



## NEXT CLUB MEETING: Wednesday, May 23, -7PM

Kurt Smith presents: *Design of a Dawn Redwood Forest by Kurt Smith*

Kurt Smith, long time club member and owner of the Flower Market, a bonsai store near Monroe, will discuss how to design and build a redwood forest. The Redwood Forest, developed during this program, will be raffled to the membership following the program.



Image from: <http://www.bonsaiwest.com>

### Redwood Forest/Grove Workshop

**Saturday, May 26, 2012, 10 AM – 12 Noon**

Kurt Smith will lead a workshop using Dawn Redwood. This Saturday morning workshop will give members an opportunity to design & install their own dawn redwood clump or forest. The workshop fee is \$25, material costs are \$50 covering the soil mix, wick, wire, tray or pot and redwood trees, Total Cost - \$75.

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### TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership expired at the end of March. Renew your membership, pay by check, \$25, written to Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Talk with the treasurer at the next meeting or you can mail your check to:

Treasurer, Ann Arbor Bonsai Society  
Joan Wheeler  
2295 North Harris  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

### NOTES FROM THE SIDELINES

Almudena Veiga-Lopez – Recording Secretary

April 25, 2012 Monthly Meeting: The Care, Cultivation, and Maintenance of Tropical Bonsai –*Erik Wigert*.

Gathering at MBG started around 6:30pm. Our president Jay Sinclair welcomed all attendees. After a few announcements about upcoming events and at the Show and Tell session, he introduced Erik Wigert, a bonsai artist with over 10 years of experience in tropical bonsai (Fig.1).



Erik Wigert presenting at Monthly AABS Meeting

Erik first mentioned that he has had neither formal training in bonsai art nor gardening, but bonsai has been his passion for the last 10 years. He has a bonsai nursery in Florida where he can grow his trees outdoors all year round (<http://www.wigertsbonsai.com/>). Erik said that the tropics can be either humid and moist or hot and dry, with very different vegetation suited for these two climates.



Fig 2. Popular Tropical Species for Bonsai by Erik Wigert

He explained some of the most common styles for tropical bonsai (banyan, African style, informal upright, broom, informal cascade, etc...). He also presented with the most popular species (Fig. 2) and the diversity of the ficus family! (Fig. 3).

To make a good tropical bonsai you have to follow the same rules than for a non-tropical bonsai; good taper, good nebari, good branch placement, proportionated leaves, etc...

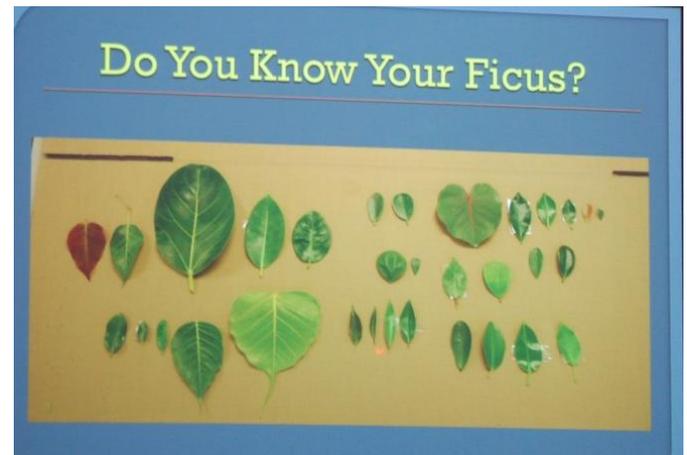


Fig 3. Diversity of the Ficus Family by Erik Wigert

He stressed the importance of keeping pests under control; there can be external such as scale, white fly, mealy bug, aphids, sooty mold, ficus leaf thrips and so many more as well as internal such as termites, carpenter bees, wood borer, caterpillar, spider mites, snails, root-knot nematodes, ficus crown gall (if you get gall into your tree, discard the tree, it is a virus and it can spread throughout your collection), etc... He mentioned several products to treat pests; Talstar (an all-purpose product), Imidacloprid (systemic), Avid (for mites, chili, thrips), Conserve (for chili and thrips).

Erik explained then a few special techniques including leaf reduction, yearly pruning, and wiring, how to resolve root problems, reverse taper, bar branches, and bending large limbs. Applying all these techniques he showed how he can transform trees to become very nice bonsai specimens (Fig. 4). Thank you Erik for such a great presentation!



