

August Club Meeting: Wednesday 23rd. Bonsai & Garden Art Images. Do not miss it!!

**JULY MEETING
MINUTE REVIEW**

By Jerry Peters

7:00 PM SOCIALIZING

Coffee and cookies were available. Thanks!!!!

Our club is privileged to meet at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. We have a great room with a great view to a great large patio with great gardens beyond. There is also a great gift shop open for all to visit and purchase cards, books, plants and many other great worth while items. Thanks Matthaei!

Forty members were present as well as three visitors. Ann Arbor Bonsai Society extends a very special welcome to all new visitors and members who attend only once in a blue moon. We need you all. I think it was Yogi Berra who said "You can observe a lot just by watching". Our club needs watchers and doers.

SHOW AND TELL

Eric Newton brought in a recently replanted Juniper Cascade. Tree reported doing better in its new potting soil and with fertilizer.

Jack Wikle suggested that sulfur pellets be applied to acid loving trees.

Sulfur pellets assist trees to form lush dark



verdant green foliage. Pellets are applied in proper amount only once per year.

Bill Heston showed a Trident Maple in training. Several branches previously grafted have taken and are growing well. Sometime in the future Bill will work his bonsai magic on this tree.

Connie Crancer displayed a contorted form of Ficus. This particular Ficus' growth habit produces a lot of movement in the branches, which responds well to training by the clip and grow method.



Interesting combination of two Contorted Ficus by Connie Crancer.

The tree branches grow rapidly and bend easily while very young however, become brittle quickly and thus responds poorly to wiring.

Wiring will also cut into branches quickly due to the trees rapid growth tendencies.

John Parks brought in three Ficus Too Little trees which will be used as demonstration trees at Ann Arbor Bonsai Club's August bonsai show. John asked for three volunteers to participate in the show demonstrations.

AUGUST 23rd MEETING

Club Members are asked to bring project able images of their favorite Bonsai, Penjing, or Garden Art. Limit is up to 10 images per person. The club will have a carousel projector for slide transparencies and a PC connected to a digital projector.

Members can bring slides or digital images on a CD or a flash card. You are also invited to bring a large photo reproduction of your favorite bonsai setting should you have little faith in our clubs technology prowess.

Should no one bring images Bill will have a back up presentation of images ready for our review and enjoyment.

**MATTHAEI BOTANICAL
GARDENS FANTASTIC NEWS
FLASH**

Connie Crancer announced plans are under way to establish an outdoor bonsai garden display. Connie turned the presentation over to Eric Bauer who presented preliminary conceptual drawings, model and images of the proposed garden.

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The garden will include a connecting open corridor, bonsai room, sun room, 360 degree display area, shade garden, nursery / storage studio for trees not on display. Eric also indicated the shade garden will work around a mature Lynden Tree.

The structure will be a combination of brick, stucco and cedar walls. Certain brick walls could be honeycomb pattern to allow for air circulation. Stucco walls with a smooth texture provided as a neutral backdrop for tree display. Design of display stands and display benches still under consideration.

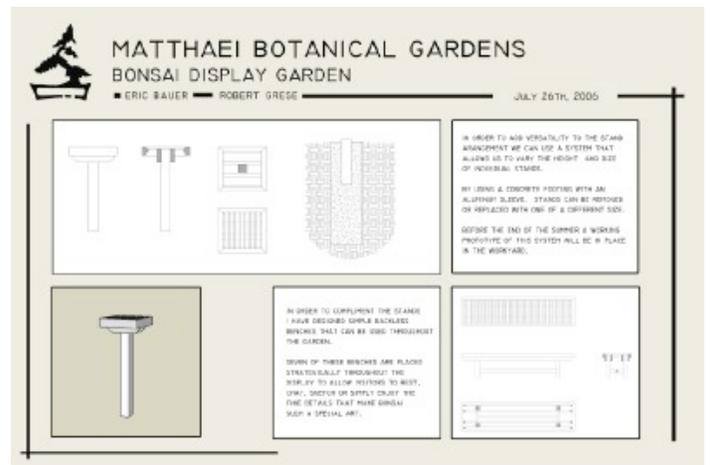
Security issues such as lockable doors and alarm system will be provided. There will be a fund raising effort and Matthaei Botanical Gardens would like to engage Ann Arbor Bonsai club members for this important effort.

