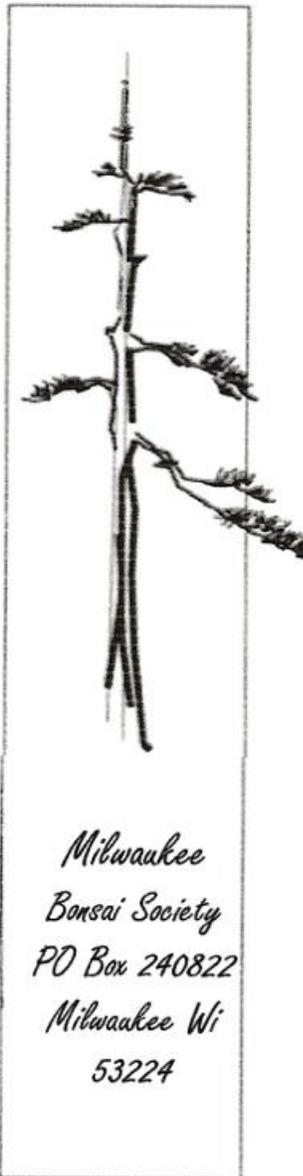


BONSAI NEWS

October 2023



Upcoming Meeting

This month's meeting main topic will be an introduction to pines with Steve C, Brian S and Ron F.

The focus topic will be Judy S giving us some advice on bringing our tropicals inside for winter. With winter right around the corner it is a good time to be thinking about this.

As always, bring your questions and curiosity to the meeting as this promises to be an informative session.

October

October 7 – Pines/Getting trees ready for winter

November

November 4 – Winter prep of your trees/Winter storage

November 11 – Skill Builder 101*

November 12 – Skill Builder 201*

November 17 – Holiday Folk Fair

December

December 2 – Monthly meeting

January

January 6 – Monthly meeting

February

February 3 – Monthly meeting

March

March 2 – Monthly meeting

*Open to MBS members only

Next Meeting

Oct 7, 2023

9 am

Boerner

Botanical



President's Message

Good bonsai people!

Well, here we are at the end of another great year in bonsai. In the coming months we will all be working diligently to put our little trees to bed for the long winter months. Thankfully we thought ahead and will be talking about best practices for winter storage, what has worked, what hasn't, and what definitely not to do. All of this will be geared towards our wonderful Wisconsin winter climate. I encourage everyone to attend the club meetings so you can learn how to care for your trees over the winter, ask questions about specific species, and enjoy the company of like-minded bonsai addicts.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Erich

The 2024 Executive Committee slate:

President – Rick W	1 st VP – Pam W
2 nd VP – Rob S	Treasurer – John N
Secretary – Greg R	Director – Joe T
Director – Michael B	Director – Irene H
Past President – Erich B	

Ancient Arts Bonsai

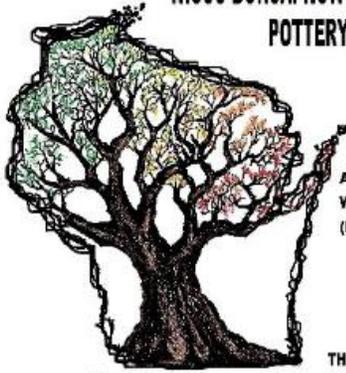
Bonsai Supplier Established
in 2005

Bonsai a Growing Hobby
Wisconsin's Leading Full Line Bonsai Supplier

Tools, Wire – Aluminum & Copper, Pots, Fertilizers
Soils – Akadama, Lava, Pumice, Kanuma, Blends
Trees – Tropical, Deciduous, Conifers, Evergreens
Services – Lessons, Consults, Repotting, Wiring, Boarding

See our updated Website: aabonsai.com
Email – aabonsai@charter.net
Phone – 262-490-8733

WISCO BONSAI NOW HAS THE AREA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF ARTISIAN, HANDMADE BONSAI POTTERY, MUCH OF WHICH CONSISTS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL ARTISTS.



WISCO BONSAI
www.WiscoBonsai.com

WE ALSO NOW CARRY A LINE OF TOOLS GEARED TOWARD THE BEGINNER AND NOVICE AMONG US, ALONG WITH ALL MANNER OF BONSAI SUNDRIES, SUCH AS, COPPER & ALUMINUM WIRE, JIN SEAL, WOUND PUTTY, ETC.

AND OF COURSE THERES THE SUBSTRATE, WISCO GOLD... THE BEST NON-JAPANESE MIX AROUND WE ALSO OCCASIONALLY HAVE OTHER RAW SUBSTRATE COMPONENTS AVAILABLE (PUMICE, LAVA, ETC).

SEVERAL SIZES OF KANUMA NOW AVAILABLE !!!

GOT ORCHIDS ? WE HAVE A SUBSTRATE FOR THOSE TOO !!!

WiscoBonsai@gmail.com

414-248-3827

www.WiscoBonsai.com

INSTAGRAM @wisco.bonsai

THE SHOP NOW HAS REGULAR HOURS IN THE SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL. HOURS ARE UPDATED WEEKLY ON MY GOOGLE INFO SITE. OR, TO BE THE AMONG FIRST TO KNOW ABOUT ALL THE WORKSHOPS AND OTHER FUN GOING DOWN AT WISCO BONSAI, JUST SHOOT AN EMAIL AND I WILL ADD YOU TO THE EMAIL LIST.

