



Next Membership Meeting! - March 26th

7:30pm at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium.

~ Juniper Styling Demonstration ~

With Cyril Grum, Bill Heston, and Jack Wikle

These 3 talented and skilled bonsai artists will work on styling Juniper material in front of all members. Junipers are among the most traditional and commonly used plant species in bonsai design. Not to be missed!

-The bonsai they create will be raffled at the end of the meeting.-

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

- March 22nd, 2008, 9:00am - noon (Saturday)
Beginner's Class I - Bonsai Theory with Connie Crancer.
- March 26th, 2008, 7:30pm AABS Monthly Meeting -
Juniper Styling (see above for details)
- March 29th, 2008, 9:00am - noon (Saturday)
Beginner's Class II - Bonsai Culture with Bill Heston.
- April 5th, 2008, 9:00am - noon
(Saturday) Beginner's Class III - Bonsai Design and
Styling with Jack Wikle.
- April 9th, 2008, 4:00pm - 8:00pm - Marco
Invernizzi Workshop

Please register for workshops by contacting the AABS Programming Chair at bonsai_cho@comcast.net.

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Juniper Showcase: a Brief Overview - By Michael Simmons



Juniperus procumbens 'nana' at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, in training since 1975.

Junipers are a common subject in bonsai design. Presented here is a brief overview of several popular species, (*J. procumbens*, *J. californica*, *J. chinensis*) to encourage continued support for the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, and raise interest in this month AABS Monthly Meeting, "Juniper Styling Demonstration". Building upon the need to maintain an awareness of the threat that proposed budget cuts may have upon the bonsai collection at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in Washington D.C., included here are a few photos and discussion of truly spectacular juniper bonsai at the National Arboretum. Photos of junipers from other collections are also featured.

One of the most commonly used juniper species for bonsai is the Dwarf Japanese Juniper, *Juniperus procumbens* 'nana' (pictured to the left and below). These are often the small bonsai that are seen in grocery stores with glued-in topsoil that my wife suggests, "...we should be rescuing". The better choice for obtaining a potted *J. procumbens* is the

nursery where you will find this small, slow-growing plant native to Japan, typically demonstrating prostrate growth with wide-spreading branches that reach upwards. It is an evergreen and hardy to USDA zone 4. In the summer the foliage takes on a bluish-green color with a slight winter color change demonstrating shades of purplish-gray. It is a favorite of beginning bonsai growers due to its tolerance. However, it can also prove frustrating due to its slow growth and the beginning bonsai grower's lack of patience. Soil pH is not usually a problem and it prefers full sun. Many landscapes include this species in rock gardens, as groundcover or hanging over garden walls, thus making it a likely candidate for the cascade bonsai style. There can be some problems with spider mites or juniper blight, but not many other serious problems. Perhaps over-watering can do the greatest damage. Propagation is by cuttings. Give this plant lots of sun, excellent drainage, and your patience will be rewarded!



Juniperus procumbens 'nana' at the 2007 Midwest Bonsai Show in Chicago, Ill.

The California juniper, *Juniperus californica*, sometimes referred to as the ‘desert white cedar’ is indigenous to California from as far south as Baja and occurring up through the coastal range areas, into the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada. It can also be found in the Colorado Desert, Joshua Tree National Park and in neighboring areas of Nevada and Arizona.

Not considered a valuable source for sawn wood products, due to its irregular growth, this trait does make it ideal for consideration by the bonsai grower. Unique and contorted growth results in some fairly unusual design motifs. The tree to the right is referred to at the “Wow Tree” at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, because whenever visitors come around the corner at the Japanese Pavilion and encounter this tree for the first time they say, “Wow! Look at that one!”



Juniperus californica at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, in training since 1968. Donated by Harry Hirao.

Due to the naturally occurring areas where this species is found it is not surprising that it prefers a more arid climate, less water and a sunny to

partial shade habitat. The recommended USDA zone 8-10, for this plant, makes it unsuitable for permanent residence outdoors in Michigan.



Juniperus californica at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, in training since 1967. Donated by Kiichi Wayne Takayasu.

Juniperus chinensis includes several cultivars of evergreen coniferous shrubs. Among the more popular for bonsai purposes are the “shimpaku”, “foemina”, “san jose” and “sergeants”. (*Hortus III* (1976) places them in one species group whereas Krussman (1972) shows they may also be found as *Juniperus x media*.)