Rumor has it that a donor underpinning this entire program could have a significant contributor's plaque displayed in a prominent place.

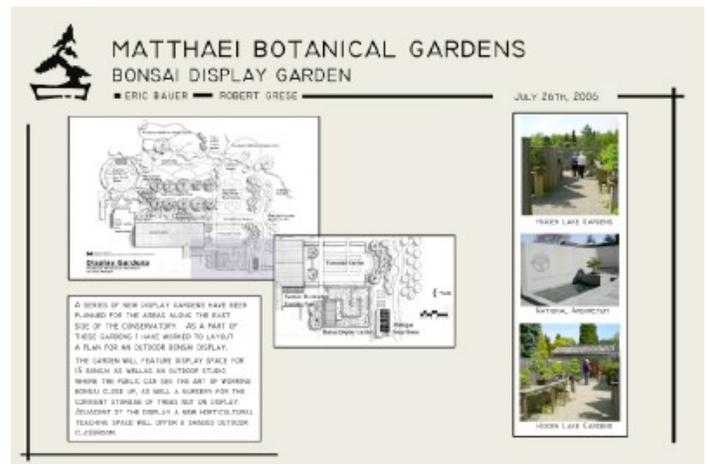
Following are the main three designs for the new outdoor bonsai area.



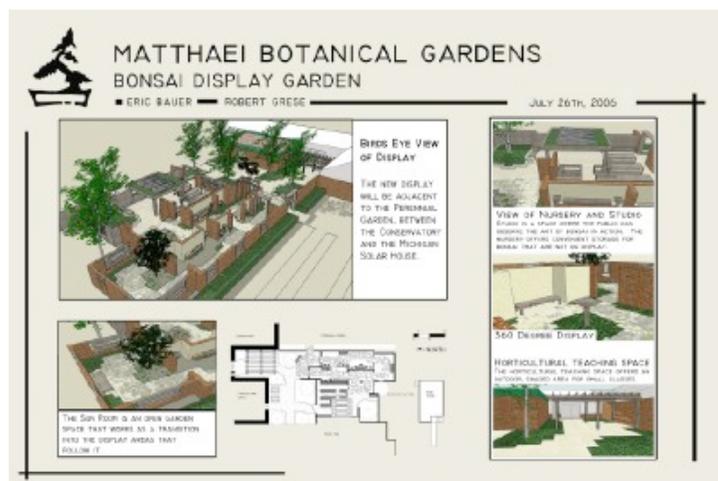
Eric Bauer's presentation of the new outdoor bonsai area was received with great emotion as it will provide ample space for display, demonstrations and storage of Matthaei's great tree collection.



Detail of the bonsai stands that will hold individual and multiple trees.



General layout for the outdoor bonsai display.



All aspects of the new bonsai outdoor construction have been carefully planned to give the viewer the best possible experience while simultaneously providing a safe repository for the admired bonsai collection. Security systems will also play an important role to protect our cherished trees.

7:30 PM PROGRAM

Creating Penjing Landscapes with both Ying Rock and Hydraulic Cement was presented by Robert Bishop assisted by Eric Newton.

Robert Bishop presented Penjing which was described as Chinese art of creating a miniature landscape in a tray or pot. Pen means Pot or Container. Jing denotes "scenery". Artists may use plant material, natural stone to portray an idyllic mountain retreat with waterfall, pond, or lush Tropical Island.

Robert showed several images including viewing stones, wind swept tree, and a rock composition with water wheel. Three categories of Penjing are Tree Penjing (essentially bonsai), Landscape Penjing (stone is the main element), and Water and Land Penjing.

Design goals include a rhythm and dramatic tension, balance, equilibrium, harmony and a sense of massive panoramic views. Designs can be Single peak, Opening peaks, Off Center Peaks and Mountain Style.



Robert presented a series of digital images of Penjing and different formation styles

Robert stressed the importance of variety of rock size, height, attention to texture and the illusion of depth when creating either Landscape Penjing or Water and Land Penjing.

Pockets can be formed behind rock with hydraulic cement. Pockets can be a container to grow small plants to give desired artistic look, or to house a small

water pump supplying water for a waterfall and or river appearance.

