

NEXT CLUB MEETING:
March 27th, 2019



The next meeting of the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society will take place Wednesday, March 27 at Matthaei Botanical Gardens starting at 6:30 pm. Pauline Muth will be presenting an Amur maple forest demonstration. Pauline has been involved in bonsai for over 45 years, and is active in numerous organizations, including the American Bonsai Society and Bonsai Clubs International. She has received several awards, and has operated her own bonsai teaching studio since 1990.

The Thursday after, March 28, Pauline will be presenting an Amur Maple forest workshop. \$125 per person, that will include 5 small amur maples, planting slab, soil and wire. The workshop will be held in the Head House from 5:30 – 9:00 pm. The Head House is the workroom near the loading area/garage door. Openings still remain, please contact Jay Sinclair, sinclair.jay@sbcglobal.net to reserve a spot.

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:

Ron Milostan

March 2019

Ever wonder where to find specific and maybe special bonsai trees and pots? Do not want to drive long distances to find Bonsai Nurseries or Bonsai trees for sale.

Well on Facebook there are several Auction and Buy Sites just for Bonsai. I know you sometimes feel that ordering online, especially trees, things will go wrong. Well I have ordered online pots, soil, tools, and live trees and have not had any serious problems. In the few cases where there has been a problem an equitable solution has always been reached. These sites have a moderator who watches all communication as to authenticity and handles all complaints.

Tropicals will usually wait till spring to ship, but others will ship within 3 to 4 days. Payments are easy, most take PayPal and that is a good place to pay for most all online transactions. Here are some Facebook auction sites I have visited and enjoyed. Just login to Facebook and search the name of the site.

Shohin and Mame Bonsai

February Meeting Review

Chris Kehrig

The Season Year with Carmen Leskoviansky
2/27/19

Carmen reviewed her year with Michael Hadedorn in Portland Oregon. She traveled there 4 times for 3 days to experience each season.

She played a youtube video to experience Michael's Crataegus Bonsai. He has various trees from collected Rocky Mountain Junipers to Japanese maples. Due to the size and growth of the trees, he uses many home built boxes.

Carmen's first trip was in February, which is really the start of their spring. This is repotting time in Portland. The soils are all Japanese based with Akadama and Pumice used mainly, very little lava used. This type of soil promotes fine roots.

The collected trees go into boxes and get bare rooted if in poor soil. The method used to remove the soil is done over 2 years. First year, half of the soil is removed, and the second year the other half is removed to not disturb roots all at once. The middle mass of soil remains on the collected older trees. A collected tree repot into a box was the first exercise that Carmen had. Another was doing design work on a maple where most of the branches were guy wired down. Finding the front was always a focus on each trip.

In May, they were presented with a blooming Wisteria that was to be defoliated. While it was difficult to remove the beautiful blooms, they would soon return. Defoliation reduces leaf size and creates vivid fall colors. Most deciduous trees can be defoliated except for a cherry tree.

Decandling a black pine was done to improve ramification. Fertilization should be increased up until the decandling is to take place. While a defoliated deciduous tree should

be kept out of sunlight for a couple of weeks, the pins goes right out to the sunlight.

They were encouraged to view Japanese Bonsai show books to see pots, stands, and styling discussions.

She returned to Oregon in October to be greeted with beautiful fall colors. Page copies from the Japanese Show books were used for deletion exercise where they were to white out the unnecessary foliage. Also, they draped a white cloth over a pine to further practice the deletion method.

UP FOR DEBATE:

