



The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the UM-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

November 2014
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NEXT CLUB MEETING: Wednesday, February 25, 2015

In a break from the tradition of monthly meetings, our first meeting in 2015 is Wednesday, February 25th. See you then!

OCTOBER MEETING

Overwintering your Bonsai

A summary by Paul Kulesa

The evening program began with a *PowerPoint* slideshow running prior to the start of the meeting. This slideshow depicted the various winter storage practices of members.

We Have To Prepare For Winter

The acquisition of hardiness that takes place in the fall applies to the growth above ground. Trees in the ground do not acquire hardiness for their roots, because the soil temperatures remain moderate throughout winter.

- Winter dormancy is initiated by the shortening day and a decrease in average temperatures.
- Dormancy is reversible after the plant has spent a specific period in the dormant state of chilling temperatures.

Be Cautious Overwintering

Above ground, it is not the temperature that will kill temperate bonsai suitable for our climate; the concern is wind and sun. These two forces will work together to freeze-dry tender branch tips. Unprotected roots are another matter. Our winters are too cold for the survival of our unprotected bonsai. Root hardiness varies with the bonsai's natural growing range. There is no *table of hardiness* for these values.

- Successful overwintering depends on the bonsai having an opportunity to build up their defenses for the top growth.
- Bonsai in a container, if left unprotected, will get as cold as the surrounding air.
- The health of your bonsai is compromised when unprotected roots are exposed to freezing temperatures, 15°F – 32°F.



Cyril Grum discusses principles of Overwintering

Before storing your bonsai this fall, clean your bonsai and container removing leaves, debris, cobweb and scale insects from the tree and container surface. Rodents are everywhere looking for an appetizer. There are solutions; cat, owl, fencing, rodenticide . . . try them all.

Successful Overwintering

A theme consistent with many of the speakers is . . . bury the container and insulate with some sort of mulch. Snow is a great insulator, but consistent and reliable snowfall is . . . unreliable. So bury, mulch and hope for snowfall.

- Insulate the root mass in the container.
- Overwintering bonsai in the ground has the advantage they will come out of dormancy in-line with the outdoor conditions.
- Water well storing your bonsai for the winter and check regularly.

Breaking dormancy is temperature dependent. Bonsai kept outdoors will begin to grow and require light in spring when outside conditions become ideal. This is not the case of bonsai overwintered in an un-natural (for a tree) storage area. Though these methods are convenient, they tend to warm quickly, certainly more quick than the outdoors. An outdoors wintering location should be in shade of the sun and protected from drying winds.

As spring advances trees become progressively less frost resistant. Spring frost should be a concern. Closed buds will survive a frost, young leaves that have started to unfold can be seriously damaged by a frost. Move your bonsai to a protected site if frost threatens.



Spring Is Coming!

On behalf of the membership, the Executive Board and Jay Sinclair, I want to thank the following members for contributing to the evening program, *Overwintering Your Bonsai*. I had the pleasure of receiving several positive comments on the evening program. I appreciate your participation.

Cyril Grum, Ron Milostan, Alfonso Tercero, Tom McCue, Ed Hughes, Kurt Smith, Carmen Leskoviasky, Jay Sinclair and Aaron Binns (Aaron's contribution appeared in the *PowerPoint* presentation of photographs showing the various winter storage practices of members).

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U-M MBG – Bonsai Garden

Bonsai Challenge Matches Dollar for Dollar

[\(This is the final opportunity to participate in this challenge – the deadline is November 25th\)](#)

Jerry Meislik not only shared his own progress in bonsai over the years in his June 2014 program for AABS, he also launched a new initiative. He challenged the bonsai community with a dollar-for-dollar matching gift to endow the ongoing care of the bonsai and penjing collection at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Jerry and Rhona, who already seeded the bonsai garden endowment fund last year prior to the garden's opening, will donate up to \$10,000 to match gifts that are given or pledged before November 25th. To qualify for the match, gifts or multi-year pledges must be a minimum of \$500.

The endowment specifically funds the care and maintenance of the collection. The endowment goal is \$800,000, which will fund a half-time horticulture specialist, materials and visits with leading bonsai practitioners for direction on artistry and health. Currently Matthaei has raised nearly 25% of that goal, about \$167,000.

To make a gift now, go to...

<https://leadersandbest.umich.edu/find/#/env/mbgna/bonsai>. Make a pledge or for more information, contact Matthaei Development Director Gayle Steiner, gayles@umich.edu or [734-647-7847](tel:734-647-7847).

