



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. Programing starts at 7:00 PM.

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>  
[AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com](mailto:AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com)

**May 2015**  
Volume 12 Issue 4

## **NEXT CLUB MEETING:** **May 27, 2015**

### **TIME FOR YOUR BONSAI**

This meeting is dedicated to performing seasonal work on your bonsai. This is a critical time to get your trees started for the summer ahead.

Following opening comments and the business portion of the meeting, the evening program will begin. There will be roughly 90 minutes to work on your tree. Experienced members will be available to answer your questions and offer a suggestion. Please bring your bonsai, tools, turntable and supplies. Some equipment and wire will be available.

Members, who participated in AABS workshops in the past several years, please bring in your tree to this meeting so we can be re-acquainted with your work and to continue the work on that tree.

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## **MAY'S TREE OF THE MONTH: SEASONAL WORKSHOP TREES**

The featured bonsai for May's Show & Tell is past AABS workshop trees. Bring your tree 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 tree over time, bring them along. Every general meeting will feature one special tree that members can bring for Show & Tell. Each month's special tree will be specified here, in the newsletter.

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

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## **NEED YOUR HELP!**

Japan Week at MBG  
June 14-20, 2015

Carmen Leskoviansky is looking for assistance with bonsai related programs during Japan Week, (Monday-Saturday). In particular, she is looking for AABS members who will be willing to participate in any of these programs, including but not limited to . . .

- Hosting a demonstration, a discussion or a tour of the bonsai garden\*
- You can be present for a period of time of your choice to talk to visitors about the collection
- Those who work on the MBG collection will be in the garden on Tuesday, June 16, afternoon/evening, talking with visitors to the Bonsai Garden

\*Carmen, an AABS member and curator of the U-M-MBG Bonsai Collection, invites AABS members to come work on their bonsai in the bonsai garden on Thursday evening or Saturday afternoon. This can be a demonstration or you can work on your own trees while talking with visitors.

Contact Carmen ([carmentr@umich.edu](mailto:carmentr@umich.edu)) to arrange your volunteer opportunity or to request additional information.

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## **BILL STRUHAR INVITES YOU...**

AABS membership invited to a Sundaes in the Garden

AABS member Bill Struhar is the host of a Metro Detroit Hosta Society garden walk at his home, 41459 Gloca Mora St., Harrison Twp., 48045 on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 10 AM to 4 PM. Our AABS members are invited to join him in his garden of Hostas and companion plants view his bonsai collection and have an ice cream sundae with all the trimmings. Come any time between 10 AM and 4 PM, alone, or bring a friend.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **Azaleas on Display**

UM-MBG – Bonsai Garden  
May 30 – June 7, 2015

Gayle Steiner is excited to share with you the news of a nine-day blooming azalea bonsai exhibit in the Matthaei Bonsai and Penjing Garden.

Melvyn Goldstein will loan the MBG Bonsai Garden 6-10 of his stunning azalea bonsai to exhibit. Many of MBG's own beautiful trees will be on display at the same time.

On Saturday, June 6, Mel will be at MBG to offer a late morning PowerPoint presentation followed by a tour of his trees. In Mel's words, "I will discuss Azalea as bonsai in Japan and now worldwide, and how I came to get interested in Azalea bonsai."

Information provided by;  
Gayle K. Steiner  
Director of Development  
Matthaei Botanical Gardens

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2015**

May 30 to June 7 – Azaleas on Display  
Activities

June 14-20 – Japan Week at MBG

### **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.

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## **APRIL PROGRAM RE-CAP**

### **David DeGroot presentation on Pine by Paul Kulesa**

David DeGroot was pleased to share some information he had on pine, in particular, Scotts pine. His program was not a formal PowerPoint presentation, yet it was arguably more interesting and informative. I think a bullet point summary of his program will offer a flavor of what he offered, responding to queries with follow-up responses.

#### To Begin

- There are three simple tests to determine if a pine (and other most bonsai) should be repotted:
  - Chopstick test – if it is difficult to insert a chopstick into the soil mass, it may be time to repot.
  - Watering – If water does not percolate through the soil/root mass, it may be time to repot.
  - If leaves appear to be losing their color despite fertilizing, it may be time to repot.
- It is typical for pine bonsai to have a single, undivided trunk with lateral branches, defined as excurrent branching.
- Rules of bonsai design are simply concepts of common practice.

## Seasonal Progression of Scotts Pine Care

- In spring the pine buds will lengthen. These buds are either
  - Very active – the needles are at the end of the candle sitting on top of a bare section of a shaft. This section will not produce needle.
  - Not too active – the candle has needles from the base to the tip of the shaft.
  - After the needles are hardened off, dark in color and stable on the candle shaft, the candle can be cut to the desired length of growth for this season.
  - After the leaves of deciduous trees have fallen in the fall, you can remove the needles from the previous year and thin the branches, creating a main line with side branching.
  - In late winter you can wire the Scotts pine. Do not wire and repot in the same growing season.
  - The shape of the pine should be guided by the design and horticultural needs of the tree.
  - Wire the pine to position branches and to counteract the upward movement of branches.

