



Bonsai Tree Check-In Form

Four Seasons Bonsai Club of Michigan

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the bonsai tree check-in procedures shown below ahead of time. If you are unsure about your judging category, leave it blank and we'll help you at the time of tree check-in. **Bonsai that you have styled yourself are eligible to be judged and can win an award. Bonsai that were styled recently by another person should be entered as non-judged.** All trees will be eligible for People's Choice Award.

Your Name _____

Judging category: (Check One): Beginner Intermediate Expert Master

Bonsai 1 Common Name _____

Botanical Name _____

Age of Tree _____ Years in Training _____ Judged Non-Judged

Bonsai 2 Common Name _____

Botanical Name _____

Age of Tree _____ Years in Training _____ Judged Non-Judged

Bonsai 3 Common Name _____

Botanical Name _____

Age of Tree _____ Years in Training _____ Judged Non-Judged

Bonsai 4 Common Name _____

Botanical Name _____

Age of Tree _____ Years in Training _____ Judged Non-Judged

Bonsai 5 Common Name _____

Botanical Name _____

Age of Tree _____ Years in Training _____ Judged Non-Judged

Procedures

1. **Figurines are allowed once again, but (if you choose to use them) must be on your bonsai for the entire show, including judging.**
2. You may bring up to five trees for the judged exhibit. (You are welcome to bring additional non-judged trees. Make a copy of this form, if needed.)
3. If you shine or oil your pot in preparation for exhibit, please do not oil the back. (Stickers will be placed there and they won't stick if it's been oiled.) Place a sticker or masking tape with your name and address on the back of each pot. (Pre printed return address stickers are ideal.)
4. Take the time to identify the common and botanical names of your bonsai ahead of time. (If you are unsure, we will do our best to I.D. your tree at the time of check-in, but this tends to slow the process.)
5. Print, fill-out and bring this form, with your bonsai, to the check-in table. (Refer to www.4seasonbonsai.com for time and place)

Guidelines for Judging Categories

When asked about our level of bonsai skill, most of us are uncomfortable calling ourselves an "expert" or "master", but this leads to an unintended problem: the beginner and intermediate categories become overly-full with entries, and very few end up in other categories. We want to appear humble. We do not want to see ourselves as becoming a bonsai "expert", but when entrants remain in either the beginner or intermediate categories, and win ribbons year after year, we do a disservice to our newer members who deserve a chance to win a ribbon. In order to promote fairness, the board issues the following guidelines on placing yourself in the appropriate skill category:

- ❖ **Beginner** You have less than five years experience and have not won two First Place awards in a bonsai show. (If you won your second First Place last year, you must move up to the Intermediate category this year.)
- ❖ **Intermediate** You no longer qualify for the Beginner category and have not won two First Place awards in the intermediate class.
- ❖ **Expert** You no longer qualify for the Beginner or Intermediate categories and have not won two First Place awards in the Expert class.
- ❖ **Master** Is recognized by their peers as having extensive experience, and whose inclusion in a lesser class may be considered unfair to other entrants.