

**May Club Meeting: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Bring Your Own Tree. Do not miss it!!**

## APRIL MEETING MINUTE REVIEW

By Madelon Takken

Minutes from April 26, 2006 meeting:

Thirty-four people were present.

Brandon Harook showed us some miniature trees he got from Jack Wikle about a year ago and they are flourishing.



Brandon Harook, with wonderful mame-bonsai. A rising bonsai star!

Jack W. brought a flowering quince

and said it will flower every year. Louise brought in a Rain Tree with delicate leaves that fold each night.

Clive Taylor brought in a Full Moon Maple started about three years ago. Kaz, a new member, brought in some plants to raffle off. Luciana brought Brazilian coffee and cheese bread.

Hugh Danville took over for the heavy pruning demonstration. This beech has been in a pot for four years. It was repotted in 2004 where the roots were very solid.



This wonderful tree beech was used in the heavy pruning demo. It was acquired from David Levitsky which in turn acquired it from George Randall who collected the tree himself more than 20 years ago.

Hugh thought reshaping needed to be done and he considered moving it to the center of the pot. He wanted to make a sharp slope to the left and let the right get thicker.

George Randall suggested that asymmetry would be effective. He said that beech is a determinate grower that is hard to bonsai. We discussed how much cutting would be safe. Jack Wikle felt that as long as you have buds it's safe to cut. Hugh wants a smaller tree with better taper.



Connie Bailey showing where pruning and cutting had to be done to improve the overall style of the tree.

He isn't certain what leaf structure will be like. One member stated that he had pruned a beech heavily and that it came back and Hugh said the tree healed well from previous prunings.



One happy Hugh with his prized possession

He will be bringing it back next year to complete the learning process. A discussion ensued whether Connie should cut into the branch or cut the branch off. Then we discussed whether she should cut even or leave a stub. It was suggested that it was best to cut even. Connie decided to leave stubs. One very large branch had to be

sawed off with difficulty. Wiring is planned next year.

Next, the root cutting was tackled. The roots have grown right to the edge of the pot. Because the roots are constantly producing, they need to be cut back to invigorate the tree.



Many members helped during the root pruning and repotting of this promising beech tree.

Connie and Hugh began to cut off the hair-like roots and several members came up to help. The final result was dramatic and striking.



The same pot was prepared to receive the tree after it was filled with coarse bonsai soil. Here Connie is waiting for the tree to be ready. We hope to see this tree again as it recovers from this styling.

**Inside this Issue:**

*AABS Spring Workshops*.....2  
*Michigan All State Winners*.....3  
*Sakura Bonsai Society*.....4  
*Photography Tips (Cont)*.....4  
*For Sale or Wanted*.....7

## AABS SPRING WORKSHOPS

### APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> ~ DECIDUOUS FOREST OR CLUMP WORKSHOP

Many members signed for this workshop which was a great experience for all.

There were three options to chose from: Korean Hornbeam with a bundle of 10 trees, Japanese Beech with a bundle of 5 trees and Chinese Quince with a bundle of 5 trees.

The following images are from this workshop and it shows that even with small bonsai stock, our imagination and creativity were in line to create future works of art.

Thank you to all attendees for your participation and support.



Hugh assisting Joan Overmire to create her forest



Cyril working in one forest for our new member



Robert Bishop's creation at the end of the workshop

### APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> ~ LARCH FOREST WORKSHOP

This workshop was intended to replace trees from existing forests created in past Larch workshops or to create new forest's groups.

Once again we thank to all participants for attending and creating a very casual and productive workshop.

The following photographs were provided by Michael Simmons. Thanks Mike!



Everybody busy at work!



Robert Bishop working on his forest under the guidance of Jack Wikle, who is always present to lend a hand or to give knowledgeable information about the trees and their care.

We are very fortunate to have many great mentors in our club such as our President Bill Heston, who is also always willing to help anyone at anytime



At the end everybody had one nice forest that with some wiring and care, will turn out to be a great bonsai in the near future

### MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> ~ MARCO INVERNIZZI WORKSHOP

By Jerry Peters

#### 6:30 PM PROGRAM

Italian artist Marco Invernizzi is a talented bonsai artist who has become a sought-after-bonsai artist. Marco started his bonsai education under the tutelage of Salvatore Liporace. Later, Marco traveled to Japan and undertook a three year apprenticeship with Mr. Mashiko Kimura. Marco works full-time as a bonsai artist and now travels the world doing professional work for collectors, nurseries, clubs, and organizations. Ann Arbor Bonsai Society was honored to have Marco at the clubs May 4th workshop.