Fig4. Ficus neriifolia bonsai by Erik Wigert

**Thank You Note – Session #2 of the Beginner Bonsai Class**

**Paul Kulesa – VP/Program Chairperson**

I want to express my appreciation to Jack Wikle for leading Session #2 of the Beginner Bonsai Class. Jack discussed the philosophy and “nuts & bolts” of bonsai design. Following the formal presentation, Jack discussed ideas relative to the design of shimpaku, a pre-bonsai the class has been developing. Additional work on this material will be performed in the May and June sessions. Thanks Jack.

**Thank You Note – Session #3 of the Beginner Bonsai Class**

**Paul Kulesa – VP/Program Chairperson**

On May 12, Jay Sinclair led Session #3 of the Beginning Bonsai Class. Jay answered a number of questions; What is a tree? How does it grow? How do I care and maintain this bonsai? What makes a good soil mix and fertilizers? How to keep a potted tree healthy? What kind of lighting does potted material need? He discussed post-potting recovery of bonsai and led the class in repotting tropical material. Thanks for your assistance with this class.

**Wigert Workshop – April 26, 2012**

**Paul Kulesa – VP/Program Chairperson**

There were eight participants in the Wigert - workshop, the material was a willow leaf fig, ficus salicifolia. Erik began with a brief overview of the care and maintenance of the ficus and immediately dove into the root pruning and potting of this material. This was followed by selecting the premier view of the base of the tree and the available branch structure. In the end, the class participants went home with a nice willow leaf fig. Check the pictures from this workshop!



Wigert Workshop. Erik Wigert & Mike Jennings



Wigert Workshop. Jerrie Nichols



Wigert Workshop. (Left to Right) Ed Hughes, RV (intentionally vague), Mike Jennings, Alan Atkinson, Erik Wigert, Joan Wheeler, Ralph Everett, Kurt Smith, and Jerrie Nichols)

**Bonsai and Penjing Collection at MBG**  
**The Bonsai Garden**

**Paul Kulesa – VP/Program Chairperson**

For many years now, staff and volunteers at the U of M - Matthaei Botanical Gardens have been caring for a bonsai collection. This collection has been maintained out-of-sight of the public until recently, when a few bonsai were displayed in the conservatory on a rotating basis. A long-held dream has been the creation of a permanent, dedicated garden open to the public for this collection. Fund raising has already brought in two-thirds of the goal, allowing construction to commence late summer 2012.

A working bonsai studio will be integrated into the garden. In this space, professional and volunteers will maintain the bonsai in view of the public. This will be an exceptional educational opportunity for the public to interact with knowledgeable bonsai people.

Several members of the AABS work on this collection. These volunteers include; Monique Camelet, Bill Cavers, Cyril Grum, Larry Hall, Bill Heston, Ruth Heyn, Ed Hughes, PaulK, Carmen Leskoviansky (MBG Collections Specialist and AABS member), Joan Overmire, Jay Sinclair and Joan Wheeler.



Larry Hall, Bill Heston, Carmen Leskoviansky  
(Collection Specialist - MBG & AABS member)



Ruth Heyn - Keeper of the Records



Ed Hughes

**Jack and Jeannine Thank You**

This is our heartfelt thank you from Jack and Jeannine Wikle to everyone who passed on information about our outdoor bonsai sale, to the people who helped so much with many of the sale associated chores, and to those who helped us by giving our bonsai new homes.

In our imaginations these trees, that were a big part of our lives for many years, are going on to outlive us bringing pleasure to others in the years to come. Those trees were small but the feelings were big. And, since all of our outdoor bonsai have now been sold, we are canceling our last Wikle Bonsai Open House days which had been planned for Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

With great appreciation to all our bonsai community friends,  
Jack and Jeannine Wikle

## UPCOMING AABS EVENTS

**Paul Kulesa – VP/Program Chairperson**

**Saturday, June 16, 2012, 10 AM – 12 Noon**

### **Beginner Class – Session #4**

A Discussion of Wiring and Hands-on Wiring Practice  
- Class participants will work on your own bonsai with Bill Heston

### **June Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 27, 2012 – 7 PM**

#### **Bring Your Own Bonsai – Workshop**

If you need assistance working on your bonsai, bring it to this monthly meeting. Members will be on hand to assist you with your question and concern. "In this workshop, members can bring in bonsai along with their tools, wire and supplies needed to work on their trees. Members not working on bonsai will be available to "walk you through" the work you choose to perform on your bonsai. This is more than seeking design ideas; this is hands-on experience with a guiding hand to accomplish a certain task with your bonsai. Please, do not be shy, bring in you bonsai.

