



MAY 12-15, 2016

## *Bonsai in the Garden Learning Seminars*

presented by **The American Bonsai Society &**

**The Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park  
Including the Michigan All State Bonsai Show**

**at the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park , Grand Rapids, Michigan**  
Lodging at the Airport Comfort Inn, Grand Rapids, MI, less than 15 minutes from the Gardens

**Choose from many offered classes and workshops:**

**4 Friday & Saturday classes are included in your registration**

Many instructional levels designed for novice to advanced students

Great Vendor Area    Bonsai Masterpiece Display    New Talent Contest

ABS Awards    John Naka Design Award    Ho Yoku Design Award

Detailed information at [absbonsai.org](http://absbonsai.org)

### Schedule of Events for the Weekend

- **Thursday, May 12, 2016**
  - 9AM to 7PM **Registration** and check in of bonsai for the exhibition, Set up and photographing of Exhibition
  - 9AM to 5PM **New Talent Bonsai Competition**
  - 9 am to 1 PM **ABS Board Meeting**
  - **Dinner on your own**
  - 7 PM **Paired Challenge Demonstration by all teachers.** All bonsai created to be auctioned Friday night
- **Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14**
  - 8:30 AM to 9AM **Registration**
  - 8:30 AM **Vendors open**
  - 9AM **Display and vendors open to public** (when the Gardens normally open)
  - **9AM - Noon; 2PM - 5PM: A variety of bonsai learning seminars each time-period**
    - Each registrant will attend 4 classes included with registration
    - Specific classes will be selected during preregistration.
    - Two classes each day (9-12 and 2-5 with breaks)
    - Noon to 2PM: **Lunch both days** included with registration and time to visit the vendors and exhibition. Silent auctions to take place during lunches.
  - 5 PM - 9PM **Evening programs including Informal Demonstrations.**
    - Begin at 5PM with included **dinners** at the garden. Cash bar opens at 5 PM
    - The evening will include great silent and live auctions along with the wonderful meal prepared by the garden staff and socializing with friends.
    - Saturday evening will include a **select auction** and announcing winners of the NTC, John Naka Award, ABS Awards, etc. and a preview of ABS 2017 celebrating 50 years of ABS.
- **Sunday May 15 11 AM to 5 PM A taste of Michigan: This day is provided by the Meijer Gardens and Michigan clubs. Michigan artists will be featured all day. Enjoy this special addition to our seminars. The Vendors and the Exhibit will be open all day.**

### The Concept

ABS shows its commitment to teaching with a weekend of bonsai knowledge and fun. Come and join your bonsai friends and learn from some of the most experienced bonsai teachers in North American at this seminar. **Use this catalogue to select your 4 classes for the learning seminar weekend. Admission to these classes is by pre-registration only. There are many classes of all levels to choose from.**

**Your registration covers the cost of these four classes/workshops (unless an extra materials fee is noted). The number listed before each course title is used on the registration form.** Levels of expertise required for workshops are indicated in all capital letters following the course title. Those with no designated level are listed as ALL LEVELS and are open to all.

