



# MABA 2010 CONVENTION

Friday, June 25 – Sunday, June 27

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids MI

The Mid-America Bonsai Alliance (MABA) 2010 Convention will be held from Friday June 25 through Sunday June 27 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel (<http://www.amwaygrand.com/>) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, hosted by the West Michigan Bonsai Club. There will be a large bonsai exhibit (judged and non-judged), a Suiseki exhibit, individual tree critiques, workshops (including one for children), demonstrations, raffles, auctions, a banquet, and vendors from around the Midwest and beyond.

**Registration for the MABA 2010 Convention is now open.** Early full registration, before March 31, will be \$195 per person. Beginning April 1 registration will be \$235. After June 1 registration will be \$250. Registration includes the Saturday night banquet. Single-day registration is available. (See page 6.) A banquet ticket will not be included in single-day registrations. Additional banquet tickets can be purchased for \$50. Go to [www.mababonsai.org](http://www.mababonsai.org) or [www.wmbonsai.org](http://www.wmbonsai.org) for more information.

Guest artist, exhibit entrance, demonstration, and workshop information is below. All workshops will be booked on a first come, first served basis. A separate registration form must be filled out for each person.

We encourage all registrants to enter bonsai and/or suiseki (viewing stones) in the MABA exhibit. Small monetary awards and ribbons will be given for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places in judged bonsai. Suiseki will not be judged. Entrance information is part of your workshop registration information. ***All trees must be delivered to the exhibit area by 8:00 AM Friday.***

Raffles will take place twice a day throughout the convention. Demo trees done by the guest artists will be raffled, along with many items donated by vendors. Raffle ticket price will vary depending on the value of the item, i.e. the tickets for Jim Doyle's large coastal redwood will cost more than those for a tool or a book. A sheet will be in your registration packet at the convention detailing raffle items and cost of tickets.

In addition, a silent auction and possibly a live auction will take place at Saturday night's banquet.

In order for MABA registrants to get special convention rates and keep workshop costs down, we must fill a specific number of guest rooms at the Amway Grand for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. We strongly recommend that you take advantage of these wonderful facilities and special room rates. Room reservations include use of the pool, exercise room, and access to a number of marvelous restaurants and shops. See for yourself at the website address above. There is more guest room information on page 8 here.

The Amway Grand is in downtown Grand Rapids, the second largest city in Michigan. It is within easy walking distance of myriad museums (the Gerald R. Ford Museum for one) <http://www.visitgrandrapids.org/see-museums.php>, a carousel (at the Grand Rapids Public Museum), restaurants and shops. Plan to bring your entire family and take advantage of all that Grand Rapids offers. More information will be sent to you with your confirmation information. Meanwhile, check out the city at <http://www.visitgrandrapids.org/visit>.

For additional information or if you have any questions regarding MABA 2010, contact the MABA Show Chairwoman Mollie Hollar at [info@basicallybonsai.com](mailto:info@basicallybonsai.com) or 616-754-2351.

## Guest Artists\*

**Kathy Shaner, Headliner:** First non-Japanese and first woman certified by Nippon Bonsai Kyodo Kumaii, the professional bonsai grower's branch of Nippon Bonsai Association; curator of the Golden State Bonsai Collection-North at Lake Merritt in Oakland, CA; resident bonsai master at the El Dorado Bonsai School in Placerville, CA.

**Jim Doyle<sup>†</sup>:** Owner of Nature's Way Nursery in Harrisburgh PA since 1973, teaches and demonstrates bonsai nationwide; attends many symposia, teaches year round to both adults and children at his studio and travels extensively.

**Pauline Muth<sup>†</sup>:** Owner of pfm bonsai studio in West Charlton NY, in bonsai for 35+ years, extensive experience with national and international bonsai organizations.

**Andy Smith<sup>†</sup>:** Owner of Golden Arrow Bonsai in Deadwood SD, contract forester and collector in the Black Hills.

**Frank Mihalic<sup>†</sup>:** Second generation owner of Wildwood Gardens, Chardon OH, author of books and CDs on bonsai, including *Bonsai for Kids Made Easy.*” Founded first Internet bonsai magazine.

