



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. Program starts at 7:00 PM.

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

August 2017
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NEXT CLUB MEETING:

Wednesday, August 23rd, 2017

AABS members Diane Faust, Cathy Strachan, Cyril Grum, Ron Milostan, Mike and Sandy Simmons, and Kurt Smith will host the next meeting of the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society on Wednesday, August 23, 2017, 6:30-9:00 at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. They will share photos and thoughts from their 2016 trip to Japan with William Valvanis.

Preparing For Our Annual Show

Paul Kulesa

Friday, August 25, 2017 – 10 AM

Please join me to transform the auditorium at Matthaei Botanical Garden into a *Bonsai Show*. This is light work involving some lifting, toting and sprinkling a little *magic dust* around the auditorium. The transformation process should wrap-up about 3 PM.

If you are available, meet me in the auditorium on Friday morning.

Questions/concerns?

Contact me at aabonsaisociety@gmail.com

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Ron Milostan

Well we have had a great growing season. I just spent the last 3 months trimming, pruning, wiring and repotting. Now it's show time. A decision has to be made about what tree or trees will be in this year's AABS show.

Mostly, my decision is made by the tree itself. Since my preplanned tree often gets its leaves all chewed up or all curled by some mystery bug..... so can't show that one.... Ok choose another one.

Clean the pot.

Trim ugly leaves.

Remove bug and bird (#\$%@).

Clean calcium spots.

Finally trim off all going down or straight up stuff.

Now ready for the show. Oops.... Need moss for the natural look. Instead of this being one of the last things I think of I could have, and should have started moss first thing this spring...

Ok, so Tam's out there with a large knife scraping up all the moss she can find. Very helpful of her since I cannot bend my knee to get down, actually I can get down I just can't get back up.

Ready for the final steps: clean top layer of pot, dress with colored stone, add the moss in a natural looking way, and add a large rock or piece of bark for added interest.

Wow, I didn't know this tree could look this good. Ok, what about an accent piece and a cool stand.

Get this tree to the show before anything happens to it!!

July Meeting minutes and presentation notes.

Sandro Moreno

Some communications:

- August 12-13: Four Seasons show
- AABS bonsai show August 26th-27th
 - Friday 25th: 5 to 7 PM bring your tree
 - Saturday 26th: bring something to share after the show
 - Sunday 27th: the show will finish at 4PM, it will be possible to take the tree after 4.30PM
- The meeting of October will be on the 18th instead if the 25th

Jack Sustic - speaker

Jack Sustic is an AABS member and former curator of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum in Washington DC.. In this meeting he went tree by tree giving suggestions and opinions:

- Juniper:



Put wire and don't put in another pot, remove the big wire from the trunk which is not useful.

- Maple:



It's starting to grow high so it has to be cut the next year, remove the largest leavest two or three times every year.

- Wood Pines:



Put wires, remove branches growing up too close to the trunk.

- Japanese Black Pine



It's still under definition. Early April all of the candles will start growing, in June cut all of the candles except for the weakest ones. The style of this tree is fine but it needs a bit of redefinition, make a jin of the first branch and move down the other branches.

- White Pine



It should be a little shorter to maintain the proportions. One of the first branches has to be cut.

- Azalea



In order to have branches in the back you can cut it and new branches will grow from the back. It's not completely healthy but with the correct amount of water it should survive.

- Ficus



Continue to wire it, remove the present one and put new wires.

- Bougainvillea



The front seems to go back, in order to give it some directions cut one of the bigger branches on one side.

- Elm



It is really tall, it should have shorter branches.

- Larch



Usually one third of the tree is without branches so it should be without the first two. Also, the front should be another one.

- Maple



The style is good, let it grow.

- Gingko



Cut the larger branches and try to keep them back.

- Juniper



Put wire and try to keep the larger branches in the back.

- Larch



Nice movement but he needs to find the front yet.

- Azalea



Put it in a pot with more soil, roots have to be a bit higher and to be a bit more covered.