**THE COURSES** Note that material photographs will be posted on the [absbonsai.org](http://absbonsai.org) website.

**FRIDAY MORNING SESSION May 13 9AM TO NOON: SELECT ONE**

1. Ted Matson **Value of Line In Bonsai ALL LEVELS** This course focuses on the structural elements in a tree and what gives them character.
2. James Doyle **Elements of the Japanese Garden ALL LEVELS** Part one: Discussion and slides of different examples of rock, water, plants & statuary interpathed through religion, history, culture, design, philosophy. Part two: On site walking discussion of Meijer's newly completed Japanese Garden. After 43 years of studying, designing, consulting, authoring articles both in US and Japan, Jim offers a unique understanding of the Philosophy of Design in Japanese inspired gardens.
3. Jerry Meislik **Ficus Workshop BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE** Creation of a ficus bonsai inspired by a deciduous tree. Material is *Ficus natalensis*. This is great material for indoor bonsai. Limited to 10. Material fee is \$45
4. Martin Schmalenberg **Taxus Design Workshop INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED.** Create your bonsai using very fine dense Taxus yews that are 13-16 inches tall with a 2 1/2 - 3 inch root base. This will be a carving and design workshop. Bring your regular and carving tools and wire. Limited to 10. Material fee of \$125.
5. Julian Adams **Pine Bonsai Are Easy ALL LEVELS** This course provides a comprehensive discussion of the annual growing cycle of pines. The stages of the cycle and characteristics shown by pines during those stages are defined and heavily illustrated. The timing for successful application of pine bonsai training techniques is related to the stages of the pine cycle in a logical fashion based on signals given by the plant rather than arbitrary calendar dates. Among the techniques discussed are growth restraint, needle length reduction, back budding, feeding, energy distribution, and more. A significant feature of this course is an explanation of how and why black pine bonsai techniques differ from those for most other pines. The confusion surrounding black pine needle size reduction is removed by revealing the reason for those techniques and relating them to the annual cycle. The complexity of conflicting "rules" is replaced with the simplicity and clarity of understanding. Those who attend this course will leave with confidence in their ability to successfully grow pine bonsai. This course is also offered on Saturday.
6. Andrew Smith **Ponderosa Pine ALL LEVELS** This class will discuss ponderosa pine from their natural growth and factors affecting it in the wild, to collecting, transplanting, styling and caring for them as bonsai. Topics will include aftercare for collected and transplanted trees, common problems and pests, seasonal issues, winter care and timeframes for moving the tree forward, as well as reading the signals the tree is giving about its vigor and readiness for further advancement. A photo slideshow will illustrate the talk.
7. David Hodgetts **Introduction to Bonsai Part I BEGINNER** Learn the ins and outs of the techniques that make Bonsai work from horticultural care to creation of basic designs. This is the first session of a four part series designed to teach the secrets of bonsai. Students are encouraged to take all four sessions in this series to gain the maximum benefit. **The other sessions are numbered 13, 22, and 28.**

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION May 13 2 PM TO 5 PM SELECT ONE**

8. Ted Matson **Critique of the Exhibition ALL LEVELS.** This will be a learning adventure covering a general critique including display, grooming, health, structure and design issues. The focus will be on how to improve your bonsai. This takes place at the exhibition.
9. James Doyle **Inner Visions of Literati INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED.** What is your definition of Literati? Join Jim in the exploration of history, art and inspiration to understand why this simple tree design can be the most challenging. Plants collected from the wilds of Nature's Way will be used to complete this study. Limit to 10 students. 1 Deciduous and 1 evergreen tree supplied along with wire Bring your tools Material cost is \$ 50.00.
10. Jerry Meislik **Growing Bonsai Indoors ALL LEVELS** A detailed illustrated discussion of what Jerry has learned growing bonsai indoors for over thirty years. Covers do's and don't's to help you grow your bonsai indoors.
11. Martin Schmalenberg **Collected Larch and Eastern White Cedar Dream Workshop. INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED.** Have you wanted to add a specimen collected tree to your collection and style it with a master of design? Then this is the workshop for you! Each tree will be selected from those posted on the [absbonsai.org](http://absbonsai.org) website in the fall of 2015. Participants will select and pay for the tree of their choice. (\$200 and up) These trees will be in Martin's care until the seminars and will be prepared for the workshop by him. The trees were collected years ago in Maine for this workshop. Bring wire, regular and carving tools to the workshop. Limited to 8.
12. Julian Adams **Bonsai from the Beginning ALL LEVELS** This course could be thought of as a "toolbox" for the bonsai enthusiast. It addresses four distinct concerns: developing one's bonsai skills, developing good pre-bonsai material, the differences between bonsai techniques and pre-bonsai techniques, and the myths and facts about bonsai soil. These seemingly unconnected topics examine areas where inexperienced bonsai enthusiasts often encounter discouraging problems. Emphasis will be placed on understanding why application of bonsai techniques inappropriately can lead to lost time and sometimes failure. The substantial difference between Japanese bonsai soil and typical North American bonsai soil will be discussed in depth. The central theme will be the importance of thought and understanding to successful bonsai practice
13. David Hodgetts **Introduction to Bonsai Session II:** This is the second session in the Introduction to bonsai series.

**SATURDAY MORNING SESSION May 14 9AM TO NOON SELECT ONE**

14. Frank Mihalic **Bonsai Jewelry Making ALL LEVELS** Learn the art of the lost wax method of making cast jewelry with Frank. You will create a unique sterling silver bonsai pendant that Frank will cast and ship to you shortly after the convention. \$125 material fee.
15. Doug Hawley **Pines as bonsai, with an emphasis on Japanese Black Pine - advanced techniques and knowledge ADVANCED** The primary intention of this course is to review how we manipulate the growth of pine bonsai. Specifically the behavior and function of auxins will be reviewed, including their effect on growth of the new candles; we will see how auxin flow controls apical dominance, geotropism, phototropism, needle size, internode length and back budding. We will see how we manipulate auxin flow by candle pinching, candle removal and needle pruning as well as wiring branches, especially orienting the candle tips. We will see how precisely we can apply this to black pine: we can literally almost dial in our desired needle length by the timing of candle removal. We will review how proper application of pruning techniques can counteract apical dominance, and create balance of growth in your bonsai. We review how classic "pine-style" actually

