

## NEXT CLUB MEETING: FEBRUARY 23, 2011

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

### TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership dues are \$25. Make a check payable to Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Look for the renewal form on the web site or at the treasurer's table during the monthly meetings.

### UPCOMING RAFFLES

Two Chinese Chrysanthemum stones, a gift from Judith Wright, were presented to the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society in December 2010. During the February monthly meeting, one of the stones will be raffled. This stone is 5.25" wide and 6.75" tall and is fitted to a stone base. A chrysanthemum stone is a natural volcanic rock with calcite crystal formations resembling chrysanthemum blossoms.



Chrysanthemum stone for February raffle

### NOTES FROM THE SIDELINES

#### Almudena Veiga-Lopez – Recording Secretary

January 26, 2011 Meeting: *How to propagate and start bonsai from seed and cuttings, and how to maintain their development in the short term with Connie Crancer*

A little before 7:00pm members of AABS started gathering at the MBG. Sharp at 7:30pm Alfonso Tercero welcomed six new participants and introduced the Show and Tell session, Hugh Danville brought a beautiful flowering bougainvillea, and Jack Wickle shared a 13-year old exquisite firethorn that had been growing as a bonsai for 9 years. Lary Howard brought some of the promised big-sized hand-made pots 26x19" which he has cleverly modified with additional small holes to better support forest arrangements.

Paul Kulesa, our vice president, welcomed the New Year and presented the upcoming 2011 AABS program as a very educational one. As part of the new program in October we will have a monthly meeting with the title "Our bonsai, then and now – a photographic review". If you have pictures of changes in your bonsais please share those with the recording secretary. Success will only be possible with all members help. Paul then introduced the members of the executive board for 2011. He also announced that Hugh Danville will take over the sales of AABS related items, a position that was long held by Roger Gaede. We all thank Roger for his service to the society.

Connie Crancer started the program explaining the two different propagation types; propagation through seeds or spores (sexual), and through plant parts (asexual). Deciding which one to use depends on the ultimate desirable traits we want, difficulty of the method, material source and time of the year.

Deciding to use sexual propagation starts with harvesting the seed at the right time (some species require ripening while others do not). Seed storage comes next; use a glass jar and keep it dry and between 37-40°F – Connie explained. Seed processing, i.e.: how to persuade seeds to germinate varies with the species. A germination code is very much useful here! Hopefully your seed has a germination code 'A'... no pre-treatment required! However, the pre-treatments in some species can be as long as 60 days in a moist and cold (32-37°F) environment, process called stratification. You are lucky if your seed is not classified as 'L' (germination method unknown) or 'M' (difficult to propagate from seed). The environment during seed sowing is critical. Humidity, light, warm temperature, the right substrate (it should have a good oxygen and water holding capacity), and the right depth into the soil are key for success. Connie recommended a planting depth of two times the seed's width.

Faster results can be achieved using asexual propagation with the added benefit of propagating an exact genetic replica of the plant. This is possible due to the totipotency properties of the plants, any part of the plant has the capacity of giving rise to all parts of the plant of origin. Connie commented about the different asexual methods of propagating, from cuttings to air-layering.

When using herbaceous cuttings one can use a tip-, mid-stem-, or basal- cutting but the top end of the cutting should always have a bud. The totipotential capacity of the plant is higher in the meristeme tissue that resides in the bud. Also make sure not too much foliage is left in the cutting. Propagation from woody parts is also possible. Softwood (new growth in early Spring with bending capability up to 90 degrees) propagation is possible in late Spring. Semi-hardwood (semi-new growth of the season) propagation is possible in late Summer. Against all odds, hardwood propagation is also possible! Such cuttings should be collected in late Fall to early Spring. When doing hardwood cuttings one should keep the diameter around the diameter of a pencil. They should be wrapped and kept in cold moist medium and allow the cutting to form a callus. When planting the cutting in the Spring pay attention to the orientation of the cutting; only the basal end should be planted, not the apical end. Connie also explained several ways of grafting and air layering. At the end of the presentation Connie showed us a few tricks on how to develop our own propagation system at home. Let us hope that we can achieve better results in propagating our best specimens or new material for our next bonsai project. Thanks Connie for such an educational lecture!



Connie Crancer presenting.



Connie Crancer giving propagating tips.



AABS monthly meeting attendees.

### UPCOMING AABS EVENTS

**Paul Kulesa – Program Chairperson**

*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.

*April 27, 2011*

During the April monthly meeting (Wednesday following Easter) invited guest speaker, Marco Invernizzi, will discuss the ins & outs of wiring bonsai that he is continuously working to perfect while working with bonsai.

*May 25, 2011*

This is a Member's Workshop – BYOT In this workshop during the meeting, members can bring in bonsai along with their tools, wire and supplies needed to work on their trees. Select members will be available to "walk you through" the work you choose to perform on your bonsai. This is more than seeking design ideas; this is hands-on experience with a guiding hand to accomplish a certain task with your bonsai. These tasks include but are not limited to grafting techniques, wiring challenges, the use of guy lines to hold limbs in place, the use of raffia to protect limbs, bud development and selection . . ." This workshop features the advice of Bill Heston, Clive Taylor and Lois Vorath.

### UPCOMING AABS WORKSHOPS

*March 24, 2011 (Thursday 6 PM) at MBG*

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. Participants should bring their tools. Participants will receive a shimpaku for the workshop along with the copper wire, used during the workshop. Participant, \$40; non-members participants add \$25; observer - \$10.

*April 9, 2011 (Saturday 9 AM) at MBG*

Dustin Mann will lead a workshop using select boxwood, 'Morris Midget'. This material will be repotted and styled during this workshop. Participants should bring their tools and wiring supplies. The boxwood, pot and repotting soil mix will be provided. Participants, \$25; non-members participants add \$25, observer - \$10.

*April 28, 2011 (Thursday 6 PM) at MBG*

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. Participant should bring their tools and wiring supplies. Participant, \$30; non-members participants add \$25, observer - \$10.

*June 23, 2011 (Thursday, 6-9 PM) at MBG*

Lindsay Shiba will conduct a workshop using boxwood provided for the participant of this event or you can bring your own boxwood. Participant should bring their tools and wiring supplies. Participants, \$40; non-member participants add \$25; observers - \$10. The workshop fee is \$30 for those who bring their own boxwood.

### 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.

*June 25-26, 2011*

39th Annual Four Seasons Bonsai Show. A bonsai exhibit and beginner-friendly presentations is scheduled. Bonsai, pots, tools and accessories will be sold. A demonstration by nationally recognized bonsai master, Lindsay Shiba is scheduled for Saturday, June 25, 2PM. The show and demonstration are open to the public and free of charge. Saturday, June 25, 9AM - 7PM. Sunday, June 26, 9AM - 4PM. Telly's Greenhouse, 3301 John R (between Big Beaver and Wattles), Troy, Michigan. 248-689-8735. Website: [www.tellys.com](http://www.tellys.com).

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### 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

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#### 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

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#### 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](mailto: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](mailto:members-owner@annarborbonsaisociety.org)

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#### 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](mailto: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](http://www.absbonsai.org)) and the Mid American Bonsai Alliance ([www.mababonsai.org](http://www.mababonsai.org)).

Contact AABS at: [newsletter@annarborbonsaisociety.org](mailto:newsletter@annarborbonsaisociety.org)



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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.

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