KURT SMITH GUEST ARTIST
JULY 22ND AT BORDINES NURSERY
1:00 START TIME!

Kurt Smith, the owner of the Flower Market in Monroe, will be here to share his techniques in developing cascade style bonsai. Not only does Kurt Smith own one of the largest bonsai and bonsai supply stores in Michigan. Over the years, he has had the biggest names in bonsai conduct seminars and workshops in his greenhouse. Last year, Kurt traveled Japan with Bill Valavanis on a tour of the top bonsai nurseries and engaging with some of the world’s top bonsai artists.

Now, he’s here to answer questions and conduct a live demonstration on developing a cascade style bonsai. Every year, Kurt has generously donated his time to visit our club, packed his truck full of trees, all to help us polish our skills and answer questions on developing bonsai. Be sure to bring in a tree for our Q & A advice portion of the meeting.

PLEASE BRING AN ITEM FOR THE RAFFLE.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:
I hope everyone is enjoying the list of guest presenters the club has delivered this year.

We’ve had John Wall travel from Tennessee, Jennifer Price come from Chicago, Kurt Smith from Monroe and Walter Pall coming from Germany. Not a bad year so far. Our goal this year has been education vs show and tell. Each presenter has left with dirt under the nails, cuts, scratches and sweat coming down their brow. We know that bonsai is an elegant art form. However, there is a path of pain, time and effort involved in making your bonsai look so elegant. Our guests have sent emails and calls thanking us for supporting their path as a bonsai artist and the strong crowds in attendance. If we want to grow, we need to learn from those who have paid their dues and hear their stories and see their techniques beyond Facebook posts and online articles. Donating to the raffle helps us bring in such great guests. Please bring items.

Michael Corbeille / President
4seasonsbonsai@gmail.com
248 250 3602
A tree living in nature on a steep cliff can bend downward as a result of several factors, like snow or falling rocks. These factors cause the tree to grow downwards. With Bonsai it can be difficult to maintain a downward-growing tree because the direction of growth opposes the tree’s natural tendency to grow upright. Cascade Bonsai are planted in tall pots. The tree should grow upright for a small stretch but then bend downward. The crown of the tree usually grows above the rim of the pot, but the subsequent branches alternate left and right on the outermost curves of an S-shaped trunk. These branchings should grow out horizontally in order to maintain balance of the tree.

The semi-cascade style, just like the cascade style, is found in nature on cliffs and on the banks of rivers and lakes. The trunk grows upright for a small distance and then bends downwards/sideways. Unlike the cascade style, the semi-cascade trunk will never grow below the bottom of the pot. The crown is usually above the rim of the pot while subsequent branching occurs below the rim.

http://www.flowermarketdundee.com
Developing Moss for Bonsai Display

It’s common, when displaying bonsai at indoor exhibits, to cover the surface of the soil with moss. The alternative—dirt—doesn’t really compare.

Bonsai Tonight, February 16, 2010 by Jonas Dupuich

Depending on where you live, you may have found that moss doesn’t just show up the week before exhibit. Either that or you find it difficult to keep it under control. For years now, I’ve taken note of all of the patches of attractive moss I run across that grow on public property. If all goes well, I end up with a few trays like the one below.

One other ingredient is necessary to make the process a success—moss. White sphagnum moss, to be specific, the kind usually available from orchid growers. It typically comes in clumps. Run it through the large screen you use when sifting bonsai soil to produce the fine particles shown below.

The first step is soji—removing, or “cleaning” the top layer of soil. Depending on the quality of your soil, this step may not be necessary. Because I use organic fertilizers like cottonseed meal, I find that the decomposed fertilizer becomes gunky and impedes drainage.

I then fill the pot with bonsai soil but stop a quarter-inch below the lip. This is to make room for the moss. If your moss is thicker, leave a bigger gap.
The sphagnum moss helps keep the dollups of fresh moss moist. Watering it down before placing the fresh moss makes the work easier – and keeps it from blowing away.

Where can moss-work go wrong? Some things to keep in mind. Like-sized clumps look good together. Placing large clumps on the left side of the pot and small clumps on the right side stands out something awful. The same rule applies to moss color, character, and direction.

Some of the most attractive work blends together different kinds of moss. It’s worth experimenting to see what effect you like. For a final touch, feel free to sprinkle tiny soil particles over the moss and sweep away the excess. By filling in the gaps, the edges of the clumps don’t dry out so quickly.

Once all’s set, water in the moss-work. Bonsai with freshly applied moss can be placed in full-sun, but care must be taken so it doesn’t dry out. The longer between the moss application and the exhibit, the more the clumps will fuse together and the taller the moss will sit in the pot. Some day I’ll lay moss early and let it grow for a month before exhibit. It makes for a somewhat rangy look that complements rough-hewn bonsai well.
If you attended our last meeting, you witnessed an wonderful display of carving expertise. Not only was the transformation incredible, the information shared was equally impressive. Jennifer made time to explain the process from beginning to end. Her ability to listen to the room while working proved invaluable with club members. During a heavy spray of sawdust, Jennifer was able to take a massive Korean Hornbeam, with little character, into a special tree with massive potential.

