



Roots & Branches

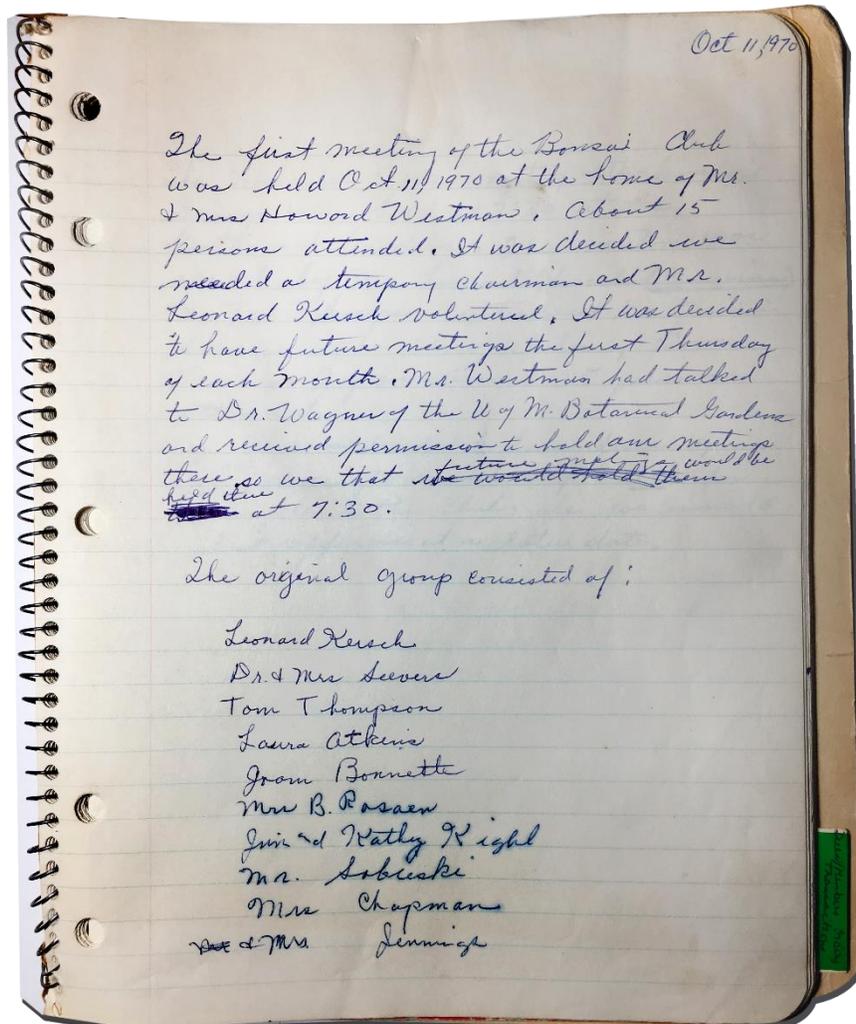
The Origins and Directions of the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

ISSUE #3 FEBRUARY 2020

The First Meeting

From notes prepared by Joan Bonnette

The first meeting of the Bonsai Club was held Oct. 11, 1970 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Westman. About 15 persons attended. It was decided we needed a temporary chairman and Mr. Leonard Kersch volunteered. It was decided to have future meetings the first Thursday of each month. Mr. Westman had talked to Dr. Wagner of the U of M Botanical Gardens and received permission to hold our meeting held there. Future meetings would start at 7:30.



The original group consisted of:

Mr. and Mrs. Westman

Tom Thompson

Laura Atkins

Joan Bonnette

Mrs. Chapman

Mrs. Jennings

Jim and Kathy Kighl

Leonard Kersch

Mrs. B. Rosaen

Dr. and Mrs. Maurice Seevers

Mr. Sobieski

Tom Thompson

The November 5, 1970 meeting of the Bonsai Group was held at 7:30 at the Botanical Gardens. The meeting was opened by Mr. Leonard Kersch (Chairman). Mr. Tom Thompson introduced Dr. Maurice Seevers who shared slides of Bonsai Trees in Japan. Around 35 persons attended.

It was decided to have dues of \$6.00 for a single membership and \$10.00 for a couple in the club, also we would elect officers at a later date.

Editor's Note: We talked to Joan Bonnette recently who attended and took the notes above at the first meeting. Joan was renting a house on the Westman's 200 acre farm and she decided to attend. "It was a great big party," she said. "Several people brought trees to share with every one. I sensed that this could be the start of a nice club because everyone got along so well."

Joan went on to be the club's first secretary in 1973. She would go on to serve as president for 3 years and later as vice president/program chair and the club's historian. "I have the club's celebration on my calendar and I am looking forward to attending."

NEXT WEEK: *The First Public Show*

HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH OUR 50TH CELEBRATION

1. To help us in this celebration effort, all Ann Arbor Bonsai Society members present and past, and all others wishing to contribute are invited to submit personal statements (60 words or less) to be published in our Yearbook. Each text contributor is also strongly encouraged to submit a favorite photo (with caption) of a bonsai tree or a bonsai activity to accompany his or her personal statement. (We can scan old prints or digitize color slides for anyone needing this help with old pictures.) [Upload Form is here](#)
2. Show your support for the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society with a T-Shirt Purchase. Order by February 7th to get the best price. Celebrate the 50th Anniversary in style with shirts that have our commemorative logo printed on the front. The first shipment of these shirts will be available for you at our first meeting February 26, 2020, if you preorder by February 7, 2020. [Order Here](#)



Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
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