**Jack Douthitt:** Bonsai enthusiast for over 40 years, very active in local, national and international bonsai organizations, has trees in both the National Arboretum Collection of American Bonsai in Washington DC and the Weyerhaeuser Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection in Tacoma WA. Author of *Bonsai – The Art of Living Sculpture.*

**Jose Cueto:** Involved in bonsai since 1973, registered architect in Ohio, has lectured, done demos and workshops throughout the Midwest since 1982.

**Steve Pilacik<sup>†</sup>:** Owner, Matsu Momiji Bonsai in Charlotte, NC, known as the American Pine Master, the most experienced grower of Japanese Black Pine in the United States, specializing in Japanese Black Pine and Japanese Maples since 1977.

**Jack Wikle:** A Great Lakes-area bonsai grower for 45 years, perhaps best known for pioneering efforts in growing very small bonsai indoors under cool white fluorescent light. Curator of bonsai collection at Hidden Lake Gardens in Michigan.

**Scott Yelich<sup>†</sup>:** Owner of Eagle Creek Bonsai in Indianapolis, specializes in tropical bonsai, particularly ficus and collected buttonwood.

<sup>†</sup> Will also be vending.

**\*More extensive information on all guest artists will be available soon on [www.mababonsai.org](http://www.mababonsai.org) and [www.wmbonsai.org](http://www.wmbonsai.org).**

## Bonsai & Suiseki Exhibits

The bonsai exhibit will be located in the Imperial Ballroom on the lobby level - 1<sup>st</sup> floor at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel ([http://www.amwaygrand.com/imperial\\_ballroom.html](http://www.amwaygrand.com/imperial_ballroom.html)) and will be open to the general public and convention registrants according to the published schedule. There will be both Judged and Non-judged Exhibits per the following rules:

### Non-Judged:

- \* Open to all full registrants.
- \* Registrants may bring a maximum of two trees for display only.
- \* Registrant must have owned the trees for at least 3 years prior to exhibit.

### Judged:

- \* Open to all full registrants
- \* Registrants may bring a maximum of two trees to be judged.
- \* Registrant must have owned the trees for at least 3 years prior to exhibit.
- \* Prizes are determined by the visiting Bonsai Masters. The decision of the judges will be final.
- \* Fee is \$35 per tree.

Prizes will be awarded for winners of this category according to the following schedule:

- \* First place winner will receive \$300.00 (Three hundred US dollars).
- \* Second place winner will receive \$200.00 (Two hundred US dollars)
- \* Third place winner will receive \$100.00 (One hundred US dollars)

Also, a People's Choice Award, judged by the general public, will be given. *All trees will automatically be entered in this category.* Winner will receive a ribbon.

The suiseki exhibit will be on the Mezzanine level of the Imperial Ballroom. No awards will be given.

***All bonsai and suiseki must be brought to the lobby level of the Ballroom on Thursday from 4:00 to 10:00 PM or Friday from 7:00 to 8:00 AM. Any trees brought later than 8:00 AM on Friday will not be able to be entered in the exhibit.***

## Demonstration/Lecture Schedule

Many demonstrations will be examples of work to be done in workshops. It is recommended that participants in workshops attend matching demos for a greater understanding of the workshops. All demos are free to registered participants.

### Friday, June 25

8:00 AM-Noon, **Kathy Shaner** - Japanese Weeping Willow

9:00 AM-Noon, **Andy Smith** - Ponderosa Pine

9:00 AM-Noon, **Jose Cueto** – Small Group Planting with Japanese Maples

2:00-3:30 PM, **Jack Wikle** – Lecture: Growing Bonsai Indoors Under Fluorescent Light

Jack will show examples of his indoor bonsai work and share his perceptions from 35 years of growing small bonsai, indoors, year around, relying completely on cool white fluorescent light. He will also respond to questions as time allows.

7:30-9:30 PM, **Kathy Shaner & Andy Smith** - Side-by-Side Shimpaku Junipers

### Saturday, June 26

8:00 AM-Noon, **Jim Doyle** - Coastal Redwood

9:00 AM-Noon, **Pauline Muth** - Blended Mame Planting

9:00 AM-Noon, **Steve Pilacik** - Japanese Black Pine Small Forest

10:00-11:00 AM, **Jack Wikle** – Lecture: Bonsai Display at Hidden Lake Gardens

In this PowerPoint presentation, Jack will review the history of bonsai display at Michigan State University's Hidden Lake Gardens and supplement the broad view with illustrated case histories of some of the most noteworthy trees.

