

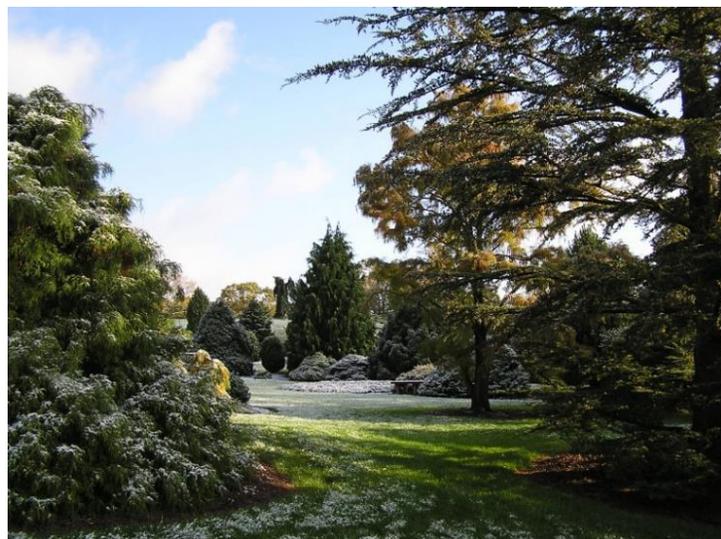
NEXT CLUB MEETING:

March 22, 2017

Win a spot in a workshop!

NEW FOR 2017 - One space in each workshop will be filled by means of a drawing. The drawing will take place during the meeting the month before the workshop. Anyone present at that meeting may put their name in the 'hat' for a free spot at the workshop. If the name drawn has already paid for the workshop, their fee will be refunded and their space will become available.

The drawing for the April workshop will be at the March 22nd meeting.



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Ron Milostan

Is Anxiety on your to do list this time of year? I am not talking about paying taxes, insurance payments, new auto tags, subscription renewals and club dues. I am talking about the anxiety over your trees- did they or did they not survive the winter. I left my trees in December and will not see them again until the 1st of April. I worry all winter. What I would really like is for someone to pick up my trees in the fall and return them to me in the spring in excellent condition. Now I know that is not going to happen. The best I can hope for is that no major branches died off or got broken, no frozen or rotting roots and no cracked pots. Oh and no chew marks from our cute yard critters.

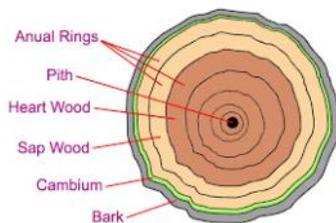
All of these, of course, have happened over the years. In fact, all of them have happened in the same year. I have come to see this unveiling of my trees every year as an adventure..... well, maybe more as an opportunity..... to restyle a tree that I hadn't considered restyling.

It's a new season and we have a great bonsai schedule for our club and many more opportunities with other clubs. Make this year your year to expand your bonsai knowledge and activities.

February MEETING

Notes by Sandro Morero

- New people introductions
- Next workshops
 - April 27th
 - June 28th
- Presentation: Hidden lake gardens propagation
 - LED lights
 - Taxus Baccata: using the LED technology is easier for the plants to survive, especially for the rootspot
 - Marriage of a plant: it is possible to have plants that merge together, trunks merge together and become the same plant
 - Interesting terms:
 - Cultivar
 - Scion
 - Cambium: very little green layer of the plant inside the trunk, during a graft the cambium is the layer that has to recognize the new plant



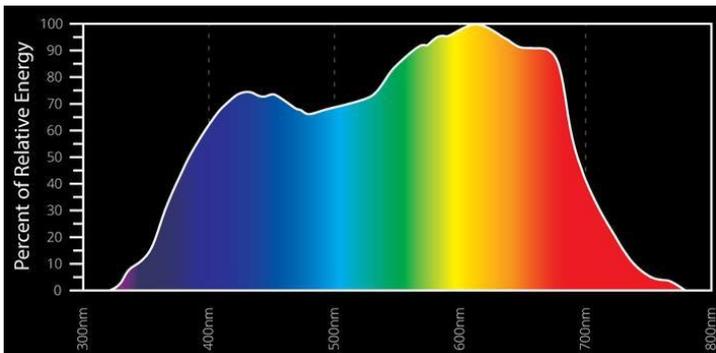
- What can be grafted:
 - Pinus
 - Picea
 - Ginko

Pictures from Hidden Lake Gardens



- What can go wrong?
 - Before grafting:
 - Rootstock and scion are not compatible
 - Cambium not aligned properly
 - Scion upside down
 - Unhealthy plants