Eric Newton joined Robert and helped by demonstrating how to hammer slate edges to form a slate slab with natural edge. Eric is currently President of Bonsai Society of Kalamazoo and has recently joined Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Eric showed a very small geranium plant that would be incorporated in his Penjing creation.



Eric has extensive experience creating Penjing

One ying rock was bonded to another ying rock with hydraulic cement to create a sense of a massive panoramic mountain range. Marine epoxy would be used for stone and other elements under water.

Robert Bishop generously donated a large Penjing creation to the Matthaei Botanical Gardens collection.



Robert demonstrated that with imagination and the right tools you can create a beautiful Penjing scenario that will transport you to ancient Chinese landscaping complete with waterfalls, lakes, rivers and mountains.



Robert donated this Penjing creation to the Matthaei Botanical Gardens collection

We will follow up later this year with a working session or work shop for club members to make their own Penjing landscape.

Thank you Robert and Eric for your Penjing presentation. You have wetted the artistic appetite of many club members and we look forward to your follow up, "do it your self Penjing" meeting.

I think the old adage "Less is more", applies big time, when contemplating either Landscape Penjing or Water and Land Penjing.



Suiseki (Sui = water, Seki = stone) is the study and enjoyment of naturally formed stones as objects of beauty. Impressive Suiseki representing a mountain in miniature

All materials (300 lbs of Ying Rock, Trays, Figurines, etc.) used by Robert for demonstration were furnished by:

Bonsai House
 Preya
 8653 Inkster Road
 Westland Michigan 48185
 734-421-3434

*On behalf of AABS Club Members:
 Thank You Preya!!!!*

FOUR SEASONS BONSAI CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION OPENS TO AABS MEMBERS

Every year in late August Four Seasons Bonsai Club (FSBC) has a club auction of bonsai material.

This year the auction will be open to any member of recognized bonsai club, and their guests. It will be held this year on August 27th at the home of our President, Jimmy Whiteley in Rochester Hills. Particulars will be published in our August Newsletter which will be downloadable from our website, beginning August 15th. Please publish this invitation to your members.

Bill Struhar
Four Seasons Bonsai Club
<http://www.fourseasonsbonsai.org>

REPOTTING OF FICUS NERIFOLIA

By Alfonso Tercero

The Matthaei Botanical Garden Bonsai collection houses many great trees that can be appreciated through the Conservatory section and are changed every week.

The required maintenance of these trees is provided by the hands of many dedicated volunteers (of which I am honored to be part of them) and it is no easy task as all trees necessitate frequent attention to keep them in optimal condition.

The following article is a recollection of a hot August afternoon where the volunteers proceeded to repot this magnificent ficus tree. According to the tree's record file this ficus bonsai had not been reported since May 2000.

The overall health of the tree has been excellent during this time but we noticed that recently during its watering sessions it took longer for the tree to absorb water and that the soil was too compact, occasionally we had to insert a stick through the soil many times around the pot to permit better root aeration and water penetration.

The tree was well overdue for a repotting process and being a tropical tree, summer is the best time to perform this practice. Ficus will go through a brief "dormancy" period during the hot days of summer that allows a safe reduction of the root ball and transplanting without compromising the wellbeing of the tree.

To the right are the pictures that show this process.



Removing the tree from the pot proved to be difficult as the rootball was too compacted due to the many years it remained in the same pot.



This is a closer look at the rootball. Here we are trying to disentangle and separate the long roots.



Special care was taken to only remove the largest and thickest parts of the roots that were not essential. There was a reduction of more than 50% of the total rootball. Ficus can tolerate heavy root pruning.



This is the view from below after the roots have been pruned and washed.

This is done by gently spraying water from a hose with mild force to remove old soil

It is indispensable that the roots are maintained moist during this process, never allowing them to get dry.

Constant water spraying and/or using a wet towel around the root ball will help.

This is the amount of discarded roots that resulted after the pruning session.

In this case we decided to reuse the same pot as it complemented the tree perfectly.

The pot was carefully washed to remove old soil and any other contaminant that could damage the freshly cut roots. Then we used medium size bonsai soil. It is a combination of surface, granite and tree bark.



