

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2018!

You will find the February meeting minutes included in the President's Perspective this issue.

Tyler Sherrod will demonstrate the styling of a bald cypress at our next Ann Arbor Bonsai Society meeting, Wednesday, March 28 from 6:30-9:00 at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Tyler has studied with Boon Manakitivipart in California, and apprenticed with Shinji Suzuki in Japan. He currently operates Dogwood Studios in North Carolina. The following day, March 29, Tyler will direct a Juniper Workshop featuring Procumbens Juniper, *Juniperus procumbens*.



Tyler with a tree about to be worked on

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Ron Milostan

Our February meeting was great with 40 plus in attendance. There was a short discussion about having coffee, drinks and snacks available at our monthly meetings. This discussion ended quickly with little or no interest to the attending members. If anyone out there wants to organize this – let me know.

At our March 28th meeting all interested attendees may place their name in the hat for a free spot in the March 29th Juniper workshop with Tyler Sherrod.

Also anyone with 5 or less years' experience in Bonsai can enter the drawing for a free spot in the Grand Rapids All State Show workshop taking place on May 12, 11am, at Meijer Gardens. This workshop will be a Shohin design using a Green Mound Juniper. Beginners in attendance at the March and April AABS meetings may enter their name in the drawing each month.

Remember to pay your 2018 dues now. Also remember to bring in any donations for the raffles and Show and Tell trees to get a free raffle ticket.

Well, I am now sitting looking out the window at 8 inches of wet heavy snow. It is still falling. Its March 7th 11am. I have moved several of my trees indoors and back outdoors and back indoors several times over the past two weeks. So much for getting a head start on spring with early wiring and pruning. Sure, I started some buds early

but I am not sure that it has been worth the hassle. Having to spend the winter at home this year, I just got restless, like way too soon. So be patient spring is going to come soon. Your trees are in no hurry. Don't forget to check the 4 Seasons Club roster. Lots of speakers and events happening this year.

Carlos Diaz 2015 trip to Japan

Chris Kehrig

Carlos Diaz : Professor of Photography at Center of Creative Studies 2015 Summer Trip to Japan

Not many of us in the club have been to Japan. Carlos went to Japan while on sabbatical. He flew out of Toronto which afforded his wife and him to fly first class, especially since it's a 13.5 hour flight. He noted that the buildings are large complexes that much time can be spent in. The people are friendly and respectful even without knowing the language. Mass transit is fast and very clean. The bathrooms are clean and have multiple functions for the toilets.

Part of Japanese culture is not to introduce yourself, but to have someone introduce you. When dining in Japan, most restaurants have the food on display or shown in pictures. Detail, order, and aesthetics are all part of the dining experience. Manhole covers have the cherry tree on them. The trees are planted and pruned for their specific location.

Majority of religions fall into Shinto, which is majority younger, and Buddhism which is older. The shrines command respect from all, especially tourists such as removing shoes.

Mt Fuji is the tallest peak at 12,338 feet. Carlos and his wife stayed in a Ryokan, which is a small family run hotel, near the base of Mt Fuji. People climb the mountain and stay in various places on the way up. The ultimate goal is to reach the summit for the sunrise. ¾ of Japan is mountains which leads to the population density.

When visiting a private home, shoes are always removed and a gift should be given to the homeowner. Movable screens separate open areas and windows are used to bring the outdoors in.

Shopping in Kyoto consisted of many small vendors in one location. The sushi is very fresh. At one restaurant, it is ordered and comes out on a conveyor belt. If it passes too many times, it is scrapped due to lack of freshness.

A 1400 yr old Ginko tree stood with vertical braces to hold up the branches. Foliage is quickly swept, picked up in the gardens.

They visited many monasteries including Nijo Castle built in 1603. Was originally a Shogun residence. It consisted of 2 castles and 3 gardens. Inside there is a total of 3,000 paintings with 900 of great importance. The Japanese garden has many stones that are located by how the spirits tell them to place. Careful rock and tree placement looks very natural and is hard to believe it's man made. The lanterns are to show enlightenment.

In small town and villages, a car is a sign of wealth. The temperature was above 90 degrees with 90% humidity. A washcloth is carried to wipe the brow. Everything is planted in pots.

