

**NEXT CLUB MEETING: Wednesday, FEBRUARY 22, 2012 -7PM**

*How To Look At Your Bonsai - An Artistic Perspective*

Visiting bonsai artist, **Martin Schmalenberg**, will discuss "*Developing A Bonsai Eye - Looking At Design Beyond The Textbook Approach . . . Seeking Drama, Balance And Imagination.*"

**\* Please bring a bonsai to this meeting. Martin will apply the principals he will discuss in the evening program to your bonsai.**

Martin Schmalenberg has been involved in bonsai and stone appreciation for over 30 years and is an avid collector of native tree material from throughout North America. He has traveled and studied extensively in Asia, Africa, and Europe to further his knowledge of bonsai. Martin has lived and studied in Japan. Martin Schmalenberg has been a prolific write of articles pertaining to these art forms and has combined his many decades of bonsai, viewing stone appreciation and Asian culture studies into stimulating and educational programs at bonsai gatherings throughout North America. He currently resides in Stillwater, New Jersey, and operates Stillwater Studio.



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**NOTES FROM THE SIDELINE (January meeting)**

**Paul Kulesa – VP/Program Chairperson**

Members began gathering in the auditorium at 6:15 PM. They assisted with setting out the seats and tables for the meeting. By 6:30 PM many members were

greeting long time friends and discussing (what else?) bonsai. At 6:40 PM a silent PowerPoint presentation displaying member trees was passively presented until the start of the meeting.

The first monthly meeting of 2012 was brought to order at 7 PM. With the absence of the President, Alfonso Tercero, Paul opened the meeting, welcoming guest and members to the January Meeting. There were seven visitors and new members who introduced themselves.

The nomination committee, Carlos Diaz and Larry Hall, were introduced and asked to conduct the delayed election of Board members. Carlos introduced the nominees, Jay Sinclair – president and show chairperson, Paul Kulesa – vice president, Almudena Veiga-Lopez –

recording secretary, Joan Wheeler – treasurer, Ray Domzalski – librarian, Lary Howard – publicity chairperson and Michael Field – director 2012-13. There was no nominee for the position of corresponding chairperson. Alfonso Tercero takes on the title of Recent Past President while Raquel Vega continues with the two-year position of Director 2011-12.

Carlos asked if there were any nominations from the membership in attendance. With no nominations from the membership, Carlos asked for the assembled members to indicate their acceptance of the nominees by raising their hands. The membership accepted the nominees with a simple majority.

Jack Wikle shared a pair of shohin bonsai that he thought were interesting. Thanks Jack.

The evening program was started at 7:25 PM, continued until 8:45 PM and was a PowerPoint presentation titled, Member Bonsai Collections – A Virtual Tour.



Display Table by Clive Taylor

Twenty-one member collections, two university and two commercial collections were included with this tour. Almudena Veiga-Lopez and Paul Kulesa visited and photographed these collections.



Winter Storage by Tom McCue

The PowerPoint presentation was divided into ten sections beginning with the various ways members display their bonsai, displayed prior to the start of the meeting. Subsequent sections included winter protection, watering, raising bonsai in the ground, growing bonsai indoor and outside, various work areas, photographic studio setups and a collection of those special adaptations that members have made to effectively work with their bonsai.



Watering by William Heston

The program was wrapped up with a section giving credit to the following participants; Deborah Eddy, Cyril Grum, Jack Wikle, Lary Howard, Jay Sinclair, Bill Heston, Tom McCue, Ed Hughes, Dustin Mann, Joan Wheeler, Don Wenzel, Bill Sloan, Kurt Smith, Diane Faust, Lois Vorrath, Ron Milostan, Joan Overmire, Robert Bishop, Carlos Diaz, Bill Struhar and Clive Taylor. Institutional and commercial collections included UM-Matthaei Botanical Garden, MSU-Hidden Lake Gardens, The Flower Market (Monroe) and Bensell's Nursery (Toledo).