These junipers display the typical green to blue green needle-like or scaly foliage and blue berries. The ability to withstand drought has made them very popular in the landscaping industry.



Juniperus chinensis at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, in training since 1905. Donated by Kenichi Oguchi.

The above being said, the Sargent's juniper, *Juniperous chinensis sargentii*, (pictured to the left), also sometimes referred to as the popular cultivar, "shimpaku", is the classic juniper bonsai. One of the most often used and favored of the juniper species by bonsai artists, this species is found native to Japan, Korea, the southeast coast of Russia and the Kuril and Sakhalin Islands. These islands, off the northern coast of Hokkaido, have a temperate to sub-arctic climate. Cold temperatures, thick clouds and northeast winds bring immense ice floes to the coasts of these islands. As a consequence, this juniper is very cold hardy and tolerates freezing. It does well in full sun, has a habit of growing prostrate and prefers rocky, well-drained soils. As with other junipers, over watering may be detrimental.

A rather interesting note regarding the shimpaku, according to Japanese author Kazuki Yamanaka, writing in 2003, is that:
"Today, the Shimpaku junipers growing in the wild in Japan face extinction. These junipers are only known to exist on Hokkaido and Yakushima Islands, and extinction is said to be certain if very strong steps are not taken.
He continues,
"Considering the fact that by the 1980s, all the naturally grown Shimpaku had largely disappeared from the wild, it was a miracle that such an outstanding specimen as Hiryu was still left in the mountains. This might have been because it was thought to be too big to be a bonsai".

For more information on this read the English translation of the Yamanaka article, "**The Shimpaku Juniper: It's Secret History**", on the World Bonsai Friendship Federation Web site.

(<http://www.bonsai-wbff.org/shimpaku/main.shtml>).

This is a must read for anyone interested in the history and collecting of the shimpaku juniper in the mountains of Japan.

The Foemina juniper, also considered a cultivar of *Juniperus chinensis*, is the featured tree in the world famous John Naka creation, Goshin, an eleven-tree forest planting. Foemina is a traditional species of juniper used in bonsai. It has rather sharp needles and displays a gray blue foliage.

Staking encourages upright growth and the result is tall, tapering trunks as seen here in the 2 trees from the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. John Naka's Goshin was the first tree of the North American Pavilion. The WBF has an interesting article written by Bill Valavanis at: <http://www.bonsai-wbff.org/nabf/newsletter/1e.htm> ...where you can see a picture of the main tree of Goshin before it has been removed from the ground and pruned.



Additional Reading:

Adams, Robert P. (2004): *Junipers of the World: The genus Juniperus*. Trafford Publishing

Schoech, W. & Kimura, M. (2007) *Junipers: growing & styling juniper bonsai*. Stone Lantern Publishing

Juniperus cinensis 'foemina' at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. In training since 1975. Donated by James R. & Helen Barrett.

NOTES FROM THE SIDELINES:

Paul Kulesa – Recording Secretary

February 27, 2008 Meeting – Bonsai Slide Show

This was the second meeting of the year. Members, who began arriving at 6:50 PM, were able to catch-up with friends and relax with a hot cup of coffee. When Bill Heston, President of the Society, brought the meeting to order at 7:25 PM there were thirty-two members and two visitors present. Bill welcomed the visitors to the meeting.

Paul Kulesa, Recording Secretary, presented a summary of the January 23, 2008, Executive Board Meeting. There were no questions or request for clarification from the assembled membership.

Bill Heston circulated letters from U of M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Hidden Lakes Gardens for recent donations made by the Society to support and further the study of bonsai. These letters are available for inspection by contacting Joan Wheeler, Treasurer.

Roger Gaede, former President displayed the items that were offered for sale, including T-shirts, aprons and lapel pins. He hopes to supplement his stock with hat / caps in time for the Summer Season.

Bill Heston presented a well-manicured bonsai that is not conventionally styled. Clive Taylor donated this remarkable tree, a Texas Ebony in

the literati style. This bonsai will be auctioned at the March 2008 membership meeting.

