



# OMAKE: an occasional newsletter of the Bonsai Society-Kalamazoo (BS-K)

Volume 26, Number 3

March 2007

## February Meeting

We had a great turnout for the February meeting. Attending were Al Jacobs, John Cerovski, Eric Newton, Jenny Grunberg, Shu-Tzu & Sechoing Lin, Ben & Betty Chien, Ed Greenleaf, Ann Page, Louis Vasquez, Jean McIlvenny, Carolyn Verweyst and visitor Beth Jones. Apologies if anyone was forgotten.

BS-K will be offering a two workshops in a cooperative effort with the Girl Scouts of Glowing Embers Council. They will be a styling workshop Saturday, February 24, 10:00-12:00 PM and a repotting workshop, Saturday, March 3, 10:00-12:00PM. It is mandatory to attend both workshops. This will be held at the Kalamazoo Service Center, 1011 W. Maple Street, Kalamazoo. Nine girls have signed up. Eric will be lead instructor and could use more help. If you can get to either of the classes contact Eric at 269-808-5056.



### *Show and Tell.*

Jenny brought a Willow.  
Eric showed a Rosemary,  
Ivy, and Boxwood Pen-  
jing.  
Carrie had a Ficus.  
Ann, Jenny, and Jean all  
came with their Ficuses.  
John Cerovski brought a  
Rosemary that had been  
started in club a few  
years ago. It is pictured  
on the left.

Eric talked about Rosemary care and how to thicken Ivy.

Check out web site.

<https://www.evergreengardenworks.com/index.htm>

John Cerovski reported on the follow up to the Jack Wikle article on water in February's Omake. He called the water department in his area to find out the make up of his water. Because the water comes from more than one well they could not give a definitive answer to all of John's questions.

The next meeting will be a Ficus-Root Over Rock Workshop, March 11, 2007.

## March Meeting

The March meeting will be held Sunday, March 11, at 1:00 PM, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Texas Township Campus, 6767 W. "O" Ave. just south of I-94. Go in the main entrance under the towers, take a left at the first hallway. Room 2120 will be up at the top of the stairs or wheel chair ramp on your left.

The BS-K usually, but not always, meets the second Sunday of each month, except August & December, from 1-4 pm, at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Please call Newt at 269-808-5056 or 269-731-3850 for meeting location, as it changes during the summer.

We will be doing Ficus-Root over Rock this month. Newt will be bringing his rocks for sale or bring your own. Jenny is bringing the trees and soil. We will use the club muck and pots. We will have the club wire and will bring something to bind the roots (stretch tape, raffia etc.).

We got one extra tree to use as a demo tree. Newt has styled it and will re-pot it at the next meeting. We can raffle, auction, sell the tree (he like raffle tickets). The club has \$21 in it plus about 3 hours of wiring. We must sell at least 5 tickets at \$5 each to meet expenses. The tree is pictured below is not the raffle tree but a sample of the fine work that Newt does.



Hi,

I just learned that due to Emerald Ash Borer destruction, the government has started the "root" program. I forget what it stands for but anyone who is in the affected area (Calhoun county plus many others) can get 2 trees even if you did not lose an Ash tree.

*What:*

6-8 foot tall trees in 7 gallon pots for \$21.  
Limit 2 per household.

*Variety:*

Sugar & Red Maple  
Little Leafed Linden  
Gingko  
Red Oak  
Tulip Tree.

First come first serve.

*Call:*

Calhoun Conservation District (Marshall)  
269-781-4867.

*Or visit:*

[www.michigan.gov/dnrucf](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrucf)

Newt

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### **Plant Care Tips for March**

*courtesy of the Great Swamp Bonsai Society*

March is the perfect time to repot, and to branch and root prune. Trees less than 5 years old should be repotted annually, trees between 5 and 20 years may be repotted every other year, and trees over 20 should be repotted every 3 years.

By the end of March, depending on weather conditions, trees can be gradually brought out of winter shelter. Evergreens may be fertilized now and, in general, you may spray for fungus and insects on a warm day.

March is really the last month deciduous trees can be lifted from the ground, as buds have not yet broken. Evergreens can be lifted until the end of April. March and April are also good months to dig trees from the wild, keeping as much fibrous root attached as possible.

Keep your trees cool. Don't be in a hurry to encourage early growth, as it can still get cold. March is a great month for repotting, for digging planted trees, and collecting field grown ones.

