



Official Bylaws of THE WEST MICHIGAN BONSAI CLUB

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization is the WEST MICHIGAN BONSAI CLUB of Grand Rapids, Michigan, hereinafter referred to as “WMBC.”

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

- Section 1 To promote the art of bonsai through awareness, education and fellowship.
- Section 2 To promote the knowledge, interest, appreciation and enjoyment of the art of bonsai on the part of the general public.
- Section 3 To hold meetings, workshops, demonstrations and exhibitions in the furtherance of these purposes.

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Section 1 The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Treasurer, Secretary/Newsletter Editor, and All-State Coordinator who shall be elected by the membership.
- Section 2 The Historian, Librarian and Planning Committee shall be appointed by the Board.
- Section 2 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and regular monthly meetings. The President shall, with the approval of the Board, assign special committees and appoint respective chairpersons.
- Section 3 The Treasurer shall collect and deposit all monies, establish and maintain a proper checking account, and pay all bills as approved by the Board; provide the Newsletter Editor with a list of paid members; and give regular financial reports when requested by the Board.
- Section 4 The Secretary/Newsletter Editor shall handle all necessary written correspondence; maintain a list of the names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses where applicable of all members; publish a monthly newsletter and mail to each member; and maintain the archival copy of all newsletters.

- Section 5 The term of office for the All-State Show Coordinator shall be from the November Election/Planning meeting until after the All-State Show in the following year. There will be an Assistant to the Coordinator who shall become the Coordinator for the following year. The duties of the All-State Show Coordinator include reporting to the President of WMBC; keeping the Assistant informed of all details; working with the Coordinator from Meijer Gardens on all details concerning the Gardens; contacting all presenters; ensuring that vendors are confirmed; and overseeing all other aspects of the All-State Show as necessary.
- Section 6 The Historian shall maintain a continuing history of WMBC, including photographs, awards, and some correspondence.
- Section 7 The Librarian shall keep an index of all library materials owned by WMBC; have all library materials at all events; establish the rules for borrowing items from the library; and contact borrowers of overdue materials.
- Section 8 The Planning Committee shall be made up of those active members attending the November Planning Meeting. They shall choose which events will make up the schedule for the following season. If requested by the President, they shall also assist in making arrangements for said events.
- Section 9 The term of office for all Board members and all appointees shall be one year.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1 The only qualifications for membership shall be an interest in bonsai and payment of annual dues.
- Section 2 Membership is for the fiscal year with dues payable at the first meeting.
- Section 3 Active members shall pay annual dues in an amount fixed by the Board of Directors. Active membership shall include receipt of a monthly newsletter; reduced rates for workshops and demonstrations; and voting rights for any issues and elections.
- Section 4 Inactive membership shall include dues at a reduced rate and receipt of a monthly newsletter.
- Section 5 Meetings and/or workshops shall be held monthly, on the third Thursday or a Saturday of every month for the regular season from February through November.
- Section 6 Voting (active) members present at the regularly scheduled meetings shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V

INCOME

- Section 1 WMBC will be financed by annual membership dues, special workshop fees, and other income derived from its special events.

- Section 2 The fiscal year shall be from February 1 through January 31.
- Section 3 Annual dues amount shall be set by the Board.
- Section 4 Annual dues shall be payable on February 1. Members in arrears on April 30 shall be dropped from the membership roll.
- Section 5 New members joining after September 1 for the current year shall pay no annual dues for that year, and shall have no voting rights, nor can they run for office for the following year.
- Section 6 Participants shall be charged workshop and demonstration fees where applicable. The Board shall determine the amount of said fees for each event.

ARTICLE VI

SPECIAL ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

- Section 1 WMBC shall conduct an annual exhibit.
- Section 2 WMBC shall host the annual Michigan All-State Bonsai Show, and shall maintain at least two members of the organizing committee for said event.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

- Section 1 These Bylaws may be amended by a majority of active members present at any regular meeting, providing notice of the proposed changes has been announced at a previous meeting at least 30 days prior, and providing a written notice has been sent to every member at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the final vote is to be taken.

ARTICLE VIII

DISSOLUTION OF WMBC

- Section 1 Upon dissolution of WMBC, the Board shall, after paying all outstanding debts, dispose of all assets to such organization or organizations operated exclusively for educational purposes with a special interest in the art of bonsai.

Approved as amended on April 15, 2004

Robert Goddard, President

**Adopted November 4, 2002
Amended November 21, 2002
Amended April 15, 2004**