Bathing is done sitting down. Hot tubs that were either outside or looked outside were in all of their rooms. One room overlooked the Uchi river which was roaring at high water and closed down the park access.

They visited the Omiya Bonsai Village. 100 trees in the collection that are rotated. There are trees in the non-formal area are allowed to be photographed while the formal area can only be shot from inside the viewing building.

The gardens are often wetted down for visitors to show the color of the rocks and foliage. Early in the morning is the best time to visit the shrines due to lower temperature and less people. They visited the famous Golden Temple with a zen garden that is meant to nudge the mind from mundane to higher consciousness.

The bamboo forest was dense with varying sizes of trees. The stone path trails are placed unevenly to keep you aware and remind the visitor to follow the path. Colored stones and boulders are highly prized and given as gifts.

The Katsura Imperial Villa was the most beautiful. It requires a lottery system to tour. The gardens were immense and had purposeful viewing spots. A bridge is for leaving one world and entering another.

He concluded with how much he would like to return to take in all of the seasons.

Tyler Sherrod **Peggy Kubitz**

Tyler Sherrod will present at our March meeting. You should be excited! Immerse yourself in his YouTube videos, blog, or his journey through Wyoming and you will truly be looking forward to listening to his expertise. I particularly enjoyed his trip to Wyoming and his work at Backcountry Bonsai. He walks you through the creative process of preparing a masterpiece from raw material harvested in the wild. After watching, you will agree he is an amazing bonsai artist. A side note is that you will be tempted to head for Wyoming straight away! However, Tyler did not come by his expertise without a lot of hard work and dedication.

He was born in Hickory, North Carolina and attended the University of Tennessee with a major in philosophy and cinema studies. He worked at the Bonsai Learning Center in North Carolina where he was captivated by bonsai, and continued his studies with Boon Manakitivipart of Bonsai Boon in the Bay area of California. Boon must have recognized his talent and suggested an apprenticeship with Sinji Suzuki in Obtuse, Japan. Sherrod studied for five years, receiving a professional certification in the spring of 2016 from the Nippon Bonsai Association. His experiences included preparing both conifer and deciduous trees for Japan's top competitions, often winning recognitions and awards in a highly competitive environment.

Upon his return to North Carolina, in June 2016, he established Dogwood Studios and continued to work with professional bonsai artists throughout the country. His mission is to elevate the level of bonsai in America. He proposes that bonsai can reflect the vast and evolving landscape of America.

You can watch a beautiful video of his trees at dogwoodstudiosnc.com.

At tylersherrodbonsai.wordpress.com you can walk through the details of preparing a masterpiece for Kokufuten submission and his thought process. I was moved by

his goal in making a tree appear, "so fresh and so clean, yet natural and untouched." Isn't that an inspiration for all of us in creating bonsai?

Remembering Lois Vorrath **Jack Wikle**

It has been saddening to learn of the Friday, January 19, passing of Lois Vorrath whose thirty-three years of support, make hers one of the longest active memberships in the history of our Ann Arbor Bonsai Society.

Always enthusiastic and energetic, Lois was not only a good bonsai grower, she was an outstanding home landscape gardener, and an accomplished painter of natural scenery and other subjects.

However, most members will remember her as the ceramic artist who handmade an impressive variety of bonsai pots which she used to vend not only at local club meetings but at national level bonsai events.

Many of us will now be cherishing, even more, our Vorrath pots and our memories of the lady who constructed them.

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.

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. 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. Please see Bill Struhar at any meeting, email Bill at wm.struhar@mail.com or call (586) 468-7169.

Club Logo Now Available: we will embroider the club logo on your garment for \$12 (plus 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 border on both combinations and AABS lettering and Chinese characters with appropriate contrasting color depending upon the 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 may require a minimum of five garments per order)

2017 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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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: Bob Bauer

Nomination Committee:

Show Committee: Ron Milostan and Paul Kulesa

Annual Auction: Paul Kulesa

Membership dues are \$25. Please pay by check, written to Ann Arbor Bonsai Society or bring your credit card to the meeting and pay! AABS now accepts credit cards for membership fees and other AABS activities. Please talk with the Treasurer at the next meeting.

Tamara Milostan – Treasurer AABS
4228 Highcrest Dr.
Brighton, Michigan 48116

AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com

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

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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