

June Meeting: Chris Baker at the Chicago Botanic Garden

At our June 22nd meeting, Chris Baker will give us a virtual tour of the Chicago Botanic Garden. It will be a zoom meeting and will be held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

In April 2014, Chris Baker began work as the first full-time curator of bonsai at the Chicago Botanic Garden, where he maintains approximately 175 bonsai trees.

Baker has been studying and working on bonsai for more than 13 years. Previously, from 2011 to early 2014, he was an intern and volunteer at the United States National Arboretum's National Bonsai and Penjing Museum in Washington, D.C. As an active member of the Maryland bonsai community, Baker gave many demonstrations and talks at the Potomac Bonsai Association Spring Show in Washington, D.C., as well as to garden clubs. Baker spent six months in 2012 studying bonsai with third-generation bonsai master Tohru Suzuki at the Daijuen Nursery in Okazaki, Japan.

Baker has always had an interest in horticulture, but his introduction to bonsai started with his purchase of a bonsai juniper as a gift for a friend. When asked why he is so passionate about bonsai, Baker says, "Bonsai is a representation of the beauty and power of nature; it's the perfect mix of artistry, horticulture, and mechanical skills—it's living art."



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President's Perspective Mark Hanner

Greetings

What a fine presentation we enjoyed last month by Young Choe, telling about and demonstrating the art of kusamono! The workshops the following day were well-attended, and resulted in some real nice plantings. My thanks to all who helped with these events. It would be great if some of these kusamono find their way to our annual show, coming up in late August.

Speaking of the annual show, I'm hoping you are all planning to enter a tree or two, or your kusamono, so we have a nice representation of the talents in our club. While mature and 'finished' trees are always nice to see, for those of us with less experience, it's good to see what you're working on. And for our visitors to the show, I believe it helps for them to appreciate everyone can get involved in the art, and learn as they progress to those mature examples.

If you have not already registered for the auctions involved with the Jack Wikle Bonsai Legacy, be sure to go to the link (<https://paybee.io/@jack@17>) and get signed up. The online auctions have already started, and preparations are well underway for a big auction, and birthday celebration, at Hidden Lakes Garden on July 9! Volunteers are still needed and encouraged to sign up for

this unique event in the bonsai world. Email me, or see Bob Bauer at the next meeting.

Hope to see you all at the June meeting!

Mark

May meeting notes

Chris Kehrig

Kusamono presentation and demo by Young Choe

It is a special arrangement of native flowers and plants in a bonsai pot or moss ball.

She thinks about the entire season when creating an arrangement for best color show.

Young was first introduced to Kusa Mono by Keido Yamane in Japan.

It is considered a combination of horticulture and art.

Native plants such as the Michigan state flower: dwarf lake iris should be used.

Mostly outdoor plants with small leaves are used.

The plants should be grouped as all sun loving or shade preferred.

They can be displayed along bonsai trees and should follow these rules:

- Seasonal effect
- Proportion
- Harmonize
- Habitat
- Maintenance

Identify the bonsai species and examine the environment where they grow.

Research the plants that grow near the tree for kusamono creation.

Moss is also an important part of the kusamono creation.

It is among the first plants on earth and has no roots.

For the demo:

Soil = ½ bonsai soil and ½ potting soil with a bit of horticultural charcoal.

Pot = find the front and place grid in bottom.

Start with soil on bottom, then grass, iris, rest of plants, more soil with chopstick and moss.

Winterization should take place in an unheated greenhouse or garage.

Spring is a good time for planting.

Then Young Choe created a moss ball variety.

Start with the screen and wire thoroughly.

Muck and plants with wire around.

More muck, trim mesh and add moss with thin tread around.





Membership News

Becky Hanner

Be sure to keep your newsletters coming, by renewing your dues for 2022. You can visit our website, and use PayPal, or see me at a meeting, where we can take a credit card, or send your check to: Membership, 10414 Oak Rd., Otisville, MI 48463.

Thanks so much!

It's a PARTY!!!



SAVE THE DATE: July 9, 2022.

Jack Wikle 90th Birthday Celebration and Auction at Michigan State University's Hidden Lake Gardens, Tipton, Michigan

Jack will be donating the balance of his personal bonsai collection and related items for this auction, with all proceeds to benefit the Jack Wikle Bonsai Legacy Fund. Jack's donation will be supplemented by bonsai and related items donated by supporters of this sale seeking to promote this art form. All donors will be publicly recognized for their contributions. Sale items will include bonsai, bonsai stock, bonsai pots, tools, display stands, turntables and other equipment. Dozens of bonsai books, bonsai magazines dating back to the mid-sixties, photos of bonsai, paintings and other bonsai themed artworks will also be sold. Unique to this sale are the gold-plated "remains" of two small bonsai, still in their original pots. Jack's collection of dozens of frog-representation art pieces will also be sold.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HELP: DONATIONS OF AUCTIONABLE ITEMS ARE INVITED IN SUPPORT OF THE JACK WIKLE BONSAI LEGACY FUND.

For the most up to date information on the Celebration visit: https://jackwiklebonsailegacy.com/?page_id=1087

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)

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 Lita Smith
- Membership Coordinator Becky Hanner
- Newsletter Editor Don Wenzel
- Director - Webmaster/Zoom Coordinator Laura Andre
- Director – Publicity Dana Hermann

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>

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
 Please Call First



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