

NEXT CLUB MEETING: July 23, 2014

At our next meeting, we will have a three-member panel of bonsai artist who will discuss care and design options for the bonsai brought into the meeting by members. If you have questions about a bonsai, any bonsai, bring the bonsai to this meeting and ask the Three Member Panel.



Don Schwartz sought advice for this Bonsai at the July 2012 meeting

July's Tree of the Month, The BOXWOOD

Show & Tell for this month's featured tree, the boxwood, will begin at 6:30 PM until 7 PM. Bring your boxwood to the meeting and share the history, tips on how the bonsai is grown or share tales about your tree. Here's a thought . . . If you have a series of photos showing the progress of your boxwood over time, bring them along.



Boxwood 1996



Boxwood 2012

Any member, who brings this month's Show & Tell tree to the meeting on the 23rd, will receive **one free Raffle!**

Every general meeting will feature one special tree that members can bring for Show & Tell. Each month's special tree will be discussed here, in the newsletter.

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JUNE MEETING

Jerry Meislik's Presentation and Workshop A Summary by P. Kulesa

Jerry Meislik Visits Ann Arbor!



Jay Sinclair, Jerry Meislik and Kurt Smith

Jerry began his presentation with a series of photos showing the progressive development of a ficus gifted to Jerry by David Fukumoto of Kurtistown, Hawaii. Jerry regards this material, ficus natalensis, as one of the top ficus varieties to use for bonsai due to its vigor and incredibly powerful and aggressive root development. Jerry divided this material into five pieces and over the past nine years has developed this raw material into several great bonsai. Allowing the material to grow aggressively and applying sound horticultural and bonsai techniques has lead Jerry to develop five unusual bonsai taken from one tree.

Jerry shared lessons he learned from this experience that can be applied to your growing experience.

- If the material grows well, it can be good material to work with as bonsai

- Select the best part of the tree and work the design of the material to that strength
- You can develop thick roots using a chunky soil mix, the components measuring greater than or equal to ½
- Bonsai development is achieved by a cycle of wild growth, reduction of growth and recovery
- To refine your bonsai, trim and wire to position branches and define branches
- In my opinion, the most dramatic option Jerry offered was, "When you don't know what to do with some material, put it on a rock or make it into a literati"

Jerry has been growing bonsai for the past thirty-seven years and has learned a few things that all who grow bonsai can benefit from. What Jerry has learned and is willing to share may make it easy for you to grow bonsai.

Some material grows well as bonsai and some do not. When you find material that does not grow well in a container, be ruthless and give up on this material. If you insist on salvaging this material, it may survive but never thrive. The time you devote to development will not be cost effective. If you find that, you possess a missionary nature and want to save everything you ever put into a pot, stop right now. Devote your energy to material that grows well in containers.

Soils and Soil Mixes

In Jerry's early adventures with bonsai, there was high annual mortality and unhealthy trees. Rarely did material survive year to year. Somewhere along the timeline of bonsai development, Jerry learned that sifting his soil components, removing the fine particles and dust lead to an immediate improvement in the health of his bonsai.

Fertilizing Bonsai

Jerry has been experimenting with hydroponic plant development and has applied these lessons to growing bonsai.

Basically, fertilizing three times per day produces better plant material than fertilizing once every three weeks. Roots thrive with an ongoing fertilizing regimen and an ongoing exchange of gases. Oxygen diffuses ten thousand times better in a gaseous state than in water. As a result of thirty-seven years of experience, Jerry suggested:

- Your soil mix should be coarse, inorganic and sifted to removed particles and dust.
- You should fertilize constantly with no adverse effect.
- Increase your exchange of gasses using a coarse soil mix.

Lighting

Our bonsai need light to photosynthesize. Photosynthesis is a process used by our trees to convert light energy, normally from the sun, into chemical energy that can be later released to fuel the tree's activities. This chemical energy is stored in carbohydrate molecules, such as sugars, which are synthesized from carbon dioxide and water.

Low-level light for your bonsai is likely to cause long-term failure of your trees. On the other hand, problems attributed to water and watering your trees is likely to cause short-term failure. Can a tree or its leaves receive too much light? Generally, no! Leaves are capable of shedding light of certain wavelengths to protect itself. The delicate maples are notable exceptions. Natural sunlight is available for the using. Limited exposure due to nearby structures and shade trees are elements affecting good exposure.

Bonsai Health

General good health of your bonsai is critical for the development of your bonsai. You should tailor your growing regimen to the needs of your bonsai. Develop a soil mix with a greater particle size (Jerry mentioned 3-4 mm [1/8" – 1/6"]) with minimal organic material, free of dust and fine particles.

