

IN THIS ISSUE

Notes From the Sideline	pg. 1
Bill Heston is Accorded Lifetime Membership	pg.2
Hidden Lake Gardens Bonsai Study Sessions	pg.2
Calendar of Events	pg. 3
AABS Contact Information	pg. 4

NOTES FROM THE SIDELINES:

Almudena Veiga-Lopez – Recording Secretary

March 24, 2010 “Pests and Disease” with Jack Wickle

Club members started gathering at 7:00 PM and were able to participate in the raffle for a bonsai and a place in a Michael Hagedorn workshop at the Michigan AllState Show, both donated by Bill Heston. The fortunate winner of this tree was Kurtis Smith. Our members also signed up for the numerous events and workshops available this Spring-Summer season.

Alfonso Tercero, President of the Society, brought the meeting to order at 7:30 PM welcoming all club members. Bill Heston was awarded with a Lifetime Membership in the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society and was given a plaque in gratitude and appreciation for all his years of dedication to the Society.

Jack Wickle’s presentation “Pests and Diseases” was introduced. Before his presentation, Jack reminded all participants of the upcoming Maple Forest Workshop, meeting at 1:30 PM on April 3, 2010. He mentioned that all participants should bring their own materials (pot, wire, soil, tools). Two-year seedlings generously donated by Clarence Owens will be available for purchase at the workshop (\$2 each). Although the seats for this event was already full, Jack said he would be glad to have more participants involved in this event.

Jack started reviewing the most common question among bonsai enthusiasts. *What should I spray my trees with?* He recommended we all start with mild homemade remedies; alcohol/water (1:1), dish soap in water (half tablespoon/gallon water), basic H, sun spray oil (for scales), wax bars (for white flies) and mentioned that some have even used chopped flea collars!

Among the most effective systemic insecticides is the active principle ‘imidacloprid’ which can be used as a season-long pest

control. But he is reluctant to recommend this as a preventive treatment. Remember that anything you use on your tree may harm it. ‘*More bonsais have been killed by insecticides than insects*’-he said.

There are few things we should know about pesticides. We need to use them with control, too much may damage your tree. When using pesticides, avoid dry conditions in your tree in both foliage and soil and make sure the temperature is below 80°F before spraying. We have to keep in mind that insects will become resistant to a particular pesticide over time. Mites are specially suited to become resistant. Alternating different insecticides with different active principles with 7-10 days intervals may help in controlling this insidious pest.

But, *before using anything, observe your tree carefully* –he said. A 10X magnifier lens will help you recognize exactly what pest you are dealing with. Then try to follow integrated pest management. Jack mentioned 5 key points here: 1) sanitation, remove all dead foliage, discard and burn; 2) follow quarantine when introducing new plants; 3) use home-remedies for small infestations (brush off, water pressure spraying, etc...); 4) get your plant healthy; and 5) acquire plants that are not polluted with pests already!

Jack explained how to recognize the most common infestations that affect outdoor bonsais, namely mites, aphids, bores and scales, nicely accompanied by a selection of amazing images gathered by Paul Kulesa. Do I have mites? Put white paper under the plant, shake the plant gently, dust will appear on paper. Rub the dust and a black strip will appear on paper. If so, you’ve got mites! Checking for aphids, you may find syrup on the leaves, black deposits from a fungus that lives on the syrup and possibly ant traffic on the plant. As for bores, Jack mentioned that they mainly affect weak plants and by the time we recognize the damage on the bark it is usually too late.

But bonsais may be affected by problems other than insects, namely bacterial and viral diseases that are far from easy to identify. This is because they are microscopic and sign might be confused with signs of overwatering, nutrient deficiency, fertilizer overdose, frost damage, wet feet, spray damage, air pollution, etc...

BILL HESTON IS ACCORDED LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Paul Kulesa

Following the nomination by several members of the Society, the Executive Board discussed and unanimously approved bestowing lifetime membership on William - "Wild Bill" - Heston. This honor recognizes years of service to the development of bonsai in Southeast Michigan. For years, Bill has labored to improve the quality of bonsai in our group and the Ann Arbor area. Bill deserves our gratitude and appreciation for his years of dedication. Thanks Bill.

