

Bonsai News

APRIL MEETING – *Group Slash*

Hear ye, hear ye. Our April meeting is one everyone has been waiting for. THE GROUP SLASH!! Trees will be provided for 'teams' to work on.

They will be judged by a non-bonsai person (this year we'll have a writer - Liam Callahan). Awards will be presented to the top 3 places. Then, each work of art will be put into the silent auction. So, come join the fun and bring tools if you have them.

Liam Callahan will be the judge for this year's "Group Slash". He is the author of *The Cloud Atlas*. Liam lives and writes in Milwaukee where he teaches creative writing in the English department of UW M. His work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Good Housekeeping* and *Forbes FYI*, as well as in a variety of literary journals. Liam has regularly contributed to local and national public radio in Washington D.C. and Milwaukee, and has read a number of his essays on National Public Radio's Morning Edition.

May Meeting – BYOT with Ted Matson

Our May meeting will be a-buzz with excitement. This is the meeting to bring in your own tree(s) to work and get advice on. Our instructor for the Master's classes, Ted Matson, will be joining us. The

participants in the Master's classes will display trees they have been working on. Then they will all be available to help you with your trees. Bring tools and trees. We're looking forward to this evening!!

Collecting Trip - FREE

By John Moore

Members: Would you be interested in having a Yew tree to style? Ron Fortmann mentioned this trip at the March Meeting. It would take place the weekend of May 6-7 in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. The trees have been in the ground 15-20 yrs.

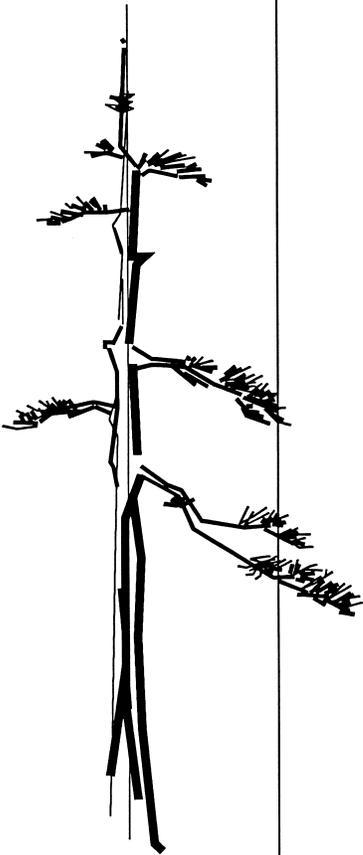
If you are interested, contact John Moore at 262-560-0418. will allow some additional material

We Mean It This Time

In preparation for the MABA 2006 convention, we are starting our collection of plastic coffee "cans". We're looking for the small plastic coffee cans with lids (like the 13 oz Folgers). We have never filled a large coffee can, and these will be much easier to store. If you have any (or have friends who have any) could you please bring them to a club meeting at church? Many thanks.

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.milwaukeebonsai.org>



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

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

Information Line
414-299-9229

KRIS' KORNER

Are you ready for the long-awaited April meeting? The first chance for a lot of us to work on trees. The club provides the trees for you and a group to work on. Styling ideas are formulated "by committee". It's a fun time.come join us!

What do you think? Here's an idea up for discussion. We have activities for novices and for the more advanced (Master's classes). We would like to focus on something for those of you who are not in either group. What about some intermediate classes where you bring trees to work on with the help of the Master's class participants? What time is best? Evenings? Saturdays? Sundays? We want to accommodate all our club members. We'll talk about this at our April meeting. Please come with ideas!!

Also, any ideas for future workshops, club meetings, etc are greatly appreciated. We need fresh ideas to keep this club progressive, exciting and instructional. This year a lot of our energy is being put into the upcoming MABA convention in June. This is a terrific opportunity for all levels of bonsai enthusiasts. New folks - what a great chance to purchase those tools, trees, books, etc. that you have been putting off... as well as enter as a silent observer to all workshops with a full or day registration. Or as a full registrant you may enter as many workshops as you wish, but you must hurry. Many workshops are already full! If you haven't already read about it, our headliner, Luis Vallejo, is coming to us from Spain. Not many people in the U.S. have worked with this talented bonsai artist. We're privileged to have him come to Milwaukee.

***And another note about the convention - would anyone wish to help us find items for our daily raffles? Possibly gift certificates from local businesses, restaurants (for our local participants). Or a business that would donate items (Kikkoman donated little bottles of soy sauce at our last convention!! :o) Please see or call Michelle Zimmer. We'd appreciate the help!

