



Kongetsu

West Michigan Bonsai Club Newsletter

Vol. 10 No. 6

June 2006

Mollie Hollar, Editor

2006 Schedule

Sat, June 10: Open studio/BYOT

Sat, July 22: BYOT, styling, wiring, general care

Weekend of Aug 19 & 20: Trip to MidAmerica Bonsai Exhibit & Show in Chicago

Sat, Sept 16: Tanuki/phoenix graft workshop

Fri, Oct 13: Set-up for Club show

Sat & Sun, Oct 14 & 15: Club show

Thurs, Oct 19: Planning meeting for 2007

Sat, Nov 18: Potluck & auction (location TBA)

All events are at Meijer Gardens unless otherwise noted. Thursday meetings are 7:00-9:00 PM, and Saturday workshops are 9:00 AM to Noon. More details will come in future newsletters as events draw nearer.

Anita's Corner

WHAT A SHOW WE HAD!

The 2006 Michigan All-State Bonsai Show was very successful!

We had a great crew of volunteers, pretty good participation by all the clubs, good workshops & demonstrations, & a pretty good selection of vendors! Here are the attendance figures for 2005 & 2006 (as collected by FMG volunteers):

2005 - Total: 1,513 - 763 on Saturday & 750 on Sunday (May 7 & 8, 2005)

2006 - Total: 1,764 - 1,035 on Saturday & 729 on Sunday (May 6 & 7, 2006)

There has been some discussion that attendance numbers have

(cont on page 2 column 1)

Apology

Before I go on to anything else, I must apologize for the lateness of this newsletter. Between illness and business, it's been a tough couple of weeks.

Coming Up

We have some really exciting events coming up in our schedule. Some of you have been asking for more workshops just for working on the trees you have. Some of us have *way* too many trees and just don't have enough time to work on them. So the workshop this Saturday will be a productive one.

This is not a good time to repot deciduous trees, but the tops can be worked on – trimmed and wired. Conifers can be trimmed and repotted. Bring as many as you want, knowing that you may not actually get work done on all of them, but you can at least get some advice as to what steps you can take next. Don't forget to bring your tools. And let me know if you need any soil.

July's workshop may seem to be just like Saturday's, but we're going to get a little bit more into technique. We won't have one particular speaker so I'm counting on all you experienced people to come prepared to answer questions about styling, wiring (I'm getting better at this!) and general care for various types of trees.

In August

Our August event is the annual bonsai show at the Chicago Botanical Gardens. Before I start making reservations, I need to let you know that this year's exhibit, workshops and vendors are all going to be outside in tents due to a major remodeling project. Yep, rain or shine. So I'd like to hear from some members *soon* as to whether or not you still want to make this a Club event. We can always postpone it until 2007, when all the new facilities will be open. **So call or e-mail me by June 21 to let me know if you *do* still want to go.** Then I can get hotel reservations made. You can also let me know at the workshop Saturday.

Tanuki In September!

For those of you who would like to participate in this workshop, I might have good news for you. If you're having a difficult time finding a piece of deadwood and/or a plant to graft to it, I do have some of each. On our trip to Gee Farms I bought over 100 buffalo junipers that would be perfect for this. And I have a few juniper procumbens that didn't survive the winter that I'm going to strip the bark off from. I have a few other pieces of deadwood that I've had sitting around for a number of years. I will bring these to the workshop this Saturday, and you can see if there is anything you'd want to use. If you can't make it Saturday, contact me and I can send you photos of wood and juniper.

been down on the years' that the show falls on Mother's Day weekend (and the limited data that I have supports this since this applies to 2005 & not to 2006). The show will again fall on Mother's Day weekend in 2007 so we'll be able to further test this theory (May 12 & 13, 2007). Here are some other observations that I have heard about the show:

- >> "I drive up from Chicago for this show every year; it is the best in the area (NOT crowded like the Chicago show)" - quote from an unknown attendee of the show
- >> The workshop pricing seemed to be more in-line w/people's expectations this year; they all filled early (this may have been helped by the early publication in FMG SEASON'S magazine).
- >> Eunice Corp's educational display was fantastic! Great presentation, great examples; very nicely done.
- >> Suiseki was a good addition.

