Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

Volume 23
Issue 9

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. The 6 pm program is our Beginner's Series led by club mentors. Then join us at 6:30 PM to meet members, buy raffle tickets and conduct other club business.. The all member presentation will begin at 7:00 PM.



President's Perspective — Don Wenzel

Our last meeting of the year is coming up in just a few days and it feels like the bonsai year has sped by as it comes to a close. We'll be looking to re-elect almost all of our sitting board members at the meeting and I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of them for all they do to make the club run as effectively and smoothly as it does. We are fortunate to have a great group of people handling the details that go into making our club the success that it is.

We'll also be trying something new - Bonsai Trivia Contest! Should be fun. I know Ellen and others have been devising categories and thinking of questions for months. I'm looking forward to it.

The Fall Fruit and Foliage Exhibition is this coming weekend, October 17th and 18th at Hidden Lake Gardens. There is more information about it elsewhere in the newsletter. It looks to be a great event. With nationally and internationally known guests, 15 vendors, workshops and demos, I'd recommend taking it in if you have the opportunity.

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This year we tried something new, the Beginners Bonsai Series. Held for 30 minutes, before the start of our regular meeting, there were seldom less than 10 people in attendance. We'd like to continue this series into next year, there definitely is interest, but we need topic suggestions from you in order to make that happen. Please send a note to me wenzeldt@gmail.com or aabonsaisociety@gmail.com with those ideas or suggestions. Without them the series may not continue.

Our fact-finding group researching meeting and show site selection had its first meeting last month. As we find out more, we'll report on our findings. There are lots of possibilities. Hopefully we will be able to find something that suits our needs at a cost that's not too prohibitive. Fortunately, we have plenty of lead time to find that new temporary home.

As I'm sure many of you are, I find myself contemplating the coming cold months and thinking about what I can/should do to be ready to get started again next spring. I always think that it is a good time to maintain my bonsai tools and sometimes I even follow through and do it! I also try to make a list of pots I need as I evaluate my trees and decide which ones are ready for a show worthy pot. When I do this, I try to make a list of the trees and measurements of the pot I think I want to put it in. It's easier than trying to pull them out of their winter enclosure to take that measurement in January. I also continue to contemplate the idea of a small enclosed structure for my trees where I can better control the temperature. My new raised bed solution last year worked fine, except they got frozen in place in the mulch so I couldn't pull out trees early to work on - which was one of the main reasons I made the change from my previous wintering method, hoping to have access to trees for winter work.

Thank you all for your participation in the AABS. As always, if you have comments/ideas/suggestions for improving our club, please feel free to reach out and let us know.

September 2026 Auction Outcomes

It is my belief that this year's auction was a success even though in every measurable category statistics indicate a slight decrease in the participation of sellers, purchasers, and items auctioned. In one category there was a decline in the total number of volunteers willing to help with the administration of our Auction, affecting the smooth functioning and frayed nerves during the event.

This year volunteers registered fifty-four buyers and sixteen sellers. Thirty-five of the registered buyers purchased an auction item. There were fifty-three Live Auction items and forty-one Silent Auction items offered for auction.

The success of our auction is attributed to many including those un-named members who setup and took down the tables and chairs needed for the auction, and those assisting in its administration. I am hopeful the AABS membership appreciates your assistance. Additionally I would like to add everyone who participated in the operation of the auction, willingly "jumped in to help," and those who offered their assistance following a last-minute request.

On the administrative end of the auction the volunteers include Jessica Bridges and Cathy Strachan (recording the live auction transactions), Anne Evans (who was there from the start through the end), Cyril Grum (auctioneer), Lynn Packard (who worked with me to close the book on the silent auction), Manish Patel (distributing the silent auction purchases), Patrick Ramsey (registering the buyers and helping wherever needed), Jay Sinclair (returning to preferred position working with Cyril and distributing purchases), and Don Wenzel (stepping in to record payment activity). Brian Shepard, our treasurer, handled the distribution of monies. Thanks for everyone help.

Paul K.

Slate of Officers — Voting Will Take Place at the October 28th Meeting

Officers elected to the Board on October 28th will serve a two-year term.

Here is the slate of officers which will be presented at our October meeting. Nominations can no longer be accepted from the floor. If you have any questions, please see me before the meeting is called to order.

