

NEXT CLUB MEETINGS: JANUARY 26, 2011

Connie Crancer, Collections and Natural Areas Specialist at Matthaei Botanical Gardens and long time AABS member will present a program on starting bonsai from seed, cuttings, seedlings, air layering and other forms of propagation. Connie will answer those questions, "how can I start bonsai from seed, small plants and cuttings and how can I maintain their development in the short term?" This program is sure to get you started in the right direction, those working with indoor material and those anticipating the approaching spring.

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NOTES FROM THE SIDELINES

Almudena Veiga-Lopez – Recording Secretary

Oct 27, 2010 Monthly Meeting: *Winterizing Your Bonsai - Expert advice from Cyril Grum and Bill Heston.*

Gathering at MBG started around 7:00pm. Our president Alfonso Tercero welcomed six new members and commented on the arriving of new Annual Show banners. Joan Overmeier who coordinates the Annual Banquet set the dinner start at 6pm. Lary Howard mentioned that for those who are interested, he is now able to make bigger pots up to 26" long.

A few members brought trees to show and tell. Jack Wikle shared with us an American Larch (29 years-old) and a trident maple (25 years-old) displaying their beautiful fall colors. Clive brought an azalea in full bloom and a Japanese maple. Jerry brought a ficus nerifolia. Finally, Cyril Grum shared a couple of ginkgo trees, a twin trunk and a genetic dwarf leaf variety, and a crabapple raft.

The program started with Bill Heston handing out a questionnaire to the audience about tree winterizing which made us realize how little we know about plant physiology. Then, Cyril Grum started his presentation

posing a question. *How does a tree survive the winter in Michigan?*

There three key factors that are required for that to happen –he said. First, keep the roots from freezing; second, prevent limbs and needles from desiccation, and third, trees require a dormant period. Cells in trees will withstand temperatures of 32°F without freezing, but trunk and limbs can withstand lower temperatures than roots. He explained the two ways by which trees may withstand such lower temperatures. A phenomenon called 'supercooling' is lowering the freezing point of water in the cells by the intracellular accumulation of solutes during the fall. The second phenomenon is 'intracellular dehydration' which pushes water out of the cell protoplasm into intercellular spaces. But he said that resistance to freezing will always be plant specific, i.e. will vary among species and where the plant was raised.

So then, why keep trees outside if we have to protect them from freezing? Cyril said that temperate trees go dormant in the fall and they need a chilling period to break their dormancy status; typically, between 500 to 2,000 hours and temperatures between 34-40°F.

So, how do we overcome the cold season? Cyril mentioned few practical tricks. To protect the roots we should keep the trees in a shady spot. Using a shady spot on the North side of the house will prevent snow from melting during the warm hours of the day. We should try to keep trees away from wind since it will increase transpiration losses. This is due to the fact that cold air holds much less water than warm air. It is also important to avoid temperature

fluctuations. Trees should be placed in a protected corner or covered by windbreaks.

So, when should we put the trees away? He said that there is no strict rule for that, but usually, between the last week of October to mid-November. It is important not to do it too much earlier since trees should cold harden before you put them away for the Winter.

Cyril also showed us the pits, windbreaks, and shady spots he uses to winterize his trees. Bill Heston took over the program to share his own experience winterizing bonsai trees. The evening proved that knowing a little bit more about tree physiology can help our trees overcome the hard Michigan Winter. Thanks Cyril and Bill for such an informative presentation. No doubt our trees will appreciate your advice! Thank you!



Trees to show and tell



Cyril Grum presenting

MINUTES – AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Almudena Veiga-Lopez – Recording Secretary

Time: October 27, 2010 6PM

Attendees: Bill Heston, Lary Howard, Paul Kulesa, Victoria Norfleet, Jay Sinclair, Alfonso Tercero, Raquel Vega, Almudena Veiga-Lopez, and Joan Wheeler.

- **2011 Program Budget.** Budget for 2011 was presented to the board. This includes George Buehler's visit form Greater Lousville Bonsai Society, Pauline Muth's visit from New York, Marco Invernizzi's visit, Lindsay Shiba's visit, the annual auction and the annual banquet. The budget is approved by the board.
- **Annual Show expenses** were provided by Alfonso Tercero, Paul Kulesa and Jay Sinclair. These include additional signs for the Annual Show, annual show setup, and food for Saturday evening.
- **Administration fees** were presented by the treasurer Joan Wheeler. They include internet/website fees, banking service charges, and magazine subscriptions.
- **Membership renewals** were presented to the board. AABS has currently 67 members.
- **Newsletter publication costs** were presented to the board and approved.
- **Costs for the development of new 2011 AABS brochures** were presented to the board and were approved.
- **Update on the incident of the broken bonsai containers during the show.** Alfonso Tercero commented that during the incident only the pots and not the trees were damaged. Cyril Grum, and Eugene Weise did not accept a compensation for their broken pots although Kurt Smith kindly offered to replace them. The board agrees that more thought should be put in next's year show to avoid this from happening again.
- **A question to consider by Paul Kulesa; Should we move the meeting starting time to 7PM to allow more time at the other end of the meeting for expanded discussion and demonstrations? Currently, we have to end our meeting by 9PM.** The board agreed to ask the question as part of the membership renewal questionnaire.

