FOLKs, the board has been at work during the winter planning another great schedule of events. This year we are excited to say that we will have multiple guest presenters at our meetings. We have secured John Wall to judge our show in August. We are in talks with Walter Pall in October and Kurt Smith and his staff from the Flower Market will be back to conduct another great workshop. We are also having club members present at each one of our meetings.

Our club has been growing and we need members to take a more active roll with the improvement and evolution of the club. We want to hear from you, share stories. Good and Bad. Bring in trees for demonstration and to receive valuable advice from our members.

We look for members to bring copies of great articles they’ve read or suggest videos, blogs, websites and photos related to bonsai. We need to share knowledge beyond our own skill set. Remember, wiring and design is important, but, sharing information on the botany and science of growing is invaluable to growing trees worthy of awards and recognition.

We welcome all level of bonsai artists. We want you to share our club’s social sites, bring ex-members back, print our newsletters and notify friends and co-workers. Our growth will help us acquire better demo trees and procure the best talent in the country to share their stories and skills.


**Holiday Dinner at Cafe Sushi.**

Our tradition of meeting at Cafe Sushi in December has continued to grow. This year we had over 30 Club members and their significant others join us to share stories, talk about the future of the club and thank those who have taken care of our trees. These people have allowed us to spend copious amounts of time working on bonsai, traveling to shows and leaving trails of dirt from the garage to the basement. Bonsai is about community and should be shared with others. We hope to see over 40 people at next year’s event.
Japanese Consulate Dinner with Mitsuhiro Wada and honorary guest, Jack Sustic.

On January 24th, club President Michael Corbeille and Vice President, Vance Hanna, were invited to a special dinner at the home of the Consul General of Japan, Mitsuhiro Wada.

The event was in honor of Jack Sustic, the curator of the National Bonsai Arboretum in Washington DC. Mr Sustic has moved back to Michigan and shared stories of his time at the museum and his work with John Naka. The Four Seasons Bonsai club made Mr Sustic an honorary member of our club. We are working on arranging a time to have Mr Sustic conduct a workshop or a presentation this year.

We were also joined by Jack Wikle and his wife, members of the consulate and the Ann Arbor club. (I apologize for not having those names available). The night was catered by Chef Kaede Nakano.

Mitsuhiro Wada, the new Consul General of Japan in Detroit. My appointment began on August 24th.

"Given the very close relationship between Japan and this region, all the Consulate General Staff are ready to ensure the safety of Japanese residents in our jurisdiction, provide a variety of consular services, support Japanese companies and promote every opportunity to convey Japanese culture and ideas to the local population. We would like to make every effort to strengthen the ties of friendship between Japan and the United States as well as facilitate exchanges.

Now that Detroit is continuing to make large strides in its reemergence, we want to portray a very positive image of the city, and the states of Michigan and Ohio, to Japan.

Thank you everyone for your support and cooperation as we try to make great leaps forward."

Mitsuhiro Wada
Standing Consul General of Japan in Detroit
Jack Sustic - Curator of the National Bonsai Arboretum in Washington DC

Jack Sustic, who grew up on a farm in Michigan, saw his first bonsai while serving in the army in Korea. He was on a bus when, out the window, a display of bonsai caught his eye. Sustic recalls getting off at the next bus stop in search of that nursery. “I was captivated,” he says. “That’s what good art does. It captivates you so that you lose your sense of time and place for a brief moment, maybe longer.”

The seed was planted. When Sustic returned to the States in 1987, he sought out the local bonsai club in Birmingham, Alabama, where he was stationed. By then, bonsai was starting to catch on in the U.S., thanks in no small part to John Naka, who is considered the father of American bonsai. Sustic went on to earn a degree in horticulture from Michigan State University, followed by a job at the Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens in Columbia, South Carolina. Eventually he became president of the Bonsai Clubs of South Carolina.

And then, in 1996, he was offered what would turn into a dream job – an internship at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum. He later served as assistant curator before being named museum curator in 2002. Sustic went from caring for his own young trees in South Carolina and learning from members of his local bonsai club to taking care of bonsai in the national collection that are hundreds of years old – such as the 400-year-old Yamaki white pine that survived Hiroshima – and working with bonsai masters from all over the country and around the world.

The best part of the job, he says, is working with and caring for the museum’s world-renowned collection including John Naka’s “Goshin,” a forest planting considered by many to be the most famous bonsai in the world. He has treasured learning not only from Naka (who died in 2004), but also Saburo Kato, the late President of the Nippon Bonsai Association who was instrumental in the original gift of 53 trees from Japan to the U.S., and Harry Hirao, who returns each spring to the museum’s annual Bonsai Festival.

Kato’s belief that there would be peace in the world if everyone did bonsai lives on at the museum with its annual celebration of World Bonsai Day. “The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum meant a lot to Saburo Kato and he means a lot to us,” says Sustic. “Each year, on National Bonsai Day, we rededicate ourselves to spreading his message of peace.”

One highlight of being at the national museum, Sustic says, is working with volunteers who donate their time – many of them for years. He also enjoys interacting with visitors, recalling one moment in particular. When he noticed a visually impaired woman in the museum, Sustic stopped what he was doing to describe the trees to her and then guided her hand to one tree’s branches and pot. “She was clearly moved by the experience and grateful that we allowed her to do that. That experience made me think of bonsai from a different perspective,” he says.

“It’s an honor to be part of the legacy that is this museum,” adds Sustic. “I’m as proud to be part of this today as I was when I first walked through these doors.”
2017 OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT BORDINES NURSERY IN ROCHESTER AT 1:00 - 3:00.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26th  CLUB PRESIDENT MICHAEL CORBEILLE WILL DISCUSS THIS YEARS AGENDA + RICK BIENIEK’S PLANT BOTANY LECTURE + CATE THOMSON WILL GIVE US A TOUR OF THE CLUB’S NEW WEBSITE.

