

**February Club Meeting: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> with Dr. Dean Krauskopf. Do not miss it!!**

**JANUARY'S MEETING  
MINUTE REVIEW**

By Jerry Peters, Recording Secretary.

**7:00 PM SOCIALIZING**

Goodly number of members turned out for bonsai talk, coffee and review of library offerings for the month.

**7:30 PM PROGRAM**

**Recording Secretary Nomination:** Jerry Peters nominated as recording secretary. Nomination approved by members present.

**Library:** The Living Art of Bonsai by Amy Liang, published March 2005 was presented. This great book can be purchased thru the club for a brief time.

**News Letter:** New format well received by members, thanks to Alfonso Tercero and Madelon Takken.

**New Visitors:** There were four visitors, three from the Ann Arbor area and a fourth by way of San Paolo, Brazil. We trust you enjoyed meeting with club members and our program for the evening.

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**Show & Tell:** Jack Wikle showed four exquisite miniature trees to the club. Each tree grows indoors under fluorescent lights and exudes TLC. Trees were passed among members for a close examination of a bonsai masters work. The first three trees are approximately 6" tall. The fourth tree is a small miniature approximately 3" tall.



**Tree One:** Teton Firethorn. *Pyracantha coccinea* 'Teton'. 13 years as a bonsai and 15 years from a cutting showing a cluster of small white flowers. There will be additional flowers and future red-orange berries. This tree is beautiful, showing the beauty of nature in a pot.



**Tree Two:** Chinzan Azalea. *Rhododendron indicum* 'Chinzan'. 8 years as a bonsai and 11 years from a cutting with small dark green

leaves showing a pink bloom and a profusion of buds yet to open.



**Tree Three:** Hino Crimson Azalea *Rhododendron* 'Hino Crimson'. 11 years as a bonsai and 14 years from a cutting with a covering of future blooms. Trunk had great taper with bark. Soil was covered with a carpet of green moss. Magnificent!



**Tree Four:** Dwarf Boxwood, *Buxus microphylla* var. Cultivar from a cutting/grafting. So small, so beautiful.



Jack answered several questions namely:

\*Trees grow in a growing area, set up in the basement.

\*Trees grow under cool white fluorescent lighting year round.

\*Trees are positioned close to the fluorescent tubes for maximum light.

\*Fluorescent tubes are changed once each year for maximum brightness.

\*Basement temperatures can range from 50-60 °F for a low and a high of 80 °F.

\*The Dwarf Boxwood has a very small pot and requires much attention concerning water requirements.

Previous articles published by on Jack's fluorescent light bonsai experience can be found posted on these websites: [www.fukubonsai.com](http://www.fukubonsai.com) and [www.bonsaihunk.us](http://www.bonsaihunk.us).

## MAIN EVENT

Jack Sustic is the former Curator of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. Jack became interested in bonsai while serving in the U.S. Army with a tour of duty in Korea. Jack had the privilege of studying under Saburo Kato at Mansai-en Japan, John Naka, Harry Hirao and Warren Hill. Jack also studied horticulture at Michigan State University. Currently Jack lives in the Owasso / Flint, Michigan area with his wife. Jack is also listed as a Guest Artist at Brussel's Bonsai 2006 Rendezvous, May 26th, 27th & 28th, Memphis, TN.



## SLIDE SHOW

The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, Washington, D.C. houses Japanese Stroll Garden and Japanese Pavilion, North American Pavilion, Chinese Pavilion, International Pavilion, Special Exhibits Wing, Outdoor Demonstration Area, Tropical Conservatory.

Jack presented slides of bonsai trees and viewing stones gifted to the museum by countries and individual people. As Jack noted all trees are mature. The museum honored each artist design while caring for approximately 350 trees in their collection. A major responsibility of the museum curator was to maintain each tree as, show quality. There were continual refinements to, roots, trunk, branch ramification and attention to a variety of other details, always with the artist original concept in mind.

### *Japanese Stroll Garden & Japanese Pavilion*

\* 1974 Japan gifted 53 world class bonsai trees and several viewing tones to the United States as a symbol of friendship and in recognition of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S.A. as a symbol of friendship. Trees were crated and sent to the U.S. by chartered 747. Arriving in the U.S., trees had to spend two years in Quarantine as a precaution to importation of bug infestation.

\* Trees were turned over to the Museum in 1976.