- After grafting
 - Improper graft union core
 - Improper wrapping and moisture
 - Scion and rootstock didn't receive optimal light
 - Rootstock not properly watered
 - Environmental treat
 - Diseases, insects, mechanical issues
- Time to graft:
 - Winter (Dec-march) after the hard cold has passed
 - Before hot weather
- How to graft:
 - Use a straight piece of wood used as a support, cut the lowest needles of the twig and cut in vertical the last part of the twig in order to see the cambium, do the same for the other plant. Put the little twig on the other plant and the two cambium have to match. Use a rubber band to keep the two part matching.
- LED technology



At 600 nm there is the peak of efficiency for the photosynthesis where the plants grow more and needs more energy and nutriment.

For the graft process is necessary to work where the plants need less energy, like 400nm, because they don't have to grow but they have to create roots. Also the CO₂ is important for the plants, because they use it for survive instead of oxygen.

GRAFTING WORKSHOP presented by Jon Generaux

Propagation of *Picea Omirika* 'Bruns Pendula'

More from a Workshop presented by Jon Generaux at the February 2017 Meeting



Step 1: Cut off the end and clear the lower 1" to 1-1/2" of needles.



Step 2: Create a wedge shape at the end of the scion.



Step 3: Open a cleft in the rootstock exposing the cambium.



Step 5: Close tightly around scion forming a tight union.



Step 4: Insert Scion into the cleft in the rootstock.



Step 6: Secure tightly with plant tape



Step 7: Cover tape with rubber band



Step 8: Cover with zip-lock bag and label the plant

Post Grafting Care

Remove terminal bud to encourage growth of lateral.

Keep rootstock moist – do not let dry out.

Keep out of direct sunlight, until you see significant growth from scion.

If scion survives and significant growth appears strong then unwrap the band and waxy tape so as not to girdle the cambium (About 3 weeks).

Remove top of Rootstock after 1 year.

A couple photos of members trying their hand at grafting during the workshop



AN INTRO TO JACK WIKLE, our March speaker by Peggy Kubitz

Jack Wikle is our esteemed March speaker. Jack is known to many in our club as its most senior active member. He is practically revered by bonsai enthusiasts all over the world. Since I have been volunteering at Hidden Lake Gardens in the bonsai court with Jack for the past three years, I can truthfully say that I feel like the sorcerer's

apprentice. Jack is indeed a sorcerer when it comes to bonsai! I have seen him make a few judicious snips on a lack luster tree, and turn it into a work of art. In my mind, he is a combination of Yoda, E.T, and Treebeard of Fangorn Forest, the fictional character from J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth fantasy writings. Jack has degrees in both Biology and Ornamental Horticulture from Michigan State University, but it is his intrinsic affinity for trees and bonsai that make him a master. He was able to run freely in the woods and fields as a child, inspiring a love of trees and nature. A missing component for many children in modern times.

While in the army during the post Korean War era, Jack was stationed in Japan where he became exposed to bonsai. He later became converted to his passion for bonsai by Bob Maxson, one of Michigan's bonsai pioneers. We *all* know how contagious bonsai can be. Fortunately, Jack continued on the path of experimenting with bonsai. Many of his potted trees are over forty years old. I have the joy of working with some of them, often on display at Michigan State's Hidden Lake Gardens in the Irish Hills. Jack served as Education Specialist at the Gardens for over twenty years and continues as a consultant and Curator in the bonsai court, working with Diane Faust. The collection and records are meticulous. He is a wonderful resource on the wildflowers, rare conifers, and plantings in the gardens, as well. He cannot be stumped. I have seen him given a bare branch in the middle of winter and he is able to identify it. Jack continued to visit Japan many times and has a great love of the country, its traditions and Japanese Gardens. He has studied bonsai for at least half a century and his curiosity continues.

Jack is best known world-wide for his pioneering efforts in growing miniature bonsai indoors under artificial lights. Using only white fluorescent lighting, Jack has trees that have thrived for twenty-five years. Who does that? This is why I compare him to the space traveler E.T., an extra-terrestrial botanist who can surely grow just about anything, anywhere. His many apprentices and students can attest to Jack's uncanny abilities. Forever encouraging to beginners and experts alike, Jack willingly shares his knowledge.

Jack has served as editor of the American Bonsai Society's quarterly journal, speaker, program chairman for the American Bonsai Society Annual Symposia held at Michigan State University, and a member of various professional bonsai societies and publications. His many bonsai articles have appeared in print around the world,

and remain on the internet. He has traveled far and wide on behalf of the art of bonsai. Appropriately, he has a realistic "down to earth" approach. However, his gentle, calm demeanor, and contagious laugh, make him a beloved bonsai artist to those who know him best.

