



The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the U-M-Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Please join us at 6:30 PM to meet friends and members. Program starts at 7:00 PM.

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>  
[AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com](mailto:AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com)

**April 2022**  
Volume 19 Issue 3

## **April 27 - Bring Your Own Tree Workshop Meeting with Jack Sustic.**

Members are invited to bring trees to work on during the meeting. Jack Sustic, Curator Emeritus at the National Bonsai Collection, will be on hand to offer suggestions and advice. AABS members will also be available to assist. There will be a limited amount of tools and wire available, but members are encouraged to bring their own tools and wire if possible.

Jack Sustic's interest in bonsai began in the mid 1980's while serving in the Military in South Korea. In 1996 Jack was selected as the first intern at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, U.S. National Arboretum in Washington DC and in 2002 was appointed Museum Curator, retiring in November of 2016. He has received formal bonsai training from masters in both the United States and Japan. In 2005 one of his trees was selected as an International winner in the World Bonsai Friendship Federation (WBFF) photo contest and his trees have been exhibited in numerous local and national bonsai exhibitions. A member of several bonsai and viewing stone organizations, he is also an honorary member of Nanpu Kai, a study group comprised of bonsai master John Naka's students. He served as co-chair of the 5th World Bonsai Convention in 2005 and Co-President of the National Bonsai Foundation (NBF), World Bonsai Friendship Federation North American Regional Director and President of the North American Bonsai Federation (NABF). Jack keeps busy maintaining his own bonsai collection and currently cares for the bonsai collection at The Matthaei Botanical Gardens in his home state of Michigan.

To open the meeting, Tony Kolenic, Director of Matthaei, will discuss future ideas for the bonsai collection.

The Hinoki that was styled by Ghazi Zouaoui at the February meeting will be raffled during the meeting.

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## **President's Perspective Mark Hanner**

Greetings -

Spring continues to keep us guessing this year, as we think about getting trees out of winter hibernation and into the elements. I'm hoping we are past the point of hard freezes, and I can start clearing out the greenhouse and continue some of the projects started last year and rudely interrupted by winter!

Our March hybrid meeting was a fine success, with about 24-25 people in attendance at Matthaei, and 24 via Zoom. I'm told the gear Laura got for us to get everyone involved in the meeting worked well for the remote attendees (thanks, Laura!). April is our annual 'bring a tree' meeting, for members to get help with culture and direction, and our more skilled members to assist with same. Which I, as a newbie, much appreciate. We will be raffling off the Hinoke cypress Ghazi styled at the February meeting, which will make a fine addition to someone's bonsai collection.

The bonsai calendar is busy this year with activities, starting with the Michigan AllState Show, May 14-15, at Meijer Gardens; if you're planning to enter a tree or two, ensure to use the info Anita Buckowing provided for pre-registration on-line. Hope to see you there!

In addition to our regular monthly meetings, we have the Jack Wikle Bonsai Legacy auction, and 90th birthday party, coming up on July 9, at Hidden Lake Gardens. A couple folks have already signed up to help, but we could use a few more volunteers for set up, directing people when they arrive, auction-spotters, and so on. Please let me know if you can help.

And speaking of the Legacy fund, the Board has approved matching members' donations, up to a \$3,000 total club limit, when you make a contribution. If you'll email me, c/o the AABS email address, a copy of your receipt from the foundation handling the donations, we will match your contribution.

I'd like to conclude by thanking several more members who provide invaluable support for our programs and events, as well as being friendly and generous with their knowledge of bonsai- **Bill Struhar** is our raffle administrator at our monthly meetings, as well as at the annual show, and always has an interesting assortment of items to pique our interest. **Paul Kulesa** is our annual show set-up leader, who provides the numerous bits of equipment needed to convert the auditorium to a fine bonsai show venue. And **Tom McCue** and **Bill Struhar** are the auctioneers at our annual auction meeting toward the end of the year. Our thanks to these members for helping make our club the fun and educational group that it is!

Hope to see you all soon,  
Mark

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## May meeting info

At the May 25 meeting, Young Choe will be here to do a program on Kusamono and Moss. She will be presenting 2 workshops on May 26, and members will be able to register for these workshops at the April meeting.

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## March meeting notes

### Chris Kehrig

3/23/22 Year One of Apprenticeship for Carmen Leskoviansky

Pre-notes:

Lita Smith is our new communications director

Jay Sinclair is looking for a planning helper

The large Hinoki Cypress that was worked on in February will be raffled off next meeting

The Michigan All State show at Meijer Frederick Gardens will take place May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

Carmen is in a 3-year apprenticeship with Michael Hagedorn of Crataegus Bonsai in Portland. She started caring for the bonsai collection at Matthaei in 2011. Carmen will return to caring for the collection in 2024. Michael has published 2 books: Post Dated: The Schooling of an Irreverent Bonsai Monk and Bonsai Heresy.

She reviewed a Black Pine where it was decandled and needle plucked. Next was Azalea pruning. Pulling of the dead flowers and reducing to 2 leaves creating a fish tale.

Summer projects included building of display stands where the pole is cemented into the ground and then the top is trimmed to proper height for stand. Wiring of a Rocky Mountain Juniper took place. The sky in Portland was hazy from distant forest fires. There was a lack of rain and a high temperature of 116. The trees were moved into shade except for some of the pines.

A non-grafted Japanese White Pine was pulled into pads to develop into a 5-year plan. Summer plans also included trying out different displays. A Red Maple with local ginger and Mountain Ash with Hawkweed were included. Late Summer wiring included improving the crown of a Scots Pine.