\* Japanese Stroll Garden has a wide and narrow path (river) meandering around various exhibits. Narrow sections of the path intend to slow the person down to ponder exhibit in that area.

\* Japanese Pavilion is a single story contemporary roofless structure with appropriate Japanese entrance. A very old Japanese red pine is displayed at the entry. The story was told of a

Robin nesting in the tree, which pleased the Japanese greatly.



### *North American Pavilion*

\*Late 1970 early 1980's began a bonsai collection of North American Trees.

\* This collection required a new site, which today includes a North American Garden and North American Pavilion.

\* The new site was dedicated in honor of noted North American bonsai master John Y. Naka.

\* The pavilions most famous tree is Goshin, by John Naka, a forest composed of several trees. Bonsai forest depicts his grandchildren.



\* This pavilion contains trees styled and donated to the museum by bonsai artists living in North America.

### *Chinese Pavilion*

\* Chinese pavilion opened 1995.

\* Bonsai trees are penjing style. Jack stated that penjing style does not consider it important to have the traditional triangular style. Trees can be of various shapes with exposed root

as illustrated in many beautiful bonsai around the world with a graceful curved trunk with root to right of main trunk and figurine.

\* Stones generally consist of stacking one upon another for a total sculptural piece.

#### *International Pavilion*

\* Wing was constructed at the same time as the Chinese Pavilion.

\* An exhibit of stones, which evokes its own image of mountains, landscapes, animal and other forms. Photo number four depicts mountains and a plunging waterfall.



#### *Special Exhibits Wing*

\* Several trees in the collection were donated to American presidents.

Japanese Prime Minister Obuchi presented one Ezo Spruce to President Clinton in 1998. The tree did not have to undergo the usual mandatory two-year quarantine.



#### **VIDEO SHOW**

##### **Saburo Kato, Japan**

\* Started bonsai industry for amateurs

\* Goal was to promote friendship and understanding regardless of nationality, to show a love of nature and demonstrate peace and outward tranquility.

\* Participated in 1976 bi-centennial gift of bonsai to the U.S. National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.

\* Additionally in 1998 made formal presentation of several additional bonsai to the U.S. National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.



##### **John Naka**

\* Japanese/American 1914 – 2004

\* Began career in Colorado then moved to Los Angeles.

\* Started landscape business in Los Angeles.

\* Renewed his love of bonsai and began to teach the art and science of bonsai.

\* Had a gift to reach out to people.

\* Elevated bonsai form a novelty to an art form.



**Currently** the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum facilities are being renovated to accommodate and comply with ADA handicap code compliance requirements.

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society thanks Jack Sustic for his excellent and informative presentation to the club.

## **2006 MABA CONVENTION**

The 2006 convention exhibit will be presented in Milwaukee June 22 - 25, it consists of bonsai displays designed and set up by each MABA club. The clubs with the best display of trees, accent plants, stones, scrolls and anything consistent with the art of bonsai will win cash prizes.



Awards include cash prizes for First Place (\$300), Second Place (\$200), and Third Place (\$100). Other non-cash prizes will be also be awarded. There is no fee to enter, but space is limited so reserve your space early.

Competition is open to all AABS members: novice, advanced or professional, all are encourage to participate.

*We are looking for interested members to volunteer to transport AABS member's trees to and from Milwaukee and to set up and maintain the display. Please send email to [aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com) if you are interested to volunteer.*

This is the general outline for the exhibit:

Each registered club will be assigned 2-96" x 30" tables with leg risers, table covers and aprons, and white backdrops.

Each club will design, install and take down its display, using any or all of these surfaces as they see fit. Nothing may protrude into any other space.

Reservations are due by March 1 2006. Final registration materials will be sent at that time. Email reservations are fine for now to: [aldebaranprime@netzero.com](mailto:aldebaranprime@netzero.com). For more details: visit: [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

## VIEW FROM HERE

By Jack Wikle



### You Missed Me?

Some readers have noticed that they haven't seen a "View" column from me every Newsletter in recent months. This is partly due to pressure from other commitments. And, it is partly the result of feeling I've already said most of what I felt compelled to say when I began this column four years ago to help out the new Newsletter editor Ron Milostan.

At that time, I expressed my great appreciation to Debbie Eddie for all her work in five years of putting out the Newsletter and to Ron for being willing to take over for Debbie. Now, new editor Alfonso Tercero is filling the gap left by Robert Bryant who has had to slow down due to health problems. I don't think we can ever appreciate these people enough.

