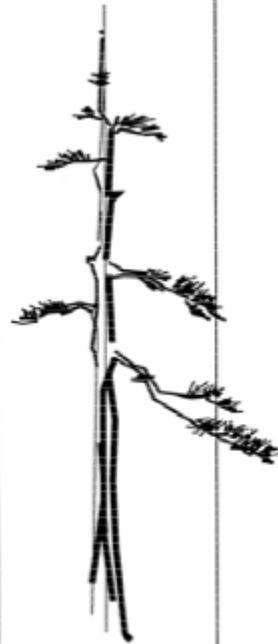


# BONSAI NEWS

August 2018



*Milwaukee  
Bonsai Society  
PO Box 240822  
Milwaukee Wi  
53224*

*Information Line  
414-299-9229*

The August 7th meeting will be "Tropicals, Citrus, Cape Jasmine, and More" This will be a Q & A chaired by Leo S, with Irene H as our Citrus grower, and Houston S as our grower of all manner of exotic trees. If you have a Citrus, Cape Jasmine, Luma, Metrosideros or Pomegranate to show or with a problem, bring it along to the August 7 meeting.

Many of you have seen Irene's fabulous exposed roots Citrus which she has been developing for over 30 years. Irene will share with us what she's learned through her decades of experience with Citrus, Cape Jasmine, Ficus, and other tropicals & sub-tropicals.

Houston is well known for his exotic Australian, Tasmanian & New Zealand tree species. Metrosideros is called the New Zealand Christmas tree and Luma is a high Andes Mountain member of the myrtle family, with small, delicious guava like fruit. Houston will pick three of his favorites and give care recommendations for each.

It should be a fun meeting.

## August

Aug 2-12—State Fair  
Aug 7—**MBS meeting**  
Tropicals  
Aug 11-Intermediate class\*  
Aug 25-Bonsai Basics #1\*

## September

Sept 4—**MBS meeting**  
State Fair winners  
Sept 8 — Beginner workshop  
Sept 22-Bonsai Basics #2\*  
Sept 29-Intermediate class\*

## October

Oct 2—**MBS meeting**  
Elms revisited  
Oct 6-7 — Annual Exhibit  
Oct 20-Bonsai Basics #3\*  
Oct 27-Bonsai Basics #4\*  
Oct 27-Intermediate class\*

## November

Nov 6—**MBS meeting**  
Winter Storage updates

\*Open to MBS members only

**Next Meeting**  
**August 7, 2018**  
**6:45pm**  
**Boerner Botanical**  
**Gardens**

Connect with MBS  
@Milwaukeebonsai.org



## President's Message August 2018

After such a strange spring I was hoping to have a reasonably "normal" summer, but things have not been very normal lately. The heat and humidity have been rough. Although I may think the humidity has been brutal, my trees are thriving in the weather and are continuing to grow like crazy. This is prime time to repot tropicals and I hope everyone took advantage of the late-July repotting workshop.

August, of course, is the time for State Fair. There is still time and I encourage everyone to sign up to exhibit a tree in one of the 3 separate shows at the Fair. The judges this year are Chris Baker for the 1<sup>st</sup> show, Jennifer Price for the 2<sup>nd</sup> show and Chris Baker will return for the 3<sup>rd</sup> show. These 3 shows are a great way to get feedback on your trees and to gain new ideas for future styling. Tree sitters are also still needed for the fair. Helping out at the booth for a few hours is a wonderful way to help the public learn more about the hobby we all love. You will receive a free admission ticket to use to get into the fairgrounds when you help as a tree sitter, too. Look for more information later in the newsletter for more information on the fair.

Our August meeting will spotlight tropicals, citrus, cape jasmine and more. The evening will feature a question and answer session with Leo S and Irene H. Make sure you attend to learn more about these types of trees.

After the flurry of activity that always accompanies State Fair, September may seem to be quite slow, but rest assured that things are moving forward quickly to get ready for the Annual Exhibit in October. As you may know Walter Pall is our guest artist this year and promises to be very educational and entertaining. This year's annual exhibit banquet will be held at Meyer's restaurant and will feature a family style dining experience. There is more information about the Annual Exhibit further on in the newsletter.

And finally, the board is busy making plans for 2019. If you have an idea for a meeting or workshop please contact a member of the Executive Committee. No idea is a bad idea except for the idea that goes unsaid.

Stay cool,

Melissa

A big **Thank you** to Melissa J's husband, Michael, for his expertise in grilling at the MBS picnic. The picnic was a great success with lots of good food, friends and things to purchase. If you didn't make it this year, do plan to attend next year.