The Jerry Meislik Workshop with Clump Amur Maple

Thursday, June 26, 2014

Ten people participated in the workshop lead by Jerry Meislik. Kurt Smith provided the material, field grown clump Amur maple. I was pleased to welcome two participants from the Bonsai Club of Kalamazoo, John Cerovski and Terry Rix.

Jerry was quick to move into the evening program. After the material was selected by individuals, Jerry offered a few opening remarks. His comments are summarized here.

- The clump of trees needs to be welcoming. The individual trees in a clump are viewed as a single unit, forming a unified image of a tree.
- The #1 and #2 branches, the crown and nebari must be welcome the viewer into the composition.
- Deadwood on a deciduous tree is not a long tern good idea. The wood does not survive.
- The foliage mass of bonsai material is roughly triangular is shape. You can make a rough cut of the individual trunks to form a triangular shape forming the foliage canopy.
- You can open up the canopy by selecting vertical growth for removal.
- You have to find that interesting element within your rough material and work to develop that element.
- Problems with your clump can be hidden, shortened or removed.
- The height of individual trees within your clump forms the rhythm or patter in the presentation. Find it and expose this rhythm.
- A general design concept of your clump expects that the #1 branch appear 1/3 of the height of the composition from the soil surface. Branching on the lower half of a multi-trunk composition should not cross each other.
- In general terms, simplify the structure and remove the growth that is too long or too tall.



Michael Field & Jerry Meislik



John Cerovski and Jerry Meislik

U-M MBG – Bonsai Garden Bonsai Challenge Matches Dollar for Dollar

Jerry Meislik not only shared his own progress in bonsai over the years in his June 2014 program for AABS, he launched a new initiative. He challenged the bonsai community with a dollar-for-dollar matching gift to endow the ongoing care of the bonsai and penjing collection at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Jerry and Rhona, who already seeded the bonsai garden endowment fund last year prior to the garden's opening, will donate up to \$10,000 to match gifts that are given or pledged before November 25th. To qualify for the match, gifts or multi-year pledges must be a minimum of \$500.

The endowment specifically funds the care and maintenance of the collection. The endowment goal is \$800,000, which will fund a half-time horticulture specialist, materials and visits with leading bonsai practitioners for direction on artistry and health. Currently Matthaei has raised nearly 25% of that goal, about \$167,000.

To make a gift now, go to...

<https://leadersandbest.umich.edu/find/#/env/mbgna/bonsai>. Make a pledge or for more information, contact Matthaei Development Director Gayle Steiner, gayles@umich.edu or [734-647-7847](tel:734-647-7847).

LAST MONTH'S RAFFLE WINNERS:

Tom McCue:	Special Hand Pump Sprayer
Peggy Kubitz:	3 small pots
Leslie Olsen:	Golden Bonsai Tree
Mary Ebert:	Hand-painted Lois' scroll

FOR SALE OR WANTED:

Ads in the Newsletter: 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.

Donations to AABS: 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.

Prizes for the Raffle: We are soliciting donations suitable for prizes to be raffled during each general meeting, and, for the Annual Bonsai Show Raffle. Please see Bill Struhar at any meeting, or Email at BillStruhar@michiganderpots.com, or call (586) 468-7169.

Club Logo Now Available: We will embroider the club logo on your garment for \$10 (plus a modest additional charge for lined garments). The logo comes in two forms; light green tree on dark green background, or dark green tree on light green background, with a silver border on both combinations and AABS lettering in appropriate contrasting color, depending on garment color. Bring your garment in a clear plastic bag to a meeting, select your colors, pre-pay Bill Struhar, and your garment will be ready one or two meetings later.
(The vendor requires a minimum of 5 garments per order)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2014

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

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.

September 28th – The Art of Bonsai at MSU’s Hidden Lake Gardens, Tipton, MI. There are a variety of events, art inspired by bonsai, bonsai show, bonsai bazaar, and a chance to interact with experienced growers in Ask the Artist and Intro to Bonsai

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

2014 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Jay Sinclair
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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: Cyril Grum

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
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Visit us on the Web:

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

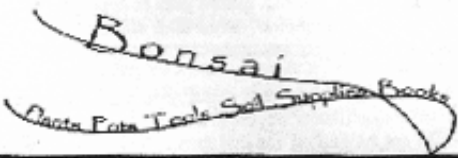
Support Local Bonsai Vendors

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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