**Saturday, July 7, 2012, 10 AM – 12 Noon**

### **Beginner Class – Session #5**

"Discussion of Ongoing Care and Maintenance of Your Bonsai"

Routine maintenance, pruning, repotting, pest control and wintering your bonsai will be discussed. This is the final class and opportunity to work on the trees the bonsai class participants potted during this class.

## BONSAI CONVENTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

- ✓ **3<sup>RD</sup> U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition** June 9 - 10, 2012 Rochester, New York. Go to: [http://www.internationalbonsai.com/store/1708315/uploaded/2012\\_national\\_exhibition/index.html](http://www.internationalbonsai.com/store/1708315/uploaded/2012_national_exhibition/index.html) for more information.
- ✓ **"Visions of the American West"** - A Convention sponsored by The Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society, American Bonsai Society and Bonsai Club International

June 21-24, 2012 Denver, Colorado. Go to: <http://www.bonsai2012.org/> for more information.

- ✓ **40<sup>th</sup> Annual Four Seasons Bonsai Show**, June 23 – 24, 2012 Telly's Greenhouse, 3301 John R, Troy, Michigan Show Hours: Saturday, June 23, 9 AM - 7 PM, Sunday, June 24, 9 AM - 4 PM.
- ✓ **The Annual AABS Bonsai Show**, August 25 & 26, 2012. At Matthaei Botanical Gardens – Auditorium.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **June 16 -Beginner's Bonsai Class #4**

- Introduction to Bonsai - Bring Your Own Bonsai Workshop – Members can work on their bonsai with the assistance of more experienced members.

### **July 7 -Beginner's Bonsai Class #5**

- Introduction to Bonsai

### **July 25 - Monthly Meeting**

- A Three Member Panel will offer advice and discuss design options for members who bring their bonsai to the meeting

### **August 22 - Monthly Meeting**

- Fertilizing Your Bonsai – This presentation will discuss feeding your bonsai, feeding options and current concern of our fertilizing practices. Producing fertilizer balls will be demonstrated.

### **August 24 - Annual Show Setup**

### **August 25-26 - Annual Show**

### **September 26 - Monthly Meeting**

- Annual Auction

### **October 24 - Monthly Meeting**

- A Study of Bonsai In Winter Silhouette

### **November 5 - Monthly Meeting**

- Annual Banquet and Critique of Bonsai

## MEMBERSHIP

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: [treasurer@annarborbonsaisociety.org](mailto:treasurer@annarborbonsaisociety.org). Please make your check payable to AABS for \$25.00.

## 2012 AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President:** Jay Sinclair

**Vice-President:** Paul Kulesa

**Corresponding Secretary\*:** Almudena Veiga-Lopez

**Recording Secretary:** Almudena Veiga-Lopez

**Treasurer:** Joan Wheeler (734) 485-6306

**Librarian:** Ray Domzalski

**Past President:** Alfonso Tercero

**Director 2011 & 2012:** Raquel Vega

**Director 2012 & 2013:** Michael Field

**Show Chairperson:** Jay Sinclair

\*Will serve in a temporary position until a replacement is elected.

## 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:** TBD

**Ways and Means Chair:** Hugh Danville

**Web Administration:** Raquel Vega

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

## FOR SALE OR WANTED

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. Please send your comments or documents to [newsletter@annarborbonsaisociety.org](mailto:newsletter@annarborbonsaisociety.org).

**Wanted.** If you have a tree, bonsai pot, tool or anything else bonsai related that you don't need anymore and that 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.

## **Help Spruce Up Our Web Page Appearance**

Raquel Vega, AABS web master, is soliciting photographs of members' trees to appear on one of the many pages of our web site. You can hand deliver a photograph of your favorite bonsai to Raquel at the meeting or send a photo via email to her.

[members-owner@annarborbonsaisociety.org](mailto:members-owner@annarborbonsaisociety.org)

Hours: Mon - Fri: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Sat: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm  
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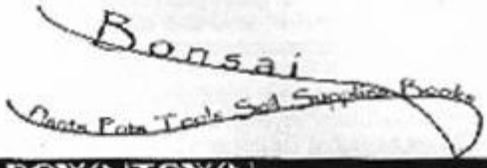
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