

# FOUR seasons

## BONSAI CLUB OF MICHIGAN

July 2010

[www.fourseasonsbonsai.com](http://www.fourseasonsbonsai.com)

Issue No. 7

## HECTOR DEBRABANT

1935-2010



Unfortunately, we have to begin with some bad news. Hector DeBrabant, our past-president and longtime board member passed away July 5 after a long battle with cancer. A friend and teacher to many of us, he worked to keep this club growing in both membership and quality and to share a love of bonsai with as many people as possible.

Outside of the club, Hector created the Telly's bonsai department, (without him, there would be none) and taught beginner bonsai classes. Many of our club members could mark the start of their bonsai journey

with Hector's class. Hector set many of us in motion. We'll miss his kindness and his fiery passion for bonsai.

A nice memorial service was held on July 8. One of Hector's brothers gave an enjoyable and personal account of his life. A luncheon was held after and I (Todd) did my best to tell his family how much he meant to all of us. One of the things I've heard over and over from club members is how much they appreciated how Hector could spend a long time talking with them about bonsai; either getting them interested in the art from the point of having zero bonsai knowledge or sharing more advanced and detailed tips. He gave his time freely.

Losing Hector is a blow to this club, but we can all lessen that blow by teaching, passing on, the things he taught us.

Before he passed away, Hector asked us to auction off his bonsai and donate the proceeds to the club. We'll be auctioning his trees over the next three monthly meetings; a few at a time. If you'd like to have something of Hector's to remember him by, come to the next three meetings and place a bid on one (or more) of his trees. It will be sad to see his bonsai auctioned off, but he (like any bonsai artist) would prefer that his trees live on with someone who will appreciate them.

## MEETING DESCRIPTION (USUALLY SHOWN ON THIS PAGE) GIVEN ON PAGE 2



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I'm sure you can imagine, Hector's death has been like a dark cloud over my thoughts for the past couple weeks. He meant a lot to me. But I think I've said all I can in the article at the left and it's time we recognize some of the good things that have happened in the past month.

The club pulled off a very successful show in June. We estimate the attendance at about 500 and the club gained seven new members. Our income was slightly more than \$1,100, although (on paper) our net profits were negative due to the money currently tied up in t-shirt and pin inventory. Help us out by buying up those goodies!

I want to give my sincere thanks to all those that volunteered at the show and brought their bonsai for display. We couldn't have done it without all your support. Special recognition

*Continued on next page.*

*Continued from President's Message.*

goes out to those volunteers that gave us their whole weekend:

Bette Gay  
Lamont Jackson  
Janine Makowski  
John Stevens  
Bill Struhar  
Jimmy Whiteley  
(and I'm probably missing somebody)

And big "thank you"s go out to Vance Hanna and Vance Wood for their demonstrations which helped bring in many new members; Michael Corbeille for help with the promotions, t-shirts and pins; Justin Ouellette for help with the pipe & drape backdrops; and Show Chair Lamont Jackson for taking care of so many details before, during and after the show.

Once again, thank you everyone that volunteered for even a single shift at the show. It helps us out a lot. If you are reading this and did not bring a bonsai for display and/or didn't volunteer for a shift; maybe you didn't even attend the show, I hope that next year you'll give us just a little of your time. We really need your participation. (No need to give us your whole weekend. A single shift and a single tree would be great.)

Thank you all!

In addition, I'd like to thank everyone that helped with "Operation Growing Bed Relocation" back in May. See photo at right. Sorry we couldn't fit a proper "thank you" in last month's newsletter. With all the show information, it was tough to fit anything extra. I appreciate all the hard work. Sorry about the rain, mud, etc.

Hope to see you all (and especially our new members) at the meeting.