UP FOR DEBATE:

By Aaron J. Binns

Time: To Everything There Is A Season+

It is the heart of winter and I have been busy planning for the warm weather that is now right around the corner. Usually I spend my work days attempting to solve problems that seem completely insurmountable so when I get a break on cold winter weekends I usually spend my time trying to solve problems that seem insurmountable. Sad huh? I am a firm believer that all problems can be solved if you have enough time; which means I spend a lot of time fretting about how little time I have to get stuff done. This is also sad, but also reasonable in a twisted way. For instance, the reason I can't play the guitar like Hendrix (aside from having no natural talent) is that I only have time to practice once every couple of months. They say the magic number for becoming a master of anything is to spend 10,000 hours practicing. So if you have a lot of things that you want to be good at you have to find time. Simple as that.

Bonsai is no different. All of us long to assemble and develop a top notch collection. This is much harder to do than one would think. A few years ago I had the honor of attending Jack Wikle's auction. The best part was touring his collection before the auction. I remember telling my kids to pay attention because they might not ever see a private collection like that again in their lifetime. I was right. I made it a goal to attempt to put a collection together that would come close but I have to admit being behind. Jack is very good. He also had a significant advantage over most of us. He is of course a professional horticulturalist and while he didn't spend his work days on Bonsai directly he was putting lots and lots of time into making things grow. Time.

I usually boil the problem of putting together a top notch collection down to asking how I can get really high quality stock to develop into high quality bonsai in a short time.

This is not easy to do because every other bonsai enthusiast in the world is trying to do the same thing. The best place in Michigan in my opinion to purchase bonsai is the Flower Market and most of my trees were purchased there. I am however always looking for more sources and though I try every year I always seem to fail. So, I did what I usually do, I decided to make a list of trees I would like to add to my collection and scour the internet for sources of seedlings. This means that I have several years to wait before I can start working them and transforming them into Bonsai.

I always ask myself if this is a waste of precious time. The truth is it takes so long to develop a high quality tree this way that eventually I won't see the end result of trees that I start. This year while spending time trying to think of a way around this issue I realized that Bonsai doesn't follow the 10,000 hour rule. Bonsai follows the 10,000 year rule. We develop trees so that they will live beyond us. In a real way they are a gift for the next generation and will always be more theirs than ours. I have decided that for as long as I possibly can I will start new bonsai from scratch if only to leave a larger selection of raw stock to the bonsai enthusiast that will come after me.

I encourage everyone to join me in the pledge to develop new stock and this month's up for debate question is: How do you develop new stock and do you have any secrets that you find aid in developing bonsai from very young material?

REMEMBRANCES OF CLIVE TAYLOR

By Jack Wikle

I have been saddened to learn that our Ann Arbor Bonsai Society has recently lost one of its longest active members Clive Taylor.

My first contact with Clive came in March 1980 when he wrote to me because he had been given my name as someone who might be able to tell him where he could buy bonsai pots. Then we met face-to-face when he attended the American Bonsai Society's Annual Symposium on the Michigan State University campus that summer. It was not long after this that Clive joined our Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. This was the beginning of our long acquaintance and "growing friendship."

In his early years as a member, Clive's attendance at our club meetings was somewhat unpredictable. But as the years passed he became more regular at meetings and we could almost always count on him to bring multiple trees for our exhibits which added greatly to the quality of our shows. The buttonwoods and bald cypress trees he collected while wintering annually in Florida were always standouts. Also, he was one of the few Society members successful in growing white birch trees as bonsai. Some of us have theorized that Clive's birches collected from rubble pile islands near the Erie mouth of the Detroit River are some kind of unusually stress tolerant hybrid.

To me, Clive always stood out as an extraordinarily observant and creative individual who watched what others were doing and was very quick in experimenting and adding innovations of his own. This began with rooting cuttings and soon progressed to experimenting with air layering and grafting. He took great pleasure in showing friends how he had joined two or three trees in a way that resulted in them fusing to become a single, very impressive individual. Although admittedly uncomfortable speaking formally to an audience, Clive was always at ease and extremely generous in sharing his experience and perceptions with individuals and the small groups that typically accumulated around him at meetings and exhibits.