David discussed what he means by duplex branching. When developing a branch with side branching, there should be a gradual tapering of the branch from the trunk to the tip of that branch and side branches should shorten in length as they near the tip of the main line. In no case, should there be a main line and side branch of equal length or branch diameter.

- Pines are shade intolerant and can benefit from reflected light.
- Related to exposure to light, small needles on pine can be achieved by
  - Stressing the pine; reduce leaf size, withhold water and lengthening the repotting cycle.
  - Expose the pine to as much direct sunlight as possible – pine needles are designed to minimize moisture loss.
  - Increasing the number of needles on the pine – branch division will support more needles, leading to smaller needles overall.

For the health of the pine, there need to be a balance between photosynthesis and respiration through the roots. Maintaining an air permeable soil mass is critical to the health of bonsai.

- Rapid temperature in the root system is not well tolerated by pine. For this reason inserting your pine into a thermal mass will minimize winter temperature fluctuations.
- Water passes through cell walls to enter the vascular system of the tree.
- Nutrients are broken down into components then absorbed into the root cells.
- Fertilizer should be used wisely. Cottonseed meal (N-P-K / 6-2-1) is a good natural fertilizer for pine.
- Natural fertilizers can be filled into (fillable) teabags to eliminate adding fertilizer directly to soil mass and to facilitate easy removal of fertilizers.

### A Work Plan for an Undeveloped Bonsai

With pine, every needle site holds potential for another branch. To develop these side branches, remove needles along the length of the branch, leaving three thin bands of needles along the length of the branch, at 120° intervals around the diameter of the branch. The following spring you should weaken the candle on that branch/trunk to encourage bud development further down the branch/trunk.

David took a moment to work on a Scotts pine, developing movement and branch placement. Kurt Smith provided the tree.



David DeGroot discussing pine care

## DeGroot in Ann Arbor Re-Cap

David DeGroot was in Ann Arbor for three days to offer his design ideas for the future of the UM-MBG Bonsai Collection. David spent several days examining and working on the bonsai in the MBG collection. With the assistance of several volunteers, Carmen Leskoviansky--curator of the collection--was able to introduce David to the bonsai at MBG. There were three days of frenetic work performed on these trees; dramatic changes have been made to several of them. The volunteers were able to glean information from David for the maintenance of the collection.



David DeGroot Working on Recent Gift to MBG from Bruce Baker



Some of the Volunteers Who Work on the MBG Collection  
Jack, Carmen (curator), David, Cyril and Bill

## Michigan All State Bonsai Show

A number of our members participated in the show at Frederick Meijer Gardens, presenting 24 displays. A number of these bonsai were recognized for the quality of their work. A list of the bonsai, the artists and the awards are listed below.

(This list of bonsai/artist/award appears in no particular order)

Satsuki Azalea with Kingsville boxwood - Jack Wikle  
Hinoki Cypress - Cyril Grum - Award of Merit - Best Evergreen  
Dawn Redwood - Cyril Grum - Excellence in Bonsai Award  
Cypress on stand with driftwood accent - Jack Wikle  
White Birch - Cyril Grum  
Natal Plum - Bill Struhar with accent  
Brazilian Raintree - Bill Struhar - Award of Merit-Best Tropical  
Siberian Peashrub with accent - Bill Struhar  
Crab Apple - Bill Struhar  
California Cotoneaster with accent - Bill Struhar  
Tamarack Forest - Best Native Species  
Mini Bushcherry w/Petosky Stone - Cyril Grum  
Cotoneaster - Cyril Grum - Award of Excellence  
Mini Bonsai Display - Burt Davyi fig, Mendocino Cypress, Snow Rose, Little Leaf Boxwood, Irish Lace English Ivy and Chinese Sweetplum - Jack Wikle  
Yew - John Cerovski - Award of Excellence  
Scotts Pine - John Cerovski - Award of Excellence  
Mame Display with accents - Eric Newton  
Flowering Quince - John Cerovski - Peoples' Choice Award  
Juniper - Eric Newton - Award of Excellence  
Japanese Wisteria with white flower - John Cerovski  
Scotts Pine Literati - John Cerovski  
Yew - John Cerovski



Jack Wikle with his Mini Bonsai Display.



Cyril Grum with his Dawn Redwood - Excellence in Bonsai Award



Brazilian Raintree – By Bill Struhar - Award of Merit - Best Tropical



Flowering Quince by John Cerovski - Peoples' Choice Award



Yew by John Cerovski



Mame Display with Accents By Eric Newton

## REGIONAL BONSAI EVENTS

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

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## 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](mailto: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)

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## 2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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VP/Program Planner ..... Paul Kulesa  
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Director 2015-2016 ..... Tom McCue

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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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For membership to AABS, please contact Joan Wheeler. You can pay by check, written to Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. You can talk with the Treasurer at the next meeting to discuss your participation.

Joan Wheeler – Treasure AABS  
34660 Fountain Blvd  
Westland, Michigan 48185  
734-338-2525  
[AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com](mailto:AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com)

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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  
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