This is the writer's second workshop attended. I travel from Rochester to Ann Arbor club meetings. Traveling East to West across our state, at five o'clock, and with current road constructions, tests one constitution. I arrived late for our meeting to find Marco working with ten or so bonsai artist and their trees. There were several club members who observed only the proceedings.

Some of the Marco's workshop comments observed:

- Fasten that tree solidly to the pot
- Cascade left, cascade right, cascade center, (sounded like a dance), I know what I (Marco would do), but it is your tree, so you decide which design you want to live with.
- Threw a towel at an observer for some screwy comment.
- Turn this branch into a jin. Make the jin rough not smooth to look like its old.
- Wire entire tree
- Tree has a good trunk, wire each small 3/32" round, hair like, branch, and let it grow out for several years, (laugh). Point each branch in various directions, (bad hair day), after grown out decide what to do with the tree.

- Grown man spending more than an hour pulling conifer needles with a contented smile on his face.
- Marco to a club master bonsai artist, strip bark off trunk in this area, pause, ok!. Who has a knife?, cut, cut, strip, beautiful!!, do more of it.
- I (Marco), like this cotoneaster styled as a raft and want to take the tree back to Italy. No comment from the trees owner, then Marco proceeded to make recommendations as to branch locations, and nipped and cut here and there.

Marco conducted a casual, feel at ease workshop. I am sure each bonsai artist will remember their individual time with Marco as a learning experience. I sure will.

## MICHIGAN ALL-STATE BONSAI SHOW

By Jerry Peters

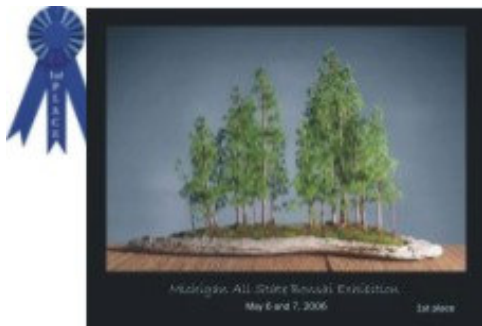
**MAY 6<sup>TH</sup> AND 7<sup>TH</sup>**

Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park.

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Club was well represented thanks to Jack Wikle and Robert Bishop's bonsai display set up.

People's Choice Awards went to:

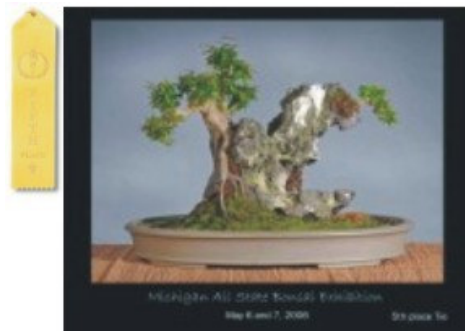
**First Place** to Bill Heston for his Eastern Larch (Tamarack Forrest)



**Second Place** to Jack Wikle for his Firethorn Pyracantha Coccinea



**Fifth Place** to Clive Taylor for his Acer Palmatum (Japanese Maple)



*Congratulations to Bill, Jack, and Clive for your awards and to all others who displayed trees*

These are some of the other winning trees in the show (for space reasons we can't show all of them).



