



Kongetsu

West Michigan Bonsai Club Newsletter

Volume 18, # 3

April 2014

Tim Cox, President

Anita Buckowing, Interim Newsletter Editor

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2014 Schedule

(schedule as of 04/07/14, subject to change)
(all meetings at Frederik Meijer Gardens unless
otherwise noted)

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

6:30 p.m.-BONSAI 101-Intro to Fertilizers
(by The Growco Guys)

7:00 p.m.-Transplanting Your Bonsai-
Presenter Steve Jetzer, noted Bonsai
Master. Steve will demonstrate proper
transplanting then lead a workshop
helping US transplant OUR trees!

WMBC will provide soil and wire; start
thinking of which of your trees should be
transplanted this year!

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

6:30 p.m.-BONSAI 101-What tree goes in
what pot???

7:00 p.m.-Deciduous Workshop-Presenter
John Cerovski, President of Bonsai Society
of Kalamazoo, noted Bonsai artist. John
will lead us in a workshop on styling &
wiring a tree. See NOTES FROM THE
PRESIDENT for more info'.

Tuesday, June 17, 2014

6:30 p.m.-BONSAI 101-TBD; suggestions?
7:00 p.m.-Program-TBD; suggestions?

July & August programs to be discussed at
our next meeting April 15.

(continued on page 4)

Notes From The President

Tim Cox, timcox102@hotmail.com

616-240-4440

**Looks like we will have a Spring after
all! I knew it would come.**

**If you missed last month's meeting,
you missed a really good program
and a really good time. Mr. Jack
Wikle, a noted bonsai expert from
here in Michigan, led a discussion on
styling your trees, then worked one
on one with us to style the trees we
had each brought to the meeting.
Jack gave out two wonderfully
informative handouts & I believe
everyone enjoyed the meeting.**

**This month's meeting should prove to
be a really good one as well. At 6:30,
our Bonsai 101 discussion will be led
by the folks from Growco (The
Growco Guys). The subject will be
fertilizers, nutrients, & other
chemicals. As our trees wake up,
proper nutrition is vital to a
successful growing season.
Immediately following at 7:00 p.m.,
local bonsai expert Steve Jetzer will
teach us to transplant bonsai and
then will lead a workshop
transplanting YOUR trees.**

(continued on page 2)

(Notes From The President, from Page 1)

The club will provide the necessary soil & wire for transplanting. You will need to bring your trees (of course) and the container(s) that you want to transplant your tree(s) into. Wire pliers & cutters will be helpful; a few may be available at the meeting.

Several club members will be available to help with the transplanting.

May's program will involve styling & wiring a tree with John Cerovski, President of Bonsai Society-Kalamazoo & noted bonsai expert. **IN ORDER TO HAVE A NICE TREE TO WORK ON, YOU WILL NEED TO EITHER PROVIDE YOUR OWN OR COMMIT TO BUY ONE FROM THE CLUB. WE CAN PROVIDE TREES, OR YOU CAN PURCHASE ONE AT THE ALLSTATE BONSAI SHOW, OR YOU CAN BRING ONE YOU ALREADY OWN. IF YOU WANT THE CLUB TO PROVIDE A TREE YOU WILL NEED TO LET ME KNOW YOUR BUDGET & PAY FOR THE TREE AT THE MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 15.**

There will be a few silent-auction trees at this meeting. BC Bonsai (a vendor at the upcoming AllState Show) has donated a few trees to be auctioned off as a fundraiser for the club. Please make sure to say **THANK YOU** to them at the bonsai show. In addition, any club member who wishes to auction a tree, tool, or other bonsai related item can do so and split the proceeds with the club 50/50. Just bring your item(s) to the meeting & plan to arrive a few

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minutes early so we can get your item(s) registered with an auction sheet. The BC Bonsai trees might work well for the May styling/wiring workshop.

Meijer Gardens Staff has alerted us that there are still a few "spaces" available in some of the workshops (see Page 5). Take special note of the **BRING YOUR OWN TREE** workshops with Guest Artist Peter Tea. Please read the Q&A session on Page 6 for a little bit about Peter. I have followed his blog for a number of years & he is a knowledgeable and well-respected bonsai artist. I am sure each of you would enjoy his workshop. If you have a tree you are considering bringing to one of his workshops and are unsure if it is "good enough", bring it Tuesday and we can all help you decide!

Speaking of the AllState Show, I encourage each of us to enter at least one tree for display. We were all **BEGINNERS** once and the best way to gain experience in display is to enter a show. Bring your specific questions about exhibiting in a show to the meeting & several of us will help & provide advice too.

JUNE and JULY meetings are still in the planning stage. Maybe one of those months we can conduct a "nursery crawl" looking for good stock. Or maybe we want to have a bonsai picnic on a Saturday afternoon? Please share your thoughts...

