

**July monthly meeting (Wednesday, July 25, 6:30 - 9 PM) with Mark and Becky Hanner**

Mark and Becky will discuss bonsai containers and the art of pot making, including a demonstration of pot making techniques. More info in the July Meeting preview article.

**Get ready for our Annual Show Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.**

It is that time of year again to start thinking about our Annual Show!! First you should be picking out a tree to show, giving it special care and prep now. The Show is Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be raffles, demos, bonsai vendors and workshops!!

Frank Mihalic from Wildwood Bonsai Garden will be the guest artist and will conduct the critique on Saturday night. On Sunday from 10-12 Frank will be doing a jewelry workshop. More about the jewelry workshop later in this issue.

There will be sign up sheets for help on set up on Friday and sign up sheets for ticket takers for both Saturday and Sunday. Also a sign up sheet for the Saturday night critique. [The sign up sheets will be at this month's meeting.](#)

We will be having our Bonsai for Kids class again on Sunday morning.

It takes a lot of work and we need lots of help, it is your club's show so please get involved.

Kurt Smith  
 Show Chair

President's Perspective	pg. 1
July Meeting preview	pg. 2
June Meeting review	pg. 3
Boxwood Blight	pg. 4
Jewelry Workshop information	pg. 5
Up For Debate	pg. 5
Club Information	pg. 6

**PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:  
 Ron Milostan**

Recently I posted a picture of a juniper to our AABS Facebook page. This juniper sat in my car for 2 hours with 90 plus degree temps outside. The picture shows a large amount of brown foliage dying on the top, almost the complete apex. The top was near a slanted window since this was a hatch back. Another tree, a cedar, had a small amount of tip burn at the top. This tree was in the back seat away from windows but was still burned from the high temperature in the vehicle near the interior roof. Leave nothing living in a closed car on a hot day. Along with that thought I hope most of you are watering in the morning before you get off to work and when you get home.

With these hot temperatures, even a wet pot can overheat. Protecting trees from direct sun as much possible can also be helpful. These hotter conditions force us to pay more attention to our trees. Over and above just watering each day, I also have had to watch each area and pot as to its water content.

Ok now let's talk show time. Start prepping your trees for the show. Start removing dead pieces, ugly wrinkled leaves, older larger leaves and debris. Cleaning the pot and top soil layer now will lessen the amount of work at the last minute. Clean and prep your accent plants and mosses. Replace ugly wire with fresh so your tree has a

neat appearance. Especially allow time to treat for insects well before show. I have been treating for spider mites more than usual. Trees in the show smelling of chemicals are not appealing so do your maintenance early.

---

## July meeting preview

### Paul kulesa

Mark and Becky Hanner are members of the AABS since March 2015. They have contributed their time and labor to many of the programs and activities of our club including our annual show, the annual auction and AABS sponsored workshops.

Mark and Becky began making pottery twenty years ago, taking classes at the Flint Institute of Arts for a dozen year. Becky and Mark have been making bonsai and companion plant pots for ten years and built a pottery studio in 2013. Their studio is where the magic happens, where they design, build and fire their pot. What makes their pots valued by the bonsai community is that containers are fired to a *cone 6* and are vitrified, meaning – they will survive harsh Michigan winters. Mark and Becky produce pottery for the bonsai community and offer them for sale at various events and accept commission work.

Inspiration found in Becky and Mark's pottery can be seen in their love of gardening. In addition to being members of the AABS, they are members of several hosta societies and collect succulents.

At the July monthly meeting (Wednesday, July 25, 6:30 - 9 PM) Mark and Becky will discuss bonsai containers and the art of pot making, including a demonstration of pot making techniques. In addition, the program will take a look at different broad types of pottery production for bonsai pots, with a few photos of the wheel-thrown style, and a demonstration of two different hand-built styles, which people in the workshop might want to do the following day.

On Thursday, July 26, Mark and Becky will lead a workshop in pot making. Participants will complete one to two slabs, trays or Kusamono pots. Different glaze and finish options will be discussed and participants will select the finish for their trays and pots. The Hanners will fire the pots produced in the workshop at their studio and return

them to workshop participants. The workshop cost is \$65 and limited to 8 participants.

Here are some examples of their work:



You can contact Mark for inquiries and commission work at [mhanner@aol.com](mailto:mhanner@aol.com).

