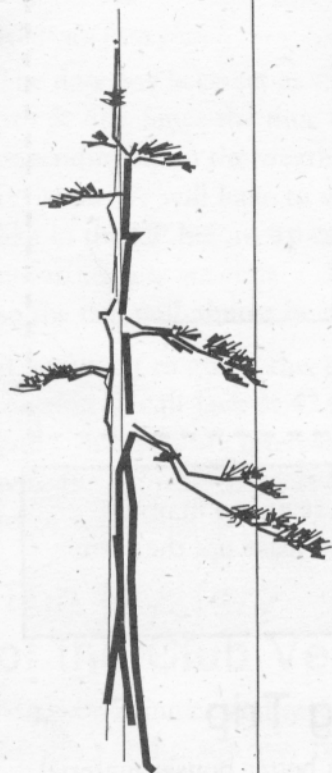


BONSAI NEWS



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, Wisconsin
53208-0198

Information Line
414-299-9229

March Meeting

Larry Michael, one of our club members, who is a well-known nature photographer is going to help us learn how to take better pictures of our bonsai. Jack Douthitt will make a short presentation about the necessity of taking photos of your bonsai. Then Larry will talk about how to take good pictures of your bonsai. He will review the basics required to take good pictures such as background, lighting, etc. Larry will also help people individually, who have taken pictures of their trees that have not turned out well. So if the pictures of your bonsai have not turned out to your satisfaction, bring your camera to the meeting, along with the bad pictures, and Larry will review the process and show you how to improve your pictures. By the way, we are discussing the taking of pictures for your records, not publication quality photos. See you there!

Presidents Message

Michael Yanny got the year off to a great start with his presentation on propagation by cuttings and grafting. And then we had thirteen people participate in the turntable workshop! The goal of the Board is to keep this exciting pace of events going throughout the rest of the year. And we think that we have done that. Just look at the enclosed schedule for the year's events for the Milwaukee Bonsai Society! We have four visiting artists that will show us how to do mame, forests, Kingsville boxwood and

phoenix grafts. We have workshops scheduled for wiring, refinement, and "what to do next!" We are also planning a collecting trip to Upper Michigan to collect Larch. Plus many other exciting events! All you have to do is to renew your membership (if you have not already done so!) in order to participate in all of these events.

Yvonne Szatkowski, our newsletter editor, came to the January Board meeting to discuss the newsletter and how we can make it better. Paul Watzka, our webmaster, attended the February Board meeting to discuss how we can improve the website and make it more easily accessible. I am sure that you have already noticed the improvements in the sign-up sheets, which are due to the hard work of Pam Woythal and Jean Sher.

The Board has also voted to make a club contribution the Boerner Botanical Gardens and to the National Bonsai Foundation.

The folks at the State Fair have noticed that the Bonsai Exhibit is the most popular exhibit in the Horticulture Building. So they have approached us about staging an exhibit for the entire length of the Fair. Such an exhibit would be great to publicize the club and bonsai, but it creates several problems for us. The two major problems are the ability to "man" an exhibit for that length of time and the need to rotate trees since they cannot stay inside for that length of time. We are investigating whether or not some of the other bonsai clubs in the area

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MBS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2003

Fees: *Individual* one year \$22 two years \$42 three years \$60
Family one year \$30 two years \$58 three years \$84

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Numbers Home: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____

E-mail: _____ Check # _____

HEAR YE, HEAR YE! It's now or never. Time to renew your MBS membership. There are so many fantastic events coming up for members, we're sure you'll want to renew right away. Please use the form above. Fill it out and send it in right away. Don't miss a single exciting event!

would be willing to make a greater contribution to the Fair. If we can do it, great! If not, then we will have to follow our format from previous years.

We want to keep you as a member and we want you to be involved. Check over the schedule and circle the dates of the events that interest you the most. Then sign up for them!! That way you will be assured a place in the workshops. You will be increasing your knowledge of bonsai and improving your bonsai techniques, which will make you into a better bonsai artist.

Housing for State Fair Exhibitors

We are inviting bonsai clubs from around the area to more actively participate in the Wisconsin State Fair. We would like to be able to offer free housing for a day or two to those bonsai enthusiasts that come from outside of Milwaukee to work at the Fair. The Fair is a wonderful opportunity to put on a bonsai exhibit that could be seen by up to one million people. Volunteering to house a visitor from another bonsai club provides the chance to meet and get acquainted with a bonsai enthusiast from outside our immediate area. Meals are not required, although I am sure that no one would complain if you decided to share a meal with your visitors. A "sign-up" sheet will be available at the March meeting.

Spring Collecting Trip

Mother Nature often creates better bonsai material than any nursery can do. That's why bonsai artists like to collect material from the "wilds" of nature. We are no exception! So we have made arrangements to collect Larch from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan this spring. The people who own the farm saw an exhibit of bonsai put on by the Green Bay club and told the club members that they have "lots of Larch that looked like the bonsai on display."

