



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

Volume 26, Number 7

July 2007

## A Perfect Day or Ben Oki Visits

Ben Oki's visit on Saturday, June 16, couldn't have gone better. Mother Nature gave us the perfect day and for the first time in memory, Ben didn't freeze while working. Fourteen people attended, including Ed's granddaughter and new members Anita and Hilary. Also attending were 2 horses, 2 dogs, 1 cat and 1 goat. Again, Newt and Sarah proved to be the perfect hosts at their ever improving Newton's Ranch. The club would like to thank you for providing such fine facilities.

Ben got right to work working on member bonsai. He is so amazing in that he never seems to take a break and brings out so much beauty in seemingly ordinary specimens. He is truly the Michelangelo of Bonsai. Ben also accomplishes an enormous of teaching while he styles the trees. BS-K is truly fortunate that he chooses to visit our club.



## Sunday, July 8 Meeting

The next BS-K meeting will be Sunday, July 8, 1:00 PM, at Gus & Jenny's house. We will be having an Azalea workshop. Please bring your own plant. When you purchase an Azalea make sure it is hearty enough for our temperature zone. Bixby is a good variety but do not rule out one of the many others.

### Directions from 131 & M-43 to 8814 W. H Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Take 131 to M-43

Go West on M-43 to 6th. Street North

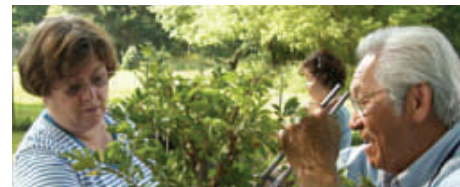
Turn right on 6th. Street, north, 1.5 miles

Turn left on H Avenue, west .8 mile

Turn right on very long driveway at 8814 W. H Avenue

If you get lost call 269-375-4489

Bring your tools and any materials you might need. All members and other bonsai enthusiasts welcome.



## 2007 Coming Attractions

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

**July 27, 28, & 29,** Four Seasons Bonsai Club of Michigan, Annual Bonsai Show, Troy, MI

**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,** Sensei to be announced Workshop.

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

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

## Gentle Readers

I will not be seeking re-election for BS-K Secretary for 2008 as good fortune is allowing me to be away from Michigan more often.

Jenny Grunberg has asked that I also let you know that she too, will not be seeking re-election next year.

We both would like to thank you for your overwhelming support and kindness that you have shown us. Missed most will be your kind ego building comments both from members and many email bonsai friends.

Again, thank you for being there for us.

Jean McIlvenny

### BS-K Board Members

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*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

## Favorite Bonsai Supply Shopping

**Adams' Bonsai**, 1721 Langhorne Road, Lynchburg, VA 24503, jrabonsai@aol.com, 434-845-3456, 434-384-7951

**Basically Bonsai**, Mollie Hollar Owner, www.basicallybonsai.com, info@basicallybonsai.com, 616-754-2351

**Bonsai of Brooklyn**, 2418 McDonald Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223, 917-325-3954 mail@bonsaiofbrooklyn.com, www.bonsaiofbrooklyn.com/

**Bonsai by the Monastery**, 2625 Highway 212 SW, Conyers, GA, 30094-4044, 800-778-7687, bonsaimonk@bonsaimonk.com, www.bonsaimonk.com

**Bonsai House**, 8653 Inkster Road, Westland, MI 48185, 734-421-3434

**Brussel's Bonsai**, 8125 Center Hill Road, Olive Branch, MS 38654, 800-582-2593, www.brusselsbonsai.com,

**Dallas Bonsai Garden**, 4460 West Walnut Street, Suite 218, Garland, TX 75042 Dallasbonsai.com, dallalbonsai@comcast.net, 1-800-982-1223.

**Kalamazoo Indoor Gardening Center**, 450 W. Maple Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001, 269-344-2550

**BFG Supply Company**, for *Pine Bark*, 4570 Commercial Drive, 269-324-3750

**Farm N Garden Inc.** for *Turface MVP*, *Granite Chicken Grit*, 1002 Staples Ave, 49007, 269-381-0596

**Oak Ridge Feeds**, for *Cherry Stone Chicken Grit*, *Medium*, Stadium Drive, 269-353-3332

*From the Editor,*

*Make sure you call before you go to any of the above to check out hours and what is in stock.*

*Apologies to the wonderful companies which were omitted. Please send contact information so that you can be listed.*

### Write Us

Here's how to submit a letter to the editor.

**E-Mail:** bonsaisocietykalamazoo@yahoo.com

**Regular mail:** Jean McIlvenny, 31911 County Road 687, Bangor, MI 49013. All letters should include a telephone number and a street address for verification.

*Omake* reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, grammar, inappropriate content and libel. Anonymous letters will not be published

**Letter from Eric Newton**

Hi,

I tied for 2nd in the national bonsai competition!