UP FOR DEBATE:

By Aaron J. Binns

Performance Anxiety - Another Session with Dr. Freud Von Bonsai

Over the last several years my fascination with bonsai has provided me many opportunities to meet and befriend many wonderful people. Perhaps the most intriguing of these individuals is the illustrious Dr. Freud Von Bonsai. Of course the good Dr. is a well-known and beloved figure among Bonsai enthusiasts. He is the consummate Renaissance man and holds Ph.D.'s in many subjects including but not limited to, agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, classical physics, modern physics, quantum mechanics, applied mathematics, phycology, psychiatry, and small engine repair. Given his depth of knowledge, getting on his schedule can pose a real problem but as luck would have it I was once again allowed to sit in on one of his many sessions with an individual seeking Bonsai related advise. I felt the topic was well timed given the club show this month and have transcribed the session below.

Dr. Von Bonsai: I see here that you are preparing to enter a contest of some kind, is that right?

Patient: Yes Dr., to be honest it is causing me a lot of mental distress.

Patient: Huh?

Dr. Von Bonsai: Anxiety brought about when one is about to speak in front of large crowds.

Patient: Oh... I thought it meant something else.

Dr. Von Bonsai: hmm...

Patient: I'm not speaking in front of a crowd Dr.

Dr. Von Bonsai: An actor then! Wonderful, I have always had a soft spot in my heart for the theatre. I played Horatio in my high schools production of Hamlet you know.

Patient: That's interesting... but no, I'm not acting... why would you think I was acting? I'm going to enter one of my Bonsai trees in the club show.

Dr. Von Bonsai: So you're suggesting your tree has performance anxiety?

Patient: No. Maybe I'm not doing a good job explaining.

Dr. Von Bonsai: Obviously not.

Dr. Von Bonsai: Did you have a strong male role model as a child?

Patient: Well, my father was a good man but he travelled often on business. Now that I think about it he really wasn't around that much. We didn't "throw the ball around" like some of the other kids. I told him I understood that he had to make a living for me and the family but maybe I never really understood why he left so often. Maybe I'm holding onto some resentment. Do you really think that is the reason I'm having trouble selecting a tree for the show? Last year I just knew two of my pines would be ready this year, but I don't know if they are. I have a couple of trees that look really good but I have wire on them. There is another tree that would be perfect but I need to remove a large branch and I'm not sure the tree can handle that at this point in the year. What if my trees aren't good enough? What if people don't like them?

Patient: Dr.?

Patient: Dr.?

Dr. Von Bonsai: Hmm, hmm? Oh, so sorry, I seem to have dozed off.

Patient: Really! Did you hear anything I said? Do you even care?

Dr. Von Bonsai: I am supposed to say yes.

Patient: Listen, they told me you could help me. I'm just trying to select a tree for the show but... if you can't help me I think I might not enter one at all!

Dr. Von Bonsai: Do you have children?

Patient: Yes.

Dr. Von Bonsai: Do they bring you joy?

Patient: Yes.

Dr. Von Bonsai: Are they supermodels? Do they have braces?

Patient: ...no, and yes.

Dr. Von Bonsai: Do you worry that when you take them out into the public someone will say, "Those kids don't look good enough; they're awkward looking."?

Patient: No.

Dr. Von Bonsai: And?

Patient: Oh.

Patient: Thank you.

Dr. Von Bonsai: Schedule your next appointment with my assistant on your way out. And you should know that my hourly rate will be increasing as of the first of the month. Good day.

AABS Annual Auction

Paul Kulesa

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Time to remind you that the annual auction is approaching. Every auction requires two elements to succeed - buyers and sellers. So, find those bonsai and bonsai related items that you want to sell at auction, figure out what you may need to further your bonsai skills (books, magazines, containers, materials and supplies).

I need your assistance to make the auction process a success. Think about helping.

Donations

Tamara Milostan

Every year one or more of our speakers requests that our Bonsai Society make a donation in their name instead of accepting a fee for their presentation or workshop. This year is no exception. Jerry Meislik and Jack Sustic both donated their fees to worthwhile organizations. Jerry's donation went to Matthaei and designated his gift to be used for the care of the bonsai collection. Jack asked that we make his donation to the National Bonsai Foundation in Washington D.C. Thanks to both of these presenters for their gift that promotes the art of bonsai.

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
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