Possible Collecting Trip

By Kris Ziemann

Hey! Interested in a collecting trip to Northern Wisconsin (around Hurley)? Milt Mandelin has been working with the forestry service to allow us to collect small trees on county land. We won't be able to plan a specific date... it all depends on how the trees are budding out and if the ground is still frozen! Possibly end of April to mid-May. Milt says that there are a number of nice motels in the area and great restaurants. It would be a weekend trip. So, if you are interested, please contact Kris Ziemann (262-512-1228 or hagr8d@mac.com). Our last collecting trip was fantastic!!! :o)

2006 Club Events Calendar

April

Tuesday 4 - Group Slash

Saturday 8 - Novice Class #2

Saturday 22 - Novice Class #3

Sat/Sun 29-30 - Master's Class

May

Tuesday 2 - Club Meeting BYOTree

Saturday 6 - Novice Class Nursery Crawl

Saturday 13 - Novice Class #4

June

Tuesday 6 - Club Show + something special

Thurs - Sun 22-25 - MABA/Milwaukee
Convention

July

Tuesday 4 - NO MEETING

Saturday 8 - Wauwautosa show

August

Tuesday 1 - Club Meeting Slab Making
and Muck Party

Thurs-Mon 3-13 STATE FAIR SHOW

Programs and dates for other activities have yet to be finalized - STAY TUNED!

Kris

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Spring Master's Class Photos by Jean Sher and Kris Ziemann



Kris preparing the roots of a new acquisition (burning bush) to be repotted. Yvonne Szatkowski and 2 other people had to help with this, the roots were so matted!



← What are all these people looking at?

Allan is heating up a jin so he can bend it

Note: Ted Matson is actively helping as usual. He makes class members do their own work!



← Notice the area is covered with aluminum foil and is watered to "steam" it so it will bend.

MARCH CLUB MEETING PHOTOS by Jean Sher



Kris explains the use of screens for sifting soil

And repotting a tree

Spring Care Notes By Houston Sanders

(with info stolen from multiple sources. In particular, newsletters from the St. Louis and Cincinnati bonsai clubs.)

- Time to take the trees out of winter storage!!! As you place your trees outside, it is a good opportunity to inspect and clean. Remove old wires or at least make sure that they aren't cutting into the bark. Remove excessive moss growth. It is also a good idea to clean the trunks with a toothbrush. A mixture of 50/50 vinegar and water is excellent for this, since it kills the moss and algae on the trunk and the trunk stays clean a lot longer.
- You should already be starting to repot deciduous trees. The ideal time is just as the buds have swollen but not yet opened. However, with most trees, repotting any time before the buds open should be OK. If you are late, *do not* repot with fresh green leaves present. Wait until next year, or if repotting is absolutely necessary, you can wait about 1 month until new growth has hardened and turned dark green. In this case, trim off any soft new growth at the time of repotting, and limit the root pruning as much as possible. Caution: this is a risky procedure, and should only be done with very strong trees, or in emergency situations such as extremely poor drainage or broken pots.
- After repotting, protect trees from wind and direct sunlight for 2 or 3 weeks until you see strong new growth.
- Pines and Junipers are typically repotted later than deciduous trees. In this area, mid-April to mid-May is an ideal time. Don't start until you see signs of new growth - pruning dormant roots on conifers isn't recommended and can cause rotting.
- Early spring, before the buds open, is a good time to spray some insecticide/fungicide on elms. Especially the kind with corky bark, which shelters insects during the winter. Elm leaves hate insecticides, and often turn black and drop off if you spray open leaves. So it's worth the time and effort to take preventative measures to control insects.
- Don't overwater your trees! In spring, you have to watch each tree individually and water only when the soil is getting dry. A leafed-out maple may need watering every day, while a late-awakening hornbeam needs water once a week or less.



P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, WI 53008-0198
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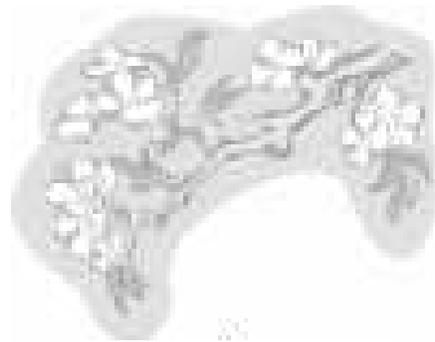
Next Meeting of MBS
7PM, Tuesday, April 4
Grace Lutheran Church
3030 W. Oklahoma

MBS Board, 2006

Kris Ziemann – President
Scott Hurula – 1st Vice President
Darlene Shaginaw – 2nd Vice President
Mary Turner – Treasurer
Sharon Schmidt – Secretary
John Moore – Board Member
Joe Herbert – Board Member
Allen Koszarek – Board Member
Ron Fortmann – MABA Representative
Jack Douthitt – Past President

Other Club Functions:

Houston Sanders – Newsletter Editor
Melba Stockhausen - Distribution
Pam Woythal – Webmaster
Joe Nemecek - Librarian
Mary Turner - membership chairperson
Jean Sher - telephone response



TREASURE TROVE

A long forgotten thing:

A pot where now a flower blooms –

This day of Spring

-Issa

(thanks to Potomac Bonsai Association for this month's poetry)