

June 23rd Meeting – Jennifer Price!

Our June Meeting will take place on Wednesday evening, June 23 beginning at 6:30 on Zoom with a half-hour informal chat. The formal meeting will begin at 7:00 with Jennifer Price presenting “Where We Are Now and Where We Are Headed: European and American Bonsai”. This will be a Powerpoint presentation followed by a Q&A.

The presentation will cover insights Jennifer has gained through her travels in the EU and here in the States. In comparing the two regions, she will discuss subtle differences in the collection, display, and choice of species for bonsai. The presentation will highlight Walter Pall’s extensive collection plus a private garden in Austria, one of the best she has encountered. The pottery used for display as well as accent plants and kusamono will also be covered.

Jennifer Price is a bonsai artist residing in Chicago. She has been apprenticed with Walter Pall since 2015, and has also trained with Jim Doyle, Chase Rosade, Mauro Stemberger, Young Choe, and others. She was the first female artist invited to Generation Bonsai in Germany, and represented the U.S. at Zhongguo Feng Penjing Exhibit in China.

Zoom meeting information will be shared prior to the event.



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PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE:

Mark Hanner

Growing bonsai, and gardening in general, is an interesting sport; a few weeks back, we were schlepping pots back and forth from outdoors, and exposure to frosts and freezes, and lately, dealing with high heat and drought, trying to keep our green friends happy. Just need to throw in a plague of locusts to round out the challenges. Wait, this is the year for that plague, too.

Well, in any event, we are looking ahead to our annual show in late August, although no word as of this writing, whether it will be a real world, or virtual, event. And this is not too early to think about what tree(s) you plan to enter. For newer members, perhaps with younger trees or those not feeling like the fine treasures of the various collections around the country, please consider entering at least one tree you are working on, and pleased with. As a members’ show, and not a contest, it is nice to see material of all levels (fortunately for me, still a novice myself).

Time to head outside and see if any pots have dried too much, with hours of sunshine ahead this afternoon!

Hope to see you all soon,
 Mark

May Meeting Notes

Chris Kehrig

May 26th Meeting with Andrew Robson

Discussion notes prior to presentation:

Michael Field volunteered for the annual show chair position

Laura Andre agreed to adding membership coordinator to her duties

Andrew Robson of Rakuyo Bonsai presented part 2 on deciduous trees

Andrew started the presentation off with Realism vs Idealism in trees. Realism captures a tree that could be found in nature while Idealism is a more exaggerated style of tree. He emphasized there is no wrong or right when it comes to bonsai.

He then discussed single flush trees vs multi flush. A single flush can only produce leaves once during the growing season, hence, they can be partially defoliated. A multi flush can be fully defoliated. Some examples of a single flush tree are: Japanese Maple, Beech, Hornbeam, and Magnolia. These trees tend to be more cold climate northern trees. With partial defoliation, the tree won't look much different after working on it. Cutting leaves in half to let the light into the tree and to balance the sugars are reasons to partially defoliate. There are two leaf types, Alternate and Opposite. Japanese Maples have opposite leaves where they are directly across from each other. It is recommended to cut back to the first pair of leaves when trimming. A Beech tree has Alternative leaves that are not inline. For these you should cut back to 2nd or 3rd leaf. Defoliation can create ramification.

Multi Flush can receive full defoliation and grow in hotter locations. Some examples are the Trident Maple, Amur Maple, Zelkova, Chinese Quince, and Chinese Elm. An 80-90% reduction in leaves forces a second flush during the growing season. This creates smaller leaves and promotes back budding. Robust growth is required for defoliation. Heavy fertilization in the spring before defoliation is recommended (don't worry about larger leaves). Cut back to first growth leaf stems which will result in small leaves and lots of branches and internodes.

We then went on to explore Andrew's garden where some of his trees are being partially and fully defoliated. After defoliation, protect the trees from full sun for a couple of weeks.

Wiring was then brought up. Realistic trees are created more with scissors and idealistic with more wire. The best time to wire is now during the bonsai growing season. Use of aluminum wire is recommended for deciduous trees since it will not be on the tree for very long IE 2-6 weeks. Deciduous trees do not need bite in of wire like conifers.

Fertilizer was then discussed. Solids vs Liquids with solids slow releasing over time and liquids providing quick release and absorb. Organic vs Chemical with organic having larger numbers, they can often be too strong. Organics have nice strength and produce shorter internodes and provide macronutrients. Fertilizer should be less than 10-10-10 (too strong). Nitrogen is the first number and is what we care about the most. Every bonsai has different needs. Some of Andrew's trees get liquid twice a week and some monthly. The fertilizers he prefers are Fox farm frow big 6-4-4, Biogold, and Bloom city wild Alaskan salmon. Miracle grow is not recommended. Kelp and seaweed do not provide any large benefits.

Andrew recommended going to Linda Chalker-Scott site from Washington State University where she debunks many bonsai myths.

Call for Newsletter Articles

As you have probably noticed, content in the last few newsletters has been somewhat sparse. If you've ever considered contributing an article to the newsletter, now would be a great time to do so. Anything bonsai or bonsai related will likely be accepted. Articles about bonsai stands, kusamano, accent plants and how you care for them year round, pots and how you choose them, where you find good deals on pots, bonsai material and all things bonsai, a write up about a bonsai garden you may have visited, and so many more possibilities. Give it some thought, put some words together and send it to aabonsaisociety@gmail.com.

Put Attn: Newsletter editor in the subject and I'll look forward to seeing a few articles from our membership.

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 and paypal for membership fees and other AABS activities. Please talk with the Treasurer at the next meeting.

Katie Norder – Treasurer AABS
Attn: AABS Membership
13143 Hadley Road
Gregory, MI, 48137

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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