



# Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the U-M-Mattheai 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](mailto:AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com)

**April 2019**

Volume 16 Issue 2

## **NEXT CLUB MEETING: April 24th, 2019**

Our April meeting, Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9:00 at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens will be BYOT – Bring Your Own Tree. Bring a tree to work on, along with tools and wire. Experienced AABS members will be on hand to answer questions and offer advice and suggestions. Whether you are a beginner just learning how to style trees, or a more experienced member with a tree that has you puzzled over just how to proceed, this is an excellent opportunity to take advantage of the many decades of experience and expertise to be found in AABS.

The Michigan All-State Bonsai Show is coming up – May 11-12<sup>th</sup>. Here's the [website](#), and the blurb from their main page:

Join bonsai artists, aficionados, and admirers from across the Midwest to see stunning bonsai on display in the Huizenga Grand Room. Visit the sales area for a great selection of specialty tools, pots, wire and bonsai trees. Have the experts help you find the tree that fits your taste, experience level and growing environment. Be sure to attend free demonstrations offered throughout the weekend. Bonsai artists, including this year's guest artist, Todd Schlafer, will demonstrate pruning, wiring, and other styling techniques. Todd's specialty is working with native collected trees, many of which have sparse foliage and unconventional branches and present quite a styling challenge! Todd will be teaching two "Bring Your Own Tree" workshops to help bonsai artists style and refine their trees. Additional workshops, designed for all skill levels, are available during the weekend.

Many of the workshops are already filled, so if you're interested, sign up soon.

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## **PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: Ron Milostan**

April 2019

As some of you may know our Web site was recently compromised by thousands of bogus email ads causing a major crash. Our hero, and tech savvy, Bob Bauer came to the rescue.

Bob is building our new Web site and working out the details. Soon you will notice a big change. The site will be much more interactive. In the interim the original Web page has been reactivated. AABS is getting more and more into the computer age. With smart phones, email, chat, messenger and a myriad of other apps we need to move with the flow.

We now have several ways to accept payment for membership dues and workshops; the **Square** allows us to accept charge cards and we also now have a **PayPal** account. Checks and cash are always welcome.

Our Facebook page has been slow to start but is now showing more activity. Let's use it for Show and Tell between meetings. Let us see your spring trees and pics of your bonsai gardens. Show us your indoor setups and species of trees that work well for you. I encourage you to

share as much as you are able to since we all benefit from this.

## March Meeting Review

Chris Kehrig

Forest Creation with Pauline F. Muth

3/27/19

Pauline is the owner of PFM Bonsai Studio established in 1990 in West Charlton, NY. Her studio is open year round. She came to explain forest creation with our group concentrating on using Maples, but many types. including tropicals can be used. Pauline really enjoys forest planting and displayed many great example pictures.

One of the important factors of a forest is to use the scaling triangle technique. Also, there is the rule of thirds, but like many things, bonsai forests are a subjective art form. General rules include keeping the younger trees on the outside and bigger on inside. Forest plantings are considered a total artist composition. They fire the imagination and take you somewhere. A raft can also be considered a type of forest planting. Keep in mind that bonsai is a patient art form. The trees caliper should vary to add realism and not look like a tree farm. The distance between the trees should vary and not be lined up with one another.

The focal point of a forest relies on the trunks and can be accomplished with height, caliper, and position. A forest should have an odd number of trees with 13 or more creating a true forest. For a near view, place the big trees in front. Far view has the smaller trees in front. Again, don't create a grid or keep in line.

Pauline mentioned an older book called *The Secret Life of Trees*. It mentions that younger trees have more foliage, levels and ledges add interest. Deciduous trees add special interest with the changing colors. Amur Maples are a great choice due to zone 2 and great color change. She chose Amurs to use in her forest example. It is a perfect time to plant and they are starting to bloom.

While Pauline ran out of time with the demo, she gave us insight into the forest creation. She started with a small slab that she had created. It had wire holes with channels underneath to help keep the slab from rocking on the wire. Mesh goes on top where she used rabbit ear wires to secure the trees to the mesh. Amur maples are

tolerant of root pruning. The examples Pauline had were 2 year old trees. Use the type of soil that works in your environment. Deciduous trees can be chopped down to vary heights.

## UP FOR DEBATE:

Aaron J. Binns

Neea buxifolia

I thought I would take a moment to talk about a type of tree that I hadn't had much experience with until about a year ago. This time of year you are probably expecting me to encourage you to be out there doing initial pruning and repotting. I would but I just spent all day doing that stuff myself and the spring chores are wearing on me. Better to take a moment and talk about a tree; after all that's why we do this right? Anyway, the tree I wanted to highlight in this article is the Neea buxifolia. It's a tropical tree native to Puerto Rico. The USDA plant database shows absolutely no other native homes. It is evergreen and a true tropical so you can't leave it outside during Michigan winters. It does have some wonderful properties. First, the leaves are very small, so shohin look great. I have included a picture of my tree below. The tree is about 3.5 or 4 inches tall including the pot. I didn't trim first, you will have to forgive me.



This tree has only been potted up for a couple of years. It is developing quickly so in a couple of more years it should be a fine little shohin. The tree does just fine all winter under light. It seems not to be overly fussy about watering or fertilizer habits either. I do the same things to

this tree as I do to my ficus. Finally, the tree gets a very small yellow flower. It is cup like in shape and so far I have only seen one, but it was a very nice flower. I will be trimming the tree differently now to encourage more next year. After the flower you are supposed to get a small red fruit. No such luck for me yet. Anyway, that's the Nia (Neea buxifolia) and I highly recommend them.

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**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](mailto: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

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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

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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

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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