**Third Place**



**Fourth Place**

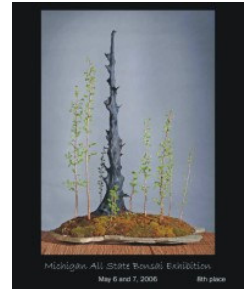
**Tenth Place**



**Fifth Place - Tie**



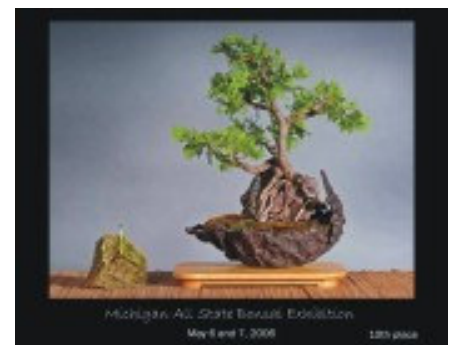
**Seventh Place**



**Eighth Place**



**Ninth Place**



## SAKURA BONSAI SOCIETY OF NORTHER MICHIGAN PRESENTS: A BONSAI WEEKEND WITH COLIN LEWIS

The Sakura Bonsai Society of Northern Michigan has invited AABS members to A Bonsai Weekend with Colin Lewis on the weekend of June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. A description of the meeting and a registration form is attached. The meeting will take place in a new facility, so anyone who plans to attend should call the Bette Valade at (231) 263-7759 or Carol Carpenter at (231) 946-2658 as posted on the bottom of their announcement.

### Sakura Bonsai Society of Northern Michigan A BONSAI WEEKEND WITH COLIN LEWIS

Please sign me up for a 'Bring Your Own Tree' Workshop with Colin Lewis. Participants will provide their own tree, tools and wire. I prefer:

\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006      \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Please print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Registration and payment must be received by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Cash, check or money orders are accepted.

2006 Membership fee \$20 (Optional)	\$ _____
Workshop – Member Cost \$50	\$ _____
Workshop – Non Member Cost \$60	\$ _____
Workshop – Observer (Mem-free, Non Member \$5)	\$ _____
Demonstration (Mem-free, Non Member \$5)	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Check or money order should be made out and sent to:

Bette Valade Ph. 231-263-7759  
4609 West Harrant Road  
Buckey, MI 49620

Exhibit and all events will be held at:

Hagerty Center ( Just east of downtown Traverse City)  
715 East Front Street Ph. 231-995-1146  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
For questions call Carol Carpenter at 231-946-2658 (evenings) or send email to: [mago01@chartermi.net](mailto:mago01@chartermi.net)

Sakura Bonsai Society of Northern Michigan  
presents  
**A Bonsai Weekend with Colin Lewis**  
Experience bonsai at its best on beautiful Grand Traverse Bay at the Hagerty Center in Traverse City

Public Bonsai Exhibit  
Saturday - June 10, 2006 9 AM to 5 PM  
Sunday - June 11, 2006 10 AM to 4 PM

Visit Colin's website at <http://www.bonsaiforum.com>

Exhibit	Members	Non-Members
Workshops (limit 6 participants in each workshop)		
Bring Your Own Tree - Colin will assist each participant in designing, shaping and bringing out the best in the tree you have chosen to work on!	\$50	\$60
The workshops will be held on Saturday and Sunday morning. You must be pre-registered and paid by June 1 to reserve your place in a workshop.		
Silent Observer - a great opportunity to watch Colin at work assisting 8 people with their different species and styles of trees. An invaluable experience. No pre-registration needed.	Free	\$5
Demonstration - Colin will choose one of several specially prepared trees to demonstrate his skill, style and techniques on. No pre-registration is necessary.	Free	\$5
Benefits of Membership - Sakura is a non-profit organization dedicated to the appreciation and enjoyment of bonsai. For only \$20 a year we offer:		
Collection Trips	Workshops	
Demonstrations	Exhibits	
Newsletters	Special Events	
Education	Club Store	
Library		
Join now and take advantage of the free and special rates available to members at this event!		

## PHOTOGRAPHY TIPS

### How to take better pictures of your bonsais

By Carl Bergstrom

This is the continuation from last month's article in how to improve your photographic skills when taking photos of your bonsai.

#### Tip 3: Shoot from a tripod.

To get a crisp, sharply focused image, you'll do best by shooting from a tripod. This is particularly important in that it will allow you to take the longer exposures necessary for small apertures (higher F-stops) as we'll discuss below.

A tripod is of limited value if you jostle the camera while pressing the shutter. To avoid this, get yourself a cable release or a remote shutter-release. They're inexpensive and they make a world of difference. If for some reason you can't use a remote release, experiment with using your camera's timer, or with shooting bursts of 3-5 shots with a digital camera or motor drive. The movement that you cause when depressing the shutter will dissipate somewhat by the time the later shots in a burst are taken.