Club members were able to pick up carving tools from Walter Pall’s collection and the opportunity to win a nice Lodgepole Pine Jennifer generously donated to the club.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQnxNkjP2w
2018 OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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POSITIONS ARE OPEN. PLEASE EMAIL US IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN THE BOARD. EXPERIENCE ISN'T NECESSARY. JUST PASSION FOR BONSAI.
BONSAI SHOW
AUGUST 11th-12th 2018 BORDINE’S NURSERY

JACK SUSTIC - Show Judge
Former curator of the National Bonsai Museum
Bordine’s Nursery 1835 Rochester Rd
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

*Contact 4Seasonsbonsai@gmail.com for information and workshop reservations

Saturday August 11

9am  Show opens to the public
     100’s of incredible bonsai trees on display.
     Vendors booths open. The Flower Market, John Wall, and Matt Gothberg will have bonsai trees, pots, tools, and more for sale.

10am  Beginner’s Workshop*
      $75 includes a 10” ficus, pot and wire. A hands-on workshop taught by our experienced club members.
     15 spots available. A great way to get started in bonsai.

10am  Master bonsai artist Jack Sustic, the former curator of the National Bonsai Museum, will start styling a large bonsai tree. Come early and witness the transformation.

5pm  Exhibit walk through with Jack Sustic.

Sunday August 12

9am  Show opens to the public.

10am  Jack Sustic will be styling a bonsai tree. You won’t want to miss this before & after demonstration from one of the country’s premier bonsai artists.

3pm  Massive raffle! Open to public. Jack Sustic’s styled tree, pots, tools, bonsai trees, tools, art and much more.**

4pm  Show closes.

*Contact 4Seasonsbonsai@gmail.com for information and workshop reservations

**Raffle tickets are $1.
$10 for Jack Sustic’s tree.
$3 entry fee. FSBC is a non-profit organization.
2018 Calendar of Events
All events are open to the public

Sunday, FEBRUARY 25TH
FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR
1-4pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills
Introduction to the years events and schedule.
Welcome to bonsai for new members & beginners.
Michael Corbeille update on club status and plans for 2018. Calendar confirmation. BYOB (bring in your own bonsai) hands on advice and styling.

Sunday, MARCH 25th
BONSAI CIRCUS
1-4pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills
New to bonsai or just looking to hone your skills, don’t miss this meeting! Multiple members will hold simultaneous workshops and demos on a variety bonsai related topics geared toward beginners through expert level bonsai artists. A must attend!

Sunday, APRIL 29th
BEGINNER WORKSHOP & DAN BENNETT STANDS.
1-4pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills
Club member and master craftsman, Dan Bennett, will discuss building and displaying stands. He will have stands for sale. We are also holding a private workshop area for new members to bring in a tree and learn how to start their first tree. Experienced members will share wiring and styling techniques.

Sunday, MAY 20th
JOHN WALL - SHOW PREPARATIONS
12 -4pm* Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills
John Wall, our show judge from last year, is back by popular demand. John will share his experience in preparing bonsai for shows. Popular subjects of stands, wiring, moss and properly displaying your bonsai will all be addressed. Bring in your trees.

Sunday, JUNE 24th
JENNIFER PRICE CARVING TECHNIQUES
12-4pm* Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills
Jennifer Price will conduct a live demo on advanced carving techniques and share stories on her time spent studying and working with bonsai legend, Walter Pall. She is coming in from Chicago just for our meeting. We are starting an hour early.

Sunday, JULY 22nd
Kurt Smith & Large tree styling demo.
1-4pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills
Kurt Smith, the owner of the Flower Market, is back with another presentation. Plus, experienced club members will be styling a large tree in front of the entire club. Wiring, carving and proper techniques in large branch bending. This tree will be entered in our annual show raffle. BYOB is encouraged.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY AUGUST 11th -12th
45th ANNUAL BONSAI SHOW !!!
9am -7:00 Saturday. 9am - 4pm Sunday
Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills
Come see incredible bonsai trees on display, live demos, workshops and bonsai trees for sale. We are excited to have the former curator of the National Bonsai Museum, Jack Sustic, as our judge. Live demos and beginner workshops, raffles and more Jack Sustic will be conducting a special workshop and critique of all the trees.

Sunday, September 23rd
BONSAI AUCTION
11-4pm* Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills
A massive collection of bonsai trees and bonsai related items will be auctioned to club members.

A must attend for all levels of bonsai artists. Members are asked to come early and register their items. We will be sending entry forms and sales information prior to the auction. This event will start earlier than previous meetings and will be a catered event.

Monday - Tuesday October 8-9th
WALTER PALL SPECIAL EVENT (times tbd)
Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills
We have bonsai legend Walter Pall for two days!! Monday will be paid workshops and Tuesday Walter will deliver his bonsai inspiration open to club members. Be sure to sign up early, bring in a tree to have evaluated. Spots will fill immediately.

Sunday, OCTOBER 21st
BONSAI FOR KIDS and BEGINNERS
1-4pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills
A new idea we are going to try. Bring your kids to the club day. Our chance to get new faces and the opportunity to develop new bonsai artists.

Sunday, NOVEMBER 18th
WINTER PREPARATIONS
1-4pm Bordines Nursery, Rochester Hills
We will discuss how to prepare your trees for the brutal Michigan winters. Building cold frames to setting up grow lights indoors for tropical trees.

Saturday, December 9th
Holiday Dinner
6-8pm Cafe Sushi, Troy MI
All club members and family are invited!
We celebrate our 48th year in bonsai.
* meeting starts earlier than 1:00

www.fourseasonsbonsai.com  4seasonsbonsai@gmail.com
FSB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT BORDINES NURSERY • 1835 ROCHESTER ROAD SOUTH • ROCHESTER HILLS MI 48307
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.
SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BONSAI VENDORS

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