

July 28th Meeting – Christopher Cosenza to Present “Root Stands”

Our July Meeting will take place on Wednesday evening, July 28 beginning at 6:30 on Zoom with a half-hour informal chat. The formal meeting will begin at 7:00 with Chris Cosenza presenting “Root Stands”. This will be a Powerpoint presentation followed by a Q&A.

Christopher Cosenza is a bonsai artist from the Tampa Bay Area of Florida who practices the art of carving root stands for his trees and companion pieces. His presentation will teach you everything you need to know to make these works of art, from safety and tool selection to where to acquire material and, of course, the many methods for making these stands.



Zoom meeting information will be shared prior to the event.

IN THIS ISSUE:

July Meeting	pg. 1
President’s Perspective	pg. 1
June Meeting Notes	pg. 2
Club Information	pg. 3

PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE:

Mark Hanner

Greetings –

First, many thanks to Jay Sinclair, for continuing the fine selection of programs for our virtual meetings! While things are slowly working their way to a semblance of normalcy, we have needed to continue through this month, at least, with speakers providing Zoom sessions, and these have been both informative and interesting. This month continues with another good session, one you won’t want to miss.

We were hoping there would be late-breaking news involving the reopening of Matthaei Botanical Gardens for group events, providing us time to have our August meeting and annual show there, but at the time of writing, no news yet. As a result, the board will be meeting this week to look at an alternate site for the event, in lieu of the virtual approach. Have you selected your tree(s) yet?

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Mark

June Meeting Notes

Chris Kehrig

June 23rd, 2021 Jennifer Price presented where are we now and where are we headed

Her upcoming trip to Europe will be her 7th time. Jennifer talked about Nature's Way nursery where she first met Walter Pall from Munich, Germany. Walter has been involved in bonsai for 40+ years and has over a thousand trees. Jennifer showed us some of Walter's trees starting with a Japanese Maple. The tree was imported from Japan. Trees can be imported from Japan to Europe and can be reasonably purchased due to the Japanese don't like any imperfections on the tree and will sell at low cost. They are not able to import trees from the U.S. Next was a Hornbeam that demonstrates a slab planting which is becoming popular in Europe.

Walter likes to experiment by combining glazed pots with pines and other trees not normally planted in a glazed pot. Jennifer showed us a bright red pot planting that was either loved or hated.

Europe has many deciduous trees that we don't have great access to. They are very aware of the top U.S. stylists and follow them. Many of the trees they use are collected native species such as Lilac and European Beech.

Next up was a European Spruce in a rock container that was styled to weep downwards. Jennifer is styling a Larch in similar fashion in a rock container. Another example with weeping styled foliage was the Lightning Bolt. This was a Spruce with shari up the entire trunk and was used against a blank wall for decoration and to draw the eye up the tree.

Europe's trend is leaning towards more naturalistic bonsai. Use of hens and chicks and other natural plants in the pot instead of moss has become popular.

Another collector reviewed was Hartmut Muenchebach who is a school teacher in Austria with incredible trees but does not show them due to thinking they are not ready. His collection is well thought out and all collected by himself. He keeps bees for pollination. Hartmut uses screws along with the wire which he compares to Woodpeckers. Also, he does not sell his trees as Walter has approached him on buying but was turned down.

Jennifer then brought us to a Swedish Retreat where the trees are rough looking and unrefined. They brought her up a mountain to see Tjikko which is one of the oldest know trees at 9,550 years old. It was not that impressive, but nonetheless, cool to see such an old tree.

In Croatia, the trees are in rocky soil and styled by goats. They are easy to collect, but there are few bonsai artists.

Mauro Stemberger was next with highly styled and refined trees. One example was a breathtaking Rocky Mountain Juniper that was highly styled by him.

The Dusseldorf Museum used Larch and Scots Pine often with lots of movement. There is a raft on stone and Sedum is used in the pots instead of moss. They have nice Hawthorne in growing beds and do a lot of children's programs.

Europe is much further ahead than us in accent plants. They are also buying many trees from Japan at a fraction of the cost.

Back here at the Chicago Botanical Gardens there is an 800 year old Limber Pine. Yew which is underused here in the U.S. is on display. In Texas they are big on using Dawn Redwood with lots of carving and deadwood. In Florida, they have huge Bougainvillea and Buttonwood due to the year long growing season. Jennifer had shown a Willow Leaf Ficus that was 7 years old but looked 20.

All in all, Europe is very aware of us and our stylists, they use their native species, and have access to Japanese trees that we don't.

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

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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 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>



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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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