Aaron J. Binns

A Little Soil Science

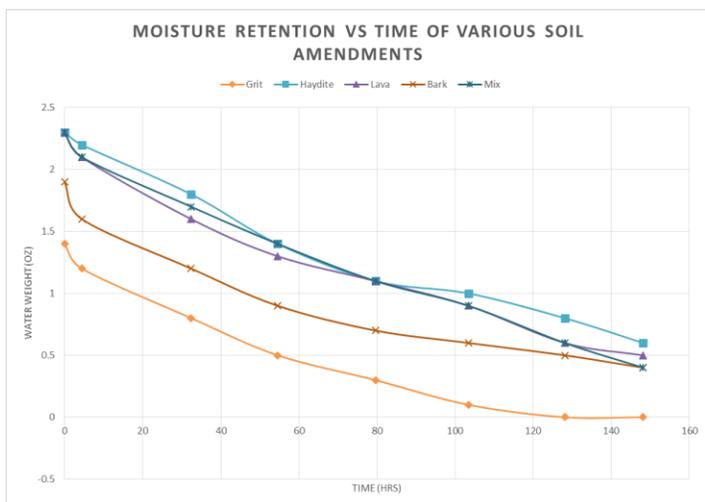
Its spring... at least it is spring enough that you should be almost done repotting your tropicals. That means that you are probably questioning your soil mix again. Come on admit it, you are wondering if your mix is right or if you should really be spending money on the expensive stuff that some random professional swears by. Resist the urge. What you are buying from a pro is one of two things. One: a short cut because you just don't want to mix your own soil. Two: the pro's experience because he or she has had success so you assume you will too. Both of those reasons are sometimes valid if you keep one thing in mind; the pro is successful with his or her mix given his or her growing conditions. So if you are looking to take a shortcut then try to buy local. That may still not be enough because you may be growing in shade and they may have optimized their mix for full sun but at least you won't be using a mix that was built around the rain fall in Seattle or some such thing. Best to start tailoring your own soil.

BUT AARON, I WILL MESS IT UP AND ALL MY TREES WILL DIE!!!

Probably not. They grow plants without soil at all now a days, it is the science behind hydroponics and yes hydroponics is good for far more than just producing medical marijuana. Spend some time learning about it, the knowledge is worth having. (Not the marijuana part, that's just a bad idea, the science behind the horticultural part is worth knowing.) Kurt Smith says that if you want a good soil mix learn how to water. He is right. The soil does a couple of things, it holds the plant upright and it holds the water and nutrients the tree needs to survive. Your watering habits play a far greater role than your soil in the success you will have with your trees. The reason

that bonsai folks spend so much time worrying about the soil mix is that you do need a free draining soil to prevent root rot. The ground, as it turns out, does a better job growing trees than a pot. (That God guy knows his stuff.) One of the reasons is that the ground literally pulls water out of the soil and away from the roots, preventing the soil from turning to muck. A pot does not do this so if the plant doesn't use the water or it isn't evaporated then it stays. Try to use garden dirt in a pot and it takes next to forever for it to dry out. Roots have a sweet spot for nutrient absorption, not too wet and not too dry. Turns out that if you get a soil that free drains and needs to be watered daily you stay in that sweet spot longer.

All that being said, the number one thing to worry about when selecting mix components is how well or bad they hold water. I performed some experimentation with some of the components I had around my home to track how well they retain water. Here is what I did. I purchased several clear measuring cups. Then I filled each with the same volume of each component I was interested in. I weighed each so that I would know the dry weight. I then watered thoroughly and weighed each component again. This gave me the weight of water being retained by each component. Over the next several days I continued to weigh each soil mix component. This gave me a history of how fast or slow each dried out. I have included the resulting plot for your enjoyment. It should be noted that the line labeled mix is my mix... it is 1 part lava, 1 part grit, and 1 part haydite. If you have a favorite soil component that you would like added to the list, bring a sample (a cup and a half minimum please) to me at a meeting and I will re-run the experiment and add it to the list. Note that if anyone knows of an inexpensive way to measure nutrient retention then I would love to create additional plots showing how well these soil mix components stack up with respect to retaining the fertilizers we use.



Dr Ruth Heyn Carmen Leskoviansky

It is with a sad heart I announce the passing of our friend Dr. Ruth Heyn M.D. Ruth was born on October 19, 1922 and passed on December 26, 2018. Ruth had an impressive career at the University of Michigan as a doctor, researcher, and professor and is best known for her work in pediatric oncology. She was a founding member of the Children's Cancer Group which merged with the Oncology Group in 2000 to become the Children's Oncology Group. She volunteered at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum for over 20 years caring for the bonsai collection. We will miss her quick wit and joyful personality.

A Celebration of her life will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, MI on [Saturday, April 13, 2019](#) with visitation beginning at 10:00 AM, followed by the service at 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens (mbgna-tributes@umich.edu or [734.647.7847](tel:734.647.7847)) or University of Michigan Pediatric Cancer Research Fund 320719 Ruth Heyn.

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)

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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>



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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