Larch can make wonderful bonsai and they can also be used to create rugged forest plantings. We might also find other material. No one has actually been to the site so we are taking a bit of a chance, but who knows what we might find?

The location is about two hours north of Green Bay near Norway Michigan. What appears to be the best schedule is to drive up one day, stay over night in a local motel, and do our collecting the next morning. Then we drive home in the afternoon and pot up our "finds" when we get home. The primary cost to participate in the trip is your own personal expenses, such as meals and motel room. We plan on car pooling up and that way we can share the gas expenses.

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MBS PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 2003

January

No Meeting

February

Tuesday 4 – Michael Yanny talk on Propagation with cuttings

Saturday 8 – Turntable Workshop (Scott)

March

Tuesday 4 – Photographing your Bonsai by Larry Michael

Saturday 8 (AM) – Wiring Workshop

Friday 21 through Sunday 30 - Home Show

Saturday 22 (AM) – Northwestern Mutual Workshop

Saturday 29 (AM) – Novice Class #1

April

Tuesday 1 – Group Slash

Saturday 5 – Collecting Trip (depending upon the weather)

Saturday 12 (AM) – Novice Class #2

Saturday 19 (AM) – Novice Class #3

Saturday 26 (AM) – Novice Class #4

Saturday 26 (PM) – Spring Public Workshop

May

Saturday 3 (PM) – Warren Hill “Grove” Workshop

Tuesday 6 – Warren Hill “Grove” Demonstration

Saturday 17 (AM) – Novice Class Nursery Crawl

Saturday 31 (PM) – Ivan Watters “Mame” Workshop

June

Tuesday 3 – Ivan Watters “Mame” Demonstration & Club Show

Saturday 7 (AM) – Jack Douthitt “Refinement” Workshop

Friday 13 through Sunday 15 - Asian Moon Festival

Saturday 28 (PM) – Tim Thimios “Kingsville Boxwood” Workshop

July

Tuesday 1 – Tim Thimios “Kingsville Boxwood” Demonstration

Saturday 19 (AM) – “What Next?” Workshop

Thursday 31 through August 10 – State Fair

August

Friday 1 through Sunday 10 – State Fair

Saturday 2 (PM) – Randy Clark “Phoenix Graft” Workshop

Tuesday 5 - Randy Clark “Phoenix Graft” Demonstration

Saturday 23 (PM) – Fall Public Workshop

September

Boerner Gardens Exhibit

Tuesday 2 – Dead Tree Contest & White Elephant Sale

October

Tuesday 7 - Bonsai Critique

November

Friday 21 through Sunday 23 - Folk Fair Exhibit

Tuesday 4 - Care of your tools plus demo of power tools

December

Tuesday 2 – Holiday Party

Suggested Fertilizing Program

Joe Nemeč

Deciduous

One application on the 1st of May, July and September of Milorganite spread liberally on surface of the soil. Apply no other fertilizer during these months.

April, June and August - Use Peters 20-20-20 or Walmart All Purpose Plant food (15-30-15) at 1/2 tablespoon per gallon on the 1st, 10th and 20th of these months. Apply no other fertilizer during this time.

Evergreens

One application on the 1st of May, July and September of a mix of bloodmeal, bonemeal and cottonseed meal. One third of each. Spread liberally on surface of the soil. No other fertilizer during these months.

April, June and August - same as deciduous.

Suggested Soil Mix for Repotting

2 parts Turface - available at Reinders in Elm Grove
1 part Walmart Continuous Feeding Potting Mix (10 lb. bag)

1 part vermiculite (available at Stein's)

1 part coca bean shells (also available at Stein's)

Repotting

Most trees need to be repotted every 3 to 4 years. If however, you find roots growing out of the drain holes, the tree should be repotted that year.

Deciduous trees should be repotted when the first new buds appear in Spring.

Evergreen trees should be repotted in May.

Library Policy

Houston Sanders, Librarian

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the Milwaukee Bonsai Society Library and its policies, especially to the newer club members. The library includes a wealth of bonsai information, much of which is not readily available elsewhere, and it is one

of our club's major benefits to make this information available to all members. In addition to many of the introductory books on bonsai, we have a large and ever-growing collection of periodicals, including *Bonsai Today*, *International Bonsai*, *Journal of the American Bonsai Society*, *Bonsai Clubs International*, as well as quite a few other bonsai magazines and publications. The library operates rather informally:

- 1) Any club member can check out materials from the library.
- 2) Each item in the library contains an index card.
- 3) When you wish to check out an item, remove the card and print your name and the date (month/year). Place the card in the metal box near the library books.
- 4) When you return an item, place it in the "return" pile. (You do not need to find the card yourself, your librarian is supposed to find the card and return the item into the library).
- 5) If you wish to check out an item that has no card, this may be because the item has been recently returned, or perhaps the a card was never prepared for that item. Please petition the helpful Librarian to request a card for the item.
- 6) If you are looking for information on a specific topic, your friendly Librarian may be able to recommend a source for the information you are looking for. (But it usually takes a while to find!)