#### **Tip 4: Create depth of field and minimize distortion**

Under most circumstances, you'll want the entire tree to be in focus: the leaves or needles on the front branches, the bark at the base of the trunk, the back branches, the pot, even the stand. To achieve this, you need to maximize the depth of field that you are able to achieve. You can do this in two ways:

1. Shoot with as small of an aperture (as large of an f-stop) as possible. As you go to smaller and smaller apertures, you get a broader zone of focus - but this comes at the expense of letting less light into the camera and thus requiring longer exposure times. Hence the importance of shooting from a tripod as discussed on the previous page.

2. Shoot from relatively far away with a relatively long lens. For photographing bonsai, I get good results using a 70mm lens on my D70 digital SLR; this is the equivalent of using a 120 mm lens (short telephoto) on a regular 35 mm camera.

You get an additional advantage when shooting with a slightly longer lens. As you go from a shorter lens to a longer one, you can increase the camera-to-subject distance without increasing the field of view. As a result, you get a better (less distorted) perspective. When the distance between camera and subject is small, as when using a 50mm lens, parallel lines appear to converge rapidly into the distance. When the distance between camera and subject is larger, as when using a longer lens, parallel lines appear closer to parallel in the image. This is usually preferable for bonsai photography.

#### **Tip 5: Prepare your tree properly**

When you photograph your tree, you are exhibiting it. Whether you are taking pictures to share on the internet, to enter in a contest, to publish in a magazine, or to hang on your wall, you should take the care to show your tree at its best. Basically, you should prepare your tree as if you were preparing for a show. This is much too involved a subject to treat fully here, but a few initial suggestions include the following:

- Wipe down the pot with a damp cloth to remove splashes of mud and other debris.
- Put on a clean layer of top-dressing or add moss to the soil surface.
- Remove any weeds that have sprouted.
- Trim stray and out-of-place shoots.
- Make sure your wiring is as tidy as possible.
- Place the tree on a display stand if possible. Take care with the overall image, not just the tree.

The basic principle is simple: Respect yourself, your tree, and your audience enough to take a few minutes to present your bonsai properly.

Preview your photographs. If you are using a digital camera, go check your photographs on the computer before taking down your photo setup. I always do this --- and almost always find at least one thing that I want to correct and re-shoot.

Camera height. Set up your display so that you are photographing the tree head-on, directly from the front. The camera should be level with the lower trunk, so that the soil surface is just barely visible. The first picture below is taken from too high (and in the wrong season, and in distracting direct sunlight.) The second picture shows the same tree photographed from the proper height. This tree is part of the Pacific Rim collection.

Too High



Just right



### Tip 6: Provide a visual baseline

The eye is accustomed to seeing natural forms in the context of a full landscape. Trees and flowers and grasses are all grounded by a visual baseline that is provided by the horizon. Under most circumstances, bonsai and kusamono photography will be more successful when they too provide a visual baseline to ground the subject.

Look at the picture below: the (already unattractive) hosta appears to be floating in a black void.



Adding a stand or base helps a little bit. But the now that stand, along with the planting, appears to be floating



Here I've allowed enough light to fall on the cloth under the stand that it provides a baseline. I prefer this look.

A tatami mat - as is the standard in the Kokufu show albums - would probably be even better, especially if the backdrop was other than black.



Tips 7 & 8 will be included in the next month's edition and will be the last part of this article.

Extracted from Cark Bergstron's article, with permission from the author. For more details visit: <http://octavia.zoology.washington.edu/bonsai/photography/CrowsGuide.html>

## MAY CLUB MEETING

By Alfonso Tercero

Our next meeting is Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup> with the open session to bring your own tree and have other AABS members critique it.

I know it sounds harsh, but if we truly want to improve our trees sometimes we need another set of eyes to detect faults or to commend our work.

Our club has always provided honest and knowledgeable opinions about other member's trees and this meeting will not be an exception, be prepared to bring your tree as you would to prepare it for an exhibition:

- Pinch unnecessary growth as needed
- Remove old moss and apply new fresh moss (optional)
- Clean up your pot with soapy water (be careful not to touch the tree nor the soil mix)
- Removing wire is not necessary if the tree is still being trained

Above all, we encourage you to participate. Not all of our trees are finished mature specimens, if you have young material, bring it to the meeting, we can provide you with advice in how to train it so it will reach its full bonsai potential in the years to come.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January Club Meeting.....Jan 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Slide show & discussion of the National Bonsai & Penjing collection by Jack Sustic

**February Club Meeting.....Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Fertilizer & Pest Management.  
Presentation by Dr. Dean Krauskopf

**March Club Meeting.....Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Everything you ever will want to know about the Larch -- with Oh! No! *Mr. Bill (Heston)*

**April Workshop.....Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Deciduous Forest or Clump Workshop.  
From 6:30 to 9:30 in room 125 at MBG.