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
Hannah Aiko, Communications and Social-Media
Melissa Renaud, Marketing and Merchandise
Jessica Zahnd Bridges, Publicity Coordinator
Jay Sinclair, Director at Large
Denise Bellinger, Director at Large
Carmen Leskoviansky, Director at Large

Thanks, Don

Over Wintering—Beginner Series on October 28th at 6 PM

We want to support our members who are new to the practice of Bonsai. Each month we offer a session, particular to the season, to assist members in their journey. This month Carmen Leskovianski will be speaking about over wintering your temperate and tropical bonsai. Even experienced Bonsai artists can experience winter losses. Let us help you have a successful winter season! Join us at 6 pm in the Auditorium at Matthaei Botanical Gardens for a winter primer. You will have the opportunity to have your questions, specific to your trees and situation, answered.



A perfect example of how NOT to over winter your tree...It will die. Come to the beginner series and do it right!

September 23rd Meeting Minutes — Chris Kehrig

Announcements:

- 2 new members in attendance.
- The AABS Annual Show in August had over1,000 attendees.
- The board needs 2 positions filled: Publicity and Membership.
- Next meeting is Bonsai Trivia on October 28th .
- Lance mentioned the Four Seasons show on Sept 26th and 27th .

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society 2026 Auction

The silent auction ended at 7:15 and live followed.

Everything in the live auction sold thanks to Cyril Grum!

3 clump Larch $110
Large Siberian Elm Slab $45
Spruce $35
Barberry $65
Large mica pot $65
Chinese Juniper $75
Cypress slab $30
Large pot $75
Larch $150
Oval pot $55
Large Elm $130
Spalted Maple slab $25
Japanese White Pine $390
White Cedar $95
Slab Maple $55
Hinoki Cypress $160
Pot (John Canon) $45
Larch $160
Cypress slab $35
Ficus $40
Pot and deadwood $40

Northern WP $70
Oval Erin pot $45
Shimpaku $170
Maple slab $35
Lion Maple $220
Linstrom pot $50
Japanese Larch $120
Maple block $55
Stone pot $110
Garden Juniper $50
Square pot $95
Large White Cedar $45
Red Oak slab $40
Natal Plum $40
Box of pots $110
Ficus $40
Deadwood $25
Quince $90
Small slab $55
Japanese Maple $70
Yew $65

Wood block $25
Japanese Maple $210
Scots Pine $55
Maple table $35
Shimpaku $180
Crabapple $60
Slab $25
Scots Pine $210
Ponderosa Pine $30
Azalea $310

Cyril Grumm describes a tree prior to starting the bidding.



Fall Fruit and Foliage

Bonsai Exhibition

October 17 & 18, 2026

At Hidden Lake Gardens



Visit the heartland of the Midwest in peak autumn color to enjoy this inaugural event. Bonsai submission deadline is October 1, 2026.

Workshops	Bonsai Exhibition	Bonsai Vendors
Lectures	HLG Bonsai Display	Auction
Demonstrations	Educational Walkthroughs	Food & Drink Vendors



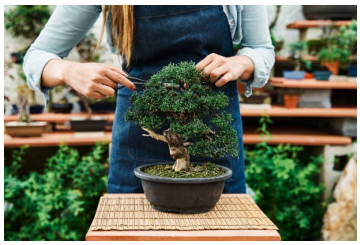




Scan for the latest news and updates on this event.
6214 Monroe Road, Tipton, MI 49287

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

TREE TALK - BECOMING A BONSAI ARTIST



Every member of the AABS started with one tree. Whether you are still considering your first tree or have a dozen or more, here is where you will find suggestions for developing your artistry.

WINTER BREAK — Learn While Your Trees are Dormant

Around this time of year in our house the question "have you thought about the Holidays yet? Anything special on your wish list?" is common dinner time conversation. Without a doubt the ensuing discussion involves books! Maybe, if you've been a practicing bonsai artist for a while, you have your eye on some new pruners. But if you're new to bonsai, books are a great idea. Books are great for expanding your knowledge, introducing you to new species to try, and sparking your creativity and passion. Here are a few appropriate books to add to your wish list:

The Secret Techniques of Bonsai: A Guide to Starting, Raising, and Shaping Bonsai by Masakuni Kawasumi II (Author), Masakuni Kawasumi III - This father and son duo have followed up with a perfect book for beginners. From seeds and starts, to show worthy trees. They cover every step of the way with helpful photos and demonstration of how to properly use bonsai tools that are new to you.