(concluded on Page 3)

(continued from Page 2—Notes from...)

Tim Priest's Non-Auction of the photography session is still in progress. See below for more details.

That is it for now; Trees this month need sunshine, water, & nutrients. With these items, they should bring you much joy!

I hope to see you at meeting on the 15th!

**Tim Cox
President**

West Michigan Bonsai Club (WMBC)
timcox102@hotmail.com 616-240-4440

REMINDER

Tim Priest has donated a gift certificate for a professional photograph of one of YOUR special bonsai. Tim photographed the bonsai collection of the Chicago Botanic Gardens for their 2012 book entitled *BONSAI, A PATIENT ART* and has had his photo talent featured on the cover of *The Journal of The American Bonsai Society* a couple of times. Another of his photographs will soon be the cover art for an upcoming book in the United Kingdom.

We are selling tickets to win a gift certificate for a photographic session with Tim for a donation of \$10/ticket. The estimated value is at least \$850!

The tickets are available at our meetings or contact Tim Cox; the drawing will be held at the Bonsai Friendship Dinner that is held on the Saturday evening of the AllState Bonsai Show (Saturday, May 10).

OTHER BONSAI EVENTS AROUND & ABOUT!

Please share events that YOU know about!

May 10 & 11, 2014

16th Annual Michigan AllState Bonsai Show

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

Guest Artist—Peter Tea

The workshop schedule is NOW

AVAILABLE on the website

www.meijergardens.org

with the specific link

<http://www.meijergardens.org/calendar/>

[Michigan-all-state-bonsai-show/](http://www.meijergardens.org/calendar/Michigan-all-state-bonsai-show/)

START thinking NOW of what tree(s) you plan to exhibit this year!

May 23, 24, & 25, 2014

Annual Memorial Day Rendezvous-Brussel's Bonsai

Guest artists include: Rodney Clemons, Marco Invernizzi, Ryan Neil, Marc Noelanders, Kathy Shaner, Suthin Sukosolvisit, John Powell
Visit www.brusselsbonsai.com for more info'

**37th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit
August 15-17, 2014**

One of the biggest regional shows and WELL worth the road trip.

At the beautiful Chicago Botanical Gardens

**Ann Arbor Bonsai Society Annual Show
August 23-24, 2014**

Held annually at the Matthei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor, MI

Visit www.annarborbonsaisociety.org for more information.

**4th US National Bonsai Exhibition
September 13-14, 2014**

The Fair Expo Center
Rochester, NY

Visit www.internationalbonsai.com
for more information

WEBSITES & around the web:

Our FACEBOOK page is active. Please visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Michigan-Bonsai-Club/1455464221339259>

And please consider giving the page a LIKE and maybe posting a comment or a picture too!

Clubs/organizations:

www.wmbonsai.org (OUR current website)
(we WILL be revising this soon; your suggestions/input are welcomed!)

www.bonsai-nbf.com
www.absbonsai.org
www.bonsai-bci.com
www.annarborbonsaisociety.org
www.fourseasonsbonsai.com
www.bonsaisocietykalamazoo.org
www.michianabonsai.org

Good reading/inspiration/ideas/shopping/etc:

<http://peterteabonsai.wordpress.com>
<http://crataegus.com>
<http://www.bonsaimirai.com>
<http://www.colinlewisbonsai.com>
www.pfmbonsai.com
www.dallasbonsai.com
www.stonelantern.com
www.dallasbonsai.com

Books to consider:

BONSAI: A PATIENT ART
The Bonsai Collection of The Chicago Botanic Garden
S. Nakamura, I. Watters, T. Neff, & T. Priest
ISBN 978-0-300-19090-8

THE BEAUTY OF BONSAI
A Guide to Displaying & Viewing Nature's Exquisite Sculpture
J. Yamamoto
ISBN 978-4-7700-3126-6

2014 Calendar, continued from Page 1

Friday, October 3, 2014

Set up for Annual Fall Club Show

Saturday, October 4 & Sunday, October 5, 2014

Annual Fall Club Show

More details on the Club Show next & subsequent newsletters

Programs for July, August, September, and November are "open"; please give us YOUR suggestions.

Did you know? It is time to renew your membership for 2014. Have YOU renewed your membership for the year???

Spring IS here!

Pay attention to your trees, pay attention to weather forecasts. Plan out what needs your attention and when.

The green buds swell, the flowers come out.

Enjoy!

bonsai show

May 10-11, 2014

Bonsai Displays: Saturday 12-5 pm, Sunday 11 am-5 pm
Bonsai Sales: Saturday 9 am-5 pm, Sunday 11 am-5 pm



Photo by Tim Priezt

FEATURED BONSAI ARTIST:

Peter Tea

HIGHLIGHTS:

Stunning bonsai on display

Free demonstrations all weekend

Hands-on workshops

Hard-to-find bonsai supplies



FREDERIK MELIER
Gardens & Sculpture Park

MeijerGardens.org -  

bonsai show

Featuring internationally recognized bonsai artist Peter Tea.

