

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 24, 2013
Three Member Panel To Offer Advice On Design Options For Your Bonsai

Ever come up against that brick wall or ask yourself, "Where do I go with this bonsai"? Bring your bonsai and get the opinion of a group of select club members for the future development of your bonsai.

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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

OUR ANNUAL SHOW

The preparations for the show have begun with plans to update the registration process for bonsai placed in the show, an expansion of advertising for the show, working the new bonsai garden into the weekend events and scheduling the vendors who will participate in the show.

As usual we will have a light meal following the end of the Saturday show hours and before our evening program.

This is a *potluck* event depending on those members attending the evening program to provide a dish to share with other.

The Board is looking for a member to organize the potluck. This member will be reimbursed to provide plates, tableware and some refreshments for the evening meal. A Board member will be working with you to ensure your success. Talk with Jay Sinclair to take on this task.

TIME TO PREPARE YOUR BONSAI FOR OUR SHOW

Our Annual Show takes place in late August. Take time this summer to ready your bonsai for this event. Plan early to display several bonsai and when the Show arrives, you will have the choice of what looks best to display.

June Monthly Meeting

Jim Doyle joined the AABS for a lecture on literati (aka-bunjin) and a workshop the following day. During the meeting Jim summarized the history of literati and shared his thoughts on the subject. Jim brought two trees to use as props to explain concepts of literati.



Jim Speaking With The Members

Jim explained that literati or bunjin is difficult to explain or describe. Literati can exhibit a provocative design and personality. Like bonsai, literati has no rules, but they do have parameters. Some of these parameters include,

- Branches are found in the upper third of the tree and exhibit the barest amount of foliage
- Inspiration for literati is observed in trees found in your world experiences
- Branches can cross the trunk line
- Containers for the literati are critical in the design
- Literati can be a conifer or a deciduous tree
- Literati can be designed in the form of a forest or cascade



Jim Doyle Working On A Sapphire Berry
Photo by Michael Field

The trees were raffled at the end of the evening; Don Schwartz took home the sapphire berry and Aaron Binns is now caring for the Ponderosa pine.



Don Schwartz and Aaron Binns

The following evening Cyril Grum, Tom McCue, Louise Neuman, Bill Struhar and Paul Kulesa joined Jim Doyle to

work on their trees. The workshop participants were able to take their direction from Jim, each producing a very nice bonsai.



Louise Neuman, Jim Doyle, Tom McCue, Bill Struhar, Cyril Grum And The Workshop Trees.

From the Nominating Committee

By Cyril Grum

We have started the process of identifying a strong AABS Executive Board for next year - 2014. A combination of returning officers and some new blood would be ideal to invigorate our club and keep it strong. The experience of being a member of the Executive Board is quite educational and allows you to get to know the club and its members better.

The time commitment is quite modest, and you get to influence the direction of the club. Although the board values and prefers face-to-face meetings and discussion, it also realizes the time constraints of many and uses email discussion and web voting whenever necessary.

We very much encourage all members to consider this opportunity. Please call us or chat with us if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,
The Nominating Committee

Trudy Bulkley: trudyb@umich.edu or [734-769-3115](tel:734-769-3115)

Cyril Grum: grum@umich.edu or [734-995-9828](tel:734-995-9828)

Tom McCue: tmac2147@hotmail.com

Jack Wikle: jwikle@comcast.net (consultant to the Committee)

DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS - in brief

1. The President presides over all meeting and

coordinated all other activities of The Society.

2. The Vice President/Program Chairperson is responsible for organizing and coordinating programs.
3. The Recording Secretary records the decisions made at regular meetings and Executive Board meeting. Puts them into Newsletter.
(Position often combined with)
4. The Corresponding Secretary puts together and sends out Newsletter.
5. The Treasurer maintains the official membership roster and financial records, collects dues/fees and pays bills.
6. The Show Chairperson coordinates the annual show.
7. The Librarian maintains the circulating library
8. The Publicity Chairperson publicizes events, programs and activities.
9. The Directors operate in an advisory capacity.

Advancing In Bonsai . . . Moving From Bonsai As A Hobby To Bonsai As An Art Form

By Ron Milostan

How does someone become knowledgeable in the Field of Bonsai? Yes, many years of trial and error with bonsai trees plays a part. A beginner can also read all the books and try the many styles. But I have found that the best way is through club meetings, Bonsai shows, Bonsai Seminars and Bonsai workshops. Learning the Art of Bonsai by watching and listening to others who have a mastery of this Art seems the best way to me. Sure a lot of the information can be repetitive, but this is when the learner can also be a teacher by adding personal experience to the conversation. That's how it starts - someone sharing their knowledge and opening up to others who also want to share.

Recently Paul Kulesa and I went to Rochester, New York. We spent four days immersed in the Art of Bonsai. We each spent a total of 22 hours listening to and watching 7 top Bonsai Artists. 7 top Bonsai Artists all in the same place for 4 days of lectures, demonstrations, and open discussions. This does not happen every day. There was dozens of Specimen Bonsai trees to view and discuss and there were 75 registered participants who shared the experience. If only there had been One Hundred and

Seventy Five, Two Hundred and Seventy Five. The information flowing there was beyond any book one could read.

Ryan Neil, Kathy Shaner, Denis Makishima, Peter Warren, Bill Valavanis, David DeGroot, Kora Dalager: If you had met and worked with these people you too would have felt the bonsai part of your brain form new connections and take a giant step forward in the Art of Bonsai.

All of us need to take every workshop offered and attend every Bonsai function that we can. Only in this way will we advance our Bonsai proficiency. This Art of Bonsai is changing every day; every year as more and more of us are becoming immersed in it. Yes, workshops cost money, traveling to them costs money. But if we spent more on learning and less on that 'gotta have tree' we might be able to enjoy this Art to a higher level, and our trees would live longer and get more accolades.

Happy Bonsai

Remembering George Randall

By Jack Wikle

Before joining our Ann Arbor Bonsai Society in 1980, George had already been active in several Detroit area bonsai clubs when there were many more than there are today, including serving as President of the Tokiwa Bonsai Society.



I remember George as a very knowledgeable plantsman who grew an amazing variety of trees and shrubs both in containers and in the ground at his home. Many of these plants were later passed on as gifts to his bonsai friends.

George led our Ann Arbor Bonsai Society as President in 1990, and, always a popular and entertaining speaker, he did many presentations for our group over the years of his membership. He was one of the many who have made major contributions in keeping this society alive and moving forward for the benefit of others.

The image was provided by Robert Bishop.

CALENDAR OF AABS EVENTS

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 Neil.

November 4 - Monthly Meeting

Annual Banquet and Critique of Bonsai

REGIONAL BONSAI EVENTS - 2013

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. <http://www.ncarboretum.org/plan-a-visit/events/carolina-bonsai-expo>

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
President Emeritus	Alfonso Tercero
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

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: Dog Bark Stage Left - Web Service

Nomination Committee: Cyril Grum, Trudy Bulkley and Tom McCue, Jack Wikle (Advisor to Committee)

Annual Auction Director: Interested? Contact a Board Member.

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.

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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