Of course the bonsai subject can never be exhausted. So I do expect to keep contributing but with less regularity. To help me in this, your comments, questions and suggestions are welcomed.

### About Bonsai --- Some Basics and

#### Beyond:

When I began these columns my goal was to pass on some of what I've learned. Looking back I now ask myself what it was I was trying to say. This would be most of it.

- If you really want to grow bonsai don't give up too easily.
- To accelerate your progress, read and experiment. Experience will help make the reading meaningful and reading will help make the experience meaningful.
- It is a mistake to assume everything one reads or hears from visiting bonsai artists is absolutely accurate. When the "experts" and your trees are telling you different things, listen to your trees.
- Don't limit yourself to one tree. And, do get some things that don't have to survive. Having more trees means having more to learn from as well as having more trees to have fun with. And, if one dies, it will not be a 100% loss.

Bonsai celebrates the beauty of life and the beauty of trees. And, it celebrates the beauty of interaction between trees and people. Much of this beauty is the result of balance. As bonsai enthusiasts we are looking for balance both in styling and in horticulture. When in doubt, ask yourself what is unquestionably too much and what is clearly too little; then try something about half way between these extremes.

Bonsai styling is not so much about what we would like to have as it is about what we can do with what we have.

Be patient but not too patient. Finding a balance between audacity and inaction that will work well for you may mean reaching beyond your comfort level at times.

Remember, you can't cut a tree healthy. Pruning with few if any exceptions weakens trees and slows growth. Not pruning invigorates and strengthens. Let it grow unpruned to charge the battery and get the fuel tank full.

Yes, much of what we practice in growing bonsai is "controlled stress."

Be conscious that trees are in the "energy business." Energy reserves stored as carbohydrate are both the

tree's fuel and its building material. The tree with ample carbohydrate reserves can survive a lot of stress. The tree with minimal carbohydrate reserves is extremely vulnerable. The typical recovery pattern for a weakened tree is that it will sleep, then it will creep, and as energy levels rise, it will eventually leap. (In other words, first it must survive; then it may revive and finally thrive.)

So to protect your tree and hasten progress get it healthy first – maximize its carbohydrate reserves – before you work on it. Then let it recover and work again (so it's work and recovery, work and recovery, in an ongoing cycle).

To lengthen, strengthen and thicken, don't cut. To restrain and refine, prune early and often.

In styling think in terms of "phased development." Thicken the trunk first, then develop branching (primary and secondary) and, finally, work for refinement and twiggyness (ramification). Surprisingly, the difference between a branchless stick and a tree can be as short as three good growth flushes.

Don't know where to begin? Remove what's absolutely intolerable first. Then remove what is just annoying (usual list of undesirable branching patterns). Finally see what you can do with what's left. If you cut off everything you don't like, you have to like what's left (smile?). (If you have nothing left, go get another tree.)

Make the trunk big by shrinking or compressing the silhouette – this means shortening branches, lowering the top, and perhaps pulling branches down. Then put it in a pot that's almost too small. We are making little trees big by pruning and pot selection. (Remember pulling a branch down slows its growth.)

Cut the branch shorter than where you want it to be so it will be where you want it to be as it grows out.

To keep all parts of your tree healthy, shorten the strongest growth

most and weaker growth less or not at all.

If new shoots have unacceptably long internodes, try removing the first flush of growth, either completely, or back to buds close to the base of the shoot if there are any. Then retain the second flush of shoots which will be less vigorous and have shorter internodes.

The vigorous new shoot just beginning to stiffen is "opportunity knocking." Wire now to give it whatever direction and movement you want.

Short of complete defoliation, a lot of refinement can be accomplished by removing a few of the largest leaves from deciduous trees whenever you notice that some leaves stand out as being larger than others.

Any practice which increases the number of shoot tips in active growth at the same time will result in smaller leaves or needles.

There are many times when, "Almost anything you do will be better for your bonsai than not doing anything."

Allow yourself time to enjoy your bonsai, both the process and the product.

## MONTHLY TIPS: FEBRUARY

This is supposed to be a quiet month, but in bonsai is there ever a truly quiet time? At least this month we can take our time and do things at a leisurely pace and prepare for the rush of activities that are not far off.

This is the time to take a good hard look at your bonsai. Plan ahead! What about the pot it's in? Remember the pot is the "frame" for your bonsai. Is it the wrong color, too big, too small, the wrong shape? Have you cleaned up the existing pot and your reserve pot supply so that they are ready to be used when the hectic repotting season is upon us? However, do not repot yet.