Alfonso Tercero, Vice President and Show Chair, previewed the video equipment recently purchased by the Society. In addition he listed upcoming programs and workshops offered by the Society. A current listing can be found in the most recent newsletter. Members can sign up for these events by contacting Joan Wheeler or Alfonso Tercero. Alfonso continued by introducing the evening program.



Mike Simmons, Corresponding Secretary, prepared a visual presentation of recent visits to Longwood Garden in Pennsylvania and the National Arboretum in Washington DC. A glimpse of what was presented can be viewed at the following sites.

- www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/collections/bonsai.html
- www.longwoodgardens.org/

There is no excuse! This is the season for sharpening tools and cleaning pots.

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January Meeting.....Jan 23rd
Indoor Mini Bonsai --- Trudy Bulkley & Jack Wikle

February Meeting.....Feb. 27th
Slide presentations – Mike Simmons

March Workshop.....Mar. 8th
Penjing Workshop --- Robert Bishop

March Workshop.....Mar. 22nd
Beginner's Class I --- Connie Crancer

March Meeting.....Mar. 26th
Juniper Styling --- Cyril Grum, Bill Heston, & Jack Wikle

March Workshop.....Mar. 29th
Beginner's Class II --- Bill Heston

April Workshop.....Apr. 5th
Beginner's Class III – Jack Wikle.

April Workshop.....Apr. 9th
Marco Invernizzi Workshop

April Workshop.....Apr. 12th
Beginner's Class IV– Cyril Grum

April Workshop.....Apr. 19th
Beginner's Class V – Alfonso Tercero

April Meeting.....Apr. 23rd Thread
Grafting and Root Grafting – Bill Heston & Jack Wikle.

April Workshop.....Apr. 26th
Larch Forest / Maple Over-rock Workshop – Bill Heston

All-State Bonsai Show May 3rd – 4th
Frederik Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, MI

May Meeting.....May 28th
Mike Hagedorn Demonstration & Lecture.

May Workshop.....May 29th
Mike Hagedorn Workshop.

**Mid-America Bonsai Alliance Convention and Exhibition –
June 12th – 15th**
Marten House Hotel & Lilly Conference Center,
Indianapolis, IN.

June Get Together.....June 14th
2008 AABS Barbecue-picnic/Bonsai Gathering – Lois Vorrath's home

June Meeting.....June 25th
Tropical "Air-Layering", Improving Ramification on Deciduous Trees – Bill Heston and Jack Wikle.

July Meeting.....July 23rd
Focusing on Maples – Connie Crancer, Cyril Grum, Bill Heston, Jack Wikle.

August Meeting.....Aug. 27th
Pedro Morales Demonstration and Lecture on Ficus

August Workshop.....Aug. 28th
Pedro Morales Workshop

AABS Club Auction.....Sept. 24th
Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium

**2008 AABS Bonsai Show
Oct. 4th – 5th Saturday - Sunday**
Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Concurrent with the Flora & Fauna Show

October Meeting.....Oct. 22nd
Problem Tree Review and Critique – Connie Crancer, Cyril Grum, Bill Heston, & Jack Wikle.

**AABS Banquet & Mini-Exhibit
Nov. 10th Monday**
Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium

**December – NO MEETINGS
Happy Holidays!**

NOTE: Always check the AABS website for changes and added details to this calendar.

<http://annarborbonsaisociety.org>



REMINDERS

Michael Simmons, AABS Newsletter Editor

DUES ARE DUE!

AABS is where it's happening in the Michigan bonsai scene! There are so many workshops, guest presenters, and opportunities to not only purchase bonsai supplies, but also obtain some of the best advice around that you really do not want to miss out. Renew your membership today by completing the AABS Membership form. Dues may also be paid in-person at AABS Monthly Meetings. Next meeting is March 26th.

NEW CAPABILITIES AT AABS EVENTS

AABS events may have just gotten a bit easier to see! Alfonso Tercero, Vice-President & AABS Programming Chair, recently approached the AABS Executive Board for approval to purchase audio-visual equipment to further enhance the educational mission of the AABS. With the Board's approval, AABS now has the tools to capture video and present close-up workshop details to a larger audience. A video camera will permit a large screen projection of the fine details of wiring, repotting, pruning or other hands-on workshop techniques that may have otherwise been difficult to see in the past. Future plans include saving these videos in the AABS Library. AABS Members will then have the opportunity to borrow the videos from the collection.