- follows the rules of nature. Finally, we will review many topics such as the importance of pines in the history of bonsai; a calendar of care; which pines work as bonsai; and review pictures of masterpiece pine bonsai. Incidentally, the knowledge of auxin function will help with all bonsai.
16. Ted Matson **Pine Shohin Bonsai Workshop INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED** This workshop on twisted shohin Japanese black pine from a California grower. Stock has been pre-trained with wire to produce twisted, gnarly trunks for future miniature bonsai. **Material Fee is \$120** Bring your tools and wire to this workshop. This workshop is limited to 8 people. A second session is offered in Friday afternoon if this one conflicts with another class you would like to take.
  17. James Doyle **" Something Wild" INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED** Incorporate an idea into your design. This interactive thought producing course is both challenging and fun. First a discussion on what really is wild followed by design of mixed species established, collected material personally selected by Walter Pall & Jim . Lodgepole, Limber & Ponderosa Pine, Engleman Spruce and Douglas Fir. **THIS IS A FULL DAY WORKSHOP AND COUNTS AS TWO CLASSES.** Limit of 8 students. Material cost: \$ 135.00
  18. Jerry Meislik **Exposed Root Bonsai. ALL LEVELS.** A comprehensive lecture demonstration that covers the exposed root style of bonsai from classical to contemporary. This will be illustrated with bonsai in varying stages of development.
  19. Martin Schmalenberg **Evolution of Literati Bonsai. ALL LEVELS** Lecture on the origins and evolution of the Chinese scholar class, The Literati, and its subsequent transition to Japan. Power point / lecture on the historic mindset and philosophy that was the genesis of this design perspective, from Landscape painting to the eventual styling of trees. How the Japanese embraced this non-academic, non-traditional perspective in their bonsai and stone appreciation. Examples of some of the finest Chinese, Japanese, and Italian literati bonsai
  20. Julian Adams **Pine Bonsai Are Easy ALL LEVELS** This course provides a comprehensive discussion of the annual growing cycle of pines. The stages of the cycle and characteristics shown by pines during those stages are defined and heavily illustrated. The timing for successful application of pine bonsai training techniques is related to the stages of the pine cycle in a logical fashion based on signals given by the plant rather than arbitrary calendar dates. Among the techniques discussed are growth restraint, needle length reduction, back budding, feeding, energy distribution, and more. A significant feature of this course is an explanation of how and why black pine bonsai techniques differ from those for most other pines. The confusion surrounding black pine needle size reduction is removed by revealing the reason for those techniques and relating them to the annual cycle. The complexity of conflicting "rules" is replaced with the simplicity and clarity of understanding. Those who attend this course will leave with confidence in their ability to successfully grow pine bonsai. This course is also offered on Friday.
  21. Andrew Smith **Ponderosa Pine Workshop INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED** This workshop will focus on designing and shaping a collected ponderosa pine using techniques of pruning, wiring, treating deadwood and possibly using raffia. Trees for this workshop were collected in April or May of 2015, or before. Tree age, style and price will vary and selections for the workshop will be posted at [www.goldenarrowbonsai.com](http://www.goldenarrowbonsai.com), on pg. 4, by the fall of 2015. Participants need to bring their own tools. You may bring your own wire or Andy will provide copper wire for \$10 per tree. Limited to 10.
  22. David Hodgetts **Introduction to Bonsai Session III** This 3<sup>rd</sup> session in the Introduction Series. This session continues the four part Introduction series.

