



# Kongetsu

## West Michigan Bonsai Club Newsletter

Vol. 12 No. 6

July 2008

Mollie Hollar, Editor

### 2008 Schedule of Events

**Sat, July 19:** Trip to Stone Zone

**Thur, July 24:** Tropicals

**Thur, Aug 14:** Bring Your Own Tree

**Sun, Aug 24:** Silent Auction

**Thur, Sept 18:** Show prep

**Sat & Sun, Oct 11 & 12:** Fall Show

**Thur, Oct 16:** 2009 Planning meeting

**Thur, Nov 20:** Winterizing

All events are held at Frederik Meijer Gardens unless otherwise noted.

### Important Announcement!

I'm thrilled to tell you that Grand Rapids has been chosen as the site for the 2010 Mid-America Bonsai Alliance Convention, and our Club will be the host! I've wanted to do this for several years, and I think we finally have enough Club members who are willing to help. Over the next few months I'll let you now about the various areas which will need volunteers, including exhibit, vendors, hotel arrangements, and many others. It will need to be at a hotel since people come from all over the Midwest to this convention. We have the benefit of assistance from the Grand Rapids/Kent  
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### Summer Finally!

Yes, summer is finally here, officially *and* weather-wise. Today is an absolutely gorgeous day: warm but not hot, sunshine, light breeze, all the things that make Michigan – and particularly my area – the place we choose to live. I'm reminded on days like this of all the bonsai friends I have in other areas of the country who can't imagine how we can grow bonsai here with such a short growing season. Well, compared to Arizona or Florida maybe, but we do just fine here, don't we? Besides, my air conditioning isn't blasting, and I can work outside all day if I want without fear of heat stroke. Yep, I'll stay where I am.

Do remember, though, that watering is our prime concern on these summer days. Even if it's not excessively hot, the sun beating down on our trees will quickly evaporate water from the soil, so we need to be vigilant to be sure they have plenty of water.

### Last Month

I simply must mention our workshop in June on Japanese maples. Steve Jetzer, our presenter, is so knowledgeable about the subject that we all not only had our questions answered, but also learned a lot that we probably didn't think we would. And attendance was great! We had about 20 people there, including several new members. This was the best-attended event we've had this year. A popular topic presented by a very knowledgeable expert – a great combination any time.

### This Month

I will not be joining the group for our July 19 event. We'll be off on our annual camping/fishing trip to the wilds of Canada during that time. So if you want to go to the Stone Zone that Saturday, it'll be more or less an individual thing. They're open from 9:00 AM to Noon. For those of you who haven't been there, it's a marvelous place that sells a huge variety of all sizes of stones from all over the world. Skip and I have gotten some very unusual stuff there over the years. They have volcanic or feather rock that can be used whole or broken up into pieces that are great for use in bonsai landscape plantings. Lots of quartz, some really gorgeous stuff. Although much of what they have is in large pieces, there are almost always smaller pieces that have broken off that would work very well with our bonsai. You pay by the pound so it's never very expensive – unless you want to decorate your two-acre yard with boulders! I've included a map to the place on the last page.

I'll be back for the tropicals event on Thursday, July 24. It'll be at 7:00 PM in the Frey Room downstairs at Meijer Gardens. We're privileged to have Jan Szyren, Greenhouse Horticulturist in the Department of Plant Biology at Michigan State, coming in to do the program for us. Jan is a member of our new Mid-Michigan Bonsai Club, and an expert on indoor  
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County Convention and Visitors Bureau. I've already met with their rep and she's started making plans and contacting various hotels in the area. More info as progress continues.

### Plants, Plants and More Plants

For those of us interested in small things – I guess that would be all of us – I have a Michigan Gardener magazine with an ad for Arrowhead Alpines nursery. And for those of us who like rocks – probably most of us – they're having a "Summer Rocks Event" on Saturday, July 26 (11:00 AM-7:00 PM) and Sunday, July 27 (11:00 AM-5:00 PM). It says they'll have "landscaping stone, unique fossils and crystals, hand-carved troughs and more." Of course, while you're there you should check out their over 10,000 varieties of "perennials, woodland wildflowers, unusual ferns, rare alpines, dwarf conifers, and unusual trees and shrubs." Sounds like a great road trip to me.

Directions: "Take I-96 to the Flowerville exit, go south 100 yards to Van Buren Rd. Turn west on Van Buren and go 1 mile to Gregory Rd. Turn left (south) on Gregory and travel 1.75 miles to #1310 (long driveway)."

### Reminder

If you know someone in mid-Michigan who is interested in bonsai, give them my contact info for the new club:  
Phone: 616-754-2351  
E-mail: info@basicallybonsai.com

plants. We will learn about our own topical bonsai and also about just about any other kind of indoor plant you can think of. When I mentioned several common indoor plants used for bonsai, Jan knew about those and about many others that I've never heard of! It should be a great program. So bring your tropicals and your questions. Jan may not be able to tell you exactly how to trim your tropical plant, but she'll tell us the best growing conditions for them and how to care for them.

By the way, Jan has said she'd prefer to be paid in plant material. She said, "I have a peony, primrose, and lily addiction, as well as outdoor ferns, hostas, daylilies so long as they're not orange." Hmmm, she sounds like some of the bonsai people I know! This definitely promises to be as good an event as last month's was!

### Directions to the Stone Zone

**Coming from Rockford:** Take 131 South to 96 West towards Muskegon. Take exit 25 (8th ave 4 mile rd) come off the ramp to a stop sign and turn left to next stop sign (Ironwood). Go left 1/4 mile.

**Coming from SE Grand Rapids:** Take 96 West to exit 25 (8th ave 4 mile rd). Come off the ramp to the stop sign go take a left to the next stop sign (Ironwood). Go left 1/4 mile.

**Coming from Holland:** Take 196 to exit 70B (Wilson). Go approximately 7 1/2 miles to Remembrance. Go left 2 miles.

**Coming From Muskegon:** Take 96 East to exit 24 (M-11 Grandville). This merges into Ironwood Dr. Follow Ironwood 1/2 mile.



### 2008 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