2:00-3:30 PM, **Jack Wikle** – Lecture: Things I Didn't Know as a Bonsai Beginner (45 Years Ago)

In this PowerPoint presentation, Jack will share insights gained in his 45 years of experience as a bonsai grower giving special emphasis to concepts he now sees as being important but underpublicized.

**Sunday, June 27**

9:00 AM-Noon, **Kathy Shaner** - Species TBD

On-going demos will also be presented throughout the convention in the registration hallway.

-4-

## Workshop/Critique Choices

*Instructions for care of your new bonsai will be provided in all workshops. Plant material provided for all workshops are of excellent quality and monetary value. Please bring bonsai tools and pencil and paper to all workshops.*

### Friday morning, June 25

| Event # | Time       | Topic   | Artist        | People | Ability | Fee  |
|---------|------------|---|---------------|--------|---------|------|
| #1      | 9:00-Noon  | Dwarf African Strangler Fig   | Scott Yelich  | 8      | Beg     | \$90 |
|         |            | Pruning techniques, repotting and styling of these unusual tropical ficus plants.   |               |        |         |      |
| #2      | 9:00-Noon  | Two Mame  | Jack Douthitt | 8      | Int     | \$95 |
|         |            | Choose two small, 3" to 4" trees from among Chamaecyparis, dwarf elms, cotoneaster, pines or shimpaku junipers (all outdoor trees) to style into tiny bonsai. |               |        |         |      |
| #3      | 9:00-Noon  | Kids' Ficus Grove   | Frank Mihalic | 10     | All     | \$45 |
|         |            | Accompanied by a parent, children from ages 7 through 12 will plant a forest made up of tropical ficus plants.  |               |        |         |      |
| CR1     | 11:00-Noon | Bonsai Exhibit Critique   | Pauline Muth  | --     | All     | \$35 |
|         |            | Learn what makes a great bonsai from this discussion of many exhibit trees.   |               |        |         |      |

### Friday afternoon, June 25

|    |           |   |              |   |         |       |
|----|-----------|---|--------------|---|---------|-------|
| #4 | 1:00-5:00 | Japanese Weeping Willow   | Kathy Shaner | 7 | Int-Adv | \$295 |
|    |           | Trim, wire and style a large, 20" to 30" weeping willow with a 1" to 2" curving trunk, supplied by Brussel's Bonsai Nursery.  |              |   |         |       |
| #5 | 1:00-5:00 | Ponderosa Pine  | Andy Smith   | 8 | Int-Adv | \$195 |
|    |           | Wire and prune collected ponderosa pine to get them started on their development as bonsai. The trees were collected in May 2009, or before, and average about 75 years old with interesting trunks. Most are between 25" and 30" tall, but will be reduced in height during the workshop. The workshop will focus on designing a tree out of collected raw material and the use of wire in shaping the trunk and branches. |              |   |         |       |
| #6 | 1:00-5:00 | Group Planting/Jap. Maples  | Jose Cueto   | 8 | Beg-Int | \$135 |

Using Japanese maple “whips” (tall seedlings) learn how to combine three to five plants to make a composition that would be better than what each separate plant would be as a single bonsai specimen. Jose will draw a sketch of the group planting to help visualize the end result for future training of the bonsai. (A slide presentation for the group planting will be done during the demo on Friday.)

## Saturday morning, June 26

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|-----|---|-------------------------|---------------|----|---------|-------|
| #7  | 8:00-Noon   | Shimpaku Juniper        | Kathy Shaner  | 7  | Beg-Int | \$195 |
|     | These well-branched trees are 8-10 years old, grown in ground 6-8 years. Their height is 12” to 16”, and trunks are ¾” to 1.  |                         |               |    |         |       |
| #8  | 9:00-Noon   | Buttonwood              | Scott Yelich  | 8  | Beg     | \$95  |
|     | Good-sized tropical buttonwoods with many interesting knots and deadwood will be trimmed and styled, but not repotted. These beautiful trees are quite uncommon in this area. |                         |               |    |         |       |
| CR2 | 10-11 AM  | Bonsai Exhibit Critique | Jack Douthitt | -- | All     | \$35  |
|     | Learn what makes a great bonsai from this discussion of many exhibit trees.   |                         |               |    |         |       |

