



Jack Wikle in 2010 at the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society's Annual Show. On display are some of his small bonsai grown indoors, relying completely on artificial light. In addition to his other bonsai involvement, he has been a pioneer in this practice of bonsai art.

Jack Wikle's contributions to the ever-increasing community of bonsai artists in the United States are beyond measure. His modesty about the scope of these endeavors is equally impressive.

He has been a speaker and an exhibitor at a number of national-level events. In addition, he has taught classes regularly, conducted bonsai workshops, done hundreds of in-person presentations and written dozens of articles on bonsai subjects.

At this writing, Jack is the longest active member of the Ann Arbor Bonsai Society. He has been repeatedly recognized for his early and ongoing contributions to that organization.

Finally, there are the countless one-on-one "collaborative interactions" between Jack and individuals seeking his help and wanting to learn. These interactions typically involve two people learning together as bonsai artists. Jack's assessment of these sessions, "Our trees were helping us grow".

BONSAI COLLECTION AT HIDDEN LAKE GARDENS: Help preserve the beauty and artistry of the collection while honoring Jack Wikle's extraordinary legacy. Your contribution will ensure this treasured collection continues to grow, thrive, and inspire for generations to come. Established in 2022, the JWBL represents Jack's lifelong passion and dedication to bonsai. Join us in keeping this vision alive—your support makes a lasting impact.

TO DONATE OR LEARN MORE:

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LCF Jack Wikle Bonsai Legacy Fund

The Jack Wikle Bonsai Legacy Fund is a component fund at the Lenawee Community Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Hidden Lake Gardens is owned and operated by Michigan State University. Individual bonsai photos by Jay Sinclair in 2023. Photos of Jack by Michael Field.



JACK WIKLE BONSAI LEGACY



The Legacy

Hidden Lake Gardens' bonsai collection began in 1968 with the hiring of Jack Wikle as the Gardens' first Education Specialist. Jack was invited to display a few of his "little trees" in one corner of the newly built Conservatory's Temperate House. Now there is a Bonsai Courtyard at Hidden Lake Gardens—a gem of quiet and astonishing beauty. A wonderful variety of miniature trees in pots invite visitors to see the intimate interaction of the natural world with the human hand and artistic imagination. Gifts from numerous accomplished bonsai artists grow there sustained by ongoing and constant care.

While at the Gardens, Jack conducted bonsai workshops and did hundreds of community presentations on the art of bonsai. The collection has grown over the years thanks to Jack's personal involvement with the bonsai world and his generous capacity to share his extensive knowledge and enthusiasm with others.

The legacy fund is intended to help the collection continue to grow and thrive.



American Larch (Tamarack) seedlings in this "forest" planting were collected in southern Michigan by Bill Heston and first potted as bonsai in 2003.



American Beech. Collected by Jack Wikle very early in his bonsai experiments and first potted as a bonsai in 1967.

Japanese White Pine grafted on Japanese Black Pine rootstock. Imported from Japan for Howard Wright, who wanted a large pine, about 1998.



Pond Cypress. Collected by Clive Taylor near the Florida Keys and first potted as a bonsai in 1986.