The final placing of the tree was sensitively considered to attain the best perspective of this promising bonsai.

Afterwards the tree was placed in a shaded spot for a week to encourage root growth.

Special thanks to the MBG volunteers that participated:

Bill Heston

Larry Hall

Bill Cavers

Joan Wheeler

Ruth Heyn

Alfonso Tercero

Under the watchful eye of Connie Crancer

Sr. Horticulturist in charge of the bonsai collection

By Gloria Duncan

Being innovative in bonsai is something that came to my attention recently. While at a workshop with Jose Cueto, I went to get wire for my tree from my tangled mass of different sized wire. I spotted Cyril Grum bringing out some of his wire.

It was neatly rolled and tied, but you'd never guess what he used for his tie! His daughter's ponytail bobble!

Talk about being creative, huh?

This started me thinking and away my mind went. I thought back to some of the things I've seen people use for their bonsai, equipment, plantings, etc.

Here are some samples:

Wire

I've seen people use regular florist's wire (craft wire), thin electrical wire, and even some plastic-coated miscellaneous type wire to tie their trees into pots. Makes sense! If you use something a little more economical to tie a tree in, who cares? One rarely sees the tie wires anyway and you've saved on some of your more expensive bonsai wire.

Pots and Such

I did a rock planting workshop two years ago with Rodney Clemons. He brought an assortment of flat rocks he collected from around his home in our creations (we won't talk about how much they weigh when complete). I've seen people use various oriental and regular pots that were originally intended for other use, but that they've carefully (and skillfully) drilled holes in them to create bonsai pots. Some also use slabs or trays for plantings.

Tools

When a person starts out in bonsai, they need the basic tools and do not always have the finances to purchase these or perhaps they're not sure what they will need. I have a small pair of small Fiskar pruners that I still use for a lot of my pruning (more for the deciduous trees).

Many get a good pair of wire cutters that cut close to the tips, and many use needle nose pliers for gripping wires and/or creating Jin.

Tool Boxes

This is where I've seen a lot of people get really creative. Cyril Grum uses a regular paint-type bucket with the screw-on lid, but the neat thing is he found a little skirt that fits outside of his bucket. This skirt has pouches of all kinds of tools, wires, and most importantly those ponytail bobbles!

A friend of mine uses one of that metal looking brief case carries, and others I've seen using tackle or tool boxes. I have my tools in a leather roll, but I throw everything into a leather backpack and tote that around on my shoulder – very handy when having to carry a tree in two hands and not wanting to make two trips!

Cut Paste

Ahhh, the recipes for this are endless. Some use brown colored (food coloring) Elmers glue. I've used regular modeling clay (gray or brown preferably) mixed with a little olive oil. I've heard of some folks buying the real thing from Japan! Imagine!

Benches

Cinder blocks and boards! I've seen some made with chimney flues (red cement-thingies that fit inside the chimney) with boards, and even stair frames made in a "V" and boards to fit on the different levels.

Miscellaneous

I thought one of the best ideas I've seen was using plastic aquarium tubing to slip over a wire to protect the tree from being marked or scarred when pulling down limbs, tying to another limb or pot, etc.

Cyril has hooks pre-made with this tubing on them already for tying down or pulling. Chopsticks can not only be used to disentangle roots (Paul Kulesa) and to settle fresh soil into pots after repotting, but also to test soil for watering (of course you have to leave it in the pot). Another friend of mine uses his kid's (his kid is in his 20s now) snow disk to do his repotting: to keep the soil confined: good for pruning too – what a concept, eh?

What about milk jugs?

I bought some trees from a gentleman in Rochester, and as I walked away, he handed me a milk jug lid that he had drilled very small, uniform holes in.

I asked him that that was for and he replied to water my indoor trees without the overspray of water can, or the heavy pour of water from regular watering.

An easy to find turntable could be a Lazy Susan. Oh, and last but not least, we go to Cyril again. He uses a cafeteria tray to lay his tools out (at home) so that they are in easy grasp and always there. It reminded me of a surgeon's tray. Maybe that's why Cyril's trees look so good...they've been surgically altered!

Whatever good ideas you have: if it works, use it; but share it too!

