

It's September and that means it's time for our annual auction.

The schedule and details are described in the September Auction information article following the President's Perspective.

The People's choice winner from our show.



This is the larch forest that belongs to Matthaei.
Photo by Jay Sinclair

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***PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:
Ron Milostan***

What is the difference between keeping a plant wet or keeping a plant moist? Watering, watering, watering. Every day, every two days, once a week??? I am going crazy. It rained today, do I water? How much did it rain, how long, how hard? Scream! Scream! Scream! Here are two of my experiences in watering.

All of my trees were well draining. I had no organic in the soil mix. I was using a turface and lava rock mixture: 2 parts T to one-part L. I watered every day and all was well. Then I switch to Haydite and lave rock. Same results. Trees were happy, I was happy.

Then Mirai came to be an obsession with me, these were new Bonsai thoughts and techniques. Maybe not really new but certainly different. And they were presented by a Master of Bonsai. The technique I tried was to put a light layer of moss on the surface of all my pots. This would lessen the evaporation of moisture near the top of the pot and would also encourage the trees to grow roots closer to the surface then before.

This all sounded good. I continued my regular watering every day just like before the addition of moss. Now, many trees were acting like they were not happy and others seemed just fine. This method did seem to help a bit with

my smaller pots but my larger, deeper pots were just too wet. This technique hurt my pines and junipers more than it did my deciduous. What I learned was that changing one part of my growing technique and treating all plants the same did not work.

It happened again when I started to study the growing of azaleas. Azaleas need a new soil mixture called Kanuma from Japan which is a Medium grit with no additives. I also put Japanese produced moss on top to help with moisture and this moss is acidic, unlike the Canadian moss. To water, using this set up, you watch the surface - when the top of the Kanuma goes from yellow(moist) to white (dry) you water. Well that did not work well for me. Every two days the top was drying and so I watered. The trees started to lose leaves – they turned brown and dropped off.

I quickly went to the internet and read everything I could find on azaleas. My search has led me to feel that azaleas do not like wet and moist is best. Now I had to determine what was moist and what was wet for an azalea.

Well, its really knowing what the water needs are for an azalea. These plants grow their roots near the surface so there is a quick intake of water, then they want to remain moist so as not to dry out the roots. The total volume of water over a week could be about an inch. I reduced my watering and all are now beginning to recover. Now I need to watch and see just how much water is needed per different pot size.

The point of this article is to say that when trying new or different techniques in Bonsai, be careful and adapt slowly and only try with a few plants. Jumping whole hog into something new is not always the way to go. Your environment and your growing methods should be dictated by the plant not the technique. Each area in a growing zone is different. Air movement, sun intensity, humidity levels, amounts of rain are all localized. Go slow and watch each plant for its needs, do not focus on what others are doing or saying so much that you try to copy their technique to the detriment of your trees. I speak from experience.

September Auction information

Paul Kulesa

AABS Auction

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Held in the Auditorium at MBG

This is September and that means the return of our annual auction for bonsai and bonsai related items. This is a great opportunity to lighten your stock of bonsai containers, bonsai, pre-bonsai and all sorts of bonsai related materials. The corollary is that there will be plenty of bonsai and related material for you to purchase at this auction.

All members are invited to offer bonsai and bonsai related items for auction. Offering items for auction is reserved for members of the club. Of course, you are welcome to bid on items at this auction. The auction is in two formats, a silent auction and the live auction.

The success of our auction depends on assistance provided by our members. If you can help with the administration of the auction, contact Paul Kulesa at kulesap@gmail.com

In broad terms, the auction schedule is found below.

- 5:30 PM Setup of the auction floor space - setting up table and chairs.
- 6 - 7 PM Registration of Buyers, Sellers and auction items.
- 6:30 PM The Silent Auction begins.
- 7:00 PM The business meeting begins (10-15 minutes).
- 7:15 PM The Silent Auction resumes.
- 7:30 PM The Silent Auction wraps up and the Live Auction begins.

When the live auction wraps up, payment for auction purchases will begin. The treasurer will accept your credit card for payment, along with a check and US currency. There are no provisions to accept payment for purchases prior to the conclusion of the auction. To eliminate the crush of purchasers wishing to pay *right now*, buyer will be called in succession by their Buyer ID Number, starting with #1.

Additional information and forms will be delivered by email.

Rocky Mountain Juniper Styling with Mark Fields

Chris Kehrig

Tree was bought from Andy Smith 4-5 years ago at the Chicago show. Age of the tree at that time estimated to be 75 years old. The tree to me was surprisingly small for the age at ~18" above the soil. It had very healthy blue green foliage. Mark had this tree in mind for the specific purpose of a styling demo. Any tree that has heavy work done on it such as this should go in the shade for a couple of weeks and be misted a couple of times a week. After this, the tree can go slowly into full sun.

The tree had very flexible branches and extended growth showing great potential for styling. It had a lot of deadwood along with the vein of the tree. Mark's soil combo is Akadama, Pumice, and Lava rock. His first action to the tree is to eliminate any small branches that will not be used for styling.