Todd  
webmaster@mababonsai.org  
248-585-9916

# FOCUS ON BEGINNING TECHNIQUES

**SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2:00 P.M.**

**IN THE BARN AT TELLY'S GREENHOUSE, TROY**

The program for this month's meeting is "Focus on Beginning Techniques." This is a must-see for new members, but includes subjects that will benefit long-time members too. We'll have three short presentations by three different members on important bonsai topics. They'll be like quick doses of intensive bonsai learning. Our subjects are:

1. **Repotting for Beginners by Jimmy Whiteley.** Repotting is probably the scariest part of growing bonsai, but it is absolutely necessary for their long-term health. Jimmy will show how it's done properly.
2. **All About Pots by Lary Howard.** Lary will teach us about differences in how they are made, quality, what to look for in a pot and matching the pot to the tree.
3. **How to Get Started Styling (Shaping) Your Bonsai by Todd Renshaw.** Are you mystified about how you should begin shaping your bonsai? Todd will give you his tips for how to get started and seeing the "bonsai" hidden within a raw tree.

## NEW T-SHIRTS AND PINS STILL AVAILABLE

We still have the new (and very cool) Michael Corbeille-designed 40th anniversary logo t-shirts and pins available. (You can see the new logo on page 1 of this newsletter.) If you'd already reserved a shirt, please pick it up at this meeting. If you want one, but hadn't reserved, we still have most sizes available. But they may not last long, so don't miss your chance. Shirts are \$15 each for sizes S-XL, \$17 for XXL and \$18 for XXXL.

We have a lot of pins left. They're probably so small that they were lost in the rest of the clutter of the show last month and didn't sell well. But they're really nice. You should check them out. Pins are \$5 each.

## MIDWEST BONSAI SHOW, CHICAGO, AUGUST 20-22

If you plan to be in Chicago in mid-August, you should go see the Midwest Bonsai Show at the Chicago Botanic Gardens in Glencoe. It is the best and biggest bonsai show in the midwest. They have an amazing exhibit of trees and a great vendor area. It's a long drive to Chicago (and their traffic really stinks), but the show is worth it. More information at [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org).



**The growing bed volunteers. Photo by John Stevens.**

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2010 SHOW AWARD WINNERS!

## BEGINNER CATEGORY



**1st Place, Jim Loeffler**  
Japanese Maple



**2nd Place, Jim Loeffler**  
Brazilian Rain Tree



**3rd Place, Ted Auffenorde**  
Kingsville Boxwood

## INTERMEDIATE CATEGORY



**1st Place, Lamont Jackson**  
Fig



**2nd Place, Lamont Jackson**  
Tamarack



**3rd Place, Lamont Jackson**  
Cape Honeysuckle

## EXPERT CATEGORY



**1st Place, Todd Renshaw**  
Elephant Bush



**2nd Place, Todd Renshaw**  
Green Island Fig

## MASTER CATEGORY



**1st Place, Vance Wood**  
Japanese Maple



**2nd Place. Also Best in Show, MABA Award and People's Choice Winner, Bill Struhar**  
Tamarack Forest



**3rd Place, Bill Struhar**  
Hinoki Cypress

## SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BONSAI VENDORS

Hours: Mon - Fri: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm  
 Sat: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm  
 Closed Sunday & Tuesday



**BONSAI HOUSE**  
*Bonsai Plant & Gift*  
 (734) 421-3434

8653 Inkster Road - Westland, Michigan 48185  
 On Inkster between Joy Road & Ann Arbor Trail

Over 40 years experience

**THE HORTICULTURAL CRAFTSMAN**  
 SPECIALIZING:  
 IN ORNAMENTAL TREE PRUNING  
 & DWARF CONIFERS  
 NATURAL PRUNING OF SHRUBS

Certified Arborist  
 MI 0291

586-773-7159  
 horticulturalcraftsman@yahoo.com

Mark Zendt

**Tropical Treasures**  
 Koi . Water Plants . Pond Supplies  
**Tokonoma Bonsai**  
**Gardens**  
 Bonsai Supplies . Granite Lanterns . Bamboo .  
 Joshua Roth Distributor  
 Kites, windsocks, spinners, etc.  
 Asian art supplies