The board is excited to share this years calendar of events. We will have more guest presenters and club member presentations than years past. Michael Corbeille will share photos and stories from last years North American Bonsai show in NYC. We will also hear from club member Rick Bieniek. His detailed presentation on the science behind bonsai and understanding the chemical makeup of leaves, bark and roots should not be missed. Also, we are excited to launch our new website and hear from the person behind it’s design, Cate Thomson. This was a massive undertaking! We will have a raffle at every meeting and time for club members to bring in their bonsai for discussion. Be sure to bring new members and items for the raffle.

SUNDAY MARCH 26th  BONSAI CIRCUS - SIMULTANEOUS WORKSHOPS FOR EXPERTS AND BEGINNERS.

New to bonsai or just looking to hone your skills, don’t miss this meeting! Members will hold simultaneous workshops and demos on a variety bonsai related topics geared toward beginners through expert level bonsai artists. Lamont Jackson will show how to create a Forest arrangement, Guy Vitale will share his knowledge on potting, Vance Hanna will discuss Pines. Michael Corbeille talks wiring and branch bending and Judy Muench will show us how to create dynamic landscapes with massive rock slabs. More presenters on hand.

SUNDAY APRIL 30th  RAY ALEXANDER “KOI AND JAPANESE GARDENS” + “JIN AND SHARI” WITH MICHAEL CORBEILLE

If you are interested in Koi fish, you won’t want to miss Ray Alexander’s presentation. Ray is the president of Michigan Koi and Pond club http://www.mkpc-se.com. Ray is also the creator of one of Michigan’s most incredible Japanese gardens. He will discuss raising Koi fish and how to develop your own Japanese garden. Michael Corbeille will be bringing in trees to show how to use Jin and Shari on your bonsai trees. Club members should bring in trees to create their own Jin/Shari.

SUNDAY MAY 21st  AARON WILEY FERTILIZING PRESENTATION + TROY RIDER PROPAGATION AND CUTTING WORKSHOP.

Club member, Aaron Wileys incredible presentation on fertilizing and understanding the science of developing strong bonsai is back and better than ever. Understanding bonsai beyond design is essential information for all levels of bonsai artists. We also have Troy Rider’s presentation on propagating and developing bonsai from cuttings and from seed. We suggest getting here early, this meeting will be starting immediately to give these two engaging presentations time for questions.

SUNDAY JUNE 25th  KURT SMITH DEMONSTRATION + DAN BENNETT STANDS PRESENTATION

The owner of Michigan’s largest bonsai nursery, Kurt Smith, will conduct a live demonstration. Trees, pots and rare bonsai related items will be on sale to club members. Club members are advised to bring in their own bonsai for styling and design advice from Kurt Smith and fellow club members. Kurt Smith presentations will fill every seat in the house, arrive early and be prepared to leave with a new bonsai at an exceptional price.

SUNDAY JULY 23rd  BONSAI SHOW PREPARATION

Senior level bonsai artists will advise club members on how to prepare your bonsai trees for our annual show. Choosing the right pot, displaying scrolls, finding and building stands, designing accents plants and cultivating moss will all be discussed. Club members are advised to bring in their trees for a final evaluation before entering them into our annual show.

SUNDAY AUGUST 12th - SUNDAY AUGUST 13th  44th FOUR SEASONS ANNUAL BONSAI SHOW !!!

Show is held at Bordines Nursery in Rochester Hills Saturday 9 - 7, Sunday 10 - 4. ( Show prep is Friday Aug 11th @10am )

Come see our best bonsai trees on display, live demos, workshops and bonsai trees for sale. A must see for all bonsai fans. We are excited to have Bonsai Master JOHN WALL as our judge and special guest. Live demos and beginner workshops, raffles and more. Check our website for more details. John Wall will be conducting a special workshop and Q & A for members. Be sure to help the club share times and dates with the public.

SUNDAY SEPT 24th  BONSAI AUCTION

A massive collection of bonsai trees and bonsai related items will be auctioned off to club members. A must attend for all levels of bonsai artists.

Members are asked to come early and check in their sale items and register for the auction. Last years auction set a record for sales and attendance, be sure to arrive early and bring items to sell. We will be sending entry forms and sales information prior to the auction. Sellers must be club members.

SUNDAY OCT 22nd  SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTER TBD ( WALTER PALL WORKSHOP IS BEING NEGOTIATED THIS MONTH! )

SUNDAY NOV 12th  VANCE WOOD STYLING DEMO - CLUB ELECTIONS FOR 2018

Nationally recognized Mugo Pine expert and author, Vance Wood, will be demonstrating expert level styling on a massive pine. Large branch bending, rafia and jin formation will be conducted. We will also finalize the new board member list. Be sure to attend and cast your vote.

SATURDAY DEC 9th  HOLIDAY DINNER at CAFE SUSHI @ 6:00 - 8:00

Open to all club members. A great opportunity for everyone to share stories and plan for 2018.
THE MAJORITY OF OUR CLUB MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT BORDINES NURSERY IN ROCHESTER HILLS. PLEASE CHECK THE NEWSLETTER AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ANY LOCATION CHANGES AND TO CONFIRM OUR MEETING TIMES.

1835 S Rochester Rd
Rochester Hills, MI 48307
Between Sandalwood Dr and E Hamlin Rd/W Hamlin Rd

(248) 651-9000
bordines.com
more info

[Map of location]
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