

FOUR SEASONS

BONSAI CLUB OF MICHIGAN

February 2010

www.fourseasonsbonsai.com

Issue No. 2

BYO TROPICAL WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, FEB. 28, 2:00 P.M. AT TELLY'S GREENHOUSE, TROY

Meet in the greenhouse.

1:45 p.m.: meeting setup and socializing

2:05 p.m.: club business and announcements

2:30 p.m.: workshop begins

(Normally, we'd hold an "ask the experts" portion at the end of the meeting, but since a workshop is really nothing *but* "ask the experts," we'll reinstate that at the next meeting.)

February is here and I'd bet everyone is itching for spring weather to arrive. (Sorry, it's a little too early for that!) But how about the next best thing? This month, we'll meet in the Telly's greenhouse rather than our usual spot in the barn. Meeting in the greenhouse is like an early taste of warm weather and bright sunshine. This month's meeting will be a BYO (bring-your-own) tropical workshop. If you are one of the people that purchased a ficus for Hector's "Ficus Challenge," you can come work on your tree. For everyone else, bring in a tropical of your own that needs work and we'll supply the expert help and advice. As mentioned in the last newsletter, here are some tips for transporting a tropical during cold weather:

If it's small, you can put it inside an insulated cooler for transport. If that isn't workable, warm up your car, surround the bonsai with a large plastic bag; tie it so warm air is trapped inside, and then move it quickly between the indoors and your car. (Not too close to the car's direct heat on the ride over.)

I'm told that Telly's has some new bonsai stock too. So there may be something special you can purchase to work on during the workshop as well. Either way, come enjoy the greenhouse, we'll talk bonsai and spend some quality time with our trees.

To our expert members: bring in a tropical or two you're proud to show, even if it doesn't need work. Our newer members would love to see your trees.

DUES ARE DUE!

If you still haven't paid your 2010 dues, this is your last chance. No more newsletters after this point. If you are unable to attend this month's meeting to pay up, please send your check or money order for \$20 to: **FSBC, 3132 Vinsetta Blvd., Royal Oak, MI 48073**. Please make your check or money order payable to "Four Seasons Bonsai Club." A reminder to our new members that joined during the annual show in June: you're paid up through 2010!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I've been working on updating the MABA website with all the latest details on the June 25-27 convention in Grand Rapids. (That's the week after our annual show.) Everything's been finalized and registration is now open. There's more to tell than I can fit in this space, so I'll send a follow-up email with the complete brochure from the convention planners.

Here's what I *can* tell you: the cost for the Friday - Sunday "full" registration is \$195 if you get your check in before the end of March. (You'll save \$55 off the at-the-door price by registering early.) If you're only interested in attending a single day, registration prices are \$95 for Friday or Saturday, \$50 for Sunday (a half-day). I know that kind of cash is hard to part with during these tough economic times. If you can afford even a day trip to Grand Rapids you're going to get

Continued on next page.

Continued from President's Message.

your money's worth in intensive bonsai learning. There should be something there for everyone.

Listed just below are some of the demonstration and workshop subjects taught by the convention's 10 guest bonsai masters: *Japanese weeping willow, ponderosa pine, Japanese maple forests, coastal redwood, Japanese black pine, buttonwood and narrow-leaf fig*. If you enjoy our Four Seasons shows where we bring in a guest master, a convention is like 10 shows all going on at the same time. At the convention you'll see vendors with all sorts of hard-to-find bonsai species and accessories. You'll have chances to win raffles for some of the styled demonstration trees. And if you choose to exhibit your own bonsai, you could win cash prizes.

How about the guest masters? You may have heard of some of them. Kathy Shaner, Japan-trained resident bonsai master of El Dorado Bonsai School in California. Andy Smith, collector of those wonderful Black Hills junipers and pines. Jack Douthitt, author of *Bonsai - The Art of Living Sculpture*. Steve Pilacik, Japanese black pine expert. And several more.

I hope I'm not "selling" this too hard, but I'd hate for anyone that *could* have gone to miss out. Luckily for us, this year's convention is practically in our back yard. Many other conventions will cost you a good deal more and involve much longer travel distances. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this nearby opportunity.

See you at the meeting and (I hope) at the convention!

Todd

(Full disclosure: I have been involved with the MABA organization for many years, but I do not profit from the convention revenues.)

THANK YOU, MICHAEL AND RICK!

Michael Corbeille and Rick Beiniek each did a great job with their presentations last month. Thanks, guys! As mentioned during the meeting, Michael wanted to pass on the link to his gallery of bonsai photos; including the DC Arboretum, San Gabriel Nursery and Yamaguchi Nursery, Santa Monica. Todd has a link to the full story of the Yamaki pine and the atom bomb blast. And, if you missed it, Rick's notes on tree physiology are now on the Four Seasons website. Links shown below:

Michael's photo gallery: tinyurl.com/ydtwufy

Yamaki pine with lots of photos: www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/japanese2.html

Rick's notes: www.fourseasonsbonsai.com. Click on the "For Members" section.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For many years, Anita Ormond has taken care of the "snack and coffee" duties for the club. She's been indispensable and we owe her a big "thank you" for doing it for so long. But it's time for someone else to step up and take over. Are there any volunteers out there that would be willing to help? Perhaps two people could take over so that neither one has to take care of it each and every time. What's involved? Buy some inexpensive cookies and/or snacks on the weekend of a meeting at Costco or Meijer or someplace similar. (The club will reimburse you.) Come to the meeting a bit early to start the coffee, (we can teach you how - it's easy), dump the leftover coffee at the end of the meeting and rinse the pot.

