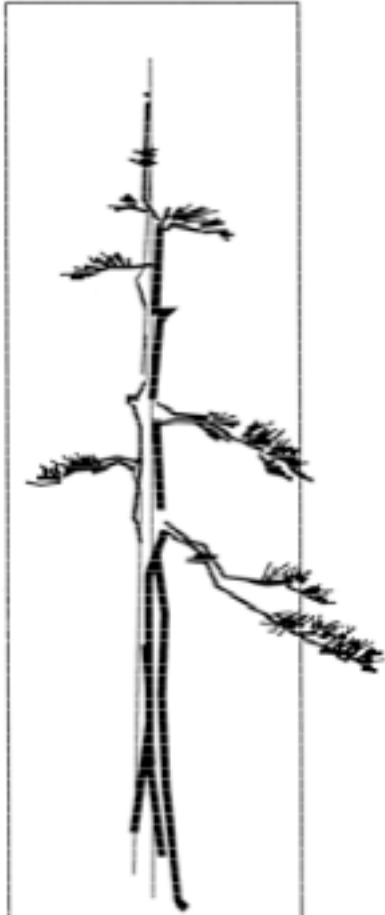


IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED, THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE!!

March 2008

Bonsai News



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

*P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, WI
53008-0198*

*Information Line
414-299-9229*

Bonsai is once again beset by the unpredictable "Wisconsin Weather." The longer I work with bonsai the more I believe that our weather is the most adversarial element which affects our trees. Even if you don't agree you'll have to admit that we have certainly been affected by the weather for February meetings. This year we canceled both the general club meeting and, the following week, the MBS Board meeting. The problem was not so much getting to the meetings but rather our concern for getting everyone safely home again. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

With that said... Let's talk
BONSAI!

MBS is planning some really great meetings for 2008!! The March meeting will be a chance to clean pots and sharpen tools, so bring those you need to work on with you to the meeting. We will also revisit (maybe re-pot) the Foemia juniper, take a look at the raft planting which Joe H did last summer, a panel of tropical "experts" and a grafting demo.

This promises to be a social evening as well. Please bring your membership dues and

MARCH

Mar 4 - CLUB MEETING
Tropical panel of experts,
grafting demo, Raft
planting, Foemia Juniper
repotting, pot cleaning, tool
sharpening
Mar 29-30 - Ted Matson

APRIL

Apr 1 - CLUB MEETING
Group SLASH
Apr 19-20 - Ted Matson

MAY

Mar 2-4 - Weekend with
Colin Lewis
May 6 - CLUB MEETING
Guest Artist: Colin Lewis
May 10-11 - Marty
Schmalenberg

workshop forms with you the meeting. Registrations for the Colin Lewis Intensive Weekend in MAY, the Advanced Studies Program and Master's Classes are due as well. Novice class and Intermediate class dates will be announced soon.

So if you have cabin fever come join us at the March Meeting.

HAPPY BONSAI,

Jean

NEXT MEETING
Match 4 - 7 pm
Grace Lutheran Church

INTENSIVE STUDY WEEKEND

MAY 2-4, 2008

with Colin Lewis

This intensive weekend course is based on the course I run for the **Ho Yoku School**, and is designed to motivate as well as to educate. It also provides students with ideas for further study either as small groups or through a club.

The course is designed for **no more than twelve** students whose [level of experience is less important than their enthusiasm and desire to learn](#). Instructions concerning what to bring for each session will be sent about one month before the event.

The program will include:

Friday evening (7:00 - 10:00).

1: Introduction to the course

2: Outline of techniques - which to use and when; how to make them easier and more efficient; why some ways are better than others.

3: Techniques: Practical workshops in wiring strategy, wire selection (this is as important as teaching brushwork to a painter, or optics to a photographer).

[Some people will be rushing from work, so no trees are needed. But everyone should bring in a couple (at least) of bare, well ramified branches from something coniferous. These will be for the wiring practice, so they need to be still flexible, but not with very fine fragile shoots. Maybe someone has a frequently trimmed yew bush in their yard that can be raided? Notebooks, tools, cameras, and strong coffee.]