Bonsai by DK – Want to learn more about traditional bonsai styles? The best species for different styles? Shaping and wiring to achieve the style? When you can bend the rules? How about how to become a more innovative stylist? This is the book for you.

The Practical Bonsai Bible for Beginners: Discover All the Secrets of This Ancient Asian Art to Grow and Take Care of Everlasting Bonsai by Hitoshi Nishimura - There are many "bibles" out there but this one is a great option for beginners in this digital age. The book includes links to video tutorials for those who like to learn by watching another's demonstration. It also covers one of my favorite topics: how to propagate bonsai from live material, a great way to enhance your collection.

The Little Book of Bonsai: An Easy Guide to Caring for Your Bonsai Tree by Jonas Dupuich – This book is a delight. A beautiful book to give or receive, it is as promised, inspiring. I was particularly happy to see some subjects not always covered by beginner's books such as how to find the front of your tree and pot selection for your tree.

There you go! All ready for Daylight Savings Time to end, fires to be lit, snow to fall and cold winds to blow. Every season is Bonsai season in the Midwest.

Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished. — Lao Tzu

Bonsai Events 2026

Date	Event	Sponsor/Club	Link
October 17th &18th, 2026	Fall Fruit and Foliage Bonsai Exhibition	Hidden Lake Gardens	Fall Fruit and Foliage
February 24th, 2027	First Meeting AABS 2027	Ann Arbor Bonsai Society	Link
March 11—14, 2027	All Jazzed Up! ABS Learning Seminars; New Orleans, Louisiana	Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society Underhill Bonsai (Folsom, LA) American Bonsai Association	ABSLS
May 8, 2027	World Bonsai Day	Various	
September 11-12, 2027	10th US National Bonsai Exhibit	William Valavanis/Rochester, NY	Link

AABS Mission Statement:

The purpose of The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society shall be to promote knowledge, appreciation, and practice of the art of bonsai to its members and to the general public through meetings, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, publications or other means.

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

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society

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

Email us at: aabonsaisociety@gmail.com

We are on the Web and Social Media!

https://annarborbonsaisociety.org
https://www.facebook.com/aabs1970/

Prizes for the Raffle

We are always 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 Rick McCoy at any meeting or email him at imrickmccoy@yahoo.com



2026 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
Hannah Aiko, Communications and Social-Media
Melissa Renaud, Marketing and Merchandise
Jay Sinclair, Director at Large
Denise Bellinger, Director at Large
Carmen Leskoviansky, Director at Large

Ad-Hoc Committees

Rick McCoy, Raffle Coordinator

Jay Whitehouse, Webmaster

[Open], Publicity Coordinator

Position Openings on the Board and Ad-Hoc Committees open each October. If a member is interested in serving they should contact the President, Don Wenzel, at wenzeldt@gmail.com to express interest. The Slate of Officers is set by the Board in September and voted on by the general membership in October,

It is also possible to shadow a board member for a period of time to learn the role ahead of the October election. We encourage you to join our leadership!



SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS



A BONSAI PODCAST FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS FEATURING
CARMEN LESKOVIANSKY AND EVAN PARDUE
AVAILABLE ON ALL LISTENING PLATFORMS

AABS Member Len Buckman has published a book, *Bonsai: Anyone Can Do It*. His book is intended for those beginning their bonsai journey.

You may purchase Len's book by contacting him at lenbuckman@aol.com. The book is $16 and shipping is $5.







SUPPORT for BONSAI MEMBERS' ENDEAVORS

Members may advertise any bonsai or bonsai related materials in the newsletter with no ad fees. Additionally we are happy to promote member podcasts, published materials, non-profits, etc. as long as the content is related to the art of Bonsai. Ads should be submitted for inclusion by the fifth of the month. Materials should be submitted as a jpeg or png full color file. Ads and announcements will run consecutive months without interruption if requested. Please send artwork to aevans136@gmail.com. Thank you!