



Kongetsu

West Michigan Bonsai Club Newsletter

Vol. 16 No. 3

April 2012

Mollie Hollar, Editor

2012 Schedule of Events

Sat, April 21: Repotting

Fri, May 11: Set-up for All-State

Sat & Sun, May 12 & 13:
Michigan All-State Bonsai Show

Sat, May 19: Field trip to West Olive Nursery

Sat, June 16: *Tropical bonsai

Sat, July 21: Ciment fondu workshop and annual silent auction and potluck

Sat, Aug 11: *Bonsai mums

Sat, Sept 15: Prep for Fall Show

Fri, Oct 12: Show set-up

Sat & Sun, Oct 13 & 14: Fall Club Show

Sat, Nov 17: 2013 Planning

***Note change of date from last newsletter..**

All events are held at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park unless otherwise noted. Saturday meetings/workshops are from 9:00 AM to Noon unless otherwise noted.

From Meijer Gardens

Sydney Eddison will be the presenter for this year's Secchia Garden Lecture, taking place on Tuesday, April 17 at 7 pm at Meijer Gardens. She is delightful and has written several books including her most recent, *Gardening for a Lifetime: How to Garden Wiser as You Grow Older*. Her topic, "Change, the Passage of Time in the Garden," is one that everyone will enjoy and relate to.

Finally Spring?

What a year 2012 has been already! Our virtual lack of winter, then summer before spring came, has most likely had some strong effects on everyone's bonsai. I can't stress enough that we must be very diligent with watering any time we have sunny days, cold nights, and little rain. If your trees survived the weird weather so far, we don't want to lose anything because we aren't watching closely enough. Pages 2 and 3 include notes on care for this time of year from the Columbus (OH) Bonsai Society newsletter.

This Month

April always brings our repotting workshop, this year on Saturday, April 21 at 9:00 AM in the lower level of Meijer Gardens. This is the perfect opportunity for you to not only get some much-needed repotting done, but also do it more inexpensively since the Club will be providing soil, screening, and wire. All you need to bring is one or more trees (depending on how many you think you can pot in the allotted time), a pot for each, and your tools. Notes on repotting and expert assistance will be available for bonsai newbies. *Please note* that it is not a good idea to do any work on the top of your trees at this time. Working on roots and top at the same time puts too much stress on our trees.

If you want more soil – mixed for conifers or deciduous or individual ingredients (pine bark and aggregate) – please let me know by April 18 so I can have it for you. Any soil you take home will need to be paid for.

Andy's Trees

I have been getting many inquiries about when two trees that were bonsai'd by a conifer master at a workshop at the end of the 2010 season will be raffled off. Well, now is the time to get this information out.

Andy Smith from South Dakota (<http://www.goldenarrowbonsai.com/goldenarrowbonsai.com/Home.html>) demonstrated the finer points of deadwood carving on a Friday evening, then we had a workshop Saturday morning in which we did our own carving. Andy's trees were done to be raffled off to our membership.

Unfortunately, since Meijer Gardens requires a raffle license in order to actually conduct a raffle there, we are unable to sell raffle tickets at our meetings. So this is the way it will work: if you want to purchase tickets, send me a check or cash with a note telling how many tickets you want for which tree. Then I will bring the tickets to you at the next event. Tickets are \$5.00 each or five for \$20.00.

Photos of the trees are on the next page, and more info on page 3.

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Bonsai Elsewhere

**MAY 26-28 BRUSSELS
RENDEVOUS—MISS.**

**JUNE 9-10 US NATIONAL
SHOW—ROCHESTER, NY**

**JUNE 21-24 ABS/BCI—
DENVER**

**AUG 17-18 MID-AMERICA
SHOW —CHICAGO**

**Care Notes from the Columbus
Bonsai Society Website**

[My apologies for not including
this last month. —Ed]

March - Early Spring

- Repot deciduous trees if
their buds are starting to swell.
If you wait until the leaves
have emerged, you will need to
take more care to keep the tree
out of direct sunlight and wind.

- Be sure to check wire from
last year. The spring's growth
will cause tight wire to cut into
the tree. Remove any that is
tight. This should be done year
round as well. If the branch did
not hold its shape, reapply
wire.

- You can wire branches on
all trees, but be careful of buds
and swelling branches caused
by growth.

- Grafting is possible on most
trees now through spring.

- You may bring hardy trees
out of winter protection now, as
most can handle temperature
above 20°F.

- This is an ideal time to take
hardwood cuttings from
deciduous trees.

April Care Notes

-This month, most deciduous
will have buds swelling and
leaves emerging. Be ready to
repot if needed.



**Ponderosa Pine
Height 13", width 11", trunk caliper 4"**



**Black Hills Spruce
Height 17" at tallest point of tree,
Width 19", trunk caliper 5"**

Spring Care cont.