When observing your plants and planning what you need to do to improve their appearance, watch for crossing branches and excessive branches. Be ready to cut back the tertiary branches, especially on junipers to encourage twiggyness. However, it is best not to prune during this month.

Observe the wires on your plants to be certain that they are not cutting in and thus starting to leave ugly scars that are almost impossible to remove. Remember, even though growth tends to slow in dormancy, woody portions tend to swell. If the wires are cutting in, remove them; but do not rewire now, as the branches are brittle at this time and are apt to break.

Soil mixes should have been prepared by now, but if they haven't, get your basic mix ready. Remember, all mixes **MUST** permit free drainage. Use sandy loam, decomposed granite, coarse sand, and humus such as fir bark or redwood compost, adjusting the formula to suit each species. Use your own experience as to the percentage of each component. If your mixture has been successful for you, you may try to slightly modify the portion of the components to make it a little bit more organic or inorganic.

Weather is always unpredictable at this time of the year, remember to check periodically your trees to ensure they have enough water, it is ok to allow them to become slightly dry, but never completely dry. Continue protecting from cold winds and direct exposure to the sun. Soon enough we will see our trees again and we want to make sure we are prepared and ready to start repotting and wiring as necessary.

*Extracted from A Year of Bonsai Tips by Jim Ransohoff with permission from the author. For more tips and details visit: [www.gsbf-bonsai.org/kusamura/sep2000/shaner.html](http://www.gsbf-bonsai.org/kusamura/sep2000/shaner.html)*

## 2006 PRE BCI CHINA CONVENTION TOUR



Offered by C.F. Kwok

Bonsai, Penjing and Stone lovers.

I have arranged a very special plant, garden and gourmet tour.

Here is a brief program detail:

**April 20:** Leave USA to Shanghai by Northwest Airlines arriving the next evening to China.

**April 22 to April 29:** Tour Shanghai, Suzhou, Yixing, Yangzhou and Nanjing cities. Visit their city highlights and garden highlights.

**April 30 to May 4:** BCI Convention. This meeting is located in the WORLD OF FLOWERS, a special complex of 300 growers and stone dealers displaying their wares. Besides the excellent lectures and demos, there are endless things to see, absorb and enjoy. I was there in May.

### Cost:

- Round trip airfare from east coast is about \$1,100.00.
  - Tour program including hotel-share room, 3 meals, sightseeing, air and ground transportation in China \$1,550.00
  - Chinese visa is \$50.00
  - BCI registration before March 1, 2006 it's \$180.00 per person for members and \$200.00 per person for non-members.
  - Tips to guides, drivers, bellboys it's about \$70.00.
- Minimum 15 people. Not likely more than 20.

Lead by C.F. Kwok, member of NOVA Bonsai Club and National Bonsai Foundation.

Please contact me for details at C.F. Kwok Ph.703-256-3031, email: [cfkwok@aol.com](mailto:cfkwok@aol.com)

## AABS MEMBER'S CORNER

Our own Robert Bishop describing his success with indoor Bonsai and fluorescent light in his basement presents this month's article on *How to Survive the Winter's Blues*.

This is my second year underground, in my basement, trying to keep my sub-tropical and tropical alive. I thank Jack Wikle, AABS, and Preya from Bonsai House for teaching me how to keep them alive!!!



There is a great price on indoor, metal, adjustable, 6 tier, shelving units available at Costco for \$76.00 (thanks for the info Bonsai House). It is very easy to put together and simple to adjust to various shelf levels. It includes rolling rubber wheels- "such a deal".



My lighting was very reasonable at 7.99 \$ per 2 light fluorescent fixture. The Home Depot light also comes equipped with a plug in cord. I hang lights above and in the back of my bonsai shelves. Just bonsai wire the fluorescent light to the center back grooves of the metal, vertical bars. The top lights are placed atop the above

metal tier. Simple timers turn on 17 hours of light and 7 hours of dark sleep.



I water small bonsai every day with a light fertilizer solution after watering. I do the same thing with my larger ones ever other day. Keep 5 gallons of water with the miracle grow solution in it. There are cheap 5 gallon buckets at the Depot.

I have had a successfully time at this so far. I have found that any Ficus, Chinese Elm, Fukien Tea, Serissa, Hackberry, Texas Ebony, and Chinese Privet do real well. I have casualties with False Cypress, Boxwood, and other rare tragedies from my early, stupid days with eBay ( pre-AABS).

