

FOUR SEASONS

BONSAI CLUB OF MICHIGAN

October 2003

Issue No. 10

October Meeting - Winter Protection For Your Bonsai

October 26, 2003 - 2:00 p.m. at Cranbrook



Once again, our days are getting shorter and we have already had our first hard frost. Now is the time to start thinking about how and where we are going to winter our valuable bonsai trees. Our indoor bonsai have been brought into the house during our cold evening temperatures and our outdoor specimens will have to be put in a spot where they will be protected from harsh desiccating winter winds. Each successful bonsai grower has his or her favorite place to winter both indoor and outdoor bonsai and will share this information with you at our next meeting. We can always learn from the successes (and mistakes!) of other Four Seasons members.

All outdoor bonsai need protection from our harsh Michigan winter and require some special care. The needs of indoor bonsai can also change as well, especially if you have kept some of your indoor plants outdoors during the summer. They have to endure the shock of lower light intensity and the dry humidity of indoor heated temperatures. Bring your questions and any problems you have experienced yourself to our next meeting and share them with the experts and other members. This open discussion will include many tips to keep all your bonsai happy (and alive) through the winter.

President's Message:

Hello everyone. The year is passing on and the colors are changing. How are your Bonsai? Let me share with you a few of my experiences. My Ginkgo turned a bright yellow, the wind came and now it's bald. The Burning Bush is still a vibrant red while the evergreens -- yep you guessed it -- they are still green. And hopefully, they stay that way! I hope you are experiencing some of the lovely seasonal colors, if not with your Bonsai, at least with the trees in the landscape.

First let me talk about this month's meeting. Tips On Preparing Your Bonsai For Winter. Members will share their winterization techniques for both outdoor and indoor plants. There are many ways to winterize your plants so that they thrive to another spring. This is a great opportunity to learn from people with real life experiences and to ask them specific questions. I would encourage you to bring in pictures to show and Bonsai that you may want specifics

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on. For those of you that are new to the Art of Bonsai or just unsure of yourself, this is your chance to learn more and feel more confident. See you there!

I would like to thank everyone who joined us for the annual club auction and pot-luck. We had a great time with fairly nice weather. There were lots of Bonsai and related items that were available. Also, the food and dessert selections were again exceptional.

I would like to tell you of an opportunity some of us had recently to share the Art of Bonsai. We were invited to display Bonsai at the October 5th Japanese Festival held at the Ford Exposition Center in Dearborn. Todd Renshaw, my family and I set up three tables of Bonsai for display. The event was magnificent with all types of cultural activities. Over 3000 people attended the event and we distributed numerous club flyers. You should plan to attend the event next year.

Please also be thinking forward to our November meeting. November is when we will hold Club Officer elections. Anyone interested in volunteering for a position please let us know. November will also be our last meeting of the year, since December is when we have our annual holiday gathering.

This month was also a sad one. Dean Atkinson passed away on Sunday, October 5, 2003. Dean was a long time member of the club and a Bonsai Master in his own right.

So, all of you take care and I will see you at the October meeting. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,
Jimmy Whiteley

Dean Atkinson Remembered

The Four Seasons Bonsai Club and the Bonsai community have lost a revered Bonsai Master and long time member and teacher. Dean Atkinson passed away on Sunday, October 5, 2003. He had been a display artist at J. L. Hudson for 30 years and his artistic talents carried over into his award winning Bonsai specimens. His trees always showed a lot of beautiful work and style. There was no question he couldn't answer about Bonsai design and he was patient in answering even the most basic questions. He will be deeply missed. Wilbur Dean Atkinson was 78 years old.



Revised Four Seasons Bonsai Club By-Laws

A vote will be held at our October meeting to accept the revised by-laws of the club. Copies will be sent to members by E-mail attachment upon request. We will also accept any suggestions or comments from members. For an E-mail copy, contact Jimmy Whiteley (248) 608-2478 or John Stevens at (248) 544-3112.

