



The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the U-M-Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Please join us at 6:30 PM to meet friends and members. Program starts at 7:00 PM.

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>  
[AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com](mailto:AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com)

**January 2021**  
Volume 18 Issue 1

## **January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting – Andrew Robson to present Fall/Winter Deciduous Work**

The first meeting of the year will take place Wednesday, January 27th beginning at 6:30 on Zoom with a half-hour informal chat. The formal meeting will begin at 7:00 with Andrew Robson presenting “Fall/Winter Deciduous Work”. This will be a Powerpoint presentation followed by a Q&A.

Winter is the best season for deciduous study. After leaf drop in autumn is the optimal time to access where a deciduous bonsai is and where it needs to go with its development and maintenance. While most deciduous bonsai work happens in the growing season, most deciduous bonsai analysis happens in winter silhouette. This presentation gives strategies for how to study our deciduous bonsai in winter, how to access where they are and where they need to go. Additionally, we’ll study deciduous bonsai aesthetics, the different forms, and combinations of branch patterns, and the differences between trees, shrubs, styles, and approaches. As always, we’ll conclude with a deciduous bonsai Q&A.

Andrew Robson is an emerging deciduous artist in the American bonsai community. Andrew recently completed a 3-year apprenticeship with Michael Hagedorn, after graduating from Yale University. Andrew serves as a member of the Portland Bonsai Village, and has previously served as a board member of the American Bonsai Society. He currently exhibits work at the Portland Japanese Garden, and regularly lectures at the garden’s Japanese Arts Learning Center. Andrew and his family are currently building a deciduous-focused bonsai garden, school, and nursery, RAKUYO-en, just outside of Portland, Oregon. While some conifers hang around RAKUYO, the overwhelming focus is on deciduous bonsai.

Zoom meeting information will be published prior to the event.

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## **PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE: Mark Hanner**

Greetings! Hoping everyone, and their trees, made it through 2020 in good form; it has been a challenge for us all individually, and as a group accustomed to ‘real’ meetings, and has served to remind me not to take things for granted. We are fortunate as a group to have people with so many varied talents and ideas, which enabled us to provide some Zoom meetings, and socializing of a different sort, to keep our friendships, and our learning, growing. My thanks to all who helped our club deal with the pandemic-induced changes this past year, and going forward.

On that note, you will have likely seen the notice about our January Zoom meeting coming up with Andrew Robson. While we don’t normally meet in January, ‘normal’ doesn’t seem like a constraint we have to accommodate. Jay Sinclair, our program director, has been busy through the year to put another fine schedule together for 2021.

While we were able to enjoy a virtual show last August, we weren’t able to make as big a deal about the club’s

50th year as a bonsai club as we were hoping. If the new year brings success dealing with the pandemic, the board is continuing to look at a celebration of this big accomplishment. In any event, dozens of members have gotten their 50th t-shirts and polos (thanks again, Bob Bauer, for your great design work!); there are still a few left, in limited sizes and colors, available on our website.

The executive board is meeting next week to work on future plans, and we have already had a couple suggestions for future meetings- thank you! If you have an idea for a program, or speaker, or could do a program for the club, please pass your ideas along to one the board members. Looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

Mark

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## 2021 Upcoming Meeting Events

### Jay Sinclair

In addition to this month's meeting, here is the lineup for February and March –

February 24<sup>th</sup>

Carmen Leskoviansky  
Seasonals Part 2 and Bonsai Display

March 24<sup>th</sup>

Ghazi Zouooui  
In Depth – (Pines)

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## Notes from October's meeting

### Chris Kehrig

AABS Elections and Winter Storage discussions

Election for board members and Zoom coordinator went through 100%

9 different winter set ups were discussed:

**Ron:**

- 8 x 12 plexiglass greenhouse purchased online from Costco for \$600
- Keeps 6 inches of sand on the bottom with low in ground heating
- All trees go on the ground in the sand

- Mainly used to keep pests out of trees
- Still fairly new to Ron = Jack suggested painting the window pains to reduce heat

**Mark:**

- Started with a 20 x 48 hoop house that some length has been removed
- Used to be topped with visqueen, but the cats shredded it
- Length went down to 32 feet with polycarbonate panels
- Big Max propane heater set at 32 degrees for heat and 50 for vent fan
- Larger pots go on the ground and smaller on the shelves

**Bob:**

- His inspiration came from Hidden Lake Gardens
- 8 x 8 box with Styrofoam enclosure around the border to close off within pull barn
- Peat goes in the bottom with trees tucked into

**Jay:**

- Straw bails get stacked up 2 bails high to create an enclosure
- Peat fills in the middle for trees to tuck into
- Boards go on top to close off
- Traps set up for critters, but has not been a problem

**Ken:**

- Was not online to narrate
- Large hoop houses covered with milky plastic over them

**Dana:**

- 4 different areas used per tree type
- The tropicals are inside with a fan/humidifier/and light for 4x4 area
- Lights are set up for 14 hours on / 10 hours off
- The hardier trees are in the garage and kept at 40-45 degrees

**John:**

- Cold frames – started with 4 and down to 3
- Wood construction with opaque plexiglass doors on front facing north
- Floor is sand and wire
- Insulated around with oak leaves

**Justin:**

- Outdoors, tucked into 3 corner area of house facing south
- Board in place to hold in mulch and leaves

**Chris:**

- Indoor trees brought into 4 season room off back of the house
  - Moderate trees – Alzalea and Redwoods are in the attached garage
  - Outdoor trees lined outside along north east corner of garage with mulch and leaves
-

## Membership

### Will Faison

Greetings from Membership!