Thick trunked Japanese maples with small leaves and dramatically flaring buttress roots were another Taylor specialty. Early in his bonsai growing adventure, Clive purchased, from William Valavanis, rooted cuttings of a couple of genetically dwarf and small-leaved Japanese maple varieties, *Acer palmatum* 'Kiyō Hime' and *Acer palmatum* 'Koto Hime'. Over time he started many more of these maples by rooting cuttings and grew a number of them into very impressive, mature looking trees.

As recently as August 2015, Mr. Valavanis --- internationally known as a bonsai artist, teacher and bonsai magazine publisher --- visited Clive and was very impressed with what Clive had accomplished with stock acquired from him in the early 1980's.

(See valavanisbonsaiblog.com/2015/08/ to read more about what Bill had to say then about Clive and about Clive's expertise as a Japanese maple grower.)

Beginning some years ago, and accelerating more recently as his health was failing, Clive and his wife Clarice have been very generous in donating bonsai and related

material to Michigan State University's Hidden Lake Gardens. Visitors to the Bonsai Courtyard there will typically find some of Clive's maples and other bonsai work on display.



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 wm.struhar@mail.com or call (586) 468-7169.

Club Logo Now Available: we will embroider the club logo on your garment for \$12 (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 border on both combinations and AABS lettering and Chinese characters with 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 may require a minimum of five garments per order)

2016 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: Bob Bauer

Nomination Committee:

Show Committee: Ron Milostan and Paul Kulesa

Annual Auction: Paul Kulesa

Membership dues are \$25. Please pay by check, written to Ann Arbor Bonsai Society or bring your credit card to the meeting and pay! AABS now accepts credit cards for membership fees and other AABS activities. Please talk with the Treasurer at the next meeting.

Tamara Milostan – Treasurer AABS
4228 Highcrest Dr.
Brighton, Michigan 48116

AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society: <http://absbonsai.org> and the Mid-American Bonsai Alliance: <http://mababonsai.org>

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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5TH ANNUAL HIDDEN LAKE GARDENS THE ART OF BONSAI



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017 – TIPTON, MICHIGAN

Bonsai Show and Art Inspired by Bonsai

ART INSPIRED BY BONSAI: 10 A.M. – 6 P.M.

Upper level of the Visitor Center – Free

A special exhibit organized by the Lenawee Artists Lounge, these pieces represent or have been inspired by bonsai. This art will be on display from September 1 through October 31.

An informal Art Reception: 1-3 p.m., will provide an opportunity for guests to meet the artists.

BONSAI SHOW: 11 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Lower level of the Visitor Center - \$3 admission

Children accompanied by an adult – Free

Open to all bonsai enthusiasts who would like to exhibit and to all visitors who will enjoy seeing an extraordinary display of miniature trees. (To reserve exhibit space, submit form below.)

BONSAI BAZZAR: 11 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Lawn adjacent to mail parking lot

A variety of vendors will be present offering bonsai, plants with bonsai potential, pots, tools, and related items. (To reserve selling space on the lawn, vendors must register and make a \$25 refundable deposit*. Call the Gardens to receive vendor registration forms and detailed vending information.)

ASK THE BONSAI ARTISTS: 12:30 P.M. – 2 P.M.

Visitor Center Auditorium – Free

Advice and answers to your bonsai questions will be available from a panel of experienced growers.

INTRO TO BONSAI: 2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Visitor Center Auditorium – Free

Lecture covering basic information on how to get started in growing miniature trees.

HIDDEN LAKE GARDENS' BONSAI DISPLAY

COURTYARD: 10 A.M. – 6 P.M.

The Bonsai Display Courtyard will be open to the public with access through the Conservatory. See Hidden Lake Gardens permanent collection and meet the bonsai volunteer caretakers.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Picnic areas are available on the grounds. Food vendors will also be present the day of this event.
- Entry fee to Hidden Lake Gardens will be \$3 per person on this date. This does not include admission to the Bonsai Show in the Visitor Center.
- Hidden Lake Gardens makes no endorsement or guarantee regarding quality, survivability, or usefulness of items offered for sale by vendors.

QUESTIONS: 517-431-2060

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION

To reserve exhibit space for your bonsai, clip off and return this form with your deposit check* (\$10 payable to Hidden Lake Gardens, dated 9-17-17, 6214 W. Monroe (M-50), Tipton, MI 49287) **Deadline: September 4, 2017**

Name _____ Phone number _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Approx. display width needed (in ft) _____

Approx. number of bonsai for display _____ *Note: 3 tree limit per exhibitor (very small bonsai an exception)*

*Deposits will be refunded at 4 p.m. to exhibitors whose bonsai remain on display for the duration of the exhibit, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.