Please send your comments or documents to [aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com). Don't worry if you don't have a "finished" article, we'll help you to make it right. We will publish them going forward in this new section. Together we can further improve this newsletter for our reading pleasure.

## FOR SALE OR WANTED

10% of sales go to AABS Club.

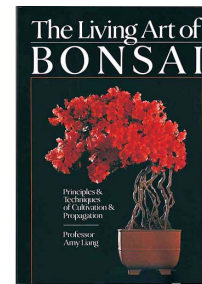
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## THE LIVING ART OF BONSAI IS HERE!



During our last meeting, we received orders to buy The Living Art of Bonsai by Amy Liang at a discounted price from retail.

The books have arrived and will be distributed during our February's club meeting.

Do you know of another bonsai book that may be of interest to other members? If so, bring it to the meeting and we can announce it to be considered by all others.

In most cases we can get almost any book at 30% off from retail price. Payment is expected at time of placing the order.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January Club Meeting.....Jan 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Slide show & Discussion of the National Bonsai and Penjing collection by Jack Susic

**February Club Meeting.....Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Fertilizer and Pest Management Fertilizer and Pest Management Presentation by Dr. Dean Krauskopf

**March Club Meeting.....Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Everything you ever will want to know about the Larch -- with Oh! No! *Mr. Bill (Heston)*

**April Workshop.....Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Larch Forest Workshop but Week day evening 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Larch Forest Workshop with Cyril Grum. We will update our existing Forest(s) and help people start new ones.

**April Club Meeting.....Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Heavy Pruning Branch and Root

**May Workshop.....Date TBD**  
Deciduous Forest with TBD

**May Club Meeting.....May 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Bring your own Tree

**June Workshop.....June 19<sup>th</sup>**  
Schefflera Over Rock -- with (still our own) Jerry Meislik at 6:30 pm

**June Club Meeting.....June 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Refinement Pruning

**July Club Meeting.....July 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Show Clean up help!

**August Club Meeting.....Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
TBD

**September Club Meeting.....Sep. 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Auction

**October Club Meeting.....Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>**  
TBD

**November Club Meeting.....Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Pot Luck

## 2006 AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President:** Bill Heston (734) 662-8699

**VicePresident:** Hugh Danville (734) 455-7922

**Program Chair:** Hugh Danville (734) 455-7922

**Corresponding Secretary:** Madelon Takken & Alfonso Tercero (734) 216-2708

**Recording Secretary:**

**Publicity Chair:** Bill Cavers (734) 9964508

**Treasurer:** Joan Wheeler (734) 485-6306

**Librarian:** Robert Bishop

**Past President:** Roger Gaede (517) 592-2249

**Director for 2006:** Arnold Wingblad (313) 255-1769

**Director 2006 & 2007 -** Larry Hall

**Show Chair:** Hugh Danville (313) 455-7922

Pete Douglas (313) 867-8644

### AABS AD HOC COMMITTEES

The AABS President, Bill Heston, is ex-officio member of all committees except the Nomination Committee.

**Auction Chair:** TBD

**Membership Chair:** TBD

**Show Staging:** Paul Kulesa

**Demonstrations:** John Parks

**Ways and Means Chair:** John Parks

**Web Master:** Jarrett Knyal

([webmaster@annarborbonsaisociety.org](mailto:webmaster@annarborbonsaisociety.org))

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society ([www.absbonsai.org](http://www.absbonsai.org)) and the Mid American Bonsai Alliance.

Deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. Contact us at: [aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com).

## 2006 MEMBERSHIP DUES

As another year goes by we would like to give you a friendly reminder to send your membership dues to Joan Wheeler at your earliest convenience.

Also if you know of someone who may be interested in becoming a member or just curious about Bonsais, be sure to invite them to our next AABS meeting. (See Calendar of Events for exact dates)

You can pay your dues at the next AABS meeting or mail it to:

~Joan Wheeler  
2295 North Harris  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
(734) 485-6306

Email: [owheeler5@hotmail.com](mailto:owheeler5@hotmail.com)

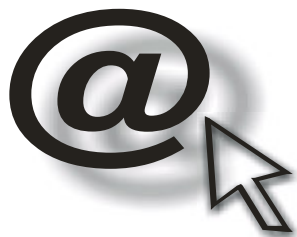
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