WHAT IS BONSAI?

What does bonsai mean?
The literal translation is "plant in a tray". It is usually defined as the art of miniaturizing trees.

Where did bonsai originate?
The techniques used to control the growth of trees are centuries old and are known to have been used by the Romans. The Chinese used the techniques for producing artistic pot plants, but it was the Japanese who formalised the art as it is known today.

Does it take a long time to grow a bonsai?
Beginners to the art tend to be concerned about the age of a Bonsai, but the skill lies in developing the appearance of great age, in a few short years. There are many beautiful Bonsai only 3/4 years old! It is a matter of balance between good horticultural practice and artistry. It is possible, with effort, to achieve a collection in a matter of months.

Are they special trees?
No, they are normal trees and plants that are trained to their beautiful shapes and kept in their miniature form by special techniques.

Can any plant be used for bonsai?
As Bonsai means "plant in a tray" within that definition any plant could be used. However, traditionally the idea of a tree in a container is accepted, so whatever is used should be capable of being trained to represent a tree.

How are they kept small?
It is a combination of top and root pruning and growing in small containers without potting on that keeps them to their chosen size.

How big do bonsai grow?
A Bonsai can be as large or as small as you like. The miniaturizing techniques enable you to grow what suits you best.

Is the hobby expensive?
To purchase ready made Bonsai can be expensive, but the hobby can be easily adapted to suit any pocket. Seeds, cuttings and seedlings can be obtained easily and at minimal cost.

Are Bonsai Valuable?
The value of a Bonsai can range from an easily affordable price to thousands of pounds, depending on several things:
a) The age  b) the species  c) its artistic merit  d) whether cultivated or gathered from the wild.
The most prized trees are those that were obtained from the wild, but the value of any Bonsai appreciates as the years pass.

Do I need to know a lot about gardening?
Many enthusiasts begin with little or no gardening experience and are delighted to find they gain gardening skills from the hobby.

Do I need a garden?
No. The most you need is somewhere outside to keep your Bonsai and if that is not available you can grow indoor species.

Do I need special tools?
Most Bonsai enthusiasts are very adept at utilizing the most unlikely items! If you want to make use of the tools you already have, then you can manage with large and small sheers, a sharp knife and wire cutters. However, the proper tools do make the job easier. Contact the club for great prices on complete sets on bonsai tools. Like any job, the right tools will make all the difference.
FOUR SEASONS BONSAI CLUB OF MICHIGAN

2017 Calendar of Events

All events are open to the public.
FOUR SEASONS BONSAI CLUB

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 or stand at an exceptional price.

Sunday, July 23rd
BONSAI SHOW PREPARATION
1-3pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills

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. If you plan on entering trees your work, you won't want to miss this event.

Sunday, August 12th - 13th
44th FOUR SEASONS ANNUAL BONSAI SHOW!!!
1-3pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills

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. Trust us, you won't want to miss Mr Wall's skills on display. Live demos and beginner workshops, raffles and more. Be sure to follow the website for more details. John Wall will be conducting a special talk about his travels and experiences with bonsai trees.

Sunday, September 24th
BONSAI AUCTION
1-3pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills

A massive collection of bonsai trees and bonsai-related items will be auctioned off to club members. Members are asked to bring items to sell. Be sure to arrive early and bring items to sell. We will be sending entry forms and sales information to all members prior to the auction. Members must be present at the auction to bid on items. Be sure to arrive early and bring items to sell. We will also be sending entry forms and sales information to all members.

Saturday, October 22nd
Special Guest Presenter (TBD)
1-3pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills

We are currently procuring a master level bonsai artist to conduct workshops and lectures. Stay tuned for details. Check our website for more information.

Sunday, November 12th
Vance Wood styling & Mugho Pine Training
1-3pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills

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 discuss the new board members. Members are advised to come early and bring items to sell. We will also be sending entry forms and sales information to all members.

Sunday, December 9th
Holiday Dinner
6-8pm Cafe Sushi, Troy MI

All club members and family are invited.

6-8pm Cebu Shiki, Troy MI

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Sunday, April 30th
RAY ALEXANDER KOI & JAPANESE GARDENS
1-3pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills

If you are interested in Koi fish, you won't want to miss Ray Alexander's presentation. Ray is now the president of Michigan Koi and Pond club and the creator of one of Michigan's most incredible Japanese gardens. Ray will discuss raising Koi fish and how to develop your own Japanese garden. Rick Bieniek will discuss forest planting geometry.

Sunday, May 21st
AARON WILEY FERTILIZING PRESENTATION + TROY RIDER PROPAGATION AND CUTTING
1-3pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills

Aaron Wiley's great presentation on fertilizing and understanding the science of how to develop strong trees 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 Aaron and Troy time for questions and answers. Bring a notepad.

Sunday, June 25th
KURT SMITH DEMONSTRATION + DAN BENNETT STANDS PRESENTATION
1-3pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills

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 display. Be sure to arrive early and bring items to sell. Members must be present at the auction to bid on items. We will also be sending entry forms and sales information to all members.

www.fourseasonbonsai.com 4seasonsbonsai@gmail.com

FSB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT BORDINES NURSERY • 1835 ROCHESTER ROAD SOUTH • ROCHESTER HILLS, MI 48307

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