



The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the U-M-Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor. Please join us at 6:30 PM to meet friends and members. Program starts at 7:00 PM.

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>  
[AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com](mailto:AABonsaiSociety@gmail.com)

**September 2015**  
Volume 13 Issue 8

## **NEXT CLUB MEETING:** **September 23, 2015**

## **OUR ANNUAL AUCTION**

Wednesday, September 23, 2015 is our auction. Only members can offer for auction bonsai and bonsai related items. If you can assist with the auction setup, meet in the auditorium by 5:30 PM to set out the tables and chairs. Those intending to auction bonsai and bonsai related items should arrive as early as 6 PM to register and display their auction items.

- The silent auction begins at 6:30 PM and runs until 7:30 PM.
- The live auction starts at 7:30 PM, concluding when all items have been offered.
- Your registration as a buyer will determine when you are called to pay for your purchases. Early registration ensures early payment.
- Payment for auction purchases will be accepted at the conclusion of the live auction. There are no provisions to accept payment for your purchases prior to the end of the live auction.

### **The Silent Auction**

In simple terms, auction items that you would expect to sell for \$5 - \$25 may be sold in the silent auction. Examples of silent auction items include, but are not limited to, groups of seedling stock, bonsai pots, magazines, tools . . . plus pre-bonsai, bonsai wire, growing boxes, sieve of various screen sizes and bonsai soil mix. The opening bid on a silent auction item will be the first bid offered by a purchaser.

### **The Live Auction**

Tom McCue and Bill Struhar will serve as auctioneers this year. Single items that you expect to draw a sale price of \$25 or more may be a better item for the live auction.

Items that are suitable for live auction include, but are not limited to, bonsai, rough grown pre- bonsai, pots, tools and related items that will hold the interest of the membership and draw the kind of bids you expect.

The default opening bid and the minimum bid for a live auction items is \$15. An item that does not receive the minimum opening bid will be returned to the seller.

### **The Fine Print**

- Auction items not bid on will be returned to the owner.
- The AABS will earn 10% of the total sales from each seller.
- Your registration as a buyer will determine when you are called to pay for your purchases.
- To simplify the work of our treasurer, all auction bids are in whole-dollar increments and **PLEASE** make your payment by check.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2015

### September 23 - Monthly Meeting

Our Annual Auction - Bring a bonsai, buy a bonsai.

### October 28 - Monthly Meeting

Todd Renshaw of Four Seasons Bonsai will discuss bonsai design, bonsai container and display stand options.

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## OUR ANNUAL SHOW:

It was a great success! By all accounts, the show was as good, if not better than ever. There were eighty-one bonsai displayed at the show and viewed by an estimated 650 visitors. Those visitors to our show and members were treated to a beautiful display of bonsai and had an opportunity to tell us what they like.

The bonsai that garnered the most interest of show visitors was a juniper presented by Rod King. This juniper (prostrada) was purchased at House of Bonsai, Southern California, spring 2005. The nursery has several hundred of this size all in 50 gallon containers trained in a twisted fashion for use in landscape, many have appealing lower trunks but the top portions are spiral twisted and not useful as bonsai. This tree was selected for its nebari and trunk movement. The root ball was sawed off removing two thirds of mass and height reduced to about two feet and shipped back to Michigan.



Prostrada Juniper by Rod King was favored as  
*Peoples' Choice*

Photo by Jay Sinclair

I was pretty sure this was going to become an approach

graft project, but I let it rest a year or so to gain strength and see what I had for usable branches. I found some suitable shimpaku whips in 4-inch pots at the Michigan Allstate Bonsai Show and started the approach grafting process, which was successful. I let the grafts stay attached about 3 years to be sure I had a solid union that would tolerate wiring and positioning. Once separated the new shimpaku foliage greened up and grew vigorously and was wired and styled in the fall. By spring 2011, it was really going well, placed it into the Michigan Allstate Show featuring Collin Lewis, and received a blue ribbon - Merit Award.

That same spring a tip blight fungus took hold and nearly killed the tree, very tough to diagnose as it presented similar to spider mite infestations, eventually a fungicide (mancozeb) turned the nearly yearlong battle in the trees favor. It took another 3 years to gain strength and healthy foliage suitable to develop a new canopy. That was this spring of 2015. (Rod King provided this history of the juniper)

The bonsai that earned the most interest of AABS members was a Brazilian Raintree presented by Bill Struhar.



Brazilian Raintree by Bill Struhar was favored as  
*Members' Choice*

Photo by Jay Sinclair

Pictures from our show...



AABS Show Display 2015  
Photo by Jack Wikle



AABS Show Display 2015  
Photo by Jack Wikle

## AUGUST PROGRAM RE-CAP:

Summary provided by Paul Kulesa

The August Monthly meeting took place three days prior to our annual show. Due to the amount of show updates shared with the members, the evening program began at 7:30 PM. Vance Hanna, the evening presenter, was brought into the MBG Bonsai Garden, prior to the welcoming meal at Roger Monk's. Vance was impressed by the quality, maintenance and depth of the collection.

Vance was asked to discuss the care and maintenance of bonsai tools. To many in attendance, Vance did not disappoint and was able to make the topic of tool maintenance, interesting. Vance opened by discussing his background in the production tool industry and his introduction to the source of high quality bonsai tools. Japan has a history of providing tools to the bonsai world. In recent years, the price of quality branded tools has climbed to astronomical heights. China is a source of quality tools at an affordable price.

Vance suggested that regular cleaning, oiling and maintenance of your tools are essential for their long-term usefulness. Removing rust from your tools followed by polishing, cleaning and oiling your tools should be part of your regimen following use. Sap acquired from your bonsai can be removed with turpentine or oil like "WD-40". Vance has not found alcohol to be that effective as a sap solvent.

