

## **March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting – Ghazi Zouooui presents Pines as Bonsai: Horticulture and Techniques**

The March 24th meeting of the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society will be presented via Zoom on Wednesday the 24th. The program will feature Ghazi Zouooui.

“I have been a student of bonsai since 1993, when I was gifted my first tree”, said Ghazi. “I fell in love with the art right away. I was, initially, self-taught. I read all the books and magazines and watched all the videos I could get my hands on. Today, after the scores of trees that passed through my hands, I still consider myself a student of bonsai. I am now employed at the Flower Market where I practice bonsai as a profession and further my learning through the many workshops and demonstrations given by visiting artists. My favorite trees to work with are juniper, pine, yew, boxwood, mulberry, linden, elm, and cotoneaster. I always enjoy teaching bonsai and sharing what I know with others who might be interested.”

The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm. The program will start at 7:00 pm. Zoom meeting information will be shared on the Monday prior to the Wednesday event.



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

Greetings –

Mother Nature may still play with us, as the early growing season progresses, but it sure is nice to enjoy spring weather in early-mid March. It does prompt the annual question/ritual, when can we put out trees out for the year? Do we shuffle them around to catch the gentle weather in daytime, and back into storage for sub-freezing nights? No easy answers, of course, as we all have different winterization practices. It does add to the sport, though, and gives us something to think about while we are considering what’s in store for a tree this year.

After visiting The Flower Market for open bonsai studio, and talking with Ghazi about a couple trees, I’ve been working on some wiring and styling; not as elegant as some of our members’ work, but it’s good practice, and nice to get hands-on with the trees again.

With the advent of spring, we are looking ahead to future meetings, and getting some hands-on sessions and workshops planned; thank you, Jay, for continuing to work

out the details (stay tuned). Looking forward to seeing you all again, and sure hope it's this year!

Mark

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## **Notes from the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting with Carmen Leskoviansky**

### **Chris Kehrig**

2/24/21

2<sup>nd</sup> AABS Bonsai Meeting

Yearly dues are due – they can be paid through PayPal on the website or a check can be sent in.

Next meeting to be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> with Ghazi (pronounced Razzi) from the Flower Market.

An apprentice is needed to follow Kurt for the annual show.

Our presenter for the evening was Carmen Leskoviansky who will be moving in May to Portland to start her apprenticeship with Michael Hagedorn.

Carmen covered The Seasonal Year for 2019. She started off Winter with repotting and how to wire in the root ball. They explored the top ¼ inch and tried to discover how root bound the Yamadori was. It was angled within the box with screws added to the root ball to keep in place. The next tree they were assigned to was to be mounted to an old cowboy spur which required a muck ball to mount on the horizontal spur.

In Spring, June timeframe, it was time to remove the flowers off the Azalea. They trimmed and wired it also. Azalea requires work throughout the year unlike a traditional evergreen. Carmen's team also wired up a large Juniper with fine wire. The tree had lots of deadwood on top of the tree and appeared old.

In Summer, there was a concentration on displays. The art of combining stands with the existing trees and accent plants.

In Fall, it was time for Winter prep with defoliation. They had to find the front on a Yamadori Ponderosa Pine and discussed with Michael for agreement. They wrapped plastic bags around the trunk to protect the tree while working on it.

Next, Carmen covered the art of Keido which is the art of display. The main display is a 3-point display which consists of a far view element - Scroll, a near view element - Accent, and a focal element – the actual Bonsai. The display should be set in the current season or possibly the approaching season. Keep it subtle IE if a flowering bonsai, then have a non-flowering accent plant. Everything should harmonize and have some tension.

There are 3 different styles, Shin which is formal IE old and strong, Gyo which is semi-formal, and Soh being informal IE young and delicate.

Looking vs Viewing involves the artsy right brain vs. logical left brain. Looking is the feeling and experience of the tree. What emotion does the tree provide? Viewing involves ratio and balance of the tree. We then looked at various display pictures to provide our opinions.

Pots play a large role in providing harmony with the tree. Shin, Gyo, and Soh are also used for different pot styles. Rectangular, unglazed pots fit into the Shin and round glossy pots fit into the Soh category. Gyo is a hybrid of the two. Color of the pot should take an element of the tree. We looked at multiple examples to figure out which category they fit into.

Stands are an extension of the pot. There is formal vs informal and they should complement the tree and not overtake it. The color of the stand can match the pot. Carmen recommended going through exhibition books and try to find one element and then another before looking at the entire composition.

Accents can be organic or non-organic and should also compliment the tree. It can be a statuary, mud people, or seisuki.

The scroll provides a backdrop that should tell a story without being too obvious. They can display the season or a place.

All of this can be contained in a Tokonoma which is an open box display alcove. They tend to have straight lines and often incorporate wood and fabric. The design elements should come together to create an emotional, well tied together display.

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## 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.

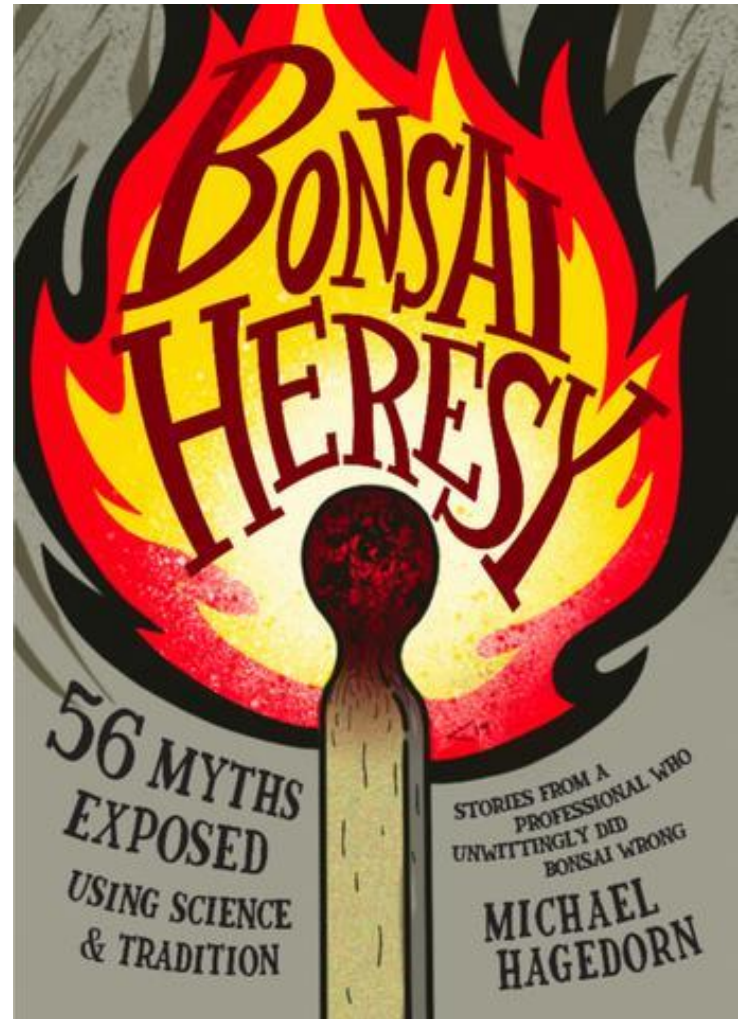
Bjorn Bjorholm bonsai artist and educator, who like Michael Hagedorn apprenticed in Japan wrote...

"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](http://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](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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## 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, 48137

[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>

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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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