Saturday (10-5, 7-10).

1: Techniques: Explanations and practical workshops in:

- a) Pruning branches, twigs, shoots for structure, development, ramification and maintenance;
- b) Repotting and soil requirements, root structure, root pruning for growth or for improvement;
- c) Deadwood, when and how to make good jins and sharis, when not to.

[a) Some trees that require pruning: fairly rough material, more established deciduous, junipers. Pines not so suitable.

b) Trees for repotting - perhaps a variety: same pot, from growing container into pot, from big box into training pot.... Plus pots soils (if you can get akadama and colorado lava that would be great). Probably not all trees will be repotted; this is a didactic session rather than a workshop.

c) A juniper or yew that is rough material or worse (or better for that matter) for demonstrating deadwood techniques. A butane torch.]

2: Aesthetics: Recognizing good bad and ugly; understanding why. Learning "design speak" - how to express and manifest your own aesthetic sensibilities. Design exercises on paper.

3: Group critiques of students' trees: Analyzing the image, finding fault, searching for the solutions.

[Each participant should bring the tree that excites them the most - either the best, or the one that's going to be the best. They will be critiquing each other's trees.]

Sunday (10-5).

1: Practical workshops: Students will briefly present their plants to the group (either the same plant as Saturday's critique or another), stating the design problem and proposed solution. Some time will be allowed for group discussion. Students will then proceed to work on their plants under guidance.

Sunday (10-5) (continued)

2: Assessment: The day's work will be presented to the group and assessed by the tutor for both technical and aesthetic standards. Group discussion.

These weekends are very intensive and extremely successful in taking a group of enthusiasts to another level of ability and expectation.

[Trees for the workshop. Best select two or three and make the final decision during Saturday, based on what's been covered, eg: maybe someone might want to replant a tree based on what's been learnt in that session, or someone might switch to a yew after the deadwood session. Try to avoid bringing half a dozen plants to work on - one project is best - that way there is time for everyone to be aware of what the others are doing and learn from that also.]

REMEMBER THAT THIS WEEKEND IS LIMITED TO 12 PARTICIPANTS. RESERVATIONS WILL BE TAKEN ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. THE MINIMUM COST OF THE WEEKEND IS \$225. THIS AMOUNT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH YOUR RESERVATION FORM. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE COST COULD BE A BIT MORE. AN INEXPENSIVE LOCATION IS BEING SOUGHT, BUT AT PRESENT WE DO NOT HAVE A PRICE ON THAT.

Please bring this reservation form to the February meeting and give to Kris Ziemann or mail to:
MBS P.O. Box 198, Brookfield, WI 53008-0198

INTENSIVE STUDY WEEKEND - Reservation Form
MAY 2-4, 2008
with Colin Lewis

DATE _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ please circle cell home

Check amount _____ Check # _____

Please circle beginner novice intermediate advanced

Private / semi-private sessions

are available with Colin Lewis:

Friday May 2

Tuesday May 6

Cost is \$450 per day.

Please contact Kris 262-512-1228 if you are interested.



Intermediate Classes



These classes are open to all MBS members who have taken the novice class or have some Bonsai experience. There will be 2 groups taught by the same Master Class students that taught last year, Pam W and Michelle Z for one group and Scott H for the other group. Each group will meet for 4 - 8 hr classes.

(For me working on my trees for 8 hrs at a time created a real shift in my comfort zone with Bonsai and the classes were FUN! - Susan L)

If you are interested in being part of the classes we will meet at 6:30 on March 4th before the MBS meeting at Grace Lutheran Church. We will have an organizational meeting to finalize the class registration. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Susan L. at 414-744-2808 or e-mail at ashwini1890@sbcglobal.net

Advanced Study Group with Marty Schmalenberg

This group is open to all members of MBS ready to work at the advanced level. There are 2 openings available. The classes will be held May 10 & 11th and Aug 2 & 3rd. Each of these two weekends will consist of 2 8-hr days. With 8 students in the class the cost will be \$250 for the 2 weekends, 4 full days. If you are interested please contact Susan L at 414-744-2808 or e-mail at ashwini1890@sbcglobal.net



