

NEXT CLUB MEETING: February 26, 2014

Andy Duvall, a nationally known - local plantsman and grafter, will speak to the membership at the February Meeting. He will discuss grafting techniques that will be useful for the bonsai artist and list the steps to increase the odds of a successful grafting union with your bonsai. He may not know bonsai, but he does know trees.

TIME TO RENEW 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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AABS LIBRARY

The new librarian, Fouzaan Zafar, has to make sense of the collection of books and other publications in our library. There are a number of items absent from the collection. **If you have a publication belonging to the AABS, please return it.**

JANUARY MEETING

Cat Nelson Discusses Bonsai Pottery

Snow and ice conspired to clog the roadways preventing an overflow of members at the January meeting. The 15 members who braved the trip to Matthaei were treated to a look into the world of bonsai

pottery. Prior to the meeting, six members shared a meal with Cat, welcoming her back to Ann Arbor.

BONSAI POTTERY – BY CAT NELSON

Bonsai pottery is made of a variety of materials that dictates use and value. The quality of the tree is often reflected in the value of the pottery.

- Plastic pottery are valued and designed for training bonsai material but compromises the health of the root systems due to heat build-up and poor aeration of the soil mass.
- Mica pottery, currently produced in Korea, are great for bonsai training and possess an effective insulating characteristic.
- Chinese pottery available at value prices and are attractive. They can be used to display your bonsai but often do not survive freeze damage due to low-fired ceramics.
- High-fired ceramic pottery are often designed for display, they will survive freezing and their price reflects this use.

- Slabs are often of questionable quality due to the production methods and design.



- know what the pottery is made of
- where it came from?
- is it new, previously used or antique?
- are there lime deposits or cracks or chips?



Tom McCue, Bill Struhar, Cat Nelson and Jack Wikle

The cost of pottery is a subjective measurement reflecting your perceived value of the pottery. A buyer should beware.

- Slip-mold produced pottery are generally of lower quality showing no production details on the bottom of the pot other than a sticky label (*made in . . .*).
- High fired/high values pottery can be sourced from anywhere in the world and are often handmade.
- Pottery identified as antique, can only be from China and Japan at this time, these countries are the only long time producers of quality pottery preserved over long period of time.

There are several characteristics that demonstrate the age and value of the pottery. Patina, often seen as a soiled surface, repairs made with pewter and custom-made display boxes are often seen with antique pottery. Again, buyers beware.

Much of what Cat Nelson told us about linking a bonsai to a bonsai pottery can be summarized.

- The width of the base of the trunk can be equal to or less than the depth of the pottery.
- A pottery can appear too massive for the bonsai it holds.
- In broad terms, the width of the pottery should equal 2/3 the width of the canopy.
- A shallow tray-like pottery can be longer than the width of the canopy.
- Be aware that pottery can be too wide of a bonsai.
- Avoid pottery and a bonsai canopy that are the same width.

When linking the color of the pottery to a bonsai, it is important to understand that having the eye of the viewer drawn to the bonsai is most important. The goal of choosing a color is to compliment the tree or an attribute of the bonsai. The pottery should not upstage the bonsai.

Both bonsai and their pottery can be viewed as having feminine or masculine characteristics. Feminine characteristics include gentle curves and soft lines, while masculine characteristics include corners, sharp angles and a massive appearance.

In broad terms, there are several issues to consider. When choosing bonsai pottery . . .

- consider the movement of the branches and foliage.
- consider the texture of the bonsai (trunk, branching and foliage) and the pottery.
- consider a pattern that is found on the pottery that may compliment the bonsai.
- consider the age of the bonsai and the pottery, the age of the bonsai should be greater than the age of the pottery.

In general terms. Pottery is classified by two characteristics, shape and glaze (can be unglazed, glazed and natural).

A formal display system, Gadou Display, developed by a Japanese bonsai artist (Ichiu Yamamoto is the founder of Gadou), can be explored for the formal aspects of displaying bonsai.

Paul Kulesa

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.

If you have a tree, bonsai pot, tool or anything else bonsai related, that you do not use anymore and is still in good condition, consider donating it to the Society. Donated trees or other material will be raffled among the members during our monthly meetings.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2014

February 26 - Monthly Meeting

Grafting Techniques with Andy Duvall

March 26 - Monthly Meeting

Julian Adams discusses pine care

March 27 – Workshop with Julian Adams

April 5 - Saturday Morning Workshop

Repotting & Root Pruning - Members can repot their bonsai with the help of an experienced hand.

April 23 - Monthly Meeting

Greg Afman will discuss, "Bonsai - A World of Contradictions and a Microcosm of Consistency"

May 28 - Monthly Meeting

Michael Feduccia of Florida visits AABS

May 29 – Workshop with Michael Feduccia

June 25 - Monthly Meeting

Jerry Meislik returns to discuss the current state of Bonsai in the country.

June 26 – Workshop With Jerry Meislik

July 23 - Monthly Meeting

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

August 22 - Annual Show Setup

August 23-24 - Annual Show

August 27 - Monthly Meeting

September 24 - Monthly Meeting

Our Annual Auction

October 22 – Monthly Meeting

Vance Hanna discusses Tool care and cutting-edge sharpening techniques

REGIONAL BONSAI EVENTS 2014

May 10 & 11 - Michigan All-State Show Held at the Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, Michigan
Go to: www.wmbonsai.org/index.htm

May 17 - 18, 2014 - 10th Annual Spring Mid-America Bonsai Show Held at Chicago Botanic Garden.
Vendors, workshops and demonstrations.

June 28-29, 2014 - Four Season Bonsai Show
Telly's Greenhouse, 3301 John R. Road, Troy, Michigan

August 15-17, 2014 - 37th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit It is one of the biggest regional shows in the nation at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

August 23-24, 2014 – Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Annual Show Held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor

September 13-14, 2014 - 4th US National Bonsai Exhibit
Held at the Fair Expo Center, Rochester, NY.
This exposition represents the most accomplished level of bonsai in America.

October 4–5, 2014 Fall Bonsai Show – Mid-Michigan Bonsai Club
Held at Van Atta Greenhouse, Lansing, Michigan

2014 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Jay Sinclair
Immediate Past President	Alfonso Tercero
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Recording Secretary	Bryan and Claudia Byrd
Corresponding Secretary	Claudia and Bryan Byrd
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Director 2013-2014	Tom McCue
Director 2014-2015	Aaron Binns

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: Ray Domzalski & Don Wenzel

Nomination Committee:

Show Committee: Ron Milostan, Michael Field and Paul Kulesa.

MEMBERSHIP ISSUES – CONTACT THE TREASURER

Joan Wheeler – Treasure AABS
34660 Fountain Blvd
Westland, Michigan 48185
734-338-2525
AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com

The annual dues are \$25. You may pay your dues, mailing a check to the treasurer or talking with Joan at the next meeting. Please pay by check.

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society: <http://absbonsai.org> and the Mid-American Bonsai Alliance: <http://mababonsai.org>




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

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

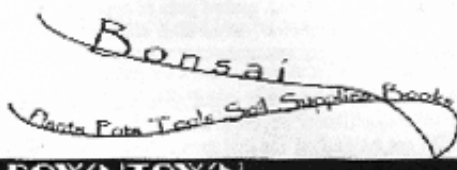
Support Local Bonsai Vendors

Hours: Wed., Thurs. & Fri.; 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Sat., 1:30pm to 5:00pm
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