This portion of the show will be "tweaked" in the coming years. Thanks to Tim Priest for displaying his collection & for working up the educational material.

- >> Thanks also to Tim for arriving early on Sunday to take pictures of the top ten trees from The People's Choice vote. Tim generously donated larger prints to the top three winners plus provided his professional photos to our club to display on the website & to FMG to help promote the show! Lastly, Tim brought along his very enthusiastic son Evan, who was a great help to me personally on Sunday (I was running down & he did quite a bit of "gofer" work for me - Thanks Evan!).
- >> Photos showing the evolution of individual trees are a great idea & will be encouraged for future

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shows. If you aren't already keeping photographic records of your trees, you should be!

- >> The People's Choice award continues to be an interesting "barometer" of the public's opinion. There were 507 votes collected & 80 of the 121 trees on exhibit received @ least one vote! Also, the "gap" between the 1st & 2nd & 3rd place trees was much narrower this year than in 2005. I unfortunately don't know the name of the 1st place winner; it was the forest planting that was on the first table in the room. 2nd place was Jack Wikle's ficus (raised from seed & 41 yrs old!), & 3rd place was WMBC's own Lorena Chamber's pretty red Azalea (and if that was actually a rhododendron, please correct me!). Lorena also won 9th place with her purple rhododendron. The People's Choice Award will continue next year.
- >> Our vendors did "okay" this year (at least that was the response I got to that question late on Sunday). The Meehan's probably won't be back for a while as they have to sell A LOT of stock to justify the cost of the trip (you'll have to visit them @ the show in Chicago in August for the next couple of years). We will try to get them back for the 2008 show (our 10th ANNUAL show). Thanks to the vendors for their hard work too!
- >> There was some concern that there were too many plant vendors & not enough general bonsai vendors. While I personally don't agree with that statement, I wouldn't mind seeing @ least one more general vendor (just to have a different variety of items). Luckily (and thankfully), Bob Goddard has agreed to handle the vendor coordination for 2007, so I'm sure he already has a plan in mind!
- >> The demonstrations went pretty well. The 3-way demonstration was well received & will continue in 2007. We are looking to add more short demonstrations (1/2 hr to 45 minutes) to continue to "capture" the FMG crowd.
- >> All of the workshops were pretty successful. We will be refining the workshops a bit in the future to try to pre-set the skill-level a bit better. We're definitely looking at least one novice class & one intermediate-advanced level class.

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Well, that was a brief re-cap of comments on the 2006 Michigan All-State Bonsai Show (the 8th Annual Show). As already stated, the 2007 Michigan All-State Bonsai Show will be on May 12 & 13, 2007. Mark it on your calendars now!

As the remainder of 2006 unfolds, I'll continue to give updates on the 2007 show in this newsletter. There will be some changes ahead & we'll hopefully be on-track to beat our attendance & participation numbers from 2006. We already have some preliminary work done for 2007 & are even working on details for the 2008 show (since it IS the 10th Annual show & all).

A HUGE & HEARTFELT THANK YOU goes out to retiring show coordinator Ed Hilton. After being more actively involved in the whole weekend this year, I really appreciate the amount of time & effort he has put into the show the last couple of years. Each year the show has improved & every coordinator has made their impact on the whole event!

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2006 Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phones: Home _____ Work: _____

E-mail: _____

(Check one:)

Active membership (\$25.00) Inactive membership (\$6.00)

Please make check out to:

WMBC

and mail to:

Ed Spaans

947 Orchard SE

East Grand Rapids MI 49506

Or bring to any meeting or workshop.

Again, thank you so much to each & every volunteer that helped with the 2006 show. It was truly amazing to see the set-up & take-down go so smoothly.

And thank you to everyone who participated in the show too; it is always great to see a "full house"!

Eight years of learning & improvements certainly makes a heck of a show! I'm looking forward to attending & being involved in many future shows!