



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

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NEXT CLUB MEETING: **Wednesday, September 27th, 2017**

AABS Auction - Wednesday, September 27, 2017

This is September and that means the return of the annual auction for bonsai and bonsai related items. This is a great opportunity to lighten your stacks of bonsai containers, bonsai, pre-bonsai and all sort of bonsai related materials. The corollary is that there will be plenty of bonsai and related material for you to purchase at this auction.

All members are invited to offer for auction bonsai and bonsai related items at our auction. Offering items for auction is reserved for members of the club. Of course, you are welcome to bid on items at this auction. The auction is in two formats, a silent auction and the live auction.

The success of our auction depends on assistance provided by our members. If you can help with the administration of the auction, contact Paul Kulesa at kulesap@gmail.com

In broad terms, the auction schedule is found below.

- 5:30 PM Setup of the auction floor space - setting up table and chairs.
- 6 - 7 PM Registration of Buyers, Sellers and auction items.
- 6:30 PM The Silent Auction begins.
- 7:00 PM The business meeting begins (10-15 minutes).
- 7:15 PM The Silent Auction resumes.
- 7:30 PM The Silent Auction wraps up and the Live Auction begins.

When the live auction wraps up, payment for auction purchases will begin. Again this year, the treasurer will accept your credit card for payment, along check and US currency. There are no provisions to accept payment for purchases prior to the conclusion of the auction. To eliminate the crush of members wishing to pay *right now*, buyers will be called in succession by their Buyer ID Number, starting with #1.

Additional information and forms to be delivered by email.

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Ron Milostan

Silviculture is the practice of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests to meet diverse needs and values. The name comes from the Latin *silvi-* (forest) + *culture* (as in growing). The study of forests and woods is termed [silvology](#). Generally, silviculture is the science and art of growing and tending [forest](#) crops, based on a knowledge of silvics, i.e., the study of the life history and general characteristics of forest trees and stands, with particular reference to locality factors. More particularly, silviculture is the theory and practice of controlling the establishment, composition, constitution, and growth of forests. ***Silviculture is the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, and quality of forest vegetation.***

Also known as **Bonsai**!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Add Siviculturist to your name.

Well we had a very successful show again this year. 23 members displayed their trees and they were quite beautiful, the trees that is. Thank you everyone who came and participated.

On another note. My tree was entered in the show and was discovered to have spider mites. OOOOPS ... Well let's

see what happens when I am caring for my trees. I water daily. While watering with a hand sprayer on a hose I wash top of trees and also flush the underside of leaves. I also look for parasites. So what happened? Well, flushing this way does keep the trees free of debris and larger bugs. It also washes away spider webs.

Ok, here is what happened, or my excuses. These spider mites are very, very tiny. Their webbing is also quite fine. When I was looking at my plants, I was not wearing my reading glasses. I was also not inspecting my plants when not watering. I rarely looked at any of my trees up close and personal.

So, I was and still am a bit red faced, however I did learn a valuable lesson about getting complacent. That's another word for lazy? I hope not. Being thorough and alert to inspecting our trees is something to keep in mind. I was looking at and admiring my trees but really not seeing them.

August Meeting notes.

Since we still don't have a recording secretary (*volunteers gladly accepted*), we don't have a full report of the August meeting. However, Paul Kulesa, kindly provided the following regarding the presentation given at the meeting.

On Wednesday, August 23rd, 2017 several AABS members, Diane Faust, Cathy Strachan, Cyril Grum, Mike Simmons, and Kurt Smith, shared their experiences of a 2016 trip to Japan with William Valavanis. Their photo travel-log with comments was an enjoyable insight to a portion of the Japanese Bonsai community and culture.



2016 Japanese Bonsai Tour Group

(L-R) Ron Milostan, Michael Simmons, Cyril Grum, Cathy Strachan, Kurt Smith, Diane Faust and Jack Wikle.

UP FOR DEBATE:

By Aaron J. Binns

The Importance of Community

I'm not sure if I'm the only one, but I tend to think deep, or at least deepish, thoughts during our annual show. This year was no different. We added a beginner's class for kids on Sunday. It went very well despite the fact that I helped. Kurt did all of the heavy lifting and as it turns out is very good with young folks. I struggled with trying to decide just how much to tell them and how much to do for them. The feedback from club members has been overwhelmingly positive and most importantly the kids all seemed very pleased with the trees that they got to bring home.

So why did we do it? Well, to paraphrase Admiral Ackbar, "It was a trap." (If you don't recognize the Star Wars reference then shame on you. Go Google it, or watch the scene on YouTube.) The original thought was that, if you get the kids interested in Bonsai, then the parents won't be far behind. I think it worked. Most of the parents listened more closely than the kids and many of them took a trip through the show and the vendor area where I hope they purchased their first trees as well. With any luck some will turn into loyal members of our club.