AABS Annual Election results

by Paul Kulesa & Jay Sinclair

The annual election was held at the October Monthly Meeting. Alfonso Tercero and Vicki Norfleet created the slate of Board members for the election. The slate was presented to the membership. Nominations for any position on the Board were requested of the assembled membership. Michael Field nominated himself as president with the goal of bringing fresh ideas to the club. Paper ballots determined the choice of president, Jay drew 16 votes and Michael drew 10 votes. The slate of other Board positions was approved by the assembled membership. Here are the results:

Jay Sinclair will continue as President of the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society.

Alfonso Tercero will continue as the Recent Past President, providing continuity with prior success of the AABS and advising Jay and the board on practices and decisions.

Paul Kulesa will continue his work as Vice President and Program Director. Paul does a lot of the heavy lifting when it comes to making our organization work.

Claudia and Brian Byrd will share the positions of Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. Together they have done a great job of recording minutes of our meetings, and producing our newsletter.

Joan Wheeler will stay on as Treasurer, doing the very important work of keeping track of our finances.

Fouzaan Zafar continues as Librarian, making publications available to our members, and keeping track of our library as well as new acquisitions.

Kurt Smith will once again be our Show Chair, after putting together an excellent show for 2014.

In one change on the Board, **Carmen Leskoviansky** will take on the position of Publicity Chair, replacing Carlos Diaz, who is stepping down. Many thanks to Carlos for his service in this position.

Tom McCue was elected for another term as Director, and will serve in this role for 2015 – 2016.

Aaron Binns will continue to serve as Director for the 2014 – 2015 term.

I would like to thank all of these fine people for all that they do to make the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society a success. Many thanks also to Vicki Norfleet and Alfonso Tercero for their work as the Nominating Committee. It is a privilege to be involved with an organization made up of so many good people.

“Art of Bonsai” at Hidden Lake Gardens

Organizers Diane Faust and Jack Wikle, with Hidden Lake Gardens Managing Director, Paul Pfeifer express their appreciation to everyone from the bonsai community who support this event including hosts, exhibitors, vendors, presenters and those clubs and individuals who help so much by passing on this information.



Photo by Paul Pfeifer

Quoting Loren Bristol, President of the Sakura Bonsai Society of Northern Michigan, in their October 2014 Gnarly News:

“Hidden Lake Gardens had their show on the 28th of September. They had a really nice showing of trees, with a show stopper of a beautiful Chinese elm. There was a nice variety including maples, elms, and a few trees I haven’t seen before, like the dwarf Hawaiian snow bush. There were different styles, from a beautiful raft cotoneaster to a literati bald cypress to a boxwood forest that you could see yourself walking through. It was a great show with vendors who had a lot to sell at really good prices. The rest of the gardens were beautiful as well, a nice place to visit. All in all, a nice day to walk with the trees, both the small ones and the tall ones.” We have been told repeatedly, “You have to do this again.”

Please put “Art of Bonsai” on your calendars, for Sunday, September 20, 2015 and plan to join us next year.

FOR SALE OR WANTED:

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 BillStruhar@michiganderpots.com or call (586) 468-7169.

Club Logo Now Available: we will embroider the club logo on your garment for \$10 (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 silver border on both combinations and AABS lettering an 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 requires a minimum of 5 garments per order)

REGIONAL BONSAI EVENTS 2015

September 20, 2015 Art of Bonsai – Hidden Lake Gardens
<http://hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu>

2014 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Jay Sinclair
Immediate Past President Alfonso Tercero
VP/Program Planner Paul Kulesa
Recording Secretary Brian and Claudia Byrd
Corresponding Secretary Claudia and Brian Byrd
Treasurer Joan Wheeler
Librarian Fouzaan Zafar
Show Chair Kurt Smith
Publicity Chair Carmen Leskoviasky
Director 2014-2015 Aaron Binns
Director 2015-2016 Tom McCue

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: Don Wenzel

Nomination Committee: To be determined

Show Committee: Ron Milostan, Michael Field and Paul Kulesa.

MEMBERSHIP ISSUES – CONTACT THE TREASURER

Joan Wheeler – Treasure AABS
34660 Fountain Blvd
Westland, Michigan 48185
734-338-2525
AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com

The annual dues are \$25. You may pay your dues, mailing a check to the treasurer or talking with Joan at the next meeting. Please pay by check.

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>

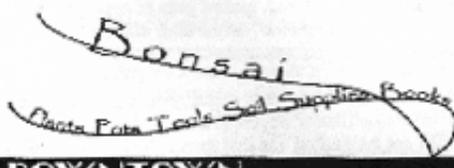
Support Local Bonsai Vendors

Hours: Wed., Thurs. & Fri.; 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Sat., 1:30pm to 5:00pm
 CLOSED: Sunday, Monday & Tuesday
 Please Call First



Bonsai House
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 (734) 421-3434

8653 Inkster Road - Westland, Michigan 48185
 On Inkster Between Joy Road & Ann Arbor Trail



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