CLASSES, DEMOS, and WORKSHOPS

If you haven't noticed, the 2008 AABS Calendar of Events is full! There are many great opportunities to learn many different aspects of bonsai this year. Workshops range from the introductory to advanced and there is plenty in between for everyone else too! The Beginners' classes begin this month and then continue each following Saturday for a total of 5

classes. Instructors for these classes are the most experienced and skilled bonsai artists that AABS has to offer. You will be amazed at the quality and increased knowledge of bonsai you will gain from the team of Crancer, Grum, Heston, Tercero and Wikle. What is even more amazing is that you can take all 5 classes for the total cost of only \$25.00.

There are also other workshops that will be led by guest speakers in the Invited Masters Series. In April, Marco Invernizzi will be joining a group of AABS Members in a 4-hour workshop. May brings Mike Hagedorn to Matthaei and then later in the summer, Pedro Morales.

But wait, just when you thought that was all there is, do not forget that AABS has also put the combined talents of our own local masters to work by bringing to AABS Members more discussions, demonstrations and workshops. Topics range from juniper styling to grafting techniques and workshops include penjing, larch forest, and maple-over-rock.

Look forward to seeing you at these events!

For details see the Jan/Feb 2008 Newsletter or visit AABS on the Web at

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

TEXAS EBONY TO AUCTION

At the March 26th AABS Monthly Meeting there will be an opportunity to bid on a bonsai, a Texas Ebony (*Pithecolobium flexicaule*), generously donated by AABS member, Clive Owen. A few images are on the AABS Web on the Gallery page.

As well, the March Meeting has other opportunities for going home with more plants. After the juniper styling demonstration, all 3 trees will be raffled to the lucky ticket holders.

Tear out form, complete and mail today!



AABS Membership Application
(Please Print Clearly)

Renewal

New Member

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Please indicate your preference below.

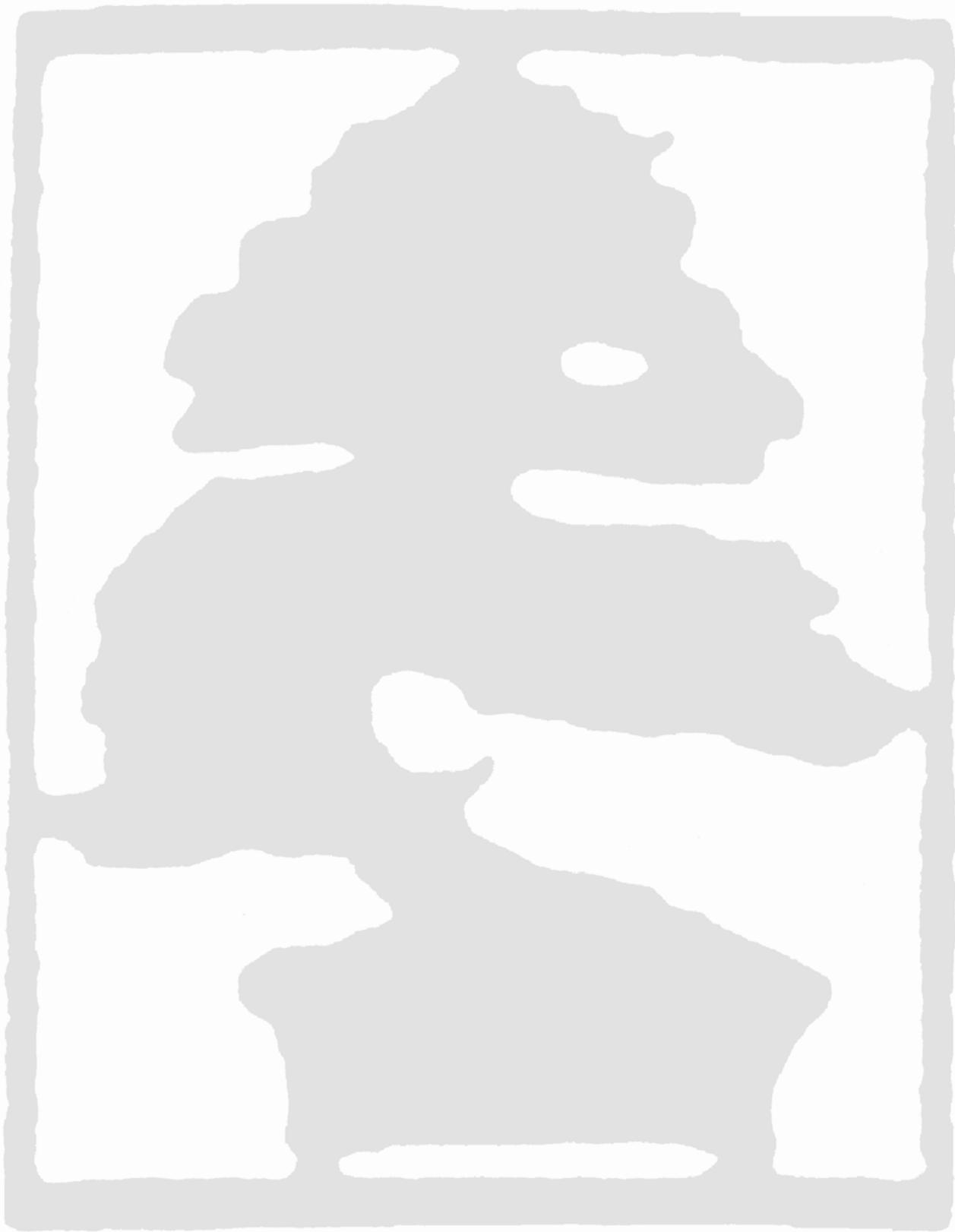
- Save a tree! Send me the monthly newsletter by email. (Also published on the Web.)
- I don't have email, send me the monthly newsletter by U.S. Mail.
- Send me the monthly newsletter both by email and U.S. Mail.

