



Kongetsu

West Michigan Bonsai Club Newsletter

Vol. 17 No. 1

February 2013

Mollie Hollar, Editor

2013 Schedule of Events

Sat, Feb 16: bonsai video

Sat, March 16: bonsai pot expert lecture

Sat, April 20: repotting and show prep for May

Fri, May 10: show set-up

Sat & Sun, May 11 & 12: Michigan show

Sat, May 18: field trip to West Olive Nursery

Fri & Sat, June 14 & 15: guest artist TBA

Sat, July 20: silent auction & potluck

Sat & Sun, Aug 17 & 18: group trip to Chicago Show

Sat, Sept 21: Club show prep

Fri, Aug 4: show set-up

Sat & Sun, Oct 5 & 6: Club Show

Sat, Nov 16: planning for 2014

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.

Websites to Check Out

<http://www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/projects.html>

<http://bonsaibark.com/2012/12/04/moving-out-of-the-bonsai-mainstream-with-a-deft-and-delicate-touch/> great discussion of bunjin/literati/wabi sabi.

<http://crataegus.com/author/crataegus/> Michael Hagadorn's website full of information

Welcome to the 2013 Bonsai Season!

Since it's still winter, I just can't get too worked up about working on my outdoor bonsai yet. But for some reason – again! – we ended up with quite a few indoor ones, and one of these days I'm going to take a serious look at them to see what they need. Since husband Skip has been home since before Christmas, he's been handling the watering duties and doing the general care. We can reasonably be certain that spring will come, and we'll be wading into those trees again with much enthusiasm. We never got ours into "winter storage," which has in recent years consisted of putting them on the ground under their back-yard display benches and tables. That's ok, though, since the bunny seems to be the most hungry critter out there, and he can't get to the trees where they are.

Since we have quite a few new people on our mailing list for this year, I'd like to explain what to some of our long-timers is routine stuff. First, you will see the schedule of events for 2013 at the left. While this will appear in every newsletter this year, you might want to save this one for future reference.

Each month's newsletter will include details of the event for that month. We have an outstanding schedule for this year and I strongly encourage you to attend as many events as possible.

This is your newsletter! Since I've taken on a part time job in addition to my bonsai business, I don't have as much time to put it together as I have in past years. So if you have any suggestions or can send me any articles you run across that the membership might be interested in, I would greatly appreciate your input. I have in the past tried out monthly columns on various topics but haven't been able to discern if they are of interest to you. So I just kind of patch things together each month. If this works for you, it's fine with me, but again, if there are suggestions let me know.

First 2013 Meeting

Winter months tend to be difficult ones to plan for since most of us have most of our trees in storage. However, between our members and the Club library, we do have a variety of DVDs that cover a wide selection of topics. Unless we have some specific requests, I think we'll just take a vote when we get there to decide which one to watch.

Also, if there are any topics you would like to discuss let me know (contact info below). We would be glad to have a round-table discussion about topics related to bonsai if there is enough interest in that. We can certainly talk about what you can be doing before you can actually start working on your outdoor bonsai.

Mollie Hollar

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With collecting season coming up, here's a thought-provoking article from Michael Hagadorn's website.

The Difference Between Yamadori and Pot-Grown

January 3, 2013 by [crataegus](#) (Michael Hagadorn)

What is a yamadori bonsai? What is a pot-grown bonsai? Here are a few simple definitions:

Yamadori: Bonsai made from an older collected tree

Pot-Grown: Grown as a bonsai its whole life

A yamadori was crafted over a very long time by the elements, by its location in nature. These birth marks are what make them so extraordinarily special when we make bonsai from them. A pot-grown tree, on the other hand, has been crafted by hand from its beginning. Old pot grown trees tend to have clear evidence of styling choices that date way back to its beginnings as a young plant, partly obscured by time in a pot.

Why are these distinctions important? Other than being able to tell one from the other, why should we care? It is just a labeling system. Nothing more.

Or *is* there something more?



If you take a minute, you may notice that these two types of bonsai actually feel different. Or rather, you feel different standing in front of them.

On the one hand, a gnarled pine that was harvested from a mountain far away. On the next bench, a stately maple created by an air layer many years ago. What does the pine make you feel? How about the maple? A collected pine might make us feel tranquil or stimulated, and the maple majestic or whimsical—but those are specific to the style. Specific to the individual tree. What about how they were made? For that is more important than we tend to recognize.

If you're quiet and take a minute to wonder, you might notice a similar thread of feeling when you stand in front of all your yamadoris, and a different thread of feeling when you stand in front of all your pot-grown trees. I think it's this:

- That bonsai made from a yamadori connects us to the wild
- And a pot-grown bonsai connects us to another person

And it's curious, is it not, that each is still the medium of a tree, but one speaks with the voice of nature, and the other the voice of community. Both beautiful. Both necessary.

Dues Are Due

For yet another year our Club annual dues will be \$25 for active membership and \$6 for inactive membership. We are also continuing our hardship membership for those members who are in less-than-desired financial circumstances.

Active membership means you get the monthly newsletter and any other notices through the season. Also, there will be an extra charge if you decide to attend a workshop. Inactive will provide you with the newsletter.

The 2013 membership form is to the right here with directions for payment.

Other Stuff

You will notice that our April event will be a repotting workshop, where the Club will provide soil components for you to put your trees into bonsai pots. For many years we have used a mix of aggregate and aged pine bark, a mix that Brussel's Bonsai and others use. I will bring buckets of each ingredient and you will be able to mix the two to your needs.

If there is anything else you would like to add to your soil, you will need to bring it yourself.

Also, if you will need more soil to repot trees at home, let me know ahead of time so I can bring more specifically for you. Soil is \$2.00 a pound whether you get plain aggregate, plain pine bark, or a mix of the two. I can provide you with any amount you need.

Also, if you will need anything else such as wire, screening or pots, check my website (www.basicallybonsai.com) and let me know that ahead of time too. I can bring any needed items to meetings so you can save shipping expenses.

LOOSE PARTS

DAVE BLAZEK

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Blazek



Donsai

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.