



# Kongetsu

## West Michigan Bonsai Club Newsletter

Vol. 16 No. 9

November 2012

Mollie Hollar, Editor

### 2012 Schedule of Events

**Sat, Nov 17:** 2013 Planning for 2013

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

### Care for November

Trees will be using much less water now that the foliage is going dormant. Do not water unless needed.

Try not to prune deciduous in the fall as it may force new growth that will not survive winter. Wait to prune until the tree is fully dormant.

Prepare your winter storage area now, before winter sets in. This does not need to be elaborate, just something that will keep wind and heavy snow or ice off your trees. Under big pines or spruce is perfect.

### Your Club, Your Newsletter

I have been editor of this newsletter since the Club was founded. While I enjoy putting it together, I would love to have some input from our members: suggestions for topics, longer or shorter, anything you can think of to make this document useful and enjoyable to our members. You can also write articles to include here.

### Club Show Overview

Our October show was a great success! My thanks to all those who were around throughout the weekend to help. I won't give names because I'll most assuredly leave someone out, but know that you have my undying gratitude.

### November – Last 2012 Meeting

This month's meeting will be our last for 2012, but it is definitely one of the most important. We will be planning our schedule of events and electing officers for 2013. Since we are an informal group, we don't have a structured election, and I'm hopeful that this year's officers will continue for 2013.

I am including here a list of ideas to give you a head start on deciding what we'll do next year. This is merely a reference and doesn't need to be turned in. It is especially important for new and prospective members to help set the schedule. We know those people mostly want the basics, so our first 2013 meeting may feature a panel discussion of tools, books and such, all things you'll need to get started. But maybe someone will have other, better ideas that members would prefer. That's why it's important for everyone to attend this meeting.

On that same page is a membership form for 2013. If you would like to get that out of the way, you may pay your membership dues for next year at the November meeting.

### Winter Bonsai Activities

So what, people ask, do bonsai enthusiasts do during the winter if they don't have a number of tropical bonsai? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Clean those pots that you emptied when you lost a tree this year. They should have an antibacterial wipe-down on the inside with something like Lysol cleaner in case the pot's last occupant had a root- or soil-related death. While you're at it, clean your tools too.
2. Get a head-start on making your soil mix so you have it ready in the spring.
3. Read read read. I can't stress this enough. I have a collection of over 100 bonsai books and another 20 that are bonsai-related – those numbers actually shocked me when I counted them; I had no idea I had so many! While I admit that I haven't read all of them, I use most for reference books when I need to learn a new technique or try something different with one of my own trees. I know this winter I will spend more time actually reading more of my bonsai library.

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## Cascade Perfection

Those among you who are new to WMBC will soon learn that I am not a stickler for Japanese rules, including specific styles, for bonsai. I believe that, as an art, the practice of bonsai shouldn't be restricted by someone else's limitations for my own creation. I have had many long – and some not-so-pleasant – discussions with many bonsai artists over the years and am at the point where my own beliefs are firmly established. Mollie's #1 Rule is: It's *your* tree, so it should be pleasing to *you*, not someone else. Of course the exception to this is, if you're going to have the tree judged, then you need to follow the "rules" rather strictly.

That said, I couldn't resist including here in our last 2012 newsletter some photos from Stone Lantern's *Bonsai Bark* ([www.bonsaibark.com](http://www.bonsaibark.com)) that are such perfect examples of the cascade style of bonsai. Wayne Schoech (Shay) is the owner of Stone Lantern and editor of *Bonsai Bark*. My own comments follow his.

*Most likely both Indonesian junipers.*

**Wayne says:** Mr. Gede Merta (see <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2008/10/12/i-gede-merta-presenting-unique-adenium-art.html> for some background) strikes again. We know where this one is from. I'll guess it's a *Pemphis acidula*. I don't have to guess about what my eyes are telling me... another great bonsai from an artist who we been featuring a lot lately.

**Mollie says:** The artist lives in Bali – isn't everything beautiful there? I've included photos of two of his trees here for more perfect but more natural examples of the cascade style. I really *can* imagine these two hanging off a tropical cliffside.



***Juniper at right:***

**Wayne says:** I believe this photo came from Centre (pots), though I don't know who the artist is. In any case, it's a powerful full cascade with a strong trunk, good movement and great pot.

**Mollie says:** This juniper is such a perfect example of the cascade style that I absolutely *had* to include it here.



***Satsuki Azalea***

**Wayne says:** This delightfully showy maverick is labeled Empirreken (nothing turned up on Google). Lots of time and no small amount of expertise went into styling and growing this azalea; it's no mean feat to get so much action toward the tip of a long cascade.

**Mollie says:** This one definitely doesn't fall under the "natural bonsai" label. It's glorious and showy and certainly another excellent example of a cascade style, but there's no "ancient tree in the wild" look to it.



# Ideas and suggestions for club activities during 2013

## 1. Lecture subjects

- Repotting, including soil discussion
- Styling
- Tools and equipment
- Pots
- Plant physiology
- Lectures on specific species of trees; please list the species \_\_\_\_\_
- General Care (watering, light, etc.)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Activities

- Open studio/bring-your-own-tree workshop (everyone brings trees to work on)
- Collecting trip
- Auction
- Photo session of trees belonging to club members
- Trips to see other bonsai collections, exhibits, etc.; specify \_\_\_\_\_
- Tree workshops
  - Specify type of tree(s) you'd be interested in \_\_\_\_\_
  - Specify the price range you would be interested in:
    - Small starter tree, \$15 - \$50
    - Larger, more established tree, \$50 - \$100
    - Larger, older, high quality tree, \$100 and up
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Please list any knowledge, skills or talents that you feel you would be able to share with the Club members (lecture, workshop, etc.). \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. Please list any activities you would be willing to help plan and organize. \_\_\_\_\_

### *2013 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.