Jay Sinclair
VP/Program Chairperson	Paul Kulesa
Recording Secretary	*
Corresponding Secretary (Newsletter Producer)	*
Treasurer	Joan Wheeler
Librarian	Ray Domzalski
Show Chairperson	*
Publicity Chairperson	Carlos Diaz
Director 2012-2013	Michael Field
Director 2013 & 2014	Tom McCue
President Emeritus	Alfonso Tercero

AABS AD-HOC COMMITTEES

The AABS President is an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Nomination Committee.

Fund Raising: William Struhar

Web Administration: Christopher's Web Service

Annual Auction Director: Interested? Contact a Board Member.

It's time to consider what trees your will work on to display at the annual show.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

AABS Membership is for the calendar year. Use the *Membership Renewal Form* on our Web page and bring it to the next meeting or mail it to the Treasurer.

Joan Wheeler
2295 North Harris
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
(734) 485-6306
treasurer@annarborbonsaisociety.org

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

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society <http://absbonsai.org> and the Mid-American Bonsai Alliance <http://mababonsai.org>
Contact AABS at: AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com




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

Visit us on the Web:
<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

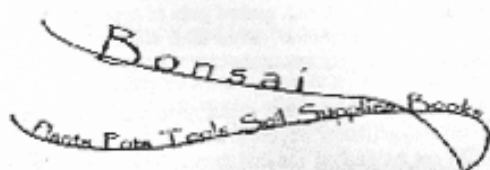
Support Local Bonsai Vendors:

Hours: Wed., Thurs. & Fri.: 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Sat., 1:30pm to 5:00pm
 CLOSED: Sunday, Monday & Tuesday



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