The space battle like trap for parents was really only secondary. On a much deeper level we who work with Bonsai have an innate understanding that a small seed, when planted in good ground, can eventually grow into a giant oak. We also understand that a forest isn't a forest for long if there aren't trees of every age. And boy does this philosophy hold for the art of Bonsai. Many of the varieties we use for Bonsai will live far longer than the artist who first styles the tree. Some lucky trees will be cared for by public gardens but the vast majority of the trees we spend so much time styling will need to find another home when we can no longer take care of them. The same is true for other art forms. Great paintings are meticulously cared for long after the artist has made his last stroke. The difference I think is the rather small community we belong to. First, there are a limited number of people interested enough in Bonsai to attempt to care for a tree. Second, there are even a smaller number of folks that are qualified to take care of trees that someone else has spent a lifetime sculpting.

When I realized this I realized the true importance of our club and all of the other Bonsai clubs that form our larger community. We are only one generation away from tragedy. Think about that for a minute. Should we fail to train the next generation or should we fail to train enough of the next generation it would spell doom for many a wonderful tree. There would simply not be enough qualified individuals to care for all of the trees we continue to develop and create.

Here is what I do. I have two kids and each have shown some interest in the hobby. My son is hooked for life. It is now a matter of not pushing too hard or too lightly. I need to train them on what to do but not require more effort than is fun for a 9 year old girl and 13 year old boy. My son put a tree in our show last year and this year it is my plan to enter my daughter's tree into the Hidden Lake garden show. To be fair, no she hasn't done all of the work and no it isn't a spectacular tree. At least not yet. But she has participated in some way when all of the work has been done. Her participation has allowed me to explain styling techniques, why we use wire, how to cut, and when to cut, without overwhelming her. I think the show should be enough to hook her for life as well. If you don't have a couple of young kids of your own, then be sure to keep a look out for young padawans of any age that may show interest. (That's another really cool Star Wars reference in case you were wondering.) Remember a forest needs trees of every age to make a healthy ecosystem and we need members of every age to make a healthy Bonsai community. The important thing is that we all attempt to pass on what we know. It will make the club stronger and our trees better. So get out there and pass on your knowledge. And may the force be with you. (And that was my final Star Wars reference. It doesn't really work there but hey, I really wanted to say it!)

The Basics of Buying a Bonsai Tree (from what I have experienced) Chris Kehrig

Questions to ask:

- Indoor or Outdoor?
- Garden stock or finished tree?
- Where to buy?
- How much do you want to spend?
- **Do you LIKE IT?**

Indoor vs Outdoor:

One of the most important things to consider when buying a Bonsai is where you will be keeping the tree. Are you looking to have it outside year around, inside for the winter and out for the summer, or inside all year. If you want an outdoor tree, you have these advantages:

- A deciduous tree that changes color and drops leaves in the fall
- A pine or juniper is fairly hardy and may require less maintenance depending on style/type
- Does not require indoor space

However, you must also think of these disadvantages:

- Will dry out faster and may require more watering than an indoor tree
- Need a winter spot for protection
- Theft possibilities

Garden stock vs finished tree and where to buy:

Depending upon your desire to work initially on the tree, there are considerations on buying a garden stock bush/tree or a finished tree.

- Garden stock provides satisfaction in creating your own Bonsai
- Can save a significant amount over finished tree (especially when purchased on clearance in the Fall)
- Garden stock is widely available at home improvement stores such as Lowe's and Home Depot or garden centers such as Telly's and Bordine's
- Finished trees will cost more and can be harder to find
- They can be found at the Flower Market in Monroe, Telly's, and Bonsai House.
- Finished trees however will likely come shaped and in a pot – good for the beginner or someone looking for a specific tree.
- The Bonsai auction through Four Season's and Ann Arbor are a great source – prices are generally less than retail and often gives you a chance to meet the current owner.
- Ebay is great for looking at various types of trees HOWEVER, are you comfortable that the tree will arrive healthy? Also, if coming from another part of the country, can the tree sustain your climate?

How much do you want to spend?:

- Bonsai vary greatly in cost with some free and some into the thousands of dollars
- A good rule of thumb is to start with an inexpensive tree and learn the basics on watering, fertilizing, repotting, and shaping.
- Avoid finished trees from big box stores such as Home Depot, Lowes and Costco as these trees tend to have glued in soil, are often outdoor trees sold as indoor, and not in best health.
- Bonsai may seem like expensive small trees, but one must think about the years of care and training that have gone into it.

Most importantly – do you like it?

- Does the tree grab your eye?
- Have you looked at it from all angles?
- Would you regret not buying this tree – especially true at auction time!
- Every tree is different and requires different care – trees you like will be more likely to receive the care they need.

In summary, bonsai trees vary in quality, price, and type. Joining a club will help expose you to others that are passionate about Bonsai and provide answers to your questions. It can be a very rewarding experience acquiring Bonsai and over time, you'll find that it is a rewarding hobby!



Kurt Smith teaching Bonsai to young adults



Mark Fields working on Japanese white pine

A few images from the show...









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)

2017 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Ron Milostan
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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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