ODDS AND ENDS

by Dave Bogan

Lake Charles Bonsai Society



In-House Trees: Remember, keep a real close eye on any trees over-wintering in your house. Keep the pot & soil areas clean and free of dead leaves or debris. Remove old moss which is dead & /or covered with minerals from your water. Moss is a good place for diseases and insects to hide in during winter. If they're close to a window make sure there isn't any draft or cold air. Occasionally turn them so they receive better light on all sides. Occasionally add a fungicide & /or systemic to the soil helping prevent soilborne problems. If you can, they will occasionally love a shower. Cover the pot with plastic and take them to the shower. You'll be amazed at how much old debris will wash out of the canopy areas. If you can't shower them, at least run your fingers through all the foliage especially at branch intersections. As leaves fall they will become lodged and start building up. This is an especially good area for insects & diseases to start or hide.

Tools: Get all your tools together. Give them a thorough cleaning and sharpen them. Sharp tools are a must. If your tools are dull they will crush the wood fibers instead of cutting cleanly. Most tools will only need a quick honing with a store or diamond file. Always try to maintain the original bevel. Using a marker, paint the bevel with ink. The ink will be rubbed off as you sharpen the tool showing you if your angle is correct. Always sharpen against the edge or up the bevel. Sharpen a cutting tool until you can feel a slight edge forming on the bottom. This is a slight curling of the metal, showing you have created a very fine edge. Once you feel this curl, lightly run this edge across a very fine hone, which will remove it. This only takes one or



two swipes. Don't overdo it. Never allow a pair of shears or scissors-type cutters to close until you have removed this burr from the bottom side. Once clean and sharp wipe your tools down with some lightweight oil. Always protect the cutting edges so; don't just throw them into a box or tool bag.

Winter Branch Bending: Be careful if you're attempting any wiring on dormant trees. With the sap down, some branches can be brittle and break easier. Always test-bend a branch prior to wiring if you're unsure of its hardness. Of course, wiring in winter allows you more access to all areas (due to foliage drop) and it is a good time, just be careful.

Temporary Pots: If your budget just won't allow for new pots or if you need one temporarily for a starter tree, consider making a couple over the winter (also consider plastic colanders). Once made, set them out to weather for a while. Don't worry about finishes or seal. they are temporary.



Rocks for Bonsai: In the case of root over rock, you may not want to use muck but still like the look of some moss growing on the stone to make it look older and have character. If you have moss growing on a rock you must keep it moist especially in the early growing stages. To get moss to grow, first "plug" small pieces into crevasses and holes in the rock. Next, mix some dried moss spores with some very fine sifted bark. Once mixed and moistened, it is brushed or rubbed again in crevasses or holes in areas you want moss. If possible, keep the setting out of direct sun for a couple weeks and mist the stone daily (more if possible) and you will eventually have beautiful moss growing. During the hot summer, the moss may brown and seem dead but it will come back later and become stronger every year.



Winter Pruning: Some practitioners do a lot of their pruning in fall once the leaves are off. Of course, this is a great time when you can see the entire structure of the tree. Here are two suggestions: First, be careful wiring since the



branches will be more brittle this time of year due to the withdrawal of sap. Secondly, remember that the plant has slowed or stopped its upper growth. With this in mind, after a branch has been pruned this time of year, the tree will be very slow to compartmentalize or seal the wound. Callus growth will be slow at a maximum. This is probably one of the few times using a wound sealer is suggested, especially if the tree will over-winter outside. Winter winds could cause the wound to dry quicker and possibly deeper than normal. You may have a little more dieback in a branch. So, go ahead and apply a THIN layer of sealer. Once applied, wipe it off and add a little bit of wood ash to help prevent disease. If you don't have any wound sealer, simply use white glue. Another helpful addition would be a little mouth wash or peroxide on the bare wood. Mouthwash has good bacteria fighting ingredients.