Vance discussed the three types of cutters used while working on bonsai. There is the single edge blade as found in the knife or chisel, the bypass sheer cutter (scissors) and the mandible cutter (diagonal cutters, spherical cutters) These tools have one thing in common, their cutting edges. The knife has a single cutting edge, while the sheer and mandible cutters have two cutting edges. The sheer cutter is often straight edged and engineered to allow the cutting edge of two flat inner surfaces of passing blades to cut material. The sheer cutter is limited in the diameter or thickness of the material cut. The mandible cutter can be understood as two cutting surfaces meeting, one edge overlapping the opposing cutting edge, much like the teeth in our upper and lower jaws. A mandible cutter is engineered to cut branches with a diameter up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the length of the cutting edge. A mandible cutter has a post in the handle below the fulcrum joining the two handles. This pin-stop (post) is intended to prevent applying too much force on the cutting edges.

The cutting edge of all types of cutting tools can be sharpened. A 400-grit cutter (diamond hone or a wet stone) can be used to cut a new *micro land* into the cutting edge of the blades. This "rough cut" is to remove inconsistencies in the blade edge and take the edge from a round "U" to a strong "V". Hold the correct angle that you want to follow on, 1) the body of the blade and 2) the 'micro land' or the cutting edge. We tend to cut to 13 - 16 degrees to cut in the *micro land*. If you match the existing edge angle and hold the stone against the cutting edge to cut evenly across the edge grind, you will produce an edge with a similar angle. Never use any grind or stone on the bypass surface of a sheer cutter (the inner flat faces of the shear).

Take about five strokes per side and then evaluate the grind you are creating and adjust your angle or stroke, as you deem necessary to get a consistent width bevel on both cutting edges. (Vance Hanna provided the details of this technical process)

When the pin-stop (post), intended to prevent applying too much force on the cutting edges, comes in contact with the opposing handle, it is best to cut away metal on the opposing handle, where the post comes in contact.

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## **REGIONAL BONSAI EVENTS:**

Open House at Wildwood Gardens  
September 26 & 27th, 2015 (10am - 5pm)  
14488 rock creek road (route 166)  
Chardon, Ohio, 44024 (440)286-3714

- FREE Hot dogs for Lunch
- \$25 bring your own tree workshop
- 20% off all OUTDOOR Bonsai trees
- 35% off all INDOOR Bonsai trees

Come to our end of the season event!!!

Mid-Michigan Bonsai Club Annual Show  
October 2015 (date to be announced)  
Held at Van Atta Greenhouse, Haslett, Michigan

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## **FOR SALE OR WANTED:**

**Ads in the Newsletter:** 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.

**Prizes for the Raffle:** We are soliciting donations suitable for prizes to be raffled during each general meeting, and, for the Annual Bonsai Show Raffle. If you have a tree, bonsai pot, tool or anything else bonsai related, that you do not use anymore and is still in good condition, consider donating it to the Society. Please see Bill Struhar at any meeting, email Bill at [wm.struhar@mail.com](mailto:wm.struhar@mail.com) or call (586) 468-7169.

**Club Logo Now Available:** we will embroider the club logo on your garment for \$10 (plus modest additional charge for lined garments).

The logo comes in two forms; light green tree on dark green background, or dark green tree on light green background, with a silver border on both combinations and AABS lettering an appropriate contrasting color depending upon the garment color.

Bring your garment in a clear plastic bag to a meeting, select your colors, pre-pay Bill Struhar, and your garment will be ready one or two meetings later. (The vendor requires a minimum of five garments per order)

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## **2015 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

President ..... Jay Sinclair  
Immediate Past President ..... Alfonso Tercero  
VP/Program Planner ..... Paul Kulesa  
Recording Secretary ..... Brian and Claudia Byrd  
Corresponding Secretary ..... Claudia and Brian Byrd  
Treasurer ..... Joan Wheeler  
Librarian ..... Fouzaan Zafar  
Show Chair ..... Kurt Smith  
Publicity Chair ..... Carmen Leskoviansky  
Director 2014-2015 ..... Aaron Binns  
Director 2015-2016 ..... Tom McCue

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## **AABS AD-HOC COMMITTEES**

The AABS President is an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Nomination Committee.

**Fund Raising:** William Struhar

**Web Administration:** Don Wenzel

**Nomination Committee:** Carmen Leskoviansky & Paul Kulesa

**Show Committee:** Ron Milostan, Michael Field and Paul Kulesa.

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**Nomination Committee Established:** Jay Sinclair has asked Carmen Leskoviansky and Paul Kulesa to serve on the Nomination Committee to establish a slate of nominees for the 2016 Board of Directors. There are several open positions on the Board the committee will be looking to fill. If you are interested in serving on the board of directors and to be instrumental in guiding the future of our club, contact Carmen or Paul.

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Membership dues are \$25. Please pay by check, written to Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. You can talk with the Treasurer at the next meeting.

Joan Wheeler – Treasure AABS  
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The Ann Arbor Bonsai Society is affiliated with the American Bonsai Society: <http://absbonsai.org> and the Mid-American Bonsai Alliance: <http://mababonsai.org>



Ann Arbor Bonsai Society  
 1800 North Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-9741

*Visit us on the Web:*

<http://www.annarborbonsaisociety.org>

### Support Local Bonsai Vendors

Hours: Wed., Thurs. & Fri.; 11:00 am to 6:00 pm Sat., 1:30pm to 5:00pm  
 CLOSED: Sunday, Monday & Tuesday  
 Please Call First



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