Annual AABS membership dues are \$25.00. Pay by cash or check made out to the
Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

Bring this membership application and payment with you to the next Society meeting, or
mail to:

Joan Wheeler
2295 N. Harris Road
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is on the Web at: <http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>
Questions or comments may be directed to: aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com



2008 AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Bill Heston (734) 662-8699

Vice-President: Alfonso Tercero (734) 216-2708

Program Chair: Alfonso Tercero (734) 216-2708

Corresponding Secretary: Mike Simmons (517) 896-0076

Recording Secretary: Paul Kulesa

Publicity Chair: Bill Cavers (248) 477-0665

Treasurer: Joan Wheeler (734) 485-6306

Librarian: Vicki Norfleet

Past President: Roger Gaede (517) 592-2249

Director for 2006: Arnold Wingblad (313) 255-1769

Director 2006 & 2007 - Larry Hall (248) 477-0665

Show Chairs: Hugh Danville (313) 455-7922 & Pete Douglas (313) 867-8644

AABS AD-HOC COMMITTEES

The AABS President is exofficio member of all committees with the exception of the Nomination Committee.

Auction Chair: TBD

Membership Chair: TBD

Show Staging: Paul Kulesa

Demonstrations: John Parks

Ways and Means Chair: John Parks

Web Administration: Mike Simmons

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society (www.absbonsai.org) and the Mid American Bonsai Alliance.

Contact AABS at: aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com.

Society Membership is for the calendar year. Use the membership form on the Web and bring it to the next AABS meeting or mail it to:

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

Email: owheeler5@hotmail.com

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

FOR SALE OR WANTED

10% of all sales go to the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. AABS Society Members' ads are free to publish in the Newsletter.

Send the information of your items for sale or wanted to aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com include a small digital file if available.

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 the Society.

Donations to the Society are always accepted. In most cases many donated trees or other materials have been raffled among the attending members during our monthly meetings.

Please note: All Society members are required to give 10% of the total sales for any items that are sold at AABS monthly meetings to the Society.

The 10% fee will apply to all sales at AABS Meetings or through the AABS Newsletter.

Deadline for submissions to the Newsletter is the 5th of the month.

Please send your comments or documents to aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com.



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:



Next AABS Club Meeting is Wednesday March 26th, 2008 ~
Juniper Styling Demonstration
 With Cyril Grum, Bill Heston and Jack Wikle
 at 7:30 pm ~ Matthaai Botanic Gardens Auditorium
 (Socializing begins at 7:00pm)

Visit us on the Web:
<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

Support our AABS Vendors:

Hours: Mon - Fri: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm
 Sat: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
 Closed Sunday & Tuesday



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