Light Intensity

Traditionally, the intensity of light has been measured in either foot candles or lux. This measurement of illuminance (intensity of brightness) relates to perception of light by the human eye. Plants require certain minimal quantities of light for proper growth. These quantities are commonly measured in footcandles (fc). A footcandle is a unit of illuminance equal to the direct illumination on a square foot of surface a foot from a standardized source called an international candle. It sounds strange, but the important thing to remember is that your plants grown in an indoor greenhouse situation need sufficient light. An inexpensive method of measuring the amount of light coming into your growing area is shown below. It is not 100% correct, but will give you a ballpark estimate of your indoor growing area.

Here are some approximate footcandle values:

Footcandle Values	
Light Source	Footcandles (approx)
Starlight	.00011
Moonlight	.02
Overcast daylight	1,000.00
Direct sun	10,000.

Measuring Footcandles	
1. Use a 35mm camera with a built-in light meter. Automatic types won't work.	
2. Set the ASA (film type) at 200	
3. Set the shutter speed at 1/125 of a second.	
4. Aim the camera at the light source	
5.. Dial the F-stop to the proper photo exposure	
6.. If your F-stop reads:	Your greenhouse light is:
2.8	32 fc
4	64 fc
5.6	125 fc
8	250 fc
15	1,000 fc
22	2,000 fc

Symptoms of Low-Light Conditions
1. Slow growth
2. Spindly, slender growth and elongation of stems
3. Yellowing of lower leaves
4. Growth of softer, succulent and sometimes larger leaves
5. Plants bend drastically toward light source (this is called phototropism)

What's Ahead on the Schedule:

- Oct. 26
Tips on Preparing Your Bonsai for Winter (both indoor and outdoor species). A discussion that will help you keep your outdoor bonsai alive through harsh Michigan Winter conditions and your indoor bonsai thriving.
- Nov. 23
Three-of-a-Kind Demo (featuring tropicals). Three club members, each with the same type of tree, will style them into three unique bonsai, side-by-side.
- Dec. 7
Annual Christmas party. Time and place to be determined

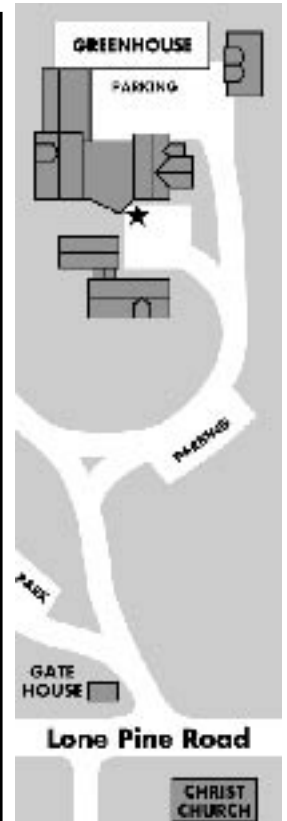
Club Contacts:

President	Jimmy Whiteley (248) 608-2478
Vice-President	John Stevens (248) 544-3112
Newsletter	Anita Ormond (248) 634-7615
Treasurer	Robert Ormond (248) 634-7615
Librarian	Shelia Lawlor (248) 651-2380
Photographer	Matthew Berge (248) 515-8641
3 Year Director	Nick Keren (519) 253-4232 ext. 2750
2 Year Director	Virginia Fields (313) 862-2265
1 Year Director	Vance Hanna (248) 642-6573
1 Year Director	Mary Adamski (248) 926-0479
Show Chairman	Bill Struhar (248) 608-2478

Directions to the Meetings:

Our meetings are held at the site of Cranbrook House and Gardens, 380 Lone Pine Road, in Bloomfield Hills, (just west of Cranbrook Road, across from Christ Church). Lone Pine Road is off of Woodward Avenue north of 16 Mile Road (Quarton). Entrance to the building is shown by the star on the map.

Meetings are usually held on the last Sunday of the month at 2:00 pm. Some events are held off-site. Always consult the schedule for exact date and time.



Visit the Club Website at: www.geocities.com/fsbcm/
and the MABA Website at: www.wwnet.com/~scott13/maba.html

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