What:

*Joshua Roth New Talent Bonsai Competition*

This contest recognizes the best up and coming bonsai artists in the nation with less than 10 years in bonsai.

*1st stage:* Submit pictures of 3 bonsai that were styled by the artist. Only the 8 best were selected to compete in the 2nd stage of the contest. It is a big deal just to be able to compete.

*2nd stage:* The 8 finalists are given a shrub and 8 hours to style the best bonsai they can. Four judges choose their favorite and the people's choice (all attendees were given a ballot and asked to vote) counts as one vote.

1st place prize was a trip to Japan which perhaps I will win this next year. For 2nd place I won \$100 in free tools and 25% off my next order of tools. My name, face, and tree will be featured in the national magazine of the American Bonsai Society. This competition has helped to launch others professional bonsai careers.



Here is the tree that I styled.



Me accepting my certificate.

Eric Newton

**Letter from Will Heath**

Hi fellow bonsai enthusiasts,

Please find attached a flyer announcing the Four Seasons Bonsai Club of Michigan's Annual Bonsai Show at the end of July.

This year we have arranged for William Valavanis to visit and lead a couple of workshops that are certain to be educational, inspirational, and inspiring for all involved.

For those of you unfamiliar with William Valavanis and his work, an on-line interview can be seen at <http://www.artofbonsai.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=603> and a gallery of his bonsai can be seen at <http://artofbonsai.org/galleries/valavanis.php>

The prices for these workshops have been kept at just above cost to assure those who wish to participate can do so. Unfortunately, the number of available spaces left is limited and with pre-registration through our web page at [www.fourseasonsbonsai.org](http://www.fourseasonsbonsai.org) making registration easy, they are filling up fast.

Please share this information with your club members, as we would like to share this remarkable opportunity with as many fellow bonsaists as possible.

Hope to see you at the show,

Will Heath [www.fourseasonsbonsai.org](http://www.fourseasonsbonsai.org)  
[www.artofbonsai.org](http://www.artofbonsai.org) [www.knowledgeofbonsai.org](http://www.knowledgeofbonsai.org)

*From the Editor,*

*I ran out of space and couldn't get the flyer into this issue. Please check it out on the web sites above for workshop times and other events.*



The Four Seasons Bonsai Club of Michigan's

**Annual Bonsai Show**

July 27th, 28th, and 29th

All Times 9:00am-5:00pm  
 On John R Road, just north of 19 Mile Road in Troy, MI  
 48068-2733

There is open to the public from 10:00am to 5:00pm each day

Dates of the many activities scheduled for the show but not included			
July 27th	4 pm	Bonsai Demonstration	Admission is free
July 27th	11 am	Introduction to Bonsai Workshop*	
July 27th	2 pm	Bonsai Demonstration	Admission is free
July 27th	7 pm	William Valavanis Workshop*	
July 28th	10 am	William Valavanis Workshop*	
July 28th	12 pm	William Valavanis "Bring Your Own Branch" Workshop*	
July 29th	7 pm	Introduction to Bonsai Workshop*	



**T**his year's annual club show promises to be one of our best, with more workshops, educational programs, and a variety of trees for sale in quite awhile.

This year we have also added a world renowned juror artist to judge our show and to personally meet and discuss with us as well as a Lecture and Demonstration by traditionalist Jerome "William" Valavanis in the presence of the League National Executive Administration, Steve Tarkenton and the publisher of the International Flower magazine. We will also be going to take and critique a lot of trees at the show this year. The Japanese will probably visit this year after an exciting and educational year.

We have also included in this years agenda two "Introduction to Bonsai Workshops" which were especially designed with the beginner in mind. Those who are interested in the art of Bonsai are invited to participate in these workshops where they will receive a tree, a pot, the soil, and the care necessary to care for their very own bonsai right there under the expert instruction of some of our club members. Each participant will also receive a tree and thereby membership in the Four Seasons Bonsai Club. All ages are welcome.

Two of our club members will also be giving bonsai demonstrations that are free and open to the public during the show. These demonstrations are entertaining and educational to enthusiasts of all ages.

And of course, members from around the country selling bonsai, tropical plants, seeds, and pots, the exhibition of our club members' talents, and a gathering of Bonsai lovers all at the wonderful setting of Tally's greenhouse and we are sure you will agree that this is one show you won't want to miss!

If you are interested in our annual club show, workshop dates, and prices go to the information page on our website at [www.fourseasonsbonsai.org](http://www.fourseasonsbonsai.org) or email our Office Chairperson, Will Heath at [will@fourseasonsbonsai.org](mailto:will@fourseasonsbonsai.org)

**OMAKE**  
BONSAI SOCIETY-KALAMAZOO  
13425 M-96  
AUGUSTA, MI 49012



**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 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: BONSAI SOCIETY-KALAMAZOO**  
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AUGUSTA, MI  
49012