## GARDENING

# Ancient art of bonsai still growing strong

BY MARTY FIGLEY SPECIAL WRITER

Last year I received a beautiful 10-year-old cotoncaster bon-sai from Peter Evanoff of South-

He and his late wife, Roz, became personal friends as we shared information about the

Four Seasons Bonsai Club of Michigan. Roz was an extraordinary publicity chairman for many years.

Cotoneasters are in the rose family and very useful ornamental shrubs.

Although we don't know the exact species of mine, the glossy green leaves turned a maroon

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shade during the winter and it sported bright red/orange berries. Now the leaves have changed back to green and it is blooming with splendid tiny white flowers.

#### What a plant!

What a plant!

Peter trained my bonsai and presented it to me with the advice, "Water it daily in the growing season." That advice not only helped my plant to thrive but encouraged me to really look at it and enjoy it each day.

During the winter months it sat in a cardboard box that had the top and bottom removed, at the east corner of the porch, which protected it from strong winter winds. It received enough moisture from the snow cover and came through beautifully, I am so ever grateful for my gift and for my friends.



Beautiful bonsal: This beautiful cotoneaster bonsai was a gift from Peter Evanoff.

Art form

Art form
That leads me to telling you about bonsal. In Japanese, the word bonsei means "tree in a pot." Bonsal is an art form that uses both design and horticulture.
Bonsai are created to look like stylized versions of natural trees in their various forms and environments. Bine trees an a rocky

in their various forms and environments. Pine trees on a rocky shoreline and the lone tree in a farmer's field have a representation in the long accepted bonsai

the modern art form of bonsai The modern art form of bonsai has roots that reach back to China in the third century B.C. Naturally dwarfed and twisted trees were collected from mountain tops and transplanted to pots for display. Gradually, techniques evolved to create and maintain the same effect on other trees.

During the cultural exchange between China and Japan of the 12th century, the art came to the Japanese. It was in Japan that bonsai was refined and elevated to its greatest potential. Most of the techniques in use today are the result of generations of Japanese refinement.

The greatest myth about bonsai is that they are a specific kind of tree with a shape that they simply grow into. The distinctive bonsai 'look' is actually the result of many years of work Bonsai arrit's simply grown; the bonsai artist has designed, pruned and trained the entire tree to achieve a work of art.

Show

Now to the show. The Four Seasons Bonsai Club of Michigan will have its 28th annual bonsai show and sale 10 am. to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 9 (with demonstrations noon to 2 p.m., 3-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.); and 10 am. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 10 (with demonstrations 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m.). The place: the Washington Square Building, at the corner of Washington and Fourth streets in Royal Oak. Admission is \$3, free for under age 12.

age 12.

Do plan to attend and enjoy

ralis • Rental Equipment • U-Cart R cape Supplies • Cedar, Cypress, En A MUST SEE: Water fall Eacks, Ario

this beautiful ancient art of miniature Japanese trees at the exhibit, see a demonstration and become acquainted with the

techniques.
This is a chance to buy bonsai pots, tools and accessories as well as live plants. In addition, there will be a bonsai raffle, you may be the winner!

For additional information, visit the Four Seasons Web site at www.geocities.com/lebum contact Todd Renshaw, president, phone (248) 585-9916, mail scottla@wwnet.com
This year the show is taking place in conjunction with the Royal Oak Clay and Glass Show.

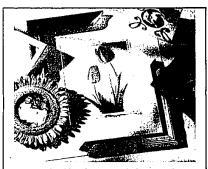
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■ The unusual Garden Park ôt Holly, 976 E. Maple in Holly, is open for tours each Thursday. Call Sandra Hilty at (248) 634-3000 during park hours (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) for more information.

Marly Figley is an advanced muster gardener based in Birm-ingham. You can leave her. a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a louch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.



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