#### **SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION May 14 2 PM TO 5 PM SELECT ONE**

23. Doug Hawley **ABS Grafting course ADVANCED** This is an advanced grafting course dealing with the use of grafting to improve bonsai appearance, not grafting for propagation. The specific areas included in this session will include:
  - How to achieving branch placement in desired trunk location, and in achieving secondary branch placement closer to the trunk on primary branches.
  - How to do root grafting to achieve a more desirable nebari; or to improve root-over-rock root appearance.
  - How grafting can replace an undesirable foliage with a more desirable one.
 Specifically, to do the above, the attendee will learn and practice how to performing a thread graft of a branch on a trident maple, an approach graft and a thread graft for roots on the same trident maple, and an insert graft of juniper. Material will be provided.
24. Ted Matson **Pine Shohin Bonsai Workshop INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED** This workshop on twisted shohin Japanese black pine from a California grower. Stock has been pre-trained with wire to produce twisted, gnarly trunks for future miniature bonsai. **Material Fee is \$120** Bring your tools and wire to this workshop. This workshop is limited to 8 people. A second session is offered Friday Morning if this one conflicts with another class you would like to take.
25. Jerry Meislik **Exposed Root Style ALL LEVELS** Creation of an exposed root style from prepared stock of Dwarf Schefflera. The material is extremely good and was imported from Hawaii. Students may wish to take the class on exposed root bonsai class in the morning before the work shop ( Class #18. ) Limited to 10 students. Material fee \$50.
26. Martin Schmalenberg **Hinoki Literati Workshop INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED.** Work with very fine *Hinoki cypress compacta nana* that are 18-22 inches in height with a trunk base caliper of 1 1/2 - 2 inches. Bring your tools and wire. Limited to 8. Material fee is \$100.
27. Julian Adams **Black Pine Beginnings, A Workshop INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED** Participants will do preliminary wiring and pruning to begin the creation of a pair of black pine bonsai. The object is to set the path for the plants' future refinement recognizing that a finished tree often takes several years to create. Material used will be 2 or 3 year Japanese black pine seedlings grown from Japanese seed. Techniques explored in **"Bonsai From The Beginning"** and **"Pine Bonsai Are Easy"** will be used in this workshop. taking these two courses is not required but may be helpful. Finished trees will not be created but participants will create two good beginnings for future development. Limited to 10. Workshop fee is \$30.
28. Frank Mihalic & David Hodgetts **Introduction to Bonsai Session IV: The Workshop BEGINNERS** Participants should bring their tools to this session (some borrowing of the instructors tools will be allowed) to create a bonsai based on the principles taught in the 3 prior sessions. Wire is provided. There will be a variety of material to choose from to create your bonsai. Materials fee for this session is \$50. Note: This is the final part of a four part introduction course. It is expected that participants have taken the three classes leading to this workshop.

**MAKE YOUR HOTEL REGISTRATION before April 11, 2016** Group Code: ABS. \$80 plus taxes  
**Comfort Inn Airport 4155 28th St., S.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49512 (616) 957-2080**

**ABS 2016 *Bonsai in the Garden* REGISTRATION FORM:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please include your phone number so we can call if there are any questions.

Credit Card (Visa/Master) \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CCV \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CONSIDER PAYING BY CHECK TO HELP ABS REDUCE SEMINAR EXPENSES.**  
**Registrations include four meals and four classes.**

**Early Bird Registration postmarked by March 1, 2016** (all early birds are entered into a drawing for a free registration)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual - ABS Member - \$260.00 (\$290 after March 1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member - \$305.00 (includes 1 yr membership in ABS) -\$335 after March 1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ **For second non bonsai member of household - \$190 (4 Meals,vendors and exhibits only)**

Spouse's Name for admission tag \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Extra Banquets \$55 Indicate number and day \_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday

**Indicate your class below by placing the class number and fee if any in the appropriate box.**  
**Also indicate dinner food choices. Classes will be filled in the order registrations are received.**

	<b>1ST CHOICE CLASS/WS indicate fee if any</b>	<b>2ND CHOICE CLASS/WS indicate fee if any</b>	
<b>FRIDAY AM</b>			
<b>FRIDAY PM</b>			
<b>SATURDAY AM</b>			
<b>SATURDAY PM</b>			
FRIDAY DINNER CHECK ONE (also indicate spouse choices by the letter S)	_____Petite Filet & Cedar Plank Roasted Salmon	____Vegetarian	
SATURDAY DINNER CHECK ONE (also indicate spouse choices)	____Chicken Picatta-lemon caper burr blanc	____Sirloin of Beef-Roasted Garliuc demi	____Vegetarian

Total Amount to be charged you your card or payment by check to ABS \_\_\_\_\_ Include fees for first choice of all workshops please. You will be called if your first choice is not available.

**Please consider paying by check as this helps keep our costs down.**

**You will be notified by email (or regular mail if you do not have email) of your final class schedule.**  
**Please add [Pauline@pfmbonsai.com](mailto:Pauline@pfmbonsai.com) to your address book so that the confirmation will reach you.**

Mail your registration to: **ABS 2016** c/o Pauline Muth Seminar Chairperson  
 7 Western Avenue West Charlton, NY 12010 518 882 1039