

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OUR ANNUAL AUCTION

Wednesday, September 25, 2013, members can offer for auction bonsai and bonsai related items at this meeting. Those intending to auction bonsai items should arrive as early as 6 PM to register their auction items.

- The silent auction begins at 6:30 PM and runs until 7:30 PM.
- The live auction starts at 7:30 PM, concluding when all items have been offered.
- Your registration as a buyer will determine when you are called to pay for your purchases. Early registration ensures early payment.
- Payment for auction purchases will be accepted at the conclusion of the live auction.

There are no provisions to accept payment for your purchases before the end of the live auction.

IN THIS ISSUE

The Auction	pg. 1
The Show	pg. 1
August Monthly Meeting – Jack Douthitt	pg. 2
Workshop With Jack Douthitt	pg. 3
Message from the Nomination Committee	pg. 4
AABS Calendar and Regional Bonsai Events	pg. 5

OUR ANNUAL SHOW

It was a great success! By all accounts the show was as good, if not better than ever. There were ninety-five bonsai displayed and viewed by an estimated

- 341 adults
- 22 visitors who used a coupon from the *Michigan Gardener Magazine* ad

- 42 children (estimated)

The treasurer calculated there were 405 visitors.

During the show there is regular maintenance of the bonsai and the display area. The display tables are tidied up, the floor is swept and the bonsai displays are straightened.



Paul, Jack and Trudy Watering Bonsai On Sunday Morning

Visitor to our show had a voice to declare their favorite bonsai in the show. Visitors' interests spanned the wide array of bonsai displayed. The bonsai drawing the most interest are found below.



Koyo-hime Japanese Maple Penjing By Clive Taylor
 Where is that raccoon?



Scots Pine By Cyril Grum



Kyo-Hime Japanese Maple By Clive Taylor



Demonstration In The Pavilion In The Bonsai Garden

With the opening of the Bonsai Garden, we had an opportunity to hold ongoing demonstrations in the pavilion. Ron Milostan is seen working on a bonsai while Cyril Grum and Leslie Olsen discuss the virtues of a chamecyparis.

AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING AND WORKSHOP

Wednesday, August 28 - Monthly Meeting

Jack Douthitt, respected bonsai artist on the National stage, provided his view on Bonsai as art in America. In this program Jack discussed what art is, why bonsai is an art and how it compares to more traditional art forms. He explored the differences between a traditional artist and a bonsai artist, and how to make the leap from bonsai "hobbyist" to bonsai "artist."

SUMMARY OF JACK'S PRESENTATION

by Paul Kulesa

The Art of Bonsai

Rarely is there a discussion of bonsai as art in the forefront of bonsai literature. Almost all of the bonsai literature is focused on "how-to" articles or pictures of bonsai gathered together for an exhibition.

Because I Work On Bonsai

Jack insists a bonsai artist is someone who works on bonsai. Period! It has nothing to do with how good you are. *I do bonsai therefore I am a bonsai artist.* There are levels of artistry and you may not practice at the level of a Kimura or a Ryan Neil, but you are a bonsai artist. If you create bonsai, you are a bonsai artist.

Bonsai as Art

Art is the imitation of a real thing, which can be living or dead. As Plato wrote, art is a creation for others to view. Bonsai is imitating an appearance that has been seen in nature and defines an eternal truth and beauty.

David Hume said, 'In art, the standards of taste will change' and that 'standard of taste' should decide the merits of a work due to an emotional experience of the viewer. Hume's approach to art is similar to the approach our annual show takes with the "People's Choice Award". Does your tree have an emotional impact on you or your friends?

Arthur Danto has said anything can be art and anyone can be an artist. Art should represent its subject and should be human made.

As you can tell, every one of these art philosophers over the last 2500 years has had a different idea of what art is. But one thing all of them can agree on, is that the creation of a work of art is the bringing about of a new combination of elements, in whatever medium you're working in. These elements existed before but not in the same combination; creation is the formation of these materials into something new.

In bonsai we have only four basic design elements to work with. Every bonsai has them; trunk, branches, foliage and a container that we work with. The limitless combinations of these elements make no two bonsai the same.

Bonsai artist have several common traits. We can struggle to achieve these elements to make us better artist.

1. Have the passion to do bonsai.
2. Have the determination to do bonsai.
3. We need serious study.
4. We need to expand our horizons, study with the best and challenge those accepted norms of bonsai.