**WISCO BONSAI**  
www.WiscoBonsai.blogspot.com  
www.WiscoBonsai@gmail.com

## **WISCO BONSAI**

**DELIVERY TO MBS MEETINGS AVAILABLE.**

(ALSO TO THE GENERAL METRO AREA WITH MINIMUM PURCHASE OR SMALL FEE)

**PROVIDING SUPERIOR BONSAI PRODUCTS SUCH AS U.S. SOURCED SUBSTRATES, U.S. MADE CUT-PASTE AND CUSTOM BLENDED FERTILIZERS.**

**SEE ALL THE PRODUCTS: [www.WiscoBonsai.blogspot.com](http://www.WiscoBonsai.blogspot.com)**

**ALSO TAKING ORDERS FOR LARGER QUANTITIES OF PRESIFTED & SIZED SUBSTRATE ORDERS FOR SPRING 2018•DON'T BE CAUGHT UNPREPARED !!!**

**contact: [WiscoBonsai@gmail.com](mailto:WiscoBonsai@gmail.com)**



**STATE FAIR 2018** - Are you interested in entering a tree at State Fair? If you have never exhibited before, please consider doing so this year. Classes are: Youth, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Open. **Please sign up at Club meetings, email or call John hernejb@msoe.edu (414-514-0594) or search on Eventbrite for MBS State Fair to participate**

## STATE FAIR EXHIBIT SCHEDULE 2018

Exhibit #1 August 2 - August 4  
Exhibit #2 August 5 - August 8  
Exhibit #3 August 9 - August 12

### Exhibit #1

Deliver trees to \*\*  
Wednesday, August 1 from **6pm - 6:30pm**  
Pick up trees from \*\*  
Sunday, Aug 5 from **9am - 9:30am**

### Exhibit #2

Deliver trees to \*\*  
Saturday, Aug 4 from **6pm - 6:30pm**  
Pick up trees from \*\*  
Thursday, Aug 9 from **9am - 9:30am**

### Exhibit #3

Deliver trees to \*\*  
Wednesday, Aug 8 **6pm - 6:30pm**  
Pick up trees from \*\*  
Monday Aug, 13 from **9am - 9:30am**

**\*\* Strip mall parking lot approx. 102nd and National, just west of Baker's Square. Turn in by the Piggly Wiggly sign. Meet in the area nearest the street (National Ave)**

**Note:** If the drop off/pick up schedule is not good for you, please make personal arrangements for your trees with someone who will care for them. **YOU** must alert the crew about these arrangements so trees will not be misdirected, lost or stolen.

## When checking in please bring:

- + your list of scientific names and common names
- + the approximate age of the tree
- + stand, accent, sketch of display, and the proposed style of tree.

**HAVING A PICTURE OF YOUR SET-UP IS RECOMMENDED!!**

It is also wise to mark all components of your display with your name.

(an address sticker is usually adequate)

**Call or email for exhibiting trees (414-514-0594) or [hernejb@msoe.edu](mailto:hernejb@msoe.edu) or search on Eventbrite for MBS State Fair**

Good luck and thanks for supporting the MBS 2018 State Fair committee.

**\*\*\* If you wish to help out at State Fair by **greeting people** who pass by our exhibit, please contact Rob P by phone or email: 414-453-7317 [rstylingcourt@yahoo.com](mailto:rstylingcourt@yahoo.com)**

**For specific information** as to whether your tree will qualify to be entered at State Fair, please go to: [http://www.wistatefair.com/pdfs/competitions/entry\\_info/general\\_info/hort/society\\_shows.pdf](http://www.wistatefair.com/pdfs/competitions/entry_info/general_info/hort/society_shows.pdf)

Go to Bonsai info... p13-14

## QUICK PREVIEW OF OUR 48TH ANNUAL EXHIBIT

Please find information on the 2018 Annual Exhibit (October 5-7) in this newsletter. Our guest artist is Walter Pall from Germany. This will be the first time we will be using Eventbrite to register to bring your tree/s for exhibit and to pay for workshops and the banquet. You may also bring your registration forms and/or check to the August, September or October meeting.

You may enter two trees for judging this year. There will be no 'exhibit only' trees (unless space is available). If using Eventbrite, please fill out a 'ticket' for each tree you will bring. Otherwise, please print off the entry forms found in this newsletter and mail in to the P.O. Box or bring to a meeting.

Set up will be on **Thursday** morning - afternoon. Please volunteer to help with this. You may bring your trees for check in Thursday evening from 4:00 - 7:00. Judging will take place **Friday** afternoon. Our **Friday evening reception** and critique will run from 6:00 - 9:00.

If registering for the Saturday morning workshop, please note that you must purchase your material there. Hidden Gardens will be bringing trees especially picked by Walter for this event. Scot's pine \$100-\$150, Colorado Spruce \$100 - \$200, Japanese white pine \$250-\$300, assorted pines \$100-\$125. Pick of trees will be determined by your entry date (either by postmark or Eventbrite date).

