

# FOUR SEASONS

## BONSAI CLUB OF MICHIGAN

January 2010

[www.fourseasonsbonsai.com](http://www.fourseasonsbonsai.com)

Issue No. 1

## INSPIRATION AND STUDY

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2:00 P.M. AT TELLY'S GREENHOUSE, TROY**

Meet in the barn on the far side of the parking lot.

- 1:45 p.m.: meeting setup and socializing
- 2:05 p.m.: club business and announcements
- 2:20 p.m.: presentations
- 3:30 p.m.: expert help with your bonsai

Welcome to another year of Four Seasons programs! January is not the best month to do hands-on work with bonsai. Some cold-hardy species can be wired during the winter, but let's face it, that doesn't make for the most exciting program to watch. And large tropicals are difficult to transport during bitter cold weather. (Not impossible, but difficult.) So what's a bonsai club to do? After all, we are *Four Seasons*. At this time of year, the best thing to do is prepare for the busy growing season by learning all we can and inspiring ourselves with new ideas. By the time spring rolls around, we'll be armed with new skills and new confidence.

And so, to start us off right this year, two club members volunteered to share their recent discoveries with two very different presentations. First, Michael Corbeille will give a PowerPoint presentation on some inspiring bonsai from Los Angeles and at the National Arboretum in Washington D.C. Then Rick Beiniek shares some enlightening information on understanding tree physiology. So join us for a meeting that will expand your bonsai horizons.

### DUES ARE DUE!

A message from treasurer Janine Makowski: Happy 2010, fellow club members! It's annual renewal time again. Membership dues are due at the January meeting. If you are unable to attend, please send your check or money order (annual renewal is still only \$20) to:

FSBC  
3132 Vinsetta Blvd.  
Royal Oak, MI 48073

Please make your check or money order payable to Four Seasons Bonsai Club. A reminder to our new members that joined during the annual show in June: you're paid up through 2010! What a great deal! See you at the January club meeting!



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There goes the neighborhood! Yes, it's true, I volunteered myself as a nominee for president at the November elections and won. So we're stuck with each other for a while longer. :) I'll be giving the presidency one year rather than the customary term of two years. Why only one? Well, I feel like I've been helping Hector run the club meetings for a while already. (Which I was more than happy to do.) It just doesn't seem fair that one person should be in control for what would be three years or so. (Not to mention that I already did a two year stint as president back around 2000.) I will, of course, keep on doing my usual work for the club for long after. I love helping out. I'm not going anywhere.

And speaking of Hector ... I'd like to personally thank Hector for his friendship, mentorship and trust. We owe him a huge "thank you" for his stewardship of the club through

*Continued on next page.*

**Continued from President's Message.**

the past couple years. Although the last year didn't turn out like we expected (or he wanted), his influence has always been steering the club. As he leaves the presidency, we are a stronger club. Membership is up. Our meetings have been better attended. In addition, we've become more diverse in our concentration on tropical bonsai as well as traditional cold-hardy bonsai. That's thanks to Hector's influence and it's made us more responsive to what our members want to learn. The next time you see Hector, be sure to tell him how much we appreciate his leadership. Hector will continue to guide the club on our board of directors.

You'll notice that we've added a bit more structure to the meetings with the agenda at the top of the meeting description. Our goal is to get things rolling on time and allow ample opportunity for anyone with a bonsai question or problem to get help from one of our experts. A bonsai mentorship if you will. Sometimes we get a lot of requests for help during the beginning of the meeting when we need to concentrate on setting up or beginning the program on time. Although we love to help and wouldn't want to discourage anyone from seeking assistance, we felt there was a need to devote a specific time for it. So we're going to try it at the end of the meeting. We hope that this change also has the benefit of giving our newer members some quality one-on-one time with the expert of their choice. Let us know if this works well for you.

And while we're on the subject, if you need expert help with a tropical and want to bring it to the meeting, be sure you protect it from the cold during transport. If it's small, you can put it inside an insulated cooler for transport. If that isn't workable, warm up your car, surround the bonsai with a large plastic bag; tie it so warm air is trapped inside, and then move it quickly between the indoors and your car. (Not too close to the car's direct heat on the ride over.)

Hope to see you there!

Todd Renshaw, President

## ELECTION RESULTS FROM THE NOVEMBER MEETING

In case you missed the last meeting, results of the election for 2010 offices were as follows:

President - Todd Renshaw  
Vice-President - John Stevens  
Recording Secretary - Ed Powers  
Director, 3-year term - Hector DeBrabant  
Director, 1-year term - Tom McCue  
Bylaw revision enabling electronic meetings - passed

If you'd like information on the bylaw revision (or any other aspects of the bylaws), contact Todd Renshaw at 248-585-9916 or email [webmaster@mababonsai.org](mailto:webmaster@mababonsai.org). A full copy of the bylaws is available on the Four Seasons website, [www.fourseasonsbonsai.com](http://www.fourseasonsbonsai.com), in the "Members" section.

## MABA CONVENTION

As we've mentioned at some of the meetings, the West Michigan Bonsai Club in Grand Rapids is hosting the next MABA convention. Although WMBC hasn't published a complete schedule of demonstrations and workshops, nor registration prices, you can mark your calendars for June 25-27. Kathy Shaner will be the headlining bonsai master for the convention. Other demonstrators announced: Jose Cueto, Jack Douthitt, Jim Doyle, Pauline Muth, Steve Pilacik, Andy Smith, Jack Wickle and Scott Yelich.

