

February 24th meeting – Carmen Leskoviansky - Seasonals Part 2 and Bonsai Display

On February 24th, Carmen will share insights from her second year attending Michael Hagedorn's Seasonal Workshops. She traveled to Portland, Oregon 4 times to experience each of the seasons and learn about bonsai care. She will also discuss the aesthetics of bonsai display.

Carmen earned her Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from Michigan State University. She began working at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum in 2009. She is a Collections and Natural Areas Specialist and oversees the care of the bonsai collection.

The meeting will be presented via Zoom and will begin at 6:30 pm. The program will begin at 7:00 pm.

Zoom meeting information will be published prior to the event.



Carmen was interviewed by Bonsai Wire last month – here's the link -
<https://www.bonsaiwirepodcast.com/1276571/7426084-chat-with-carmen-leskoviansky>

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Mark Hanner

Greetings –

While I have struggled with motivation, and some underlying low-grade depression, through this pandemic like many others, a bright side occurred to me here today in the depths of a frigid winter. One of our work-arounds to the shutdown has involved using Zoom for our meetings, and board meetings. What a great concept, and a way to hold meetings and see our bonsai friends while maintaining safe practices during the pandemic. And for us, living nearly 90 minutes from our Matthaei Botanical Gardens meeting site, it means not making a long, cold drive late at night! Now that's a win for technology!

Our plans are still up in the air for the latter half of the year, and we are hopeful we will see a return to in-person meetings, especially for the August annual show. Whether it's virtual, or at MBG, we are looking for someone to apprentice with Kurt Smith, our Show Coordinator, with an eye to filling that spot in the future. Please be thinking about whether this is the opportunity you've been looking for, to help the club with a fun and rewarding activity.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon, for Carmen Leskoviansky's presentation on the 24th!

Mark

Notes from January 27th meeting with Andrew Robson Chris Kehrig

First ever January meeting

Meetings will be virtual through first half of year at least.

Aaron Binns has family/work obligations that will keep him off the board. Thanks for the many years provided!

Our presenter via Zoom was Andrew Robson from Portland who studied under Michael Hagerdorn. His focus for the presentation was Winter Deciduous Bonsai.

Winter provides a special time to see the whole tree and it's possibilities. This is not the best time to work on the tree IE no pruning or wiring due to thinner skinned than conifers. What winter does provide is an ideal time to analyze your trees.

Andrew mentioned that a tree can be viewed 2D and 3D. Regular photos with a plain backdrop provide a 2D snapshot in time.

While winter is not an ideal time to work on trees, it is a good time to plan for future activities such as wiring and trimming. He uses pipe cleaner on the branches to mark future trimming branches. Good time for silhouette study with structure exposed providing temporary beauty.

Winter is also a good time to admire one of Andrew's favorite topics: Natural vs. Abstract. A Natural look has no extreme taper, upright branches, and rounded crown. Abstract is the opposite with heavy taper, fatter trunk, branch pads, and more triangular appearance. There is no wrong or right, just different, but he is biased more towards Natural looking trees. Some trees are a mix of the two. Shonin is difficult to have a natural look given the smaller scale. They can also be in a brighter pot.

Silhouette Line Study – More natural to have branches of different lengths.

Thick Trunk vs. Thin Trunk – Large Trunk / Large Nebari will have longer branches. A thinner trunk will have shorter branches.

Different Crown Styles – Upper 1/3 of the tree. The trunk line can end in multiple branches or follow a line up to the top.

Single vs Multi Trunk – A multi trunk Spruce will look like 2 different trees, but a deciduous will grow to look like another. Multi trunk deciduous will branch out much like a single trunk.

Tree vs. Shrub – Hackberry is a tree example. They will grow taller than wide. Shrubs grow more horizontally, often with multiple trunks and a simpler movement.

Clump – Multi stemmed usually with different caliber trunks. The Japanese Maple is an example that has crossing branches and open spots that make it look more natural.

Old School Study – Looking back at old photos/books can show similar styles to today. One interesting picture Andrew had shown was a very wide pot with a single tree to provide a very natural looking setting.

Case Study on a Corylopsis Evolution. Deciduous are like a 401K in that they take time to mature. They are not field collected like evergreens for age. Planting in a larger box can help invigorate a tree.

Japanese Maple example – 2D not that interesting. Andrew air layered a branch to the nebari of the 2nd trunk to provide new interest and balance.

Quince – chopped down the nursery stock which forced the branches into various patterns.

Box question – made from cedar fence material in 5/8" thickness. Gain extra 2 to 3 years out of cedar over other woods.

Andrew can be reached at: www.rakuyobonsai.com

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

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...

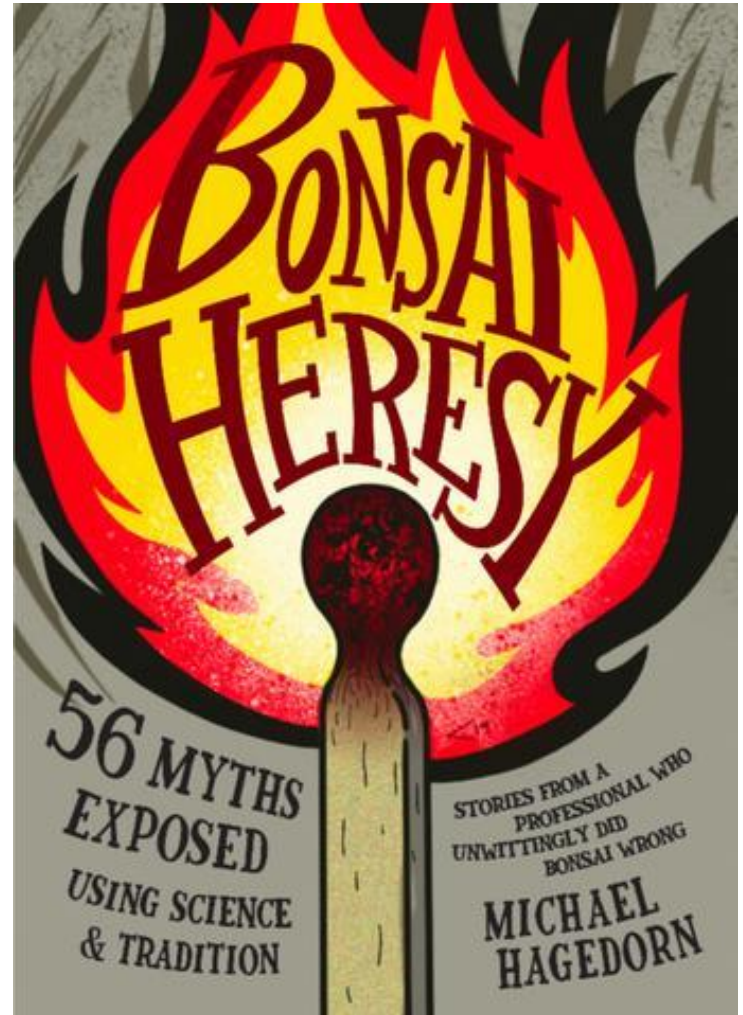
"Not only does Michael dispel long-held bonsai myths, but he wonderfully weaves personal, often self-deprecating anecdotes into the mix. Well written, deeply researched, and perfectly timed, *Bonsai Heresy* is a must-read for every bonsai enthusiast."

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

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)

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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 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, 48137

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>



Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
 1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9741


Visit us on the Web:

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

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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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