

NEXT CLUB MEETING:
May 22nd, 2019

Our May meeting, Wednesday the 22nd, 6:30-9:00 at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens will welcome Bruce Baker – who will provide us with a discussion and demonstration of carving techniques, as well as a discussion of the Yew in the Matthaei collection.



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE:
Ron Milostan

May 2019

Well it sure felt good seeing everyone at last month's meeting. Over the winter I missed the comradery of bonsai enthusiasts, seeing trees and talking Bonsai. I was very pleased with the large turnout of members and BYO Trees. I did hear a couple stories of tree loss due to unusual winter weather. The same was true of the previous winter. Maximum protection is always the best, but like myself, many members have no enclosed shelter above or below ground. I rely on bury and mulch which usually works just fine right until it doesn't.

On another note I experienced a fungus on my pines and it seemed to move toward my junipers. I have spoken to two other people who experienced what I did. It seems to have started with Black Pines gotten in 2018. This is a warning to all, isolation and spraying of fungicides would be a good idea on all new trees added to a collection. I lost 3 very expensive black pines and a 5 needle that I have had for many years. Three of my best junipers lost areas facing and near the infected black pines. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has had a similar problem with trees.

I'm sure spring is on its way to Michigan since we have been teased by beautiful weather several times. Here's hoping that that next week will bring the return of the spring that we all love about Michigan.

April Meeting Review

Chris Kehrig

Bring Your Own Tree night 4/24/19

Shelly Vorrath won the Pauline Muth Tree
Mike Emans (visitor) won the forest

It was a full room with varied species of trees brought in. Jack Wikle started with a show and tell of 3 amazing small trees. He brought a Serissa in bloom with white flowers, an Azalea with pink flowers, and a Monterey Cypress. Mark Hanner had an interesting Kusamano that he created from weeds found within his yard.

Going around the room it was interesting seeing the variety of different trees and their stages. Ben Monroe brought in a Mugo Pine he acquired 15 years ago. He likes using copper wire on it due to slow growth rate. Don Wenzel brought in a Shimpaku and Crab Apple. It was the first year of the Crab Apple being in a container. He was looking for advice on how much to keep and what could be air layered off. Andy Miller brought in a Shimpaku and Lilac. Martin Renewman brought in a Shimpaku that he has had for 15 years. Bob Bauer finds he is reluctant to chop much down until he meets with Jack or Kurt. He did wind up removing and wiring his evergreen into a nice 3 trunk style. Mike Emans who was visiting for his first time not only won the forest, he brought in a Tiger Bark Ficus which he has had for 2 years. He is also currently building a greenhouse. Ray Alexander brought in a couple of gorgeous 60 year old Shimpakus that he acquired from California. David Peterson received advice from Kurt on styling his 10 yr old Ficus and Natal Plum. Mark Hanner had a larch in a round pot that has been in a greenhouse for the winter with nice green results. Don Loveland had a large American Elm twin trunk. His main mission was to find the front which he did. Justin Whitehouse had the newest tree of the evening. It was a small Rhododendron with purple flowers. He also brought in a Fukien Tea. I brought in a small Barbados Cherry and Chinese Fringe Flower which was the stumper of the night with everyone asking what is was. There was a lot of foliage to trim off of

both trees. I had them under grow lights for the winter with no trimming until that evening.

It really was a fun evening for all with advice from the more experienced and a chance to get our hands dirty once again!

May Speaker Bio:

Bruce Baker

Bruce Baker began experimenting bonsai in 1978 after seeing the collection at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. After many false starts, Bruce joined the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society and met Jack Wikle, whom he views as the single most important force in shaping his appreciation of the art of bonsai.

Bruce quickly became fascinated with the possibilities of collected material. His collection includes material collected from the wild and from urban landscapes. He loves to transform urban material, such as yews, into bonsai through carving and training.

Bruce feels that anything of value in his own bonsai practice comes entirely from the generosity and wisdom of the many teachers he has had the good fortune to know and learn from including; Jack Wikle, John Naka, Chase Rosade, Dan Robinson, Vaughan Banting, and others.

In 1987 Bruce was one of several artists recognized by the National Bonsai Foundation as an "Outstanding American Bonsai Artist." Bruce's trees have won many honors in exhibitions, including Best of Show at the Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition at the Chicago Botanical Garden. His trees have appeared in books and on the covers of bonsai magazines. His articles and columns appeared regularly for many years in popular bonsai magazines. During the 80's and 90's Bruce lectured and demonstrated for bonsai groups throughout North America.

Bruce has served as a board member and officer in several bonsai organizations including the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society, the Bonsai Association of Michigan, Bonsai Clubs International, and the National Bonsai Foundation.

UP FOR DEBATE:

Aaron J. Binns

Kusamono

You ever wonder what traits help to make someone successful? What do the folks who accomplish great things all have in common? I have. Lots of times. I think that I have at least one of those traits figured out. What I have noticed is that successful people show no fear. There are two ways that I have seen people do this. First, they are too dumb to know that they should be afraid. They are willing to bet everything on an idea, which is risky even if the idea is a good one, and they get lucky. There are a lot of these folks out there, just turn on your television. The second type knows exactly how risky even a good idea can be but they press forward anyway because they see that the reward could be great. Once committed they show no fear of failure. They just get the job done.

So why is this bit of wisdom included in a bonsai article? Like it or not, unless we consciously fight our urges we often let little tiny fears alter our decisions. What is worse, we usually don't even recognize we are doing it. I just finished preparing trees to take to the Meijer Garden show. I chose to bring kusamono with me, otherwise known as companion plants. I almost didn't. I have taken one short class on the subject and somewhere in the back of my mind I realized that I could do a poor job which would take away from my trees not add to them. See the little bit of fear hidden in there that we normally don't notice? Bringing a companion plant is a good idea. Yes, I could put one together that takes away from my tree but if I don't try I won't get better. The reward will be a well-rounded presentation, the risk a presentation not as good as it could be... so rational me took over and I made up some kusamono. There is no sense in being afraid to make a mistake. Check out the finished products in the pics below. Here are the only rules you need to know to do a good job:

1. Don't worry about getting the perfect size small plants to add to your arrangement. As long as they are small when you start, worst case scenario you make another arrangement when they get overgrown.
2. Sure you could worry about selecting plants that come from the region your tree does... or you could just pick plants that look good together and with your tree. I highly recommend the second option.

3. Always add different types of plants in odd numbers. You can plant a single variety, you can arrange with 3 varieties or 5 varieties, never 2 or 4 or 6.
4. Choose plants with different leaves for interest.
5. Choose different colors for interest.
6. Only one flowering variety, at most, per planting. Too many will take away from the presentation.
7. Use moss to tie them altogether.
8. Don't waste time and money with bonsai soil, a simple high quality potting mix is just fine.

Above all, have fun. Hope to see some companion plants at our show this summer!



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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The AABS President is an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Nomination Committee.

Fund Raising: William Struhar

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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
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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>




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Visit us on the Web:

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

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