Newer members may be asking themselves, "what is MABA?" The Mid-America Bonsai Alliance (MABA) is an organization made up of local bonsai clubs and societies from nine midwest U.S. states and Canadian provinces. MABA's purpose is to foster the sharing of knowledge and bonsai artist talent among the clubs and states of the midwest, as well as to encourage the use of native species in the art of bonsai. MABA holds a convention in association with one of its member clubs every other year. Luckily for us, this year's convention is practically in our back yard. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this nearby opportunity. As we get more information on the prices, workshops, etc. we'll let you know.



Comic contributed by Jimmy Whiteley.

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## WHAT'S AHEAD ON THE SCHEDULE FOR 2009

Feb. 28 ..... **Ficus Challenge & BYO Tropical Workshop.**

Members that bought a tree for the "Ficus Challenge" can come work on their trees. All other members, bring in a tropical to work on.

March 28 .... **Bonsai Circus.**

(Simultaneous workshops and demos on all sorts of subjects). This program includes beginner basics, but always has eye-opening demos for experienced members too.

April 25 ..... **Focus on Advanced Techniques.**

3 demonstrators will show must-see techniques used by bonsai experts. Beginners can learn a lot from these techniques too.

May 23\* ..... **Todd's Yamadori Shimpaku Workshop.**

Using tiny shimpaku junipers, we'll give them twists and turns so they look like they were mountain grown.

June 19-20\*.. **ANNUAL SHOW.**

Our once-a-year, not-to-be-missed event! The show includes demonstrations by past-presidents Vance Hanna and Vance Wood, the spectacular bonsai exhibit, raffles, as well as bonsai, tools, pots and supplies for sale.

July 25 ..... **Focus on Beginning Techniques.**

3 demonstrators will show must-see techniques for bonsai beginners. For experienced members, treat this as a BYO (bring-your-own) workshop.

Aug. 29 ..... **Tropical Workshop.**

Sept. 26 ..... **Bonsai Auction and Pot Luck Lunch.** Held at the home of a Four Seasons member.

\*Not held on the last Sunday of the month.

## OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President ..... Todd Renshaw, (248) 585-9916  
webmaster@mababonsai.org

Vice-President ..... John Stevens, (248) 544-3112  
jalden123@aol.com

Secretary ..... Ed Powers

Treasurer ..... Janine Makowski  
(248) 585-6074  
s.makowski@comcast.net

Newsletter ..... Ryan Stibich, (248) 930-1535  
ryancstibich@gmail.com

Show Chair ..... Lamont Jackson  
(248) 495-8243  
lamont\_tiger@lycos.com

Librarian ..... Justin Ouellette  
(586) 354-3069  
mrfun39@gmail.com

Website ..... Todd Renshaw, (see above)

Director, 3-Yr. Term... Hector DeBrabant  
(248) 399-9629  
de.bonsai@yahoo.com

Director, 2-Yr. Term... Bette Gay, (248) 515-1732  
rgay@voyager.net

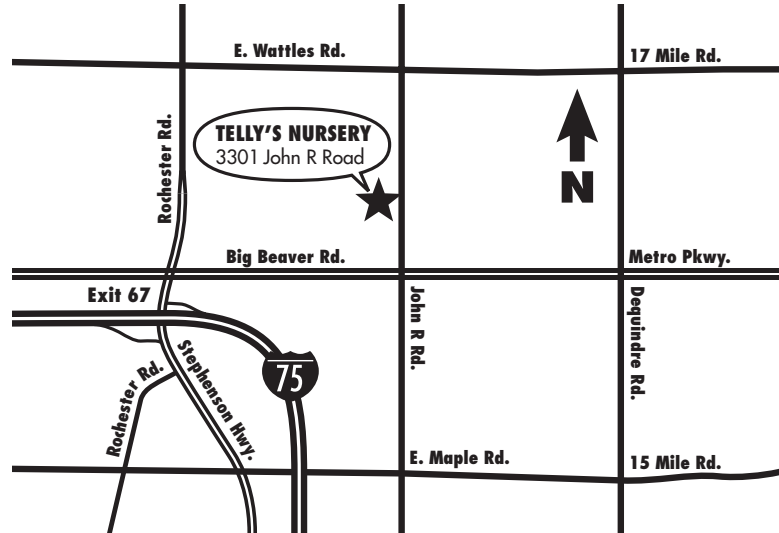
Director, 1-Yr. Term... Jimmy Whiteley  
(248) 608-2478  
jimantique@aol.com

Director, 1-Yr. Term... Tom McCue, (586) 293-1514  
q569@wowway.com

## DIRECTIONS TO OUR MEETINGS

Our meetings are held at Telly's Greenhouse at 3301 John R Troy, MI 48083-5656, between Big Beaver and Wattles. Nursery phone: 248-689-8735, Nursery website: [www.tellys.com](http://www.tellys.com). Guests are welcome at meetings.

Meetings are usually held on the last Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Some events are held off-site. Always consult the newsletter issued just before a meeting for exact date, time and location.



Visit the club website at [www.fourseasonsbonsai.com](http://www.fourseasonsbonsai.com)



Anita Ormond  
Four Seasons Bonsai Club of Michigan  
7480 E. Holly Road  
Holly, MI 48442

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Here