In addition, Ryan Stibich is also coming to the end of his promised stint as our newsletter editor. He's given it a year and the club is grateful for his help. But it's time to think about a replacement. Is there a club member out there that would be willing to give us a year? (Some skill with the computer is a prerequisite, but the newsletter template is already established; you won't need to start from scratch.) If you're willing to help out with either assignment, contact Todd at webmaster@mababonsai.org or 248-585-9916.

STUPID BONSAI PRODUCT (FIRST IN A SERIES?)

I ran across a stupid bonsai-related product on the internet that I had to share. They're called Bonsai Sandals and are a combination of flip flops and slippers. They're basically fuzzy flip flops. I have no idea what they have to do with actual bonsai but if you'd like to get yourself a pair, you can find them at www.bonsaisandals.com. They seem like bacteria traps to me, but I dare anyone to buy a pair and wear them to one of the meetings.

If you run across any other silly uses of the word *bonsai* to sell dumb products, send them to Todd at webmaster@mababonsai.org.



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WHAT'S AHEAD ON THE SCHEDULE FOR 2010

March 28....**Bonsai Circus.**

(Simultaneous workshops and demos on all sorts of subjects). This program includes beginner basics, but always has eye-opening demos for experienced members too.

April 25.....**Focus on Advanced Techniques.**

3 demonstrators will show must-see techniques used by bonsai experts. Beginners can learn a lot from these techniques too.

May 23*.....**Todd's Yamadori Shimpaku Workshop.**

Using tiny shimpaku junipers, we'll give them twists and turns so they look like they were mountain grown.

June 19-20*..**ANNUAL SHOW.** Our once-a-year, not-to-be-missed event! The show includes demonstrations by past-presidents Vance Hanna and Vance Wood, the spectacular bonsai exhibit, raffles, as well as bonsai, tools, pots and supplies for sale.

July 25.....**Focus on Beginning Techniques.**

3 demonstrators will show must-see techniques for bonsai beginners. For experienced members, treat this as a BYO (bring-your-own) workshop.

Aug. 29.....**Tropical Workshop.**

Sept. 26.....**Bonsai Auction and Pot Luck Lunch.**

Held at the home of a Four Seasons member. A great opportunity to acquire everything from high-quality bonsai to low-cost bonsai stock plants, pots and tools. (See the August newsletter for location and important details.)

Oct. 24*.....**Presentation by Guest.**

*Not held on the last Sunday of the month.

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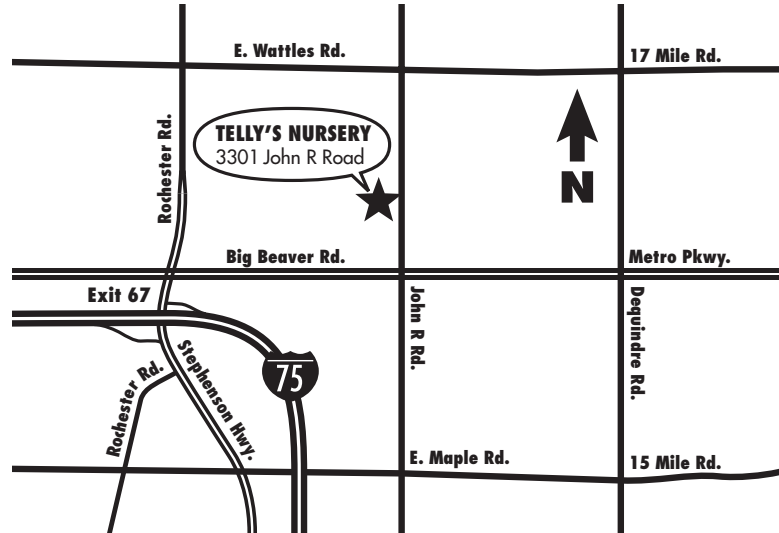
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DIRECTIONS TO OUR MEETINGS

Our meetings are held at Telly's Greenhouse at 3301 John R Troy, MI 48083-5656, between Big Beaver and Wattles. Nursery phone: 248-689-8735, Nursery website: www.tellys.com. Guests are welcome at meetings.

Meetings are usually held on the last Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Some events are held off-site. Always consult the newsletter issued just before a meeting for exact date, time and location.



VISIT THE CLUB WEBSITE AT WWW.FOURSEASONSBONSAI.COM



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Place
Stamp
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