



The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the U-M-Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Please join us at 6:30 PM to meet friends and members. Programming starts at 7:00 PM.

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>
AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com

April 2015
Volume 12 Issue 3

NEXT CLUB MEETING:

April 22, 2015

David DeGroot – The Care, Maintenance and Design of Scotch Pine

We welcome David DeGroot to Ann Arbor for our evening program. David will discuss the care, maintenance, and design of Scotch pine. David comes to us from Washington State. David DeGroot produced *Basic Bonsai Design* in 1995. This book is valued for explaining the art of bonsai design.

Please join us for a meal at 5 PM at a nearby restaurant with David DeGroot as our invited guest. Details will be shared by email as the date approaches.

Join us at 6:30 PM in the MBG auditorium to catch-up with longtime friends, welcome visitors and talk bonsai.

The meeting starts at 7 PM with the evening program to follow.

APRIL'S TREE OF THE MONTH: THE JUNIPER

The featured bonsai for April's Show & Tell is the JUNIPER. Bring your juniper to the meeting and share the history, tips on how the bonsai has grown, and share tales about your tree between 6:30 PM and 7 PM. If you have a series of photos showing the progress of your juniper over time, bring them along.

Any member, who brings to the meeting this month's Show & Tell bonsai, will receive one Raffle Ticket for the evening raffle!

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Your annual membership expires at the end of March! Annual membership dues are \$25. Please pay by check, written to Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. You can talk with the Treasurer at the next meeting or renew by mail. Mail your renewal to,

Joan Wheeler – Treasure AABS
34660 Fountain Blvd
Westland, Michigan 48185
734-338-2525
AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com

AABS LIBRARY

The librarian, Fouzaan Zafar, has to make sense of the collection of books and other publications in our library. There are a number of items absent from the collection. **If you have a publication belonging to the AABS, please return it.**

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2015

Classes/Sessions at The Flower Mart by Kurt Smith:

April 19th – Session 2 – Bonsai Study from 1-5pm

April 27th – Grove/Forest Class. Starts at 6pm

April 22 – Monthly Meeting

David DeGroot, nationally renowned bonsai artist, will discuss Pine.

May 27 – Monthly Meeting

Bring your bonsai/pre-bonsai to the May meeting to have assistance performing the seasonal work. Experienced members will be available to assist you. Bring your bonsai, tools and supplies.

June 24 – Monthly Meeting

Steve Jetzer of West Michigan Bonsai will demonstrate seasonal work performed on two-needle pine and discuss care and maintenance.

July 22 – Monthly Meeting

We will meet in the UM-MBG - Bonsai Garden to be close to some great bonsai. Several members of AABS, who also work on the bonsai in the MBG collection, will review their favorite tree.

August 26 – Monthly Meeting

Vance Hanna, local bonsai artist, will discuss tool care, maintenance and edge sharpening.

August 28 – Show Setup 10 AM - Auditorium

Saturday & Sunday, August 29-30 Our Annual Show

September 23 - Monthly Meeting

Our Annual Auction - Bring a bonsai, buy a bonsai.

October 28 - Monthly Meeting

Todd Renshaw of Four Seasons Bonsai will discuss bonsai design, bonsai container and display stand options.

MARCH PROGRAM RE-CAP

Julian Adams' presentation on Black, Red and Pitch Pine by Paul Kulesa

There is an annual growing cycle with all pine. Understanding this growth cycle is instrumental to converting a pine tree into a bonsai. The needle foliage on these trees is large. As a grower of bonsai, we need to produce smaller needles.

Black pine can be described as a vigorous grower; Japanese red pine is a bit weaker, while pitch pine is a slightly vigorous three-needle pine. We can use the vigor of these pines to reduce needle size and produce a second flush of buds/needles.

Due to the vigor of these types of pine, needle reduction and energy balancing throughout the tree can be achieved by controlling

- bud size
- candle length
- energy absorption at each growing tip

All the energy needed by the pine is gained from direct sun exposure. The amount of energy at any one growing tip is directly related to the amount of foliage at that tip.

Our goal as growers of bonsai is to understand the growth habit of these pines. The objective is to produce shorter needles with uniform density throughout the tree. The stored energy can be seen in the size, number and quality of buds present. Needles, produced by the pine, are deriving energy from sunlight. It can be said, the number and quality of needles in any area of the pine, is directly related to the energy in that area of the tree. The needles and buds from the previous year will dictate the annual cycle during the current growing season.

Definitions

- A *bud* is the source of new growth.
- A *candle* is the extending bud.
- A *scale found on a candle* is the origin of a needle cluster.
- A *shoot* is the candle with emerging needle clusters.
- A *needle cluster* is the number of needles found at each fascicle.