---

## June 2018 AABS Notes

### Chris Kehrig

Bjorn was provided with a Colorado Blue Spruce from the Flower Market. Kurt was not sure of the tree's age, but was collected ~year ago. Bjorn mentioned that it was likely collected from "the Fin" which is a rocky area with water running underneath that helps develop flat roots.

He first looks at the tree from the center and is quickly able to decide how to style the tree. Bjorn mentioned about identifying the good features that will be accented and the bad ones that will be hidden. He starts with the Sashi-Cda which translates into the lowest directional branch. Starting at the base, he looked at the features to come up with the front. The lower trunk had some curvature that at one viewing angle created a pigeon breast to avoid. The tree also had a small 2<sup>nd</sup> trunk that mimicked the apex of the tree. He mentioned it could be joined later.

Bjorn works his way up the tree from the base. He eliminated everything not necessary and kept it longer in length for Jin creation. A blowtorch can be used on the Jin to age it. He noted that the tree was leaning away, but he would lean the apex towards the viewer.

Branches should be curvy but have a straight centerline to create the mean. He eliminated the heavy branches and kept the soft growth. About 60% of the foliage was left. Bjorn sees the movement, directionality, and deadwood within 30 seconds. He mentioned that the tree would be show worthy in 3-4 years. Most of the foliage was easy to bend and took abuse.

Bjorn used copper wire as conifers are relatively slow growing. The wire may be able to stay on 3-4 years as opposed to deciduous trees that start to grow into the wire within a couple of months. Spruces tend to spring back, so some bite in is OK. Aluminum is good for deciduous since it will come off sooner. While wiring very quickly he tried to crush as few needles as possible and would remove bits of foliage for his wire to route. Bjorn mentioned the wire comes from the trunk outward. The branches were bent down with the end foliage bent upwards to create pads and to better receive light.

For the pot, Bjorn mentioned that it should be long / shallow / narrow front to back. The color should be dark greyish to accent the bark.

When he was a apprentice, he mentioned that you do what the teacher says to. His own style came after completing the apprenticeship.

Bjorn, is building a nursery near Nashville and he will be hosting an open house Sept 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup>. He doesn't see taking on any apprentices. More information can be found at [bjornbjorholm.com](http://bjornbjorholm.com) to see his schedule and sign up for courses. He also hosts tours of Japan.

Here are a few photos from the May meeting, provided by Michael Field:





**Boxwood Blight**  
**Paul Kulesa**

Leaf spots caused by *Calonectria pseudonaviculata* - Photo by Sandra Jensen, Cornell University, Bugwood.org



Black stems caused by *Calonectria pseudonaviculata* - Photo by Sandra Jensen, Cornell University, Bugwood.org

Boxwood Blight is a fungal scourge that has devastated the landscapes of Europe. It is incurable once contracted and nearly always fatal to the plant, though it can be managed with very expensive, continuous, anti-fungal protocols. No cultivar of Boxwood is immune, worse yet, some cultivars can act as asymptomatic carriers of the disease giving rise to a "typhoid Mary" scenario. Below you will find 2 attachments thoughtfully provided by the Chicago Botanic Garden, as well as additional links on boxwood blight. The first is a fact sheet from the University of Illinois with general information and instructions on how to gather samples to test your plants for this disease. The second is a thorough examination of the disease from the botanists at Virginia Tech including a breakdown of cultivars by their level of resistance to the disease.



Leaf spots caused by *Calonectria pseudonaviculata* - Photo by Sandra Jensen, Cornell University, Bugwood.org

Additional information can be found at the below sites. Copy and paste the address into your browser.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5498b357e4b0efb497ebd0f6/t/592640863a04114633e6a2a1/1495679131005/UniversityOfIllinois-BoxwoodBlightFactSheet.pdf>

[https://wiki.bugwood.org/Calonectria\\_pseudonaviculata\\_\(boxwood\\_blight\)](https://wiki.bugwood.org/Calonectria_pseudonaviculata_(boxwood_blight))

---

## **Frank Mihalic – Jewelry Workshop** **August 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 12 noon**

Frank is one of only a handful of 2nd generation bonsai artists in the USA. He grew up under the watch full eye of his father Bonsai Master Tony Mihalic who started in Bonsai in 1946. So Frank has been immersed in Bonsai from Birth. The only vacations they had were Bonsai conventions, where he started vending at the age of 10. Always interested in Bonsai and Jewelry his talents crossed over from his Bonsai trees to Bonsai Jewelry.

