



Dr. Maurice Seevers and Matthaei's Bonsai Collection

By Jack Wikle (from the 30 Year History)

It must be noted that although Dr. Seevers was present at a few early meetings, he never attended regularly nor did he become particularly active in the group. Nevertheless, his enthusiasm and his bonsai, now the nucleus of The Matthaei Botanical Gardens Bonsai Collection, have had a major impact on the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society and its activities over the years.

In 1977, after Dr. Maurice Seevers' death, his widow gave many of his bonsai and some potted stock to Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Fifty-four of these trees, considered to be the least desirable, were subsequently sold at auction raising \$1,662.00 to help fund construction of wintering structures and other facilities to accommodate the new collection.

Over the years, our Society's members have discussed, pruned and repotted MBG Collection bonsai at various times as part of activities at our regular monthly meetings. MBG Collection bonsai have also enhanced many of our annual exhibits.



The most valuable survivor of the 163 original Seevers' Collection trees (bonsai and potted stock) donated to Matthaei by the Seevers family after Dr. Seevers' death in 1977. Photo by Dennis Groh.

If you have missed any of the previous issues of this publication they are located in the [History section of the AABS website](#).

NEXT WEEK: *Early Activities and the First Out-of-State Speaker*

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. Let's all Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the AABS in style with shirts that have our commemorative logo printed on the front. Shirts will be available for purchase for \$20 each at our monthly meetings, at the Annual Club Show August 29-30, and at The Flower Market in Dundee, Michigan.



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