**April Workshop.....Apr. 12<sup>h</sup>**  
Larch Forest Workshop, Wednesday's evening 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Larch Forest Workshop with Cyril Grum. We will update our existing Forest(s) and help people start new ones. Room 131 at MBG.

**April Club Meeting.....Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Heavy Pruning Branch and Root

**May Workshop.....May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Marco Invernizzi Workshop, Bring Your Own Tree. From 6:30 to 9:30 pm in room 139 at MBG.

**May Club Meeting.....May 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Bring your own Tree

**June Workshop.....June 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Schefflera Over Rock -- with (still our own) Jerry Meislik at 6:30 pm, Room 125

**June Club Meeting.....June 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Refinement Pruning

**July Club Meeting.....July 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Show Clean up help!

**August Club Meeting.....Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
TBD

**September Club Meeting.....Sep. 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Auction

**October Club Meeting.....Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>**  
TBD

**November Club Meeting.....Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Pot Luck

## 2006 AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President:** Bill Heston (734) 662-8699

**VicePresident:** Hugh Danville (734) 455-7922

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**Show Chair:** Hugh Danville (313) 455-7922

Pete Douglas (313) 867-8644

### AABS AD HOC COMMITTEES

The AABS President, Bill Heston, is ex-officio member of all committees except the Nomination Committee.

**Auction Chair:** TBD

**Membership Chair:** TBD

**Show Staging:** Paul Kulesa

**Demonstrations:** John Parks

**Ways and Means Chair:** John Parks

**Web Master:** Jarrett Knyal

([webmaster@annarborbonsaisociety.org](mailto:webmaster@annarborbonsaisociety.org))

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society ([www.absbonsai.org](http://www.absbonsai.org)) and the Mid American Bonsai Alliance.

Deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. Contact us at: [aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com).

You can pay your Club's dues at the next AABS meeting or mail it to:

~Joan Wheeler  
2295 North Harris  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
(734) 485-6306

Email: [owheeler5@hotmail.com](mailto:owheeler5@hotmail.com)

Please make your check payable to AABS for \$25.00.

## FOR SALE OR WANTED

10% of sales go to AABS Club.

Member Ads are free

Send the information of your items for sale or wanted to [aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com) include a small digital file if available.

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**For Sale.** David Levitsky is placing part of his impressive collection for sale due to relocation to another city. It consists of mature pines, oaks, larches, quince, maples, junipers, etc. Contact David at [bonsaitc@aol.com](mailto:bonsaitc@aol.com) to make an appointment to see the trees.

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**For Sale.** Lois Vorrath is making bonsai pots again! She will bring her beautiful hand-made pots to the May AABS club meetings. Be sure to look for her creations. This is a great opportunity!

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**Wanted.** If you have a tree, bonsai pot, tool or anything else bonsai related that you don't need anymore and it is still in good condition, consider donating it to our club. Donations to the club are always accepted. In most cases many donated trees or other materials have been raffled among the attending members during our monthly meetings.

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*We want to remind all club members that everyone is required to give 10% of the total sales for any items that sell at our monthly meetings.*

*This is a long standing policy that has not consistently observed, since it is starting to fade from our collective memory.*

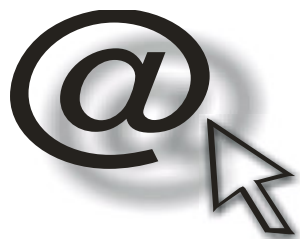
*The 10% fee will apply to all sales at our meetings or through this newsletter until the board approves a change.*



Place  
Stamp  
Here

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society  
1800 North Dixboro Road ~ Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9741  
The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society and the Mid-American Bonsai Alliance.

Send To:



Visit us on the Web:

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

### Support our AABS Vendors:

Hours: Mon - Fri: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm  
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Closed Sunday & Tuesday



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Fax: (248) 689-8730  
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