Indoor Bonsai by Trudy Bulkley



## **BOOK DONATION**

**Paul Kulesa – VP/Program Chairperson**

This past January 2012, Martin Reinman donated several books to the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. Several of these books will be used to fill gaps that exist in our Library. Thanks Martin.

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## **UPCOMING AABS EVENTS**

**Paul Kulesa – VP/Program Chairperson**

### **March Meeting - March 28, 2012**

#### **Repotting, Root Pruning - A Presentation and Demonstration**

This is a presentation on Potting And Repotting, Things To Watch For And Concerns. This timely presentation will begin with a brief introduction to repotting and root pruning by Robert Bishop, followed by a presentation by Lary Howard. Lary will demonstrate a repotting technique, he first saw at the ABS Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, June 2011. This technique effectively secures a root mass in a bonsai pot while minimizing damage to the roots. Plus, three members will demonstrate how they repot their bonsai.

### **Saturday, March 31, 2012, 10 AM – 1 PM**

#### **A Saturday Workshop - Repotting Your Bonsai**

Bring your bonsai to repot, along with your pot and tools. Soil mix, wire, screening for drainage holes and guidance will be provided, a limited selection of pots will be available. We will work in Greenhouse #5. Workshop fee and supplies - \$20, pots are individually priced.

### **Saturday, April 14, 2012, 10 AM – 1 PM**

#### **A Saturday Workshop – Wiring Your Bonsai**

Bring your bonsai to wire at this Saturday morning workshop. Experienced members will be on hand to work with you to wire your bonsai. Bring your tools and bonsai. Wire and experience will be provided. We will work in Greenhouse #5. Workshop fee and supplies are \$20.

### **April Meeting – Wednesday, April 25, 2012**

#### **Erik Wigert presents, The Care, Cultivation And Maintenance Of Tropical Bonsai**

Erik Wigert will present a lecture on tropical and subtropical material. He will discuss issues related to health, maintenance, repotting, wiring and general care. Starting at 6 PM, Erik will be available to discuss with you

issues related to your tropical bonsai. Erik will have time to spend with members on a "first come" basis until the start of the meeting at 7 PM.

### **Thursday, April 26, 2012, 6 – 9 PM**

#### **Thursday Evening Workshop – Wigert and Willow Leaf Ficus**

Erik Wigert will lead a workshop using material specially developed for this workshop. Willow leaf fig grown in Florida with a large caliper trunk have been cut back to a stump and allowed to sprout new growth. The workshop is limited to 12 participants. We will work in Greenhouse #5. Workshop fee - \$25, willow leaf ficus - \$25.

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## **BONSAI FOR BEGINNERS – FIVE CLASSES TO OPEN YOUR WORLD TO BONSAI**

The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is sponsoring a **Beginners Bonsai Class** held at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The class is separated into five sessions, all taking place on **Saturday mornings, 10 AM to 12 Noon**. Each of the five classes will be lead by experienced and knowledgeable members of the AABS. The classes are scheduled for **March 24, April 28, May 12, June 16 and July 7**. During the classes the participants will receive two trees to work on, a deciduous and a tropical tree. Although there is no fee for the class, the two trees will cost approximately \$70, the actual price will be determined when the material



becomes available.

AABS club members in MBG conservatory

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## **CALL FOR ARTICLES!**

**Almudena Veiga-Lopez – Recording Secretary**

Dear AABS members,  
While we are waiting for the Spring to come, please feel free to write and share that bonsai experience, questions, etc... with other AABS members. I encourage you to share your last trip to a nursery, how much you enjoyed a bonsai workshop you attended, and even bonsai blogs/websites you find interesting. Your bonsai experience as beginners, intermediate, or proficient bonsaists will be helpful to our bonsai community. Whether short or long, your stories are most welcome in the newsletter. Please, enjoy, write, and share!  
Contact me if you have any questions at:  
[newsletter@annarborbonsaisociety.org](mailto:newsletter@annarborbonsaisociety.org)

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## **BONSAI CONVENTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS**