- Repot pines and juniper this month, after the candles (pine buds) begin to swell.
- Start balanced fertilization as new growth begins. Continue fertilization until mid summer.
- Spray to control pests that feed on fresh, early growth.
- This is a good month to take pine and juniper cuttings.
- Allow new deciduous growth to extend to 3 leaves or leaf pairs, and then cut back to 1-2 leaves or leaf pairs. Continue through summer.
- Most non-tropical trees should be outdoors by the end of April. **BEWARE:** There always seems to be a late frost from April-May. Watch for frost advisories and protect your trees by bringing them into a garage, basement, or by using a cloth netting. *All new growth is susceptible to frost damage.*

Soil Prices

Mixed conifer or deciduous soil is \$2.00 a pound. The conifer mix has more aggregate than pine bark, and the deciduous more pine bark than aggregate.

I can offer a good deal to Club members on pine bark: \$20.00 for a three-cubic-foot bag. If you want a bag please *let me know by Wednesday, April 18.*

Remember, check out www.basicallybonsai.com to see if there's anything else I can deliver to you at next week's meeting.

More Raffle Tree Details

The trees were collected in the Black Hills of South Dakota by Andy and are well-established in their training pots. They come with care instructions from Andy. If you have any questions about the trees call or e-mail me.

The raffle drawing will take place at our July 21 "ultra combo" event at Bob Goddard's house in Walker. Much more about this event will be included in future newsletters.

Great Bonsai Opportunity

E-mails have been flying around the Ethernet about Jack Wikle, from the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society and curator of the bonsai collection at Hidden Lake Gardens, selling most of his bonsai collection. His full original e-mail is on page 4, and I have more information, including appraisal amounts, if you would like to see it. There are a lot of really good deals – sadly nothing much I can afford. Of course these will go first, so if you want something do it early!

All-State Show in May

As you can see on our schedule, the All-State Show is May 12 & 13. If you plan to enter any of your trees and need some help on them, you can bring them to the repotting workshop and we'll see what we can do. We will talk more about the show next weekend.

2012 Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phones: Home _____ Work: _____

E-mail: _____

(Check one:)

Active membership (\$25.00) Inactive membership (\$6.00)

Hardship membership

(Check one:)

I prefer that my newsletter be e-mailed to me.

I prefer a snail-mail copy of my newsletter.

Please make check out to:

WMBC

and mail to:

Jane Harrelson

1151 Parnell Ave SE

Ada MI 49301

Or bring to any meeting or workshop.

WIKLE BONSAI SALE ANNOUNCEMENT

Looking back at more than 45 years of pleasure and personal satisfaction in "growing" bonsai, and with my 80th birthday rapidly approaching (July 2012), my wife, Jeannine, and I have decided it is time to pass on the bulk of my outdoor bonsai collection (some 90 trees or groups of trees in bonsai pots) before changes in our health or other circumstances make this transition more difficult.

After having these bonsai independently appraised, they will be available for sale at 40% off from the appraised values --- first to these public gardens: Hidden Lake Gardens, Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Frederik Meijer Gardens and then to individuals --- until Labor Day, 2012.

Our plan is to host the last of our Wikle Bonsai Open Houses, open to everyone, Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day Weekend. Until that time, we will continue to welcome visitation by appointment. If you would like to come and see us and the bonsai in Tecumseh, Michigan, call us at 517-423-7893.

SALE OPENING TO INDIVIDUALS, SATURDAY, APRIL 28, TIMING AND PROCEDURES Attempting to limit confusion and equalize buying opportunity for everyone, this plan will be followed:

- Visiting before our Saturday, April 28, 40% off sale opening date to see the bonsai and consider purchase possibilities will be welcomed. Call us to let us know when you would like to come.
- Bonsai will not be "held" or "reserved" for individuals prior to the April 28 sale opening.
- 8:00 am, April 28, gates will be opened, again giving visitors opportunity to enjoy the bonsai and consider purchase possibilities.
- 12:30 pm, April 28, drawing names of people interested in buying (present in person or by proxy*) to assign buyer numbers will begin. Potential buyers arriving after 12:30 will receive buyer numbers in order of their arrival.
- When buyer number assignment has been completed, the sales process will begin with buyers being offered, in numerical order, an opportunity to select a bonsai for purchase. **THE SECOND ROUND OF SELECTION OPPORTUNITIES WILL TAKE PLACE IN REVERSE NUMERICAL ORDER**, the third round in numerical order and the fourth round in reverse numerical order, etc., until there is no further interest in buying.
- Full payment, cash or check, will be required day of sale (we will not be able to accept credit cards). Michigan sales tax (6%) will be collected.
- Bonsai unsold by Labor Day will be donated to Hidden Lake Gardens, Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Frederik Meijer Gardens.

* **PURCHASE BY PROXY WILL BE POSSIBLE** for buyers not able to be present on April 28. To purchase by proxy, your name, contact information and a check on deposit for the selling price of the desired bonsai plus Michigan sales tax, will be needed. If the desired bonsai is not available when your number comes up, your deposit check will be returned or destroyed as you choose.

Call us if you have questions.
Jack and Jeannine Wikle, 517-423-7893

In a later e-mail Jack notes:

Latest step in the process, following a friend's suggestion I have created an album showing photos of most of my bonsai-for- dispersal on the Photobucket.com website.

To see these photos, use this url: Photobucket.com/WikleBonsai and then access my album using this password: [jaxbonsai](#).