### **2007 Coming Attractions.**

**March 11, 1:00 PM,** Ficus Workshop-Root over Rock

**March 31, 9:00 AM,** Lawton Nursery Crawl (if we get approval)

**April 15, 1:00 PM,** Jack Sustic Pine Workshop, Prepare Bonsai for All-State Bonsai Show.

**May 11-13, 2007, All day,** Michigan All State Bonsai Show, Fredrick Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, MI

**May 19-20, All day,** Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe, IL Spring Japanese Exhibition and Bonsai Show

**May 26-28, 2007** Rendezvous, Brussels' Bonsai, Olive Branch, MS

**June 2, All day,** Newton's Ranch, Ben Oki

**July 8, 1:00 PM,** Azalea Workshop

**Aug 12, 10:00 AM,** Gee Farms Nursery Crawl

**August 17-19,** Annual Fall show & Exhibition, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Glencoe, IL

**September 6-9,** 2007 Shohin Bonsai Symposium, Rochester NY

**September 9,** Ron Martin Workshop, pending.

**Oct. 14, 1:00 PM,** Pine Workshop

**Nov 11, 1:00 PM,** Club Dinner, Elections

**December 9, 1:00 PM,** Executive Meeting

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### **2007 Members**

Ben Oki  
Jack Sustic  
Ron Martin  
Ben & Betty Chien  
Chris McDermott  
Eric Newton  
Jean McIlvenny  
Angie Grindatti  
Ann Page  
Carolyn Verweyst  
Louis Vasquez  
Carrie Lin  
Ed Greenleaf  
John Cervoski  
Al & Lynn Jacobs  
Shu-Tzu & Sechoing Lin  
Scott & Dawn Dailey  
Jenny Grunberg & Gus Guzinski

## March Letter from Eric Newton

Howdy all!

Hope all is going well. The first Girl Scout meeting went good. We had all 9 participants show up and all really seemed to enjoy creating their trees. It was a learning experience for all involved. I learned that in order to keep kids interest you need to get them



busy working on something quickly. We tried starting with a CD ROM bonsai for kids. Although it is a great learning tool and there was a lot of good information it seemed to bore the kids to death. Once I looked up and noticed that we were losing them I stopped the presentation and we got to work. In the future I will keep the opening lecture very short and just go over the very basics. The trees were very nice and had lots of possibilities, thanks to Paul at Kalamazoo Indoor Gardens. I am really looking forward to finishing the styling and getting the trees re-potted this weekend.

I found something interesting when I checked my trees in the bottom of my well pit. They were actually frozen! Evidently you need a top that seals in order to keep any pit from freezing. I have a ladder sticking out the top and the cover leaves a small opening for the ladder. Well that opening allowed the pit to freeze. Please keep your fingers crossed for my trident maple!!! Since it was already frozen I went ahead and threw some snow down on and around the pots to help regulate the temps.

I recently treated all my indoor trees with an systemic (plant absorbs the chemical and when a bug eats the plant it kills the bug) bug killer that I heard about through the Ann Arbor club called Bayer Advanced™ Tree & Shrub Insect Control Concentrate. I am unsure of the effectiveness but I did apply it to all indoor trees with no adverse effects so far (2 or 3 weeks into treatment). This stuff will even kill the Asian Beetles (Ann Arbor club watched them eat leaves then fall over dead!!!) and boring insects! You mix 2 table spoons per gallon of water and then water your trees with the solution (do not apply to dry soil, water first then apply). Hope this stuff works!!! I love the idea of 1 or 2 applications per year as opposed to spraying 3 different times 4-5 days apart when ever I spot an outbreak. One other product that I read about in the Midwest Bonsai Society's newsletter is called Bonide crystals. This is another systemic product. I have not tried this one but here is what Larry Larimer had to say about it. "The directions on the label relate to trees or plants that are two to three feet tall or bigger planted in the ground in somebody's garden in a large amount of soil. For our trees planted in a comparatively tiny pot - totally root tight - and very small, somewhat stressed trees, the amounts they talk about are huge. Therefore, I am using a blade about the size of the end of a butter knife. The bonide crystals are fine enough so they go onto the knife in a thin layer. I take about 4 or 5 of those and scatter them on the surface of the soil in the pot and then water. For the sap suckers, the directions say that the bonide may have to be repeated in 4 to 6 weeks. I am finding this to be true and I have repeated on one Fukien Tea at two week intervals, the other I have waited for about 6 weeks and have had to repeat. The pomegranate, I applied once and that was enough. I have just noticed the plant I used for a control now has tiny aphids on it and have applied the bonide to this one as well. Remember, the Fukien tea has always been a real problem for me and they look quite healthy. I will run a follow up article in the newsletter next month." I am always looking for ways to keep our trees healthy. Hope this may help!

Newt

**OMAKE**  
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Proposed stamp- Sakura Bonsai Society

*Omake* is an occasional publication of the Bonsai Society-Kalamazoo.  
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*Omake* is available by email. To receive a copy by regular mail instead of email mail, contact the editor.  
 Bonsai Society-Kalamazoo can be found on web

**BONSAI SOCIETY-KALAMAZOO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

*Please fill out and mail or bring to a meeting.*

**Member since:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type:** *select one*      \_\_\_\_\_ Student \$10      \_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$15      \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$20

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Do not publish my address to general membership*      \_\_\_\_\_ *Call ONLY if absolutely necessary*

**Payment Amount Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

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