



Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

Volume 22, Issue 1
February 2025

February's Guest: Carmen Leskoviansky

Meetings

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.

Carmen has been the bonsai curator at UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum since 2009. In 2021 she was awarded a residency with Michael Hagedorn at Crataegus Bonsai where she further explored native species (particularly Michigan/great lakes region species), hyper-feminine expressions of bonsai, and bringing more women into bonsai.

AABS is pleased to have Carmen back. She will be speaking on her return to Matthaei, her apprenticeship, and her future hopes/dreams/plans for the gardens and the future of bonsai.



Carmen Leskoviansky, Collections and Natural Areas Specialist with Matthaei Botanical Gardens has returned to curate the Bonsai Collection

Membership

It is very important for the AABS to receive your membership dues (\$30 per household) in a timely manner so that we can compile a budget for this year's events and programs. Paying your dues allows you to:

- Participate in the annual auction (selling is reserved for members only)
- Receive email alerts to members announcing special events
- Hold AABS office
- Vote in the annual election
- Purchase supplies from AABS
- Sell and offer for sale bonsai and bonsai related item at meetings

Dues may be paid via PayPal (QR Code above right), or with a check, cash or card at meetings. If you would like to mail a check (made out to AABS) to me at 907 Hillside Ct., Ypsilanti, MI 48197 please include a phone number on your check.

If you have ideas of how we can enhance membership, I'd love to hear from you! Or, if you have questions or concerns, please reach out. I can be contacted at aevans136@gmail.com. — Anne



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President's Perspective

Don Wenzel

It's that time of year when I start getting itchy to work on a tree. I have no tropicals, and the last time I checked, my trees were frozen in the ground so I'll have to wait a bit longer.

Fortunately we don't have to wait very long for our first meeting of the year. Our February speaker this year is Carmen Leskoviansky. She has just recently completed an intensive three year apprenticeship with Michael Hagedorn at Crataegus Bonsai in Oregon and has returned to Matthaei to curate the bonsai collection here.

We have an exciting year ahead. Ellen, our VP and Program Director has lined up a great slate of speakers, including Andy Smith, nationally known yamadori collector, who will be our guest during our annual show. We will be having our very successful Bonsai at the Zoo event again this year. We're planning to expand it to two days, hopefully with the assistance of some of the other Michigan Bonsai clubs. There's the possibility of one or two other outreach type events as well.

I'm new to the role of president of the board this year and want to thank Mark Hanner and his wife Becky for the time, effort and dedication they gave to the AABS over the past several years. I hope to do the same. To that end, if you have thoughts or ideas about how to improve our organization, please feel free to reach out to me, or any board member. You can write to aabonsaisociety@gmail.com, or me directly at wenzeldt@gmail.com.

Finally, I'd like to make a request to remember to renew your membership dues. Dues actually make up a significant portion of our yearly income. Getting it in earlier in the year gives us a better sense of how our year will be, financially speaking, and may give us a bit more freedom in making choices about expenses in the later half of the year (like our annual show). Looking forward to getting together with all of you in a couple weeks! —Don

ADS and SUPPORT for BONSAI VENDORS

All members can offer for sale any bonsai or bonsai related materials in the newsletter or at monthly meetings with no sales fees or ad fees. Ads should be submitted for inclusion in the "For Sale" section or the "Support Local Vendors" section by the fifth of the month. Business Ads should be submitted as a jpeg or png full color file. Business ads will run consecutive months without interruption if requested. Please send Ads and files to Anne Evans at aevans136@gmail.com. Thank you!

A Bonsai is the result of a unique relationship between a plant and a human in which the human guides the plant toward beauty and physical health while the plant guides the human toward enlightenment and nurtures the soul.

—Bruce Baker

October Meeting Minutes — October 23, 2024

Chris Kehrig

1. Two new members in attendance
2. Mark and Becky Hanner – thanks for 4.5 years as president and membership coordinator!
3. Board members were agreed upon. Membership coordinator position is still open (Filled following meeting).

Ted Bentley from Meijer Gardens Moss Propagation

Moss is non-vascular IE no roots.

Absorbs humidity and sunlight on its own.

Easy to grow – don't overthink.

After a rain/snowfall is a good time to collect.

Moss wants to maintain the same environment.

Put moss on a show tree at least 3 weeks ahead of time.

Ted took thick pieces of moss and ground the dirt with a soil basket to thin out.

Can tuck into pot with flat end of spatula tool to remove seams.

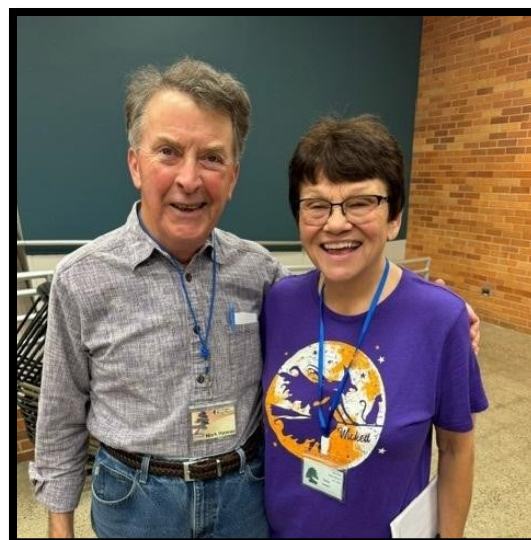
Moss should be fairly level with edge of pot.

If kept inside it needs a couple of mists daily.

Sphagnum moss can be ground up with moss and spread to create new moss.

Fish/kelp fertilizer browns up moss.

Stay away from Irish moss – highly invasive!



Mark and Becky attend their last meeting as AABS Board Members, October 2024



Ted Bentley, Horticulturist with the Japanese Garden Bonsai Collection at Meijer Gardens.

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

Written correspondence may be addressed to 907 Hillside Ct., Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

Email us at:

annarborbonsaisociety@gmail.com

We are on the Web and Social Media!

<https://annarborbonsaisociety.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/aabs1970/>

Coming Up....

New Member Night — Bonsai Social! Our meeting on March 26th (6:30 to 9:00 pm) is your chance to meet and greet members new and returning while enjoying refreshments and working on trees. Our experienced members will be happy to help those of you just starting out. March is the perfect time to plan ahead for the active growth of your trees, adding refinement and planning ahead for this year's show season.

We encourage new members to not be shy about bringing your trees for guidance. Everyone starts somewhere and the longer you hold back the longer it will take you to develop a tree you are proud to display!



2025 Board Members

Don Wenzel, President
 Ellen Veselenak, Vice President, Programming
 Mark Hanner, Past President
 Brian Shepard, Treasurer
 Chris Kehrig, Recording Secretary
 Anne Evans, Membership, Newsletter
 Michael Bruneau, AABS Show Chair
 Sara Box, Communications and Social-Media
 Melissa Renaud, Marketing and Merchandise
 Dana Hermann, Director at Large
 Kurt Smith, Director at Large
 Denise Bellinger, Director at Large

AD-Hoc Committees

Bob Bauer, Bonsai at the Zoo Coordinator
 Rick McCoy, Raffle Coordinator
 Jay Whitehouse, Webmaster
 Ryan Bavery, Publicity Coordinator



Celebrating 50 years of promoting knowledge, appreciation, and the practice of the art of bonsai