An Established Black Pine

Once a black pine is established as a bonsai, the growth cycle is the same as in other pine. This cycle can be manipulated to produce smaller needles and a redistribution of energy throughout the tree. An even distribution of energy can be seen in the production of a uniform length of needles, uniform foliage density and uniform bud size throughout the tree. The size of the bud is related to the amount of growth at that site during the next growing season. It is important to develop uniform bud size throughout the pine with a limited number of buds at any one site. As a rule, an even distribution of foliage density throughout the pine will produce an even distribution of energy throughout the pine. This will produce similarly sized candle extensions, producing similarly sized buds later in the summer at all growing points on the pine. Producing uniform foliage density is critical.

Cutting needle length can reduce energy to sites of developing buds. Needles can be removed/plucked in an attempt to balance energy throughout the bonsai. When a bonsai exhibits uniform foliage density and bud size, the bonsai is said to have stabilized its growth.

Manipulation of Energy Balancing Techniques

- When new needles produce are long, needle reduction controls were not implemented or ineffective.
- A bud can be allowed to extend uncontrolled to feed that area of the pine.
- The number of needles at any site determines the amount of energy available at the growing tip.
- You can equalize growth throughout the pine by
 - removing the largest buds, leaving two buds at any one site
 - removing excessive foliage
 - equalizing the candle length / equalizing the number of needle clusters
 - manipulating foliage length and density

Annual Time Line – Working With Established Black Pine

Julian describes a series of steps to follow during the annual cycle of the pine. This activity is not calendar based. These steps are related to direct observation of your pine.

- When the candles are extending, prune the candles, leaving the same amount of needle clusters at each growing tip, count the scales on the candle to needle.
- When a bare length of candle is seen before the scales/needle clusters, cut the tip of the candle leaving the same number of needle clusters on each extending candle.
- Sometime after the summer solstice, the needles will fully open. This is the time to cut the shoot back to old needles.
- A second flush of buds will begin to form where the candle was cut.
- After the development of the new buds (early September), selectively remove all but two buds, one extending forward and one lateral bud.
- After the buds have developed, balance the foliage throughout the pine, removing some old and newer needles where necessary.
- The energy to drive bud extension in the spring is gained from the foliage near the bud. Equalization of foliage throughout the pine will equalize the candle extension

Feeding the Established Black Pine

The introduction of fertilizer should be limited to a fertilizer designed to foster bud development with a minimal amount of nitrogen. Use a fertilizer with a value of 5-50-10 (N-P-K).

Julian offered a simple strategy for the development of undeveloped material. Keep a sacrificial branch low on the tree to drive the thickening of the trunk while keeping the top growth cut back.

Julian Adams pine strategy is available on CD. You can contact Julian for details, <http://www.adamsbonsai.com> telephone 434-384-7951

ADAMS' BONSAI
Julian R. Adams
1721 Langhorne Road
Lynchburg, VA 24503

ADAMS WORKSHOP RE-CAP

Workshop with Julian Adams was held on Thursday, March 26, 2015. Ten bonsai artist worked with Julian to convert raw material into an initially styled bonsai. Julian was pleased to work with the material and the workshop participants. Additional photos are available on our website.



Carmen Leskoviansky, John Foley, Barry and Peggy Kubitz with their black pines.

REGIONAL BONSAI EVENTS

Michigan All State Bonsai Show
Saturday & Sunday, May 9 & 10, 2015
Meijer Gardens – Grand Rapids

Four Seasons Bonsai Club Annual Show
August 8-9, 2015
Troy, Michigan

Mid-America Bonsai Alliance Convention
Friday – Sunday, July 10-12, 2015
Indianapolis, Indiana

Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit
August 14-16, 2015
Chicago Botanic Garden
Glencoe, Illinois

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Annual Show
August 29 & 30, 2015
UM-MBG Auditorium

Hidden Lake Gardens – “Art of Bonsai”
Sunday, September 20, 2015

Mid-Michigan Bonsai Club Annual Show
October 2015 (date to be announced)
Held at Van Atta Greenhouse, Haslett, Michigan

FOR SALE OR WANTED

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 BillStruhar@michiganderpots.com or call (586) 468-7169.

Club Logo Now Available: we will embroider the club logo on your garment for \$10 (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 silver border on both combinations and AABS lettering an 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 requires a minimum of five garments per order)

2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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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: Don Wenzel

Nomination Committee:

Show Committee: Ron Milostan, Michael Field and Paul Kulesa.

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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>

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


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