- In the beginning, William Heston took classes with Connie Crancer at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and joined the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society soon after.
- In 2001, Bill was elected Recording Secretary and served one year.
- He was elected and served as Vice President / Program Chairperson from 2002 through 2004.
- In 2005, he was elected President and continued in that position through 2009.
- He has worked with Connie Crancer ever since he first took a bonsai class with her in 1999. He still volunteers three hours each week caring for the collection at MBG.
- A few years later he began working with Jack Wickle at Hidden Lake Gardens, devoting 3 hours (and 7 hours during the repotting season) each week to work on their collection.
- He has participated in many monthly meeting events, serving as a program leader or consultant.

Bill has contributed much of his time and effort in perpetuating the development of this group. I am confident that the Executive Board and the membership are pleased in honoring Bill with our appreciation.

HIDDEN LAKE GARDENS BONSAI STUDY SESSIONS CONTINUE AGAIN THIS YEAR, 2010

Jack Wickle

These Sunday afternoon clinics and mini-exhibits will take place on the following dates: April 25, May 23, July 25, September 26, and October 24; beginning at 1 pm in the HLG Bonsai Studio.

- Display your own bonsai
- Interact with other active bonsai growers
- Bring your bonsai or material for hands-on consultation focused on your tree(s) and your questions (No charge; donations to the Hidden Lake Gardens Bonsai Fund accepted)
- Observers welcome (Bringing your own seating recommended)

Hosted by Hidden Lake Gardens' Bonsai Curator, Jack Wickle, and some of his bonsai growing friends.

BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE CLASSES PART 1. WITH CONNIE CRANCER

Jamie Roman

It was a snowy but bright Saturday morning as participants gathered to listen to Connie Crancer at the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Connie introduced herself as well as Paul Kulesa, who assisted her throughout the day.

To start the class, Connie made a short introductory presentation.

Bonsai (pronounced *bone-sigh*) is the ancient art of trees in pots. In fact, the word *bonsai* literally means just that – "tree in a pot."

The eternal paradox faced by the bonsai master is mimicking the majesty of a grand, old tree found in nature in a miniature, displayable form. A tiny tree, kept that way only by a delicate balance of healthy growth and careful cultivation.

This cultivation includes a wide array of styles common to bonsai – upright, slanted, cascade and many more. Each of these styles has a specific set of guidelines, used to help create in the viewer's eye a sense of size, age and perspective.

The art of bonsai actually originated in China, around 300 AD, in a form much different from the Japanese bonsai we usually identify with today. Called *punsai*, the Chinese forms of cultivation often take on the forms of sinuous dragons and other animals, have straight, taperless trunks and often consist of rock and tree formations called penjing.

Bonsai did not move to Japan until Zen Buddhism spread there, around the 12th century AD. In Japan, bonsai took on a more formalized style with strict rules on branch placement, height to width ratios, nebari (surface roots) and trunk taper.

Today, people practice bonsai in nearly every corner of the civilized world – partly in thanks to the information distribution available from the Internet.

After an informative introduction, Connie showed progression slides for a few of the trees maintained by the Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Some of the pictures went as far back as the 1970's. It was fascinating to see the modest beginnings of some of these fabulous trees.

Next, Connie took us through the greenhouses at the gardens. The outdoor coldframe storage was quite frozen and snowed over, so we were unable to view the trees hibernating there, but there were many trees housed indoors for us to admire – ficus, jades, cypress, bougainvillea, boxwood, ivy and some newly awakened Chinese elms.

In a quiet and secluded greenhouse, punctuated occasionally by the spray of water on the plants housed there, Connie introduced the class to a Ficus Contorsa. She told us it would be our demonstration plant.

We assessed the plant, deciding as a group that the tree would make a good semi-cascade.