- ✓ **Michigan All-State Bonsai Show** May 12 - 13, 2012  
Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Go to:  
<http://www.meijergardens.org/calendar/event.php?id=844> for more information.
  - ✓ **Midwest Bonsai Society Spring Show** May 19 – 20, 2012, Chicago Botanic Garden. Go to:  
[www.midwestbonsai.org/show.htm](http://www.midwestbonsai.org/show.htm) for more information.
  - ✓ **3RD U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition** June 9 - 10, 2012 Rochester, New York. Got to:  
[http://www.internationalbonsai.com/store/1708315/uploaded/2012\\_national\\_exhibition/index.html](http://www.internationalbonsai.com/store/1708315/uploaded/2012_national_exhibition/index.html) for more information.
  - ✓ **“Visions of the American West”** - A Convention sponsored by The Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society, American Bonsai Society and Bonsai Club International June 21-24, 2012 Denver, Colorado. Go to:  
<http://www.bonsai2012.org/> for more information.
  - ✓ **2012 MABA Bonsai Convention** July 26 - July 29, 2012 Cincinnati, Ohio. Go to: <http://mababonsai.org/> for more information.
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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **February 22 - Monthly Meeting**

- “How To Develop A Bonsai Eye” - an artistic perspective by Martin Schmalenberg.

### **March 24 - Beginners Bonsai Class #1**

- Introduction To Bonsai

### **March 28 - Monthly Meeting**

- Repotting & Root Pruning - A Presentation And Demonstration

### **March 31 - Saturday Morning Workshop**

- Repotting & Root Pruning - Members can repot their bonsai with the help of an experienced hand.

### **April 21 - Saturday Morning Workshop**

- Wiring Your Bonsai - Members can wire their bonsai with the help of an experienced hand.

### **April 25 - Monthly Meeting**

- Tropical Bonsai Lecture - Erik Wigert from Florida will discuss the care, cultivation and maintenance of tropical bonsai.

### **April 26 - Thursday Evening Workshop**

- Erik Wigert will lead this workshop using willow leaf fig grown in Florida.

### **April 28 - Beginners Bonsai Class #2**

- Introduction to Bonsai

### **May 12 -Beginner’s Bonsai Class #3**

- Introduction to Bonsai

### **May 23 - Monthly Meeting**

- A Dawn Redwood Forest With Kurt Smith.

### **May 26 -Saturday Morning Workshop**

- Design your own forest or clump using dawn redwood, lead by Kurt Smith.

### **June 16 -Beginner’s Bonsai Class #4**

- Introduction to Bonsai

### **June 27 - Monthly Meeting**

- Bring Your Own Bonsai Workshop – Members can work on their bonsai with the assistance of more experienced members.

### **July 7 -Beginner’s Bonsai Class #5**

- Introduction to Bonsai

### **July 25 - Monthly Meeting**

- A Three Member Panel will offer advice and discuss design options for members who bring their bonsai to the meeting

### **August 22 - Monthly Meeting**

- Fertilizing Your Bonsai – This presentation will discuss feeding your bonsai, feeding options and current concern of our fertilizing practices. Producing fertilizer balls will be demonstrated.

**August 24 - Annual Show Setup**

**August 25-26 - Annual Show**

**September 26 - Monthly Meeting**

- Annual Auction

**October 24 - Monthly Meeting**

- A Study of Bonsai In Winter Silhouette

**November 5 - Monthly Meeting**

- Annual Banquet and Critique of Bonsai

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**2012 AABS EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**President:** Jay Sinclair

**Vice-President:** Paul Kulesa

**Corresponding Secretary\*:** Almudena Veiga-Lopez

**Recording Secretary:** Almudena Veiga-Lopez

**Publicity Chair:** Lary Howard

**Treasurer:** Joan Wheeler (734) 485-6306

**Librarian:** Ray Domzalski

**Past President:** Alfonso Tercero

**Director 2011 & 2012:** Raquel Vega

**Director 2011 & 2013:** Michael Field

**Show Chairperson:** Jay Sinclair

\*Will serve in a temporary position until a replacement is elected.

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**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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