SATURDAY, MAY 10

"BEGINNERS ONLY" WORKSHOP*
9 AM-12 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Gene Deci
Fee: \$50 members, \$57 non-members

CREATE AN "ERODIUM" BONSAI*
12:30-2 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Kenneth Huth
Fee: \$30 members, \$37 non-members

BRING-YOUR-OWN-TREE WORKSHOP*
2:30-5:30 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Peter Tea
Fee: \$60 members, \$67 non-members

SUNDAY, MAY 11

CREATE A SHOHIN AMUR MAPLE BONSAI*
11 AM-2 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Linda Camp
FEE: \$55 members, \$62 non-members

CREATE A COTONEASTER BONSAI*
12-2 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Frank Mihašić
FEE: \$70 members, \$77 non-members

BRING-YOUR-OWN-TREE WORKSHOP*
2:30-5:30 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Peter Tea
FEE: \$60 members, \$67 non-members

VENDORS:

B.C. Bonsai

Growco Indoor Garden Supply

Heritage Laurels

Ken's World of Bonsai

Lary Howard
Stoneware Bonsai Pottery

Linda Ippel Studios

Stand of Trees

The Flower Market

Wildwood Gardens

Register online at MeijerGardens.org/education • or call 616-975-3147

(*All apply toward MSU Extension
Master Gardener education credit.

Question & Answer with Peter Tea

by Anita Buckowing, Editor

As you probably are aware, Bonsai Artist Peter Tea will be the Guest Artist at the fast approaching 2014 Michigan AllState Bonsai Show (see the flier on page 5!).

I encourage everyone to exhibit a tree or two; exhibiting provides a unique learning experience PLUS we have some "exhibitor only" perks again this year.

I recently had the opportunity ask Peter some questions. I would like to share this "conversation" with all of you.

Q: What is your favorite species of tree to work with & why?

PT: My three favorite Species are Japanese Black Pine, Juniper, & Trident Maple. The reasons why I like these three trees is because they can help people to understand the majority of other materials.

Black Pines are great in teaching us the growth habits of pines, long-term bonsai development, and how to balance a tree from top to bottom. If you can achieve balance on a Black Pine, every other tree is easy.

Junipers are great because they are very hardy & can take a lot of work. We can learn how to bend a branch, create or enhance live & dead wood, and are good for short-term bonsai development.

Trident Maples help us understand how deciduous trees grow, concepts in bending brittle branches, speed of growth, style, ramification development, and very long-term bonsai development.

Of course, there are more things that these can teach us; I just highlighted some key points. If an artist can master these three trees, they can work on any tree.

Q: Who would you say has been the greatest influence on you?

PT: My first great influence is Boon Manakitivipart. He was my first real teacher and explained bonsai to me in a way that I could understand. He taught me many core concepts that helped me transition into Bonsai Study in Japan.

My next great influence is Junichiro Tanaka, my teacher in Japan. He took what I learned from Boon and added more complexity & style. His approach is much more open and helped me to understand & discover my own personal artistry.

Q: What is the BEST thing you learned during your apprenticeship?

PT: The biggest lesson of my apprenticeship was learning that there isn't just wrong and right in bonsai and that there is an area called PERSONAL PREFERENCE AND STYLE.

Another big lesson I learned is that the answer to a lot of Bonsai questions is "maybe".

Interesting, eh? Want to read more? EXHIBITORS at the AllState Show will get a copy of the whole Question-and-Answer session. I'll also be providing this to the participants in Peter's two BRING-YOUR-OWN-TREE workshops. There ARE still a few spots available in these workshops; I recommend you sign up today if you are at all interested in getting into one or both of them. See Page 1 and Page 5 for more information.

Thanks Peter; we all are looking forward to seeing you in May! ~ Anita Buckowing

2014 Membership Form
West Michigan Bonsai Club

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Phone—Home/Cell _____ Work _____
(please circle your preferred contact number)

E-mail _____

Membership Level (please check one):

FAMILY-\$30.00 _____ (2 family members ages 16+)

INDIVIDUAL-\$25.00 _____

Student-\$10.00 (up to age 25 for College Students) _____

Hardship-\$10.00 _____

Please check your preferred method of delivery of this newsletter:

U.S. Mail _____ or E-Mail _____

Please make your annual Membership Dues check out to:

WMBC

and mail to:

Jane Harrelson

1151 Parnell Ave SE

Ada, MI 49301

You can also complete the info' above & bring to any of our meetings.