Connie made some cuts, explaining that unlike many Ficus, Contorsa have brittle branches, making it better to use a “clip and grow” technique rather than trying to wire the branches. To prove her point, she bent a small branch ever so slightly, snapping it. She promptly cut it off.

Then, Connie noted that instead of cutting the branches flush against the trunk, she removed them farther out, leaving a small stub. This stub would dry out and then be removed later, to leave less of a scar.

Several more cuts into the demonstration, Connie pointed out that the more branches we removed, the larger the trunk appeared.

The foliage left after removing unwanted and crossing branches was sparse, but Connie assured us the tree would heal its wounds and sprout new growth soon.

Our group next chose a pot for the Ficus. We chose one not too big, but not too small.

Paul prepared the pot with a screen and some wire to anchor the tree while Connie combed out the roots with a chopstick. She noted that she could remove a large percentage of the roots, if she wished, but leaving as many undamaged roots as possible would allow the tree to recover faster and more vigorously.

Lightly prodding the soil with her chopstick, Connie explained she was eliminating air pockets, which might allow the roots to dry out too much. She and Paul also informed us that the main ingredient of the soil was Turface, fired clay that would hold water without allowing the roots to sit in too much moisture.

Once the tree was firmly in its pot and surrounded snugly by soil, Connie gathered us around to listen to the fascinating snap-crackle-pop noise made by the Turface as it initially absorbed the water she poured over it.

The newly repotted tree, moistened and settled into its new home, was then displayed for all the class to see.

All in all, it was an informative workshop and Connie kept it interesting as well. I very much look forward to the next two beginner classes.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January Club Meeting.....Jan. 27th
Bonsai Multi-Media Slide Presentation, featuring Don Wild presenting conifer collection.

February Club Meeting.....Feb. 24th
Yew Styling Demo with Guest Speaker Will Heath.

February Class.....Feb 27th
Beginner and Intermediate Classes, Part I with Connie Crancer.

March Class.....Mar. 6th
Beginner and Intermediate Classes, Part II with Cyril Grum.

March Class.....Mar. 13th
Beginner and Intermediate Classes, Part III with Jack Wikle.

March Club Meeting.....Mar. 24th
Pests and Diseases with Jack Wikle.

April Special Event.....Apr. 3rd
Maple Forest Workshop with Jack Wikle.

April Special Event.....Apr. 11th
Yew Workshop with road trip to Ken Huth's Greenhouse in Ohio.

April Club Meeting.....Apr. 28th
Invited Guest – Marco Invernizzi working on a yew tree.

April Special Event.....Apr. 29th
Invited Guest – Marco Invernizzi (BYOT).

May Club Meeting.....May 26th
Deciduous Bonsai Refinement with Bill Heston.

June Special Event.....Jun. 12th
Workshop with Jerry Peters. Create a Watercolor of Your Favorite Bonsai Tree.

June Club Meeting.....Jun 23rd
Invited Guest – David Kreutz Demonstrating on Azaleas.

June Special Event.....Jun 24th
Invited Guest – David Kreutz Azalea Workshop.

July Workshop.....Jul. 10th
Mugo Pine Workshop with Vance Wood "Mr. Mugo"

July Club Meeting.....Jul.28th
Working Review and Critique – Expert advice from Cyril Grum, Bill Heston & Jack Wikle (BYOT).

August Special Event.....Aug. 14th
Annual Pot Luck – Lary Howard's Home.

August Club Meeting..Aug. 25th

Tropical bonsai – Repotting techniques with Dustin Mann.

AABS Bonsai Show 2010... Aug. 28th-29th

September Club Meeting..Sep. 22nd

2010 AABS Club Auction.

October Special Event...Oct. 9th

Prospecting Field Trip to Plymouth Nursery and Landscaping led by Jack Wikle.

October Club Meeting...Oct. 27th

Winterizing your Bonsai – Expert advice from Cyril Grum and Bill Heston.

November Special Event..Nov. 8th

Annual Banquet and Mini-Exhibit.