Our Saturday evening banquet will be at Meyer's Restaurant, 4260 S 76th St in Greenfield. It is an ALL YOU CAN EAT family style dinner: salad, bread, broasted chicken, Polish sausage and sauerkraut, steak stroganoff, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, dessert, coffee, tea or milk.

Sunday workshops are BYO, but you may also choose to buy one of the trees brought by Hidden Gardens to work on. Sunday morning BYO, Sunday afternoon BYO CARVING. Walter will be bringing for sale tools for your Dremel or Makita.

You may begin picking up your exhibit trees at 3:00 on Sunday afternoon.

We hope you will enjoy your time working with or listening to Walter Pall.



Milwaukee Bonsai Society  
2018 Annual Exhibit Tree Registration

CONTACT INFORMATION

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

TREE REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society would like to invite you to display **TWO** bonsai trees for **judging** at our annual exhibit. The display of your bonsai should include a stand and companion plant or object. To be able to display our member's trees appropriately, two deadlines will be used:

**First:** Registration **MUST** be received by **Monday, October 1**. If you do not meet this deadline, you must call to make sure there is room available for your tree. 262-512-1228

**Second:** All bonsai registered must be received between 4:00 and 7:00pm **Thursday evening October 4** at Boerner lower level. **Please don't be disappointed if you arrive Thursday with your tree and are turned away for not adhering to these deadlines!!**

Bring your entry form to the August or September meeting, send to the MBS mailbox (attn: Annual Exhibit): Milwaukee Bonsai Society, P. O. Box 240822, Milwaukee, WI 53224, 262-512-1228  
or register online using [Eventbrite](#)

TREE INFORMATION

PLEASE PRINT

Common Name \_\_\_\_\_

Botanical Name \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate age: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in training \_\_\_\_\_ I would like my tree displayed on:

Division: Novice \_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_\_\_ Open \_\_\_\_\_ (Circle one) \*high table \*\*low table

I have owned this tree over 2 winters  
(please circle) Yes No

ACCESSORIES:

Stand \_\_\_\_\_ Accent plant/object (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_ Accent stand \_\_\_\_\_

Scroll \_\_\_\_\_ (please show where you want it displayed in your exhibit)

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR TREE MUST BE ON DISPLAY  
UNTIL THE PICK UP TIME ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON

It would be very helpful if you have a picture or sketch of how you want your display set up..

**Milwaukee Bonsai Society**  
**2018 Annual Exhibit Workshop / Banquet Registration**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshops with Walter Pall**

**Saturday October 6, 2018**

9:00 - 12:30 **Must choose from material listed below** (limit 10)      \$65      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Scot's pine \$100-\$150, Colorado Spruce \$100 - \$200,  
Japanese white pine \$250-\$300, assorted pines \$100-\$125

**Sunday October 7, 2018**

9:00 - 12:30 Bring your own tree (limit 10)      \$65      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

1:00 - 4:30 Bring your own tree **CARVING** (limit 10)      \$65      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Banquet Saturday October 6 - Meyer's Restaurant - dinner served at 6:00**

**ALL YOU CAN EAT** salad, bread, broasted chicken, Polish sausage and sauerkraut,  
steak stroganoff, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, dessert, coffee, tea or milk

Number of banquets \_\_\_\_ x \$27      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total for workshops and banquet**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Refund Policy:** Once your check has been received there will be no refund unless you can find a replacement participant (MBS can help with this). Otherwise, there will be no refunds after Tuesday October 2.

**Workshop Priority:** Workshops are allocated by the postmark date of your registration. Also, for the Saturday morning workshop, order of pick will be determined by the postmark date / Eventbrite.

**Notification:** Workshop participants will be notified by email as to which workshops they are assigned. If any workshop has already been filled upon receipt of your registration, a refund of the overage will be sent after the Annual Exhibit weekend.

**Tools:** Each participant must have his/her own tools. Wire will be provided for workshop use.

**Payment:** Please make your check or money order payable to Milwaukee Bonsai Society - **or charge on Eventbrite** Any credits will be refunded after the Annual Exhibit weekend.

Register online on [Eventbrite](#) or bring your entry form to the August, September or October meeting or send to the MBS mailbox (attn: Annual Exhibit):

Milwaukee Bonsai Society  
P. O. Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI 53224  
262-512-1228

**Please send this form with your Tree Registration Form**

## A Brief Introduction to Bonsai Soil

Bonsai soil, what is it? How is it different from “regular” soil? These are some of the questions we will be attempting to answer in this article; however, we will not be opening up the debate of which type of soil mix is best as every individual has their own preference and reasoning. We will simply attempt to discuss why we use the specific aggregates we do as well as how to create the optimum growing conditions for your tree.

