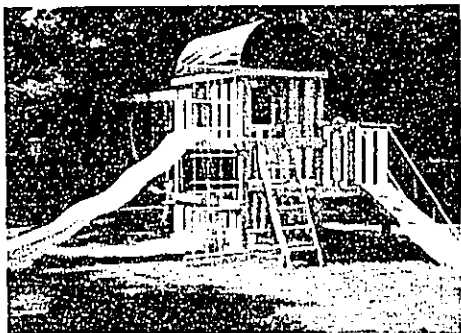


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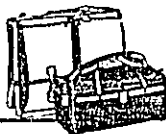
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Bonsai master: Mark Makahon of Bloomfield Hills will demonstrate his art at the 22nd anniversary show of the Four Seasons Bonsai Club of Michigan this weekend.

MARTY FIGLEY

Bonsai club set to show living art

By MARTY FIGLEY
STAFF WRITER

Marc Makahon grows 50 to 55 Bonsai trees in his sunny, secluded back yard in Bloomfield Hills on 10 benches and six pedestals. They are artfully arranged on two levels and can be seen from the windows of the house.

Makahon has been a member of the Four Seasons Bonsai Club of Michigan for four years and will demonstrate his art during the club's 22nd Anniversary Show noon to 9 p.m. Friday, June 23, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 24, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 25. The show will be at the Washington Square Building, Washington and Fourth in Royal Oak. Admission is \$2 for adults, free for those under age 16.

People from every walk of life belong to the Four Seasons Bonsai Club — artists, architects, doctors, executives, teachers, retirees, etc. Women and men enjoy this art and couples bring young adult children to meetings. Members live in all areas of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

"I became entranced with the Far East when I traveled there on business and took classes at the Bonsai Club in Mount Clemens," said Makahon, an architect.

Last year he traveled to all the major conventions in the United States to attend workshops. This year will be dedicated to his collection that he feels needs styling and attention. He has been practicing his art for six years.

He concentrates on outdoor Bonsai, and although he has no favorite — "They're all like kids" — he is dedicated to pines, *Pinus*. Japanese White Pine, *P. parviflora*, is called "Queen of Bonsai," while the Japanese Black Pine, *P. thunbergiana*, is "King of Bonsai." His collection includes five Maples, *Acer* (naturally understory

trees), which he keeps in a shady area of the garden.

Before pruning he visualizes how a finished Bonsai will look. The ultimate goal is an illusion of age and shape. Some take less than an hour, while others take longer. Braces and aluminum wire are used to encourage the plants to grow into the desired form. The bark is protected with raffia to avoid wire injury. A certain amount of patience is required — "Nature doesn't work fast." The wire is left on the plants for two years, then removed, so the tree can rest in between, then the wire is replaced.

"It will be another 12 years before I feel a particular plant is ready to show."

See BONSAI, 10D



MARTY FIGLEY

White Japanese pine: This plant is called "Queen of Bonsai."