Mark has been practicing Bonsai for 50 years. He started at the age of 9. He has had multiple trips to do some 5 week apprenticeships. The days are long and 7 days a week. There is no tipping in Japan. There was little interaction while working on the trees. He learned mostly during the critique of the tree after completion. They do not provide big trees to start, instead, you wire up some small trees to prove your experience.

He uses organic fertilizer starting first of June such as Green Dream and Biogold monthly. He likes to put the fertilizer in tea bags that he gets off of Amazon. The foliage receives a spritzing of Miracle Grow once a week.

Mark uses copper wire 90% of the time. The general rule is 1/3 dia of the branch with Copper and 1/2 dia with aluminum. He wires from the bottom up and inside out. He keeps his fingers on the last bend of wire to keep it tight and so that he is bending the wire, not the branch. He wires all winter and mid summer.

The Rocky Mountain Juniper Mark was working on was difficult to determine the front with 2 good viewing angles. As he was wiring from the bottom up, he took a guy wire to bend down most of the foliage that would

become pads. He was careful to put the guy wire under deadwood on the bottom and around a wire on the top.

Wire should be 1.5 times the length of the branch. The pads get worked from the bottom up. The apex gets treated like a small tree. Mark does not like to remove many branches especially on an older tree without much foliage.

Mark completed the tree on time with fantastic results.



Photo by Michael Field

A Note from the AABS Board

Your AABS Board members have been working behind the scenes by email on a number of items this year. In the first week of October the Board will have its first in person meeting to discuss some important issues that are too difficult to discuss by email. On the agenda so far is the review of the By-Laws, a review of the financial records, and a review of Board Positions. If there is anything of concern that you as an AABS member would like for us to

discuss be sure to contact a board member and let them know so that it can be added to the agenda. You can also contact the President by email with any suggestions – Milostanronald@comcast.net

Up For Debate

Aaron Binns

Reporting from the National Show

I have just returned from attending the U.S. National Exhibition in Rochester New York. I have personally never seen a better assembly of trees. The great majority of the trees on display were as close to perfect as you can be in this art. The displays were fantastic as well. I was particularly impressed by several displays entered by the Montreal Botanical Garden. They used paintings as backdrops to their trees with absolutely stunning results. Art supporting art. I loved it.

What I enjoyed more than the display trees was the vendor area. I spent the bulk of my time roaming the tables looking for items that would fit into my personal collection. At the end of the day I had purchased two largish pots from an artist I have not seen before and two pre-bonsai: an azalea and a black pine. I have purchased styled bonsai in the past but I almost always prefer to buy something that I can develop myself. I like my trees to have my fingerprints.

I encourage everyone to make the trip. The next show is in two years so you can start making plans today. The drive can be comfortably made in about 7 hours if you pass through Canada and 8 hours if you take the U.S. route. You can do it much faster if you are one of those folks with an abnormally large bladder and don't mind skipping a meal or two. The show lasts two days but I'm not convinced that you need to be there for both days. I went for one and that was fine.

The last take away I will give is that the bonsai community is a relatively small one. Attending nationals only confirmed what I had suspected; our little club is really fantastic and Michigan really is a hot bed for bonsai. Two club members (Cyril Grum and Jack Wikle) displayed trees and two of the vendors were locals as well (Kurt Smith of the Flower Market and Linda Ippel of Linda Ippel Pottery Studios). We also had no less than nine members in

attendance. There were times I thought I was chatting to folks in a club meeting.

I also have a new found appreciation for our club's show. Our show may not include dozens of trees that are more than a hundred years old but we really do have great artistry and variety represented in our member's trees. If you did not display a tree in our show this year let me encourage you to correct that mistake next year. I understand that it can be intimidating to show your trees for the first time but it is a great way to grow as an artist. Our show isn't judged because we want all of our members to enter and a judged show may increase the level of intimidation. You will never look at your trees with a more critical eye than when you prepare it for a show. Use that as an opportunity to plan for future improvement but don't look at your trees so critically that you chicken out.



A photo from Mark Fields workshop last month.
Photo by Michael Field

A few photos from our show. Tree photos by Jay Sinclair,
The Kids Workshop photo by Michael Field.







A note from the President:

I have set up a paypal account for AABS. We can now accept any payment from paypal, charge cards (swipe, chip, and NFC) Apple Pay, Google Pay, and other NFC payments. I will have this Printed and displayed at the Auction and all Meetings.

FOR SALE OR WANTED:

**FOR SALE - SET OF BONSAI TODAY ISSUES 1 THRU 47
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**We would like to sell all issues together as a set.
To make offer please contact 734.433.9773 or email
charris@provide.net**

**If interested we will bring them to the Sept 26th
AABS meeting or arrange a convenient time to
review them.**



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)

2018 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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VP/Program Planner	Jay Sinclair
Treasurer	Tamara Milostan
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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.

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>

<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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