## Saturday afternoon, June 26

-5-

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|-----|---|-----------------------|---------------|----|---------|-------|
| #9  | 1:00-5:00   | Bring Your Own Tree   | Kathy Shaner  | 7  | All     | \$95  |
|     | Bring a bonsai from your own collection (or buy one from one of the show vendors) and Kathy will work on it with you, trimming, wiring, styling and care. |                       |               |    |         |       |
| #10 | 1:00-5:00   | Four Shohin Trees     | Jim Doyle     | 8  | Int-Adv | \$175 |
|     | Work on four medium-sized plants to complete a Shohin presentation offering year round interest and variety. The following plants will be available:      |                       |               |    |         |       |
|     | 1 Winged euonymus (collected) with pot  |                       |               |    |         |       |
|     | 2 Dwarf Mondo grass with pot  |                       |               |    |         |       |
|     | 3 Jacqueline Verkade Chinese elm  |                       |               |    |         |       |
|     | 4 Dwarf Mugho pine "White bud"  |                       |               |    |         |       |
|     | The workshop will concentrate on design, culture and display of Shohin.   |                       |               |    |         |       |
| #11 | 1:00-5:00   | Blended Mame Planting | Pauline Muth  | 8  | All     | \$135 |
|     | Combine around five very young trees to create one larger, older-looking bonsai.  |                       |               |    |         |       |
| #12 | 1:00-5:00   | Japanese Black Pine   | Steve Pilacik | 12 | All     | \$150 |
|     | Trim, wire and style a shohin (medium-sized) black pine with the assistance of this pine master.  |                       |               |    |         |       |

## Sunday morning, June 27

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|-----|--|---------------------|---------------|---|-----|-------|
| #13 | 9:00-Noon  | Bring Your Own Tree | Jose Cueto    | 8 | All | \$75  |
|     | Following a short slide presentation on bonsai design, participants will be assisted with the design and styling of your own plants applying the principals covered on the slides. In addition, Jose will draw a sketch of the plants to help visualize the future end result. This drawing will help participants in the training of your bonsai. |                     |               |   |     |       |
| #14 | 9:00-Noon  | Ficus Salicifolia   | Jack Douthitt | 8 | Int | \$145 |
|     | Tropical willow-leaf figs grow naturally as a large shrub or smallish tree. Participants will trim, wire and style these well-formed plants into beautiful bonsai.   |                     |               |   |     |       |

# Registration Form

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION



FIRST NAME:\* \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME:\* \_\_\_\_\_

Street address:\* \_\_\_\_\_

City:\* \_\_\_\_\_ State:\* \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP:\* \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone:\* \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Club or Society Affiliation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Denotes required information.

**CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE:** \_\_\_\_\_ Full weekend, paid before March 31 (\$195)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Full weekend, paid April 1 – June 1 (\$235)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Full weekend, paid June 1 – June 25 (\$250)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Single day – circle one: Friday or Saturday (\$95)  
(Does not include banquet.)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Half-Day (Sunday only) (\$50)

**ADDITIONAL BANQUET TICKETS** @ \$50 for adults, \$15 for children under 12  
 (Full weekend registration includes one (1) banquet ticket.)

\_\_\_\_\_ ADULT TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_ CHILD'S TICKETS

**TOTAL AMOUNT for extra banquet tickets** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BONSAI EXHIBIT REGISTRATION**

**Exhibit Entry 1:** Botanical Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Common Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tree's Age in Years: \_\_\_\_\_ Native to US? Yes No  
 Division to Enter: \_\_\_\_\_ Judged (\$35) \_\_\_\_\_ Non-judged (no charge)

**Exhibit Entry 2:** Botanical Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Common Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tree's Age in Years: \_\_\_\_\_ Native to US? Yes No  
 Division to Enter: \_\_\_\_\_ Judged (\$35) \_\_\_\_\_ Non-judged (no charge)

**WORKSHOP/CRITIQUE REGISTRATION** -7-

**Friday morning:**

| Event # | Time       | Artist/Topic  | Fee  | Cost  |
|---------|------------|---|------|-------|
| #1      | 9:00-Noon  | Scott Yelich (Fig)  | \$90 | _____ |
| #2      | 9:00-Noon  | Jack Douthitt (Two Mame)  | \$95 | _____ |
| #3      | 9:00-Noon  | Frank Mihalic (Kids' Ficus Grove*)<br>*Must be accompanied by a parent. | \$45 | _____ |
| CR1     | 11:00-Noon | Pauline Muth (Exhibit Critique)   | \$35 | _____ |