34190 S. Gratiot  
 Clinton Twp., MI (586) 791-6595

*Club members get 10% discount on bonsai items.*

**Bonsai at**

**Telly's**  
 Greenhouse

*Experience the Telly's Difference*

3301 John R.  
 Troy, MI 48063-5656  
 Phone: (248) 689-8735  
 Fax: (248) 689-0736

Show club I.D. for 10% Discount

**Bonsai Trees**  
**Pre-Bonsai**  
**Pottery**  
**Tools**  
**Soil**  
**Wire**  
**Instructional**  
**Classes**  
**& Much More!**

*Club members get 10% discount on bonsai items.*

Thank you,  
 S+R Event Rental  
 for all your help with the  
 club's annual shows!

**S+R EVENT RENTAL**  
**"FOR ALL OUTDOOR OCCASIONS"**  
**HARRISON TWP.**

Toll Free #: 800-230-7706  
 sreventrental.com

## WHAT'S AHEAD ON THE SCHEDULE FOR 2010

- 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 on Trees from the 2009 World Bonsai Convention in Puerto Rico** by Kurt Smith of The Flower Market.
- Nov. 21\*.....**Jack Wikle Presents "Growing Bonsai Under Fluorescent Lights."** Jack Wikle from the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society comes to Four Seasons for a presentation you won't want to miss.
- Dec. 4\*.....**Christmas Party.** (Restaurant TBD.)

\*Not held on the last Sunday of the month.

## OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President ..... Todd Renshaw, (248) 585-9916  
webmaster@mababonsai.org

Vice-President ..... John Stevens, (248) 544-3112  
jalden123@aol.com

Secretary ..... Ed Powers

Treasurer ..... Janine Makowski  
(248) 585-6074  
s.makowski@comcast.net

Newsletter ..... Kristy Mitchell

Show Chair ..... Lamont Jackson  
(248) 495-8243  
lamont\_tiger@lycos.com

Website ..... Todd Renshaw, (see above)

Director, 3-Yr. Term... Hector DeBrabant  
(248) 399-9629  
de.bonsai@yahoo.com

Director, 2-Yr. Term... Bette Gay, (248) 515-1732  
rgay@voyager.net

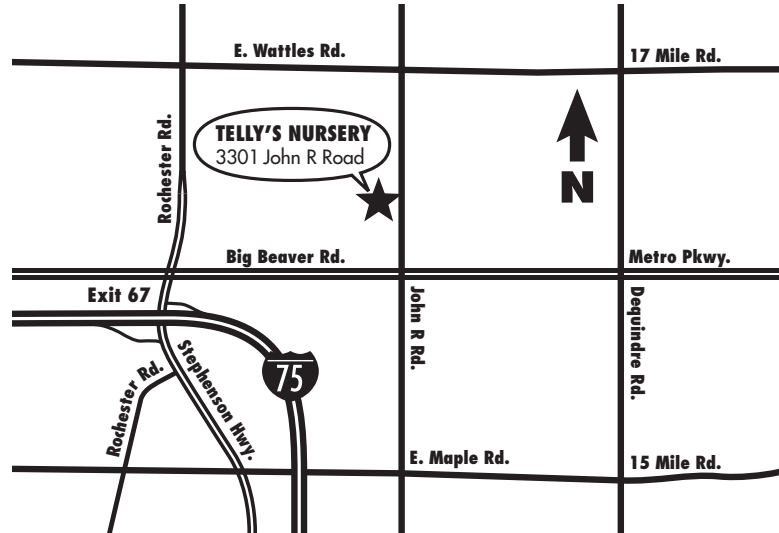
Director, 1-Yr. Term... Jimmy Whiteley  
(248) 608-2478  
jimantique@aol.com

Director, 1-Yr. Term... Tom McCue, (586) 293-1514  
q569@wowway.com

## 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](http://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](http://WWW.FOURSEASONSBONSAI.COM)**



Anita Ormond  
Four Seasons Bonsai Club of Michigan  
7480 E. Holly Road  
Holly, MI 48442

Place  
Stamp  
Here