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Invites you to our

2006 Bonsai Show

August 26th & 27th (Saturday and Sunday)

10:00 am to 4:30 pm

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*We are planning changes and we need your help!
Please give us your feedback*

The Matthaei Botanical Gardens is reviewing the information we provide about the art of bonsai and bonsai trees, including the trees in our collection, and we'd like your input. Your ideas will be used to develop a web site and other informational materials about the bonsai trees. Please take a moment to fill out this page and return it to the Botanical Gardens, attention: Morgan Daniels, at your convenience. If you prefer to respond via email, please send your comments to mgdaniel@umich.edu with the subject line "bonsai survey response".

- I am new to bonsai
- I have seen bonsai before at: _____
- I have some experience training bonsai, which I have been doing for _____ years

Information I'd like to have about bonsai (attach an extra page if needed):

If you have specific questions about the exhibit, please write them below and provide contact information where we can reach you with our answers.

My question or comments are (continue on back of page if needed):

My Name is: _____

My email address and/or phone number: _____

- I'd like to be contacted to provide more input about the bonsai collection.

Thank you for your help!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January Club Meeting.....Jan 25th

Slide show & discussion of the National Bonsai & Penjing collection by Jack Sustic

February Club Meeting.....Feb. 22nd

Fertilizer & Pest Management. Presentation by Dr. Dean Krauskopf

March Club Meeting.....Mar. 22nd

Everything you ever will want to know about the Larch with *Mr. Bill Heston*

April Workshop.....Apr. 5th

Deciduous Forest or Clump Workshop. From 6:30 to 9:30 in room 125 at MBG.

April Workshop.....Apr. 12^h

Larch Forest Workshop, Wednesday's 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. Room 131 at MBG.

April Club Meeting.....Apr. 26th

Heavy Pruning Branch and Root

May Workshop.....May 4th

Marco Invernizzi Workshop, Bring Your Own Tree. From 6:30 to 9:30 pm in room 139 at MBG.

May Club Meeting.....May 24th

Bring your own Tree

June Workshop.....June 19th

Schefflera Over Rock -- with (still our own) Jerry Meislik at 6:30 pm, Room 125

June Club Meeting.....June 28th

Refinement Pruning

July Club Meeting.....July 26th

Penjing Landscape with Robert Bishop

August Club Meeting.....Aug. 23rd

Bonsai & Garden Art Images

August Bonsai Show.....Aug.26th & 27th

September Club Meeting.....Sep. 27th

2006 AABS Bonsai Auction

October Club Meeting.....Oct. 25th

Indoor Bonsai: Tropical, Subtropical, and Others.

November Club Meeting.....Nov. 22nd

Pot Luck

2006 AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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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

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Web Master: Jarrett Knyal

(webmaster@annarborbonsaisociety.org)

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society (www.absbonsai.org) and the Mid American Bonsai Alliance.

Deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 5th of the month. Contact us at: aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com.

You can pay your Club's 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

Please make your check payable to AABS for \$25.00.

FOR SALE OR WANTED

10% of sales go to AABS Club.

Member Ads are free

Send the information of your items for sale or wanted to aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com include a small digital file if available.

Wanted. If you have a tree, bonsai pot, tool or anything else bonsai related that you don't need anymore and it is still in good condition, consider donating it to our club. Donations to the club are always accepted. In most cases many donated trees or other materials have been raffled among the attending members during our monthly meetings.

We want to remind all club members that everyone is required to give 10% of the total sales for any items that sell at our monthly meetings.

This is a long standing policy that has not consistently observed, since it is starting to fade from our collective memory.

The 10% fee will apply to all sales at our meetings or through this newsletter until the board approves a change.

Please send your comments or documents to 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 the member's corner section.

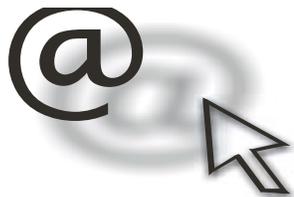
Together we can further improve this newsletter for our reading pleasure.



Place Stamp Here

Ann Arbor Bonsai Society
1800 North Dixboro Road ~ Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9741
The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society and the Mid-American Bonsai Alliance.

Send To:



**AABS Next Club Meeting is Wednesday
August 23rd ~ Bonsai & Garden Art
Images at 7 pm**

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<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

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