Now you might be saying to yourself, “Trees grow in regular dirt in the wild, why do we have to use some fancy soil that costs a lot more? Trees growing in the wild, planted in “regular dirt” have large, coarse roots that allow them to search out and gain access to all the water, nutrients, and drainage they minimally require to grow in any particular location. Bonsai trees, on the other hand, are growing in a containerized environment, where they have very limited access to and retention of the resources mentioned above. Creating a suitable medium within a container that produces an environment that is favorable to the generation of a fine, dense root system is dependent upon the specific attributes and particle size of the soil aggregate and their combined effect to create a proper balance of water retention and aeration within the container.

When beginning to address the expansive subject of soil aggregates we must first try to focus on a few of the main attributes that we are trying to create with our mix. Aggregates that contain a subangular shape, moisture and nutrient retention, and aeration are the optimal choices when considering aggregate selection; without these four key qualities, our tree will be deficient in one area or another. The true goal is to reduce compaction (retain air spaces) within your soil while still allowing the soil to retain enough water and nutrients for the tree to thrive. This sounds complicated... and contradictory. How can you retain spaces for air while wanting to keep as much water in the pot at the same time? This is where particle size and aggregate qualities allow the optimum mixture to produce just this.

There are two main contributors to the loss of percolation and aeration (besides the tree becoming pot-bound), differences in aggregate type and aggregate size (Neil, 2018). Using the appropriate particle size and ratio of aggregates is essential. So, rather than using a single aggregate such as pure lava rock as a bottom layer in the container (sometimes referred to as the drainage layer but truly works as an aeration layer) try switching to a larger particle size of your equally proportioned aggregate mix. This would eliminate a significant barrier to percolation and aeration by reducing the differences in aggregate type throughout the environment.

So, when considering your soil aggregates try to keep in mind the four key qualities to a balanced soil mix: subangular shape, moisture and nutrient retention, and aeration. In addition, when repotting your next tree try to remember the two main contributors of soil compaction as well as the needs of your particular tree.



John H.

No matter what experience level you are in the wonderful world of bonsai, there's always room to hone your basic skills.  
So, MBS is offering ...

# BonsaiBasics

**Prerequisite:** Novice class or like training

Participants must have:

tools

pots

wire

a deciduous tree

a conifer - If you don't have one, we'll find one at the nursery crawl

a tropical tree (optional)

**Class #1** (Saturday August 25, 9-12  
Boerner)

Wiring with wire branches

Tool sharpening

cut paste...

Homework

Please bring to the July picnic or August meeting or mail to:

Milwaukee Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 240822

Milwaukee, WI 53224

Or use [EVENTBRITE](#) to sign up online.

**Class #2** (Saturday September 22, 9-12  
Boerner)

Wiring with dead trees

Pot cleaning

fertilizer / pest control / soil

Homework

**Class #3** (Saturday October 20, 9-4)

field trip to nursery

cleaning out a tree

pruning (not leaving knobs...)

watering system

Homework

**Class #4** (Saturday October 27, 9-12  
Boerner)

Wiring on conifers

wiring with copper wire

miscellaneous

wrap up

**Fee: \$75**

**Limit of 6 students**

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## BonsaiBasics Class

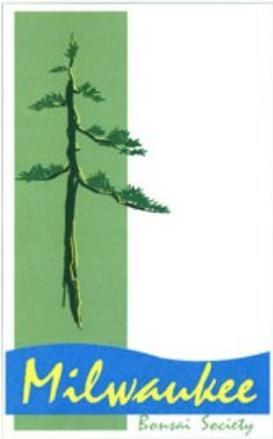
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Experience level: Novice Intermediate \$75 Fee enclosed check # \_\_\_\_\_

Repotting workshop July 22, 2018





PO Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI 53224  
Www.milwaukeebonsai.org  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next MBS meeting will be  
August 7, 2018 at 6:45pm  
Boerner Botanical Gardens  
9400 Boerner Dr  
Hales Corners, WI 53130

### 2018 MBS OFFICERS

President	<a href="#">Melissa J</a>
First VP	<a href="#">Bryan L</a>
Second VP	<a href="#">John H</a>
Secretary	<a href="#">Leo S</a>
Treasurer	<a href="#">Wally V</a>
Director	<a href="#">Rob P</a>
Director	<a href="#">Bonnie P</a>
Director	<a href="#">Phil R</a>
Past Pres.	<a href="#">Judy S</a>

### Other Club Functions

Newsletter	<a href="#">Melissa J</a>
Webmaster	<a href="#">Pam W</a>
Director of Children's Education—	Jean S
PAB Board—	Ron F, Houston S & Jean S



Ripe golden harvest  
Burning sun in azure skies  
Labours rewarded.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/haiku-year>