- **Dustin Mann (in absentia) would like to share the following information. How do we increase and maintain club membership?**

The board discussed ways to increase membership. Suggestions included contacting other gardening associations in the area. A way to do it would be to attend their meetings and introduce ourselves and the AABS to increase outreach. Joan Wheeler suggested the Conservation Club of Superior Township. Lary Howard suggested that it may be worth exploring outreach at public libraries. Jay Sinclair suggested that we should advertise the beginners class outside MBG and AABS and also include a support group after the beginners class that will avoid lost contact with the association during the first steps.

Including AABS in social networks such as Facebook was also discussed.

UPCOMING AABS EVENTS

Paul Kulesa – Program Chairperson

February 23, 2011

George Buehler of the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society will introduce us to bonsai tools necessary to perform the work we do. He will exhibit and discuss the variety of tools needed to work successfully with our bonsai.

March 23, 2011

Pauline Muth will give a presentation on shimpaku shohin bonsai. Long time President of the American Bonsai Society will share her knowledge on shohin bonsai and the use of shimpaku as shohin bonsai.

March 24, 2011 (Thursday 6 PM)

Pauline Muth will conduct a workshop using shimpaku specially selected for this workshop. At Pauline's request, copper wire will be used exclusively in this workshop. Pauline Muth will take the information presented at the Wednesday evening meeting and apply it to the development of shohin shimpaku bonsai for workshop participants.

April 27, 2011 (Wednesday following Easter)

Invited Guest - Marco Invernizzi will discuss the ins and outs of wiring that he is perfecting while working with bonsai.

April 28, 2011 (Thursday 6 PM)

Marco Invernizzi will lead a "bring your own tree" workshop to continue the study of wiring. Marco will work with workshop participants to develop their wiring skills.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

May 14 & 15, 2011

13th Annual Michigan All-State Bonsai Show. Colin Lewis will be the featured artist and speaker at this annual weekend event in the Grand Rapids area.

June 16-19, 2011

The 2011 ABS/BCI Symposium "Bonsai in the Bluegrass". This 4-day Learning Seminar has scheduled International Bonsai artists from Europe, Asia, Mexico, and the United States. There will be a large number of bonsai vendors on hand to provide a variety of trees, pots, tools, and various other supplies. Part of the program includes a bonsai display of trees from across the United States.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 26 - Monthly Meeting

Connie Crancer will help us to understand how to propagate and start bonsai from seed, cutting and air layers, to expand to our collection.

February 23 - Monthly Meeting

George Buehler of the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society will discuss bonsai tools.

March 23 - Monthly Meeting

Pauline Muth will discuss shimpaku shohin bonsai.

March 24 - Workshop

Pauline Muth will conduct a workshop using shimpaku.

April 27 - Monthly Meeting

Marco Invernizzi will discuss wiring techniques.

April 28 - Workshop

Marco Invernizzi will conduct a wiring workshop.

May 25 - Monthly Meeting

A Members Workshop, an opportunity to bring a tree to work on and seek advice on specific techniques to improve your bonsai.

June 22 - Monthly Meeting

Lindsay Sheba will discuss show presentation and display of bonsai.

June 23 - Workshop

Lindsay Shiba will conduct a workshop using select boxwood or you may bring your own material.

July 27 - Monthly Meeting

A Select Panel will critique your bonsai, offering design advice and cultural suggestions.

August 24 - Monthly Meeting

Jack Wikle will moderate a presentation on bonsai soil. "More than a recipe, an understanding of the way soils work for you."

August 26 - Annual Show Setup

Plan to help setup the show.

August 27 & 28 - AABS Annual Show

"The premier event of the year"

September 28 - Monthly Meeting

2011 AABS Annual Auction.

October 26 - Monthly Meeting

"Our Bonsai, Then and Now". A member supported photographic review depicting your bonsai, "then and now".

November 7 - Annual Banquet

2011 AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Alfonso Tercero (734) 216-2708

Vice-President/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

Director 2011 & 2012: Raquel Vega

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: TBD

Ways and Means Chair: Hugh Danville

Web Administration: Raquel Vega

FOR SALE OR WANTED

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. Please send your comments or documents to

newsletter@annarborbonsaisociety.org.

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.

Help Spruce Up Our Web Page Appearance

Raquel Vega, AABS web master, is soliciting photographs of members' trees to appear on one of the many pages of our web site. You can hand deliver a photograph of your favorite bonsai to Raquel at the meeting or send a photo via email to her.

members-owner@annarborbonsaisociety.org

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: treasurer@annarborbonsaisociety.org. Please make your check payable to AABS for \$25.00.

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

Contact AABS at: newsletter@annarborbonsaisociety.org



Place
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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:

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