



NEXT CLUB MEETING: MARCH 23, 2011 7PM

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

UPCOMING WORKSHOP: MARCH 24, 2011 (THURSDAY) 6PM AT MBG

Pauline Muth will conduct a workshop using shimpaku specially selected for 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.

UPCOMING RAFFLES

Paul Kulesa – Program Chairperson

Two Chinese Chrysanthemum stones, a gift from Judith Wright, were presented to the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society in December 2010. During the March monthly meeting, a chrysanthemum stone will be raffled. This stone is 8" wide and 7.25" tall and is set on a stone base. A chrysanthemum stone is a natural volcanic rock with calcite crystal formations resembling chrysanthemum blossoms.



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.

There Are Benefits to AABS Membership

- Workshop participation at regular price (non-members pay a \$25 surcharge)
- Participation in the annual auction (reserved for members only)
- Emails to members announcing special events
- Right to hold office
- Voting rights at the annual election
- Right to purchase supplies from AABS
- Right to sell and offer for sale any item at meetings
- Library borrowing privileges

UPCOMING AABS WORKSHOPS

Paul Kulesa – Program Chairperson

You can participate in a workshop by registering at the meeting or contacting Paul Kulesa at programs@annarborbonsaisociety.org.

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. Participants 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.

A QUESTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Paul Kulesa – Program Chairperson

Should the Executive Board change the starting time of monthly meetings?

Currently, members begin to gather in the auditorium at 7 PM and the business portion of the meeting starts at 7:30 PM with the evening program to follow. The president, Alfonso Tercero, and the Executive Board have discussed moving the starting time of the business meeting to 7 PM. Understanding that this change impacts members getting to the meeting, we want your input.

What do you think of gathering in the auditorium at 6:30 PM and starting the meeting at 7 PM?

This matter will be discussed at future meetings and no decision will be reached without the overwhelming approval of the membership. The Executive Board wants

to emphasize that we are offering this idea for discussion. No decision has been made. You may offer your opinion at upcoming meetings or email your thoughts to our president at president@annarborbonsaisociety.org.

NOTES FROM THE SIDELINES

Almudena Veiga-Lopez – Recording Secretary

February 23, 2011 Meeting: "Tools to be used in the art of bonsai" with George Buehler.

Around 7:00pm members of AABS gathered at the MBG. At 7:30pm our president Alfonso Tercero welcomed one new participant and one new member. Paul Kulesa had some announcements for the evening. He reminded the audience about the membership renewal fee and about the benefits of becoming an AABS member; you can get a standard fee for participating in workshops, get library privileges, vote in annual elections, participate in the annual auction, and have the opportunity to serve in the executive board. He reminded us about the four upcoming workshops; sign in sheets will be available in the next monthly meetings. Lary Howard briefly explained the new pot designs and how those follow a more organic line of design. He also mentioned that all the participating vendors in the last Annual Bonsai Show will be attending the 2011 AABS Annual Show.

At 7:40pm Alfonso introduced our invited speaker George Buehler. George belongs to the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society and is also the president of the American Bonsai Society. He has written several articles as part of a series including one in 2006 about bonsai tools.

George started his talk illustrating his first experience finding the right bonsai tool at Home Depot, something some of us have gone through as well... George said that one of the best ways to choose a tool is to see how it feels in your hands. George referred to the improvement in the overall quality of bonsai tools in the last few years. This is definitely good news, since better tools are more affordable. He said you can get a 'normal' Japanese or Chinese tool for \$25. While you need 10 times more to afford a 'god' Japanese tool. A big decision is to choose between stainless and steel. Although he prefers steel he recognizes that steel requires more maintenance since it is prone to rusting. Keeping your utensils dry, oiled and clean is key!

George then pointed out the importance of labeling your tools. This is especially important if you go to workshops where tools are often times shared with friends. Marking tools with initials is one option, although is always difficult to mark them and does not show as good as using some colored electrical tape around the tool. And here is something I did not know about; you can actually buy some kind of liquid plastic to cover the ends of your tools. I did some web research after the meeting and if you are interested here is where you can find it.

<http://www.plastidip.com/>

And then, an important step for every bonsaist is to know "how many tools you need". It is definitely limited by your budget, but there are some "must have" in the list. Among those George mentioned pruning shears, bud trimming shears, defoliating shears, branch cutters, wire cutter, wire pliers, concave cutters and a very inexpensive but highly precious tool, a chopstick! He has one use for chopsticks that I found most interesting. He puts a red stick on the corner of those trees that he has recently wired. That way every time he sees it the stick reminds him to check whether the wire is biting into the branches or not. Good trick! So, while a steel beginner set can cost around \$125, a stainless one may go up to \$330.

During the intermission of the program George announced The 2011 ABS/BCI Symposium "Bonsai in the Bluegrass" a 4-day Learning Seminar will be held June 16-19, 2011 in Louisville. Check the website!
<http://www.bonsaiinthebluegrass.com/>

The raffle of one of the Chinese Chrysanthemum stones donated by Judith Wright, took place before resuming the program. Timothy Thompson was the winner. Congratulations! There will be another stone that will be raffled among participant members soon, so there is still a hope to get one home!

After the break George continued describing the different tools and their applications. He also explained how to sharpen your tools and that it should be done once a year. In summary one should start with a basic set of tools, add tools as needed, oil the tools at the end of the season to avoid rust, keep tools clean, steel or stainless is your choice, mark your tools and use the tools for what they were designed for. And do not forget the most important tool of all, a camera to document all the work you do on your trees! Thank you, George for a great lecture.



George Buehler presenting.



Timothy Thompson (right) receiving the Chrysanthemum stone from Hugh Danville (left).



Basic tools by George Buehler

UPCOMING AABS MEETINGS

Paul Kulesa – Program Chairperson

April 27, 2011, 7PM

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, 7PM

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.

June 22, 2011, 7 PM

Lindsay Shiba will present information on displaying bonsai in a show format. Members are encouraged to bring to the meeting tree(s), stand(s) and accent plant(s) (a bonsai display like you would for a show). Lindsay Shiba will put each display before the group and critique the setup and suggest improvements. This format will encourage group participation and feedback. Lindsay will choose from the material available to improve a particular display. This sort of program helps experienced members as well as newer members.

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.

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

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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



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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

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