Studying Jewelry making at the Revere Jewelry Academy in San Francisco CA, And in Torre Del Grecco, Italy. He teaches Bonsai and Jewelry workshops all over the world. Frank and his Father own and operate Wildwood “Bonsai” Gardens in Chardon, Ohio, USA. (Wildwoodgardens.com)

For the Jewelry workshop...“Participants will create their own sterling silver bonsai pendant under the guidance of bonsai artist and custom jewelry maker Frank Mihalic.” Design and carve your pendant out of wax at the workshop, then Frank will take your carving home and cast it into sterling silver. All materials are provided, including mailing of your finished pendant to you within a couple of weeks of the class.

Cost for the workshop is \$100 limited to 8 people. You must pay to hold a spot.

See Frank's work on his website... [www.frankcustomjewelry.com](http://www.frankcustomjewelry.com)



---

## **Up For Debate** **Aaron Binns**

### **One Big Tree**

I am going to start this month's article with a grandiose statement: Bonsai is about trees. Deep right?

My parents used to pack me into a car every summer and then lug me from place to place all over the country. I loved it. And it was good for me. I know a lot of folks that wouldn't find a family driving vacation appealing but it is really one of the best ways to learn about our country. My fondest memories of my parents are from some of those vacations. My wife and I have made it a priority to do the same thing for our children. This year we headed down to South Carolina to relax on a beach and to see some of the sights in and around Charleston. A good time was had by everyone and I got to see trees. I saw swamp Cyprus complete with Spanish moss and large live oaks. The most impressive of which was a tree called the Angel Oak. One of the pictures I took is below. The tree measures 66.5 ft tall and has a trunk circumference of 28ft, so it's big. Real big. The tree is in a free park on John's Island outside of Charleston. And according to the information they have there the tree is thought to be somewhere between 400 and 500 years old. The web site suggests there have been debates about the age of the tree and some have speculated that it could be as old as 1500 years. If they use the same technique to age this

tree as most bonsai artists use (a blatant guess) then who knows. It's old, bottom line.



So what does the Angel Oak have to do with bonsai? Remember my lead in sentence; Bonsai is about trees. What I found interesting about this large old tree is that it has followed the same rules of growth we contend with in Bonsai. Which direction do you think is South in the picture above? South is to the right and rear of the tree. See how the majority of growth faces the side of the tree that is toward all day sunlight? The branches here are so heavy that they have drooped and touched the ground on that side of the tree. However, on the shaded side of the tree the branches are still reaching for the sky even though they are almost as big as the branches toward the right. Why? Because the branches on the left side had to work harder to get to sunlight, reaching up for hundreds of years to reach beyond the shade. This mammoth tree was formed based on the exact same rules that drive bonsai growth. Neat huh? The next time you get frustrated about not being able to adequately control the growth of a tree in your collection, think of the Angel Oak and the true scale of the forces you are trying to control.

---

---

## **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](mailto: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)

---

## 2018 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President ..... **Ron Milostan**  
VP/Program Planner ..... **Jay Sinclair**  
Treasurer ..... **Tamara Milostan**  
Recording Secretary ..... **Chris Kehrig**  
Corresponding Secretary ..... **Bob Bauer**  
Newsletter ..... **Don Wenzel**  
Publicity Chairperson ..... **Mark Hanner**  
Show Chairperson ..... **Kurt Smith**  
Directors ..... **Peggy and Barry Kubitz**  
Director ..... **Aaron Binns**

---

## AABS AD-HOC COMMITTEES

The AABS President is an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Nomination Committee.

### *Visit us on the Web:*

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

### Support Local Bonsai Vendors

**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](mailto: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>

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



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](mailto:KensBonsaiWorld@aol.com)

Ken Huth - 330-896-9800  
PO. Box 51  
Green, OH 44232  
Over For More info.

Bonsai at

## Telly's Greenhouse

*Experience the Telly's Difference*

3301 John R.  
Troy, MI 48063-5656  
Phone: (248) 689-3725  
Fax: (248) 689-4730

Show Club I.D. for 10% Discount

Bonsai Trees

Pre-Bonsai

Pottery

Tools

Soil

Wire

Instructional

Classes

& Much More!



\* 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](http://www.dundeeflowers.com)