Winter Insect Protection: Hopefully you did this already but if not, consider treating your trees with a systemic insecticide, such as Dyhiston in a granule form. Some prefer the granular type now so it penetrates slowly over time as you water. Remember that the root system continues to work, grow and be active as long as the temperatures are above freezing in fall. Insects may have laid their eggs in the soil. Depending on the weather, some of these could hatch into their larvae stages. Larvae and young grub type insects love to eat roots and burrow into the trees softer areas. They will stay here till spring, feeding and creating holes and tunnels through the plant. Systemics are the only way of killing these off once they enter the plant. Once temperatures start to warm again in spring,

make sure you apply another application. Always be extra careful with cork bark or heavily barked trees. In the case of heavy bark, it doesn't hurt to spray with a liquid systemic.

Temporary Lighting: To grow properly, most people utilize some type of supplemental lighting through the winter. I'm not going to go into the types of lights, lights are like soil, and everyone has an opinion on the type you should use. The issue here is timing and duration. You are adding the lights for one or two reasons; one, to maintain the plants in a better atmosphere, and two, to help the plant grow. Stop and think when plants grow their strongest. Generally, it's late spring to early summer, the time of year that we experience the longest periods of daylight. In order for your plants to mimic this, they will need lights to stay on longer.



In my greenhouse, I run my lights for a 16 hour period then allow them 8 hours of darkness. Keep in mind, plants do

need a rest period just like we do. In order to give them darkness, the lights need to be off at night. I run lights from 4:00 a.m. till 8:00 p.m. I use HID motorized track lighting, which puts off a lot of heat. I bring them on at 4:00 a.m. so that I can also utilize the additional heat during the coldest part of the night. So, when you set your lighting timers, remember to give your plants some rest at night.

Milwaukee Bonsai Society Membership Form 2008

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # (home) _____ (work) _____

Email _____ Check # _____

for (circle) **Single** 1 year \$25 2 years \$48 3 years \$70

Family 1 year \$35 2 years \$68 3 years \$100

Please confirm your e-mail address here for your monthly online newsletter:

(This e-mail address will not be shared with other parties and is for MBS Board use only.)

Do you have any hidden talents / interests that you would be willing to share with our members?
If so, please describe:



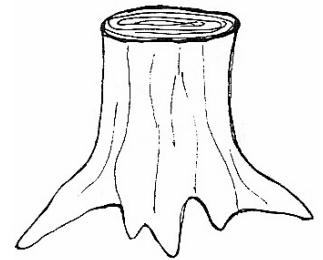
THE CITY GARDENER
-Specializing in-
Bonsai & Bonsai Accessories

For more info go to:
www.citygardener.biz

Alene Krieger
Owner

P.O. Box 341575
Milwaukee, WI 53234-1575

Here's your chance to get answers for all your bonsai questions! Just email your question to: Tree.Stump@yahoo.com by the 18th of the month. Your questions will be answered in the order they were received.





Tony Plicka
(414) 761-9298
Fax (414) 327-4882

NINO'S
Landscape Company

P.O. Box 510108
New Berlin WI 53151

Bonsai Supplier

◆ Specimen trees ◆ Stock material ◆ Seedlings
◆ Tools ◆ Pots ◆ Books ◆ Videos ◆ Mail Order

Now accepting VISA and MasterCard



P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, WI 53008-0198
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS
7PM, Tuesday, March 4
Grace Lutheran Church
3030 W. Oklahoma

2008 MBS OFFICERS

The MBS Officers are:

President	Jean S
First VP	Joe H
Second VP	Allen K
Secretary	Susan C
Treasurer	Laura L
Director	Jerry N
Director	John M
Director	Michelle Z
Past Pres.	Kris Z



Other Club Functions:

Kris Z - Newsletter Editor/Distribution
Pam W - Webmaster
? - Librarian
Jean S - Telephone response
Mary T - Membership Chairperson

Have you gazed outside?
Snow will once more beset us...
Oh, Spring! Where art thou?