**Friday afternoon:**

|    |           |                             |       |       |
|----|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| #4 | 1:00-5:00 | Kathy Shaner (Willow)       | \$295 | _____ |
| #5 | 1:00-5:00 | Andy Smith (Ponderosa Pine) | \$195 | _____ |
| #6 | 1:00-5:00 | Jose Cueto (Group/Maples)   | \$135 | _____ |

**Saturday morning:**

|     |           |                                  |       |       |
|-----|-----------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| #7  | 8:00-Noon | Kathy Shaner (Shimpaku)          | \$195 | _____ |
| #8  | 9:00-Noon | Scott Yelich (Buttonwood)        | \$95  | _____ |
| CR2 | 10-11 AM  | Jack Douthitt (Exhibit Critique) | \$35  | _____ |

**Saturday afternoon:**

|     |           |                               |       |       |
|-----|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|-------|
| #9  | 1:00-5:00 | Kathy Shaner (Bring Your Own) | \$95  | _____ |
| #10 | 1:00-5:00 | Jim Doyle (Four Shohin)       | \$175 | _____ |
| #11 | 1:00-5:00 | Pauline Muth (Blended Mame)   | \$135 | _____ |
| #12 | 1:00-5:00 | Steve Pilacik (Black Pine)    | \$150 | _____ |

**Sunday morning:**

|     |           |                                   |       |       |
|-----|-----------|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| #13 | 9:00-Noon | Jose Cueto (Bring Your Own)       | \$75  | _____ |
| #14 | 9:00-Noon | Jack Douthitt (Ficus Salicifolia) | \$145 | _____ |

Check on [www.mababonsai.org](http://www.mababonsai.org) or [www.wmbonsai.org](http://www.wmbonsai.org) for filled workshops.

Call 616-754-2351  
or e-mail [info@basicallybonsai.com](mailto:info@basicallybonsai.com)  
for workshop availability.

**Total amount for workshops:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount for registration:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount for exhibit trees:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount/banquet tickets:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL OF ALL FEES:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Payment<sup>-8-</sup> information

Payments can be made by check or credit card. Pages 6, 7 and 8 can be sent by:

- ☉ snail-mail to MABA Registration, 520 W South Street, Greenville MI 48838
- ☉ e-mail to [info@basicallybonsai.com](mailto:info@basicallybonsai.com)
- ☉ or fax to 616-754-2351.

Check enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to **2010 MABA Convention**. (Send by snail-mail only)

**Payment by credit card:**

Credit card type (circle one):    Visa                    MasterCard                    American Express  
(Sorry, Discover not accepted)

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

CVV or security code: \_\_\_\_\_ (We must have this to process your card.)

## Hotel Room and Grand Rapids Information

In order for us to get special convention rates and keep workshop costs down, we must fill a certain number of rooms for Thursday through Saturday nights. We strongly recommend that you take advantage of these wonderful facilities. Room reservations include use of the pool, exercise room, and access to a number of marvelous restaurants and shops. See for yourself at [www.amwaygrand.com](http://www.amwaygrand.com).

Registrants have been given a very special rate of only \$119 (about half-price for the convention dates) for guest rooms at the Amway Grand Hotel. **Rooms can be reserved by calling 800.253.3590.** Be sure to mention that you are with the MABA 2010 Convention. You may view a sample room at [www.amwaygrand.com/classic\\_guest\\_rooms.html](http://www.amwaygrand.com/classic_guest_rooms.html).

Be sure to make this a *family weekend* by taking advantage of the numerous museums and other attractions within a few blocks of the hotel ([www.visitgrandrapids.org/visit.php](http://www.visitgrandrapids.org/visit.php)). Ride the free carousel at the Grand Rapids Public Museum ([www.visitgrandrapids.org/see-museums.php](http://www.visitgrandrapids.org/see-museums.php)). The Grand Rapids Children's Museum ([www.grcm.org/](http://www.grcm.org/)) is outstanding, and the new building for the Grand Rapids Art Museum ([www.artmuseumgr.org/](http://www.artmuseumgr.org/)) makes it a world-class facility. More local information will be sent to you with your confirmation packet.