You can teach technique, composition, color, and all those elements artists use every day. But there is no way anyone can teach others to be a 'Masahiko Kimura', a 'Ryan Neal' or a 'John Naka'. You could go through the same training as Ryan Neal and not be a 'Ryan Neal'. It is impossible. We are individuals and view art through different eyes and we have different solutions to the problems we face.

Determination is what we must have if we want to create better, more impressive bonsai. Bonsai must become important to us. It has to become a priority in our lives. To get better a bonsai artist has to be just as passionate about his or her art as any other artist. It's like anything else. The more experience we have, the more we know about our subject. The more we do our art, the better we become.

We can improve our bonsai skills. But we do not have to be a 'John Naka' or a 'Masahiko Kimura' to enjoy bonsai. The joy of bonsai is in the journey not the destination. Bonsai is not about winning prizes. It is not about being number one! It is about enjoying your bonsai; the watering, the wiring, or just walking through your bonsai in the early evening and looking at them. Enjoy the journey. Don't worry about the destination.

The Pep Talk

We are bonsai artists. If you enjoy creating bonsai, then do it. Always try to improve. Be the best you possibly can. And, above all, enjoy the results.

Expand Your Horizons. Go to conventions outside your home area. It is easy to get locked into what is happening in your own geographic area, but it limits the improvement of your bonsai skills. To grow as a bonsai artist you need wide exposure. Bonsai is a tough art to master.

You must have passion and determination to create bonsai and a drive to improve your skills and expand your horizons to be a great bonsai artist.

WORKSHOP WITH JACK DOUTHITT

Thursday, August 29

This workshop was open to anyone who brought bonsai that were previously styled. Jack's workshop theme was, "How do I make a good bonsai into an excellent one, or an excellent bonsai into a prize winner."



The Workshop (L-R); Leslie Olsen, Bill Struhar, Carlos Diaz, Kurt Smith, Fouzaan Zafar, Tom McCue, Jack Douthitt, Louise Neuman, Jack Wikle, and Galina Malkin

Workshop participants included

- Tom McCue who brought a pine and a larch
- Carlos Diaz who brought an azalia and a juniper
- Leslie Olsen who brought a chamaecyparis
- Kurt Smitho brought a juniper and a pine
- Paul Kulesa brought a hornbeam

The observers included Bill Struhar, Fouzaan Zafar, Louise Neuman, Jack Wikle and Galina Malkin.



That's Jack Hiding Behind The Larch With Tom McCue

FROM THE NOMINATION 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.

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. (This position is 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 Committee 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.

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

CALENDAR OF AABS EVENTS

October 23 - Monthly Meeting

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

November 4 - Monthly Meeting (an atypical date)

Annual Banquet and Critique of Bonsai

REGIONAL BONSAI EVENTS - 2013

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/exhibits/outdoors-2/bonsai/>

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 ISSUES – CONTACT THE TREASURER

Joan Wheeler
24660 Fountain Blvd
Westland, Michigan 48185
734-338-2525
treasurer@annarborbonsaisociety.org

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

Please Call First

Bonsai House
 Bonsai Plant & Gift

(734) 421-3434



8653 Inkster Road - Westland, Michigan 48185
 On Inkster Between Joy Road & Ann Arbor Trail

Bonsai
Pots Pots Tools Soil Supplies Books

DOWNTOWN HOME & GARDEN

210 S. Ashley 7:30 - 7 Mon.-Sat., 11-4 Sun. 662-8122

Call for Appointments, Show Schedules, and Appraisals, Special Orders



Tree & Collection Maintenance, Other Services Available

Ken's World of Bonsai
"If you want it, I can find it!"
 Trees, Pots, & Accessories From Around The World
 Buy • Sell • Trade

Demos & Workshops Available at Your Club, Home, Office, Party, Etc.
 E-mail: KensBonsaiWorld@aol.com

Ken Huth - 330-896-9800
 P.O. Box 51
 Green, OH 44232
 Qygr For More info.

*** Full Service Florist ***
Flowers for every occasion

Kurtis & Lita Smith

Specializing in
 Bonsai Trees
 Water Gardens
 Handmade Silk Trees

8930 South Custer
 Monroe, MI 48161

(734) 269-2660

www.dundeeflowers.com

Bonsai at Telly's Greenhouse

Experience the Telly's Difference

3301 John R.
 Troy, MI 48063-5656
 Phone: (248) 889-8755
 Fax: (248) 889-8731

Show club I.D. for 10% Discount

**Bonsai Trees
 Pre-Bonsai
 Pottery
 Tools
 Soil
 Wire
 Instructional
 Classes
 & Much More!**