One day, we will all meet again in person, admire each other's trees, and be awed by the newfound delight in seeing facial expressions. Despite the uncertain beginnings this year as far as in-person events, we will be enacting dues again for 2021 as we ramp up pursuit of Zoom events, workshops, and guest speakers.

Dues can be paid via paypal on the AABS website ([link here](#)), or checks can be mailed to our new treasurer, Katie Norder. Her address is below. I would encourage members to pay via PayPal however, as that will streamline the process, especially as we continue to navigate everything remotely and electronically.

Katie Norder  
Attn: AABS Membership  
13143 Hadley Road  
Gregory, MI, 48137

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## Bonsai Heresy by Michael Hagedorn

Club members may be interested in this new book now available by Michael Hagedorn. The following introduction to the book is an edited version of the one found at [stonelantern.com](#), one of many places you can purchase the book.

Bjorn Bjorholm bonsai artist and educator, who like Michael Hagedorn apprenticed in Japan wrote...

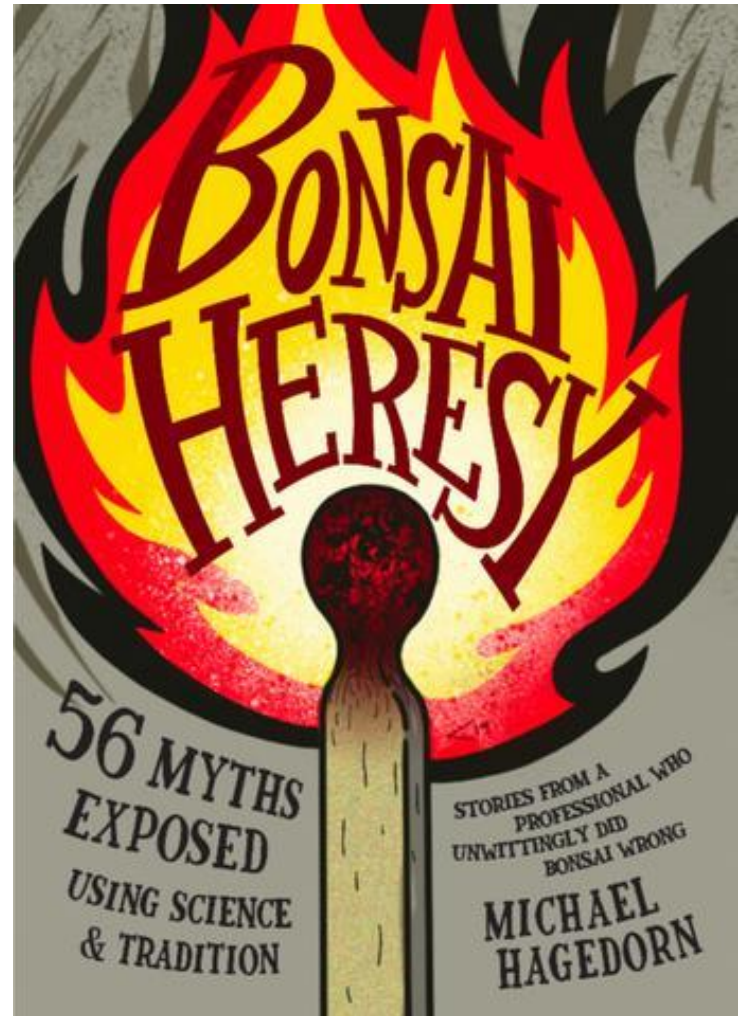
"Not only does Michael dispel long-held bonsai myths, but he wonderfully weaves personal, often self-deprecating anecdotes into the mix. Well written, deeply researched, and perfectly timed, Bonsai Heresy is a must-read for every bonsai enthusiast."

Michael Hagedorn has long been our go-to source for accurate and clear advice when it comes to bonsai and bonsai related questions. His skill and depth of knowledge, as well as his on-going innovation in the art of bonsai,

place him among the very best of our North American bonsai artists, teachers and, needless to say, authors

Michael apprenticed with bonsai master Shinji Suzuki in Obuse, Japan from 2003-2006 and now resides and practices bonsai in Portland Oregon, where he founded his Crataegus Bonsai garden and the Portland Bonsai Village. Michael is also the Bonsai Consultant for the Portland Japanese Garden, teaches classes to students from around the world at his garden, and blogs weekly at [www.crataegus.com](#).

Michael's first book Post-Dated: the Schooling of an Irreverent Bonsai Monk has long been a favorite and in our opinion is the best bonsai read in the English language... at least until Bonsai Heresy



Bonsai Heresy: Paperback, 5" x 7" 360 pages, color illustrations by Sergio Cuan

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**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)

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## 2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President ..... Mark Hanner  
Vice President ..... Jay Sinclair  
Past President ..... Ron Milostan  
Recording Secretary ..... Chris Kehrig  
Show Chair ..... Kurt Smith  
Treasurer ..... Katie Norder  
Communications & Marketing ..... Bob Bauer  
Membership Coordinator ..... Will Faison  
Newsletter Editor ..... Don Wenzel  
Director - Webmaster/Zoom Coordinator Laura Andre  
Director – Publicity ..... Dana Hermann  
Director ..... Aaron Binns

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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

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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 and paypal for membership fees and other AABS activities. Please talk with the Treasurer at the next meeting.

Katie Norder – Treasurer AABS  
Attn: AABS Membership  
13143 Hadley Road  
Gregory, MI, 18137

[AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com](mailto:AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com)

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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  
 CLOSED: Sunday, Monday & Tuesday

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