There has never really been a DUE DATE associated with library materials. We have been operating on the basic guideline of "over a year is too long." With the growth of Milwaukee Bonsai Society membership over the past few years, the time has come to request more prompt return of library materials, especially books. There is a lot of demand for the books and recent magazine issues. To ensure that these materials are available to club members, I would like to request that Library materials be returned within THREE MONTHS. Reminders will be given to club members who have overdue library materials.

(Warning to Evil-Doers: We can hunt you down: We have your address and telephone number. Rumor has it that several club members are current or former CIA agents, and would be willing to help as needed.)

MBS Meetings and Information Line:

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 3030 W. Oklahoma Avenue. Call the MBS Voice Mail/Message System at (414) 299-9229 to learn about upcoming events and meeting times. To contact the club via email: mbs@asapnet.net Look for us on the web at: <http://www.asapnet.net/milwaukee-bonsai/index.html>

Spring Collecting Trip

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The date has been set as the weekend of April 4th – 5th & 6th. Since the time to collect can vary greatly depending upon the weather, that date is subject to revision. We will have to wait and see what spring is like in the UP before we can set a final date. And unfortunately we cannot do that weeks in advance, so the trip will almost be a last minute decision.

If you want to go on this trip, sign up at the March meeting or call Jack at 414/228-9628 and let him know that you are interested. He will stay in touch with the property owners to determine the best time to go collecting.

The Mystery of the Club Vests ??

Michelle Zimmer and several other club members designed and made over twenty vests for the club volunteers to wear at the Symposium. They were given to the Club after the Symposium so that club members could wear them at public events staged by the club. Somehow these vests have disappeared!! If you have one (or more) of these vests please bring them to the March meeting so that we can have them available for members to wear at the next public event. If you have some of the vests and you cannot come to the March Meeting please call Jack at 414/228-9628 and let him know that you have them.

Novice Class Begins Soon!

Jean Sher

If you are new to bonsai then consider enrolling in the 2003 Novice Class.

If you received a bonsai gift for the holidays and have no idea about the care needed in the next season, consider enrolling in the 2003 Novice Class.

If you are somewhat experienced in the art of bonsai but still are looking for a class to give your interest a new direction and insight, consider enrolling for the 2003 Novice Class.

This four session series will challenge and delight the beginning bonsai enthusiast.

Novice classes offer information about tools, soil, styles, species of trees and growing basics for the bonsai enthusiast. Several of our MBS “experts” will share insights and joys of bonsai with the novices each week. The enrollment fee includes four “hands-on” classes, course booklet, pre-bonsai material, soil, and ceramic pot. The fifth session will be a nursery crawl to gather potential bonsai materials. (Last year’s group set a club record for purchases!)

The 2002 Novice Class members became good friends and we still compare notes and photos of our “trees.” The leadership and knowledge of bonsai was outstanding. This is an opportunity to study, listen, learn and experiment under the wings of our more experienced bonsai club members.

Remember to sign up at the March meeting for this outstanding and unique opportunity.

Details for Novice Classes 2003

Dates: Saturdays 03/29, 04/12, 04/19, 04/26 and 05/17 (nursery crawl)

Time: 9 a.m. to Noon

Place: Grace Lutheran Church
3030 West Oklahoma Ave.
Milwaukee, WI

Cost: \$50.00



Grace Lutheran Church is located just west of St. Luke's Medical Center on the north side of Oklahoma Avenue.



P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, WI 53008-0198
Return Service Requested



*Next Meeting of MBS
March 4, 2003
7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church*

MBS Board - 2003

- Jack Douthitt, *President*
- Houston Sanders, *First Vice President*
- Jean Sher, *Second Vice President*
- Russell Weiss, *Secretary*
- Kris Ziemann, *Treasurer*
- Sharon Schmidt, *Director*
- Dr. Erskine Tucker, *Director*
- Pam Woythal, *Director*
- Brian Palevac, *Past President*
- Ron Fortmann, *MABA Representative*
- Yvonne Szatkowski, *Newsletter Editor*

*Bonsai develops patience, so slow down
and enjoy the process of learning.
There lies the beauty of bonsai culture.
It is the process, not the finished tree.*

~ Carl L. Rosner

Members with questions or concerns
for the Executive Committee should
contact Russ Weiss, Club Secretary at
cowbell@wi.rr.com