2010 AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alfonso Tercero (734) 424-9399

Vice-President: Paul Kulesa

Program Chairperson: Paul Kulesa

Corresponding Secretary: Ryan Liu

Recording Secretary: Almudena Veiga-Lopez

Publicity Chair: Lary Howard

Treasurer: Joan Wheeler (734) 485-6306

Librarian: Vicki Norfleet

Past President: Bill Heston (734) 662-8699

Director 2010 & 2011: Dustin Mann

Show Chairperson: Jay Sinclair

AABS AD-HOC COMMITTEES

The AABS President is exofficio member of all committees with the exception of the Nomination Committee.

Auction Chair: TBD

Membership Chair: TBD

Show Staging: Paul Kulesa

Demonstrations: John Parks

Ways and Means Chair: John Parks

Web Administration: TBD

FOR SALE OR WANTED

10% of all sales go to the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. AABS Society Members' ads are free to publish in the Newsletter.

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 that is still in good condition, consider donating it to the Society. Donations to the Society are always accepted. In most cases many donated trees or other materials have been raffled among the attending members during our monthly meetings.

Please note: All Society members are required to give 10% of the total sales for any items that are sold at AABS monthly meetings to the Society. The 10% fee will apply to all sales at AABS Meetings or through the AABS Newsletter. Deadline for submissions to the Newsletter is the 5th of the month.

Please send your comments or documents to aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com.

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

Contact AABS at: aabsnewsletter@yahoo.com.

MEMBERSHIP

Society Membership is for the calendar year. Use the membership form on the Web and bring it to 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.

NEXT CLUB MEETING:

April 28th 2010

"Working on a Yew Tree with Marco Invernizzi"

International Bonsai Master Marco Invernizzi is visiting us from Italy and will provide us with a lecture on bonsai cultivation and maintenance. Marco will work on a mature yew tree and afterwards the demo tree will be raffled among attendees.



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:



Visit us on the Web:

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

Support our AABS Vendors:

Hours: Mon - Fri: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sat: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Closed Sunday & Tuesday



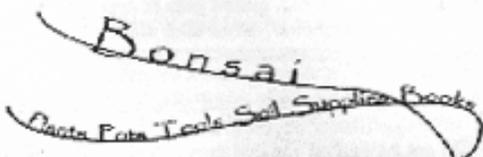
BONSAI HOUSE
Bonsai Plant & Gift
(734) 421-3434

8653 Inkster Road - Westland, Michigan 48185
On Inkster between Joy Road and Ann Arbor Trail

Tropical Treasures
Koi . Water Plants . Pond Supplies

Tokonoma Bonsai
Bonsai Supplies . Granite Lanterns . Bamboo .
Joshua Roth Distributor

34190 S. Gratiot
Clinton Twp., MI (586) 791-6595



DOWNTOWN HOME & GARDEN
210 S. Ashley 7:30 - 7 Mon.-Sat., 11-4 Sun. 662-8122

Call for Appointments, Show Schedules, and Appraisals, Special Orders



Ken's World of Bonsai
"If you want it, I can find it!"
Trees, Pots, & Accessories From Around The World
Buy • Sell • Trade

Demos & Workshops Available at Your Club, Home, Office, Party, Etc.
E-mail: KensBonsaiWorld@aol.com

Tree & Collection Maintenance, Other Services Available

Ken Huth - 330-896-9800
P.O. Box 51
Green, OH 44232
Over For More info.

*** Full Service Florist ***
Flowers for every occasion

Kurtis & Lita Smith

Specializing in
Bonsai Trees
Water Gardens
Handmade Silk Trees

8930 South Custer
Monroe, MI 48161
(734) 269-2660
www.dundeeflowers.com



Telly's Greenhouse & Garden Center
3301 John R. Road
Troy, Michigan
48063-5656
www.tellys.com

Phone: (248) 689-8735
Fax: (248) 689-8730
hector@tellys.com

Hector DeBrabant
Bonsai Instructor