Fall introduces great yellow coloring. Pruning of developing trees where pipe cleaner is put on branches to be removed. Some of the branches are grown out to strengthen the tree.

They travelled to the Pacific Bonsai Museum. Not a large place, but nicely divided where trees are placed in outdoor viewing rooms.

Winter brings light snow. Heaters are used in the greenhouse to keep the trees above 32 degrees. Snow is knocked off the trees. Carmen also got involved in filming with Bonsai Empire.

Springtime involved pruning and cleaning out the thick stuff. Carmen was also involved with a podcast called Bonsai Wire IE [www.bonsaiwirepodcast.com](http://www.bonsaiwirepodcast.com)

Her thesis is The Purple Pot Society. The motto is to support, encourage and inspire female bonsai artists and advocate for diversity and inclusion with the bonsai community.

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## **Membership News**

### **Becky Hanner**

Be sure to keep your newsletters coming, by renewing your dues for 2022; this is the last newsletter going out to members whose dues have not been paid up this year. You can visit our website, and use PayPal, or see me at the April meeting, where we can take a credit card, or send your check to: Membership, 10414 Oak Rd., Otisville, MI 48463.

Thanks so much!

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## **Michigan All-State Bonsai Show**

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park  
Presents the

2022 Michigan All-State Bonsai Show  
(the 24th Annual Show!)

May 14 & 15, 2022

Featuring Guest Artist Mauro Stemberger

From 2022 Show Chair Anita Buckowing, March 8, 2022

Plans are well underway for our 2022 Michigan All-State Bonsai Show. We have scheduled 10 workshops over the two days of the Show, featuring Beginner & Intermediate Level options as well as a Family Workshop & two BYOT (Bring Your Own Tree) workshops with our Guest Artist, Mauro Stemberger from Italy.

Visit [www.meijergardens.org](http://www.meijergardens.org) then Calendar, then scroll down to EVENTS & adjust the calendar to MAY to view the full list of workshops (registration can be completed thru this path as well). We have a limited amount of “slots” available in some workshops (specifically the Shimpaku Juniper workshop on Saturday & the BYOT workshop with Mauro on Sunday).

We are again requiring the trees submitted for exhibition be pre-registered and trees all will need to be delivered on Friday, May 13. See the attached form for specific details on how to enter & deliver your tree(s). I hope you will consider exhibiting your tree(s) in Michigan’s largest Bonsai Show.

We have arranged a discounted rate for the weekend at Country Inn & Suites, 3251 Deposit Dr NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 (just south of the Gardens, just off of the East Beltline). Reservations using this rate must be “booked” by April 15. Please email Eve Choi ([echoi@meijergardens.org](mailto:echoi@meijergardens.org)) to obtain the discount code.

We have also made arrangements for a Bonsai Friendship Dinner at The Gardens on Saturday, May 14. Pre-registration & pre-payment for this dinner will be required. Additional details on this portion of our event will be available & shared in April.

As always, our Show is successful due to the endless energy & donation of time by our Volunteers. Please contact me if you are able to help out in any manner. We need volunteers for set-up on Friday, volunteers to assist during workshops, volunteers to be Bonsai Ambassadors, volunteers to assist our Vendors, volunteers to help with tear-down, & more. I would really appreciate an early commitment if you plan to volunteer during the weekend so I know we have sufficient “coverage”.

Please contact me or Eve Choi, Curator of Horticultural and Environmental Education @ Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, if you have any questions. Anita Buckowing—616-405-1242, email [anitabuckowing@gmail.com](mailto:anitabuckowing@gmail.com) Eve Choi—616-975-3145, email [echoi@meijergardens.com](mailto:echoi@meijergardens.com)

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# It's a PARTY!!!



SAVE THE DATE: July 9, 2022.

Jack Wikle 90th Birthday Celebration and Auction at Michigan State University's Hidden Lake Gardens, Tipton, Michigan

Jack will be donating the balance of his personal bonsai collection and related items for this auction, with all proceeds to benefit the Jack Wikle Bonsai Legacy Fund. Jack's donation will be supplemented by bonsai and related items donated by supporters of this sale seeking to promote this art form. All donors will be publicly recognized for their contributions. Sale items will include bonsai, bonsai stock, bonsai pots, tools, display stands, turntables and other equipment. Dozens of bonsai books, bonsai magazines dating back to the mid-sixties, photos of bonsai, paintings and other bonsai themed artworks will also be sold. Unique to this sale are the gold-plated "remains" of two small bonsai, still in their original pots. Jack's collection of dozens of frog-representation art pieces will also be sold.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HELP: DONATIONS OF AUCTIONABLE ITEMS ARE INVITED IN SUPPORT OF THE JACK WIKLE BONSAI LEGACY FUND.

For the most up to date information on the Celebration visit: [https://jackwiklebonsailegacy.com/?page\\_id=1087](https://jackwiklebonsailegacy.com/?page_id=1087)

**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](mailto: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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## 2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President ..... Mark Hanner
- Vice President ..... Jay Sinclair
- Past President ..... Ron Milostan
- Recording Secretary ..... Chris Kehrig
- Show Chair ..... Kurt Smith
- Treasurer ..... Katie Norder
- Communications & Marketing ..... Lita Smith
- Membership Coordinator ..... Becky Hanner
- Newsletter Editor ..... Don Wenzel
- Director - Webmaster/Zoom Coordinator Laura Andre
- Director – Publicity ..... Dana Hermann

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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

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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](mailto:AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com)

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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>





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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