"BONSAI IS THE ART OF NATURE, GUIDED AND NURTURED BY HUMAN HANDS" - KMS

Special Roundtable Opportunity-Azaleas

Remember back in March when Rick Garcia was at the general meeting and talked about azaleas? If not or you missed the meeting or you just want to learn more about these beauties you have that chance on Sunday, October 29th. Rick will be holding a roundtable discussion on azaleas with members, free of charge. He will gladly answer questions and pass on knowledge about these wonderful flowering trees, helping to break the myth that they are difficult to take care of. This is a discussion only; trees are not to be brought in. No styling help will be given. The opportunity will be held at Boerner in the Grandparents Room from 9am - 12pm. Sign up on Eventbrite by clicking on the link below or email Melissa J at missyuc2@yahoo.com:

[Azalea sign up](#)



Rick Garcia at the March meeting

Annual Exhibit 2023

The 2023 Annual Exhibit took place on August 26-27 at Lynden Sculpture Gardens. The weather cooperated with temps in the 70s and sun all weekend. Everyone who visited the event seemed to enjoy themselves and there were about 40 trees on display for judging. We had Bjorn Bjorholm as our guest artist for the exhibit this year. More pictures can be found at the following [link](#)



Raffle committee sorting the goodies before the exhibit



52st Annual Exhibit Results judged by Bjorn Bjorholm

By Pam W



Best of Show – Bullhorn acacia - *Vachellia cornigera*. Tree is 15 years and has been in training with **Irene H.** for 7 years. The accent was *Haworthia chloracantha* and *sedum hispanicum aureum* (tiny buttons sedum)



Peoples' Choice was the 1st place Open winner a Cork Bark Elm - *Ulmus parvifolia* 'Cortcosa' by **Kris Z.**

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society Education Committee has identified three categories of bonsai skills that all bonsai enthusiast should learn. Becoming proficient in these skills will give you the confidence to grow and maintain your trees.

Horticulture Skills - watering, fertilizing, seasonal care, repotting (Keeping my trees alive)

Styling Skills - Growing out trunks and branches, cutting back, pruning, building ramification, placing wire on a tree (Making the tree look good)

Presentation Skills - Pot selection, stand selection, accent piece selection and overall composition (pulling it all together and creating a great picture).

Each MBS member should reflect on the skill categories and self-determine at which level of proficiency their skills are at. The following pages describes these levels and has more pictures of the Annual Exhibit winning trees.

Open

You feel confident and reasonable proficient in performing these skills (Horticulture, Styling and Presentation).



First Place was a Cork Bark Elm - *Ulmus parvifolia* 'Cortcosa' about 55 years old in training with **Kris Z.** for 20 years. The container artist was Max Braverman.



Second Place was a Ponderosa Pine- *Pinus ponderosa* 129 years old in training with **Scott D.** for 4 years. The container is a Yamaaki (Tokoname) and slab is walnut.



Third Place was a Rough Bark Korean Hornbeam - *Carpinus coreana*. 63 years old in training with **Scott D.** for 2 years. The container artist is Me and Raimondi

Intermediate

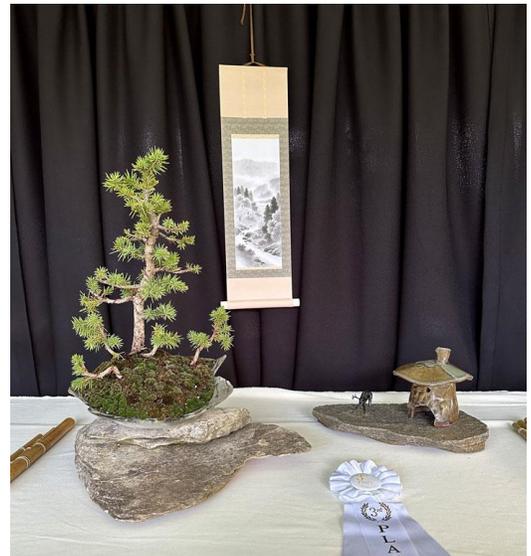
You are becoming more confident/comfortable in performing these skills but you still are learning and refining these skills.



First Place was a Satsuki azalea "Hinomaru" - *Rhododendron indicum* 30 years old in training with **Rick W** for 5 years. The container is a Shuho from Japan



Second Place was a Common Juniper - *Juniper Squamata* 19 years old in training 9 years with **Wally V.** The stand was built by Dennis G



Third Place was a Colorado Spruce Clump - *Picea Pungens* 10 years old in training with **Kevin S.** for 5 years. The container artist is Erik Krizkovenski.

Novice

You are learning these skills and do not feel comfortable or proficient with all of these skills at this point in time.



First Place was an Engelmann Spruce - *Picea engelmannii* about 10 years old in training with **Stacy L.** for about 2 years. The container artist is Karen Schuman.



Second Place was a Bullhorn Acacia - *Vachellia Cornigera* about 10 years old in training with **Joe T.** for 2 years. The container is Willow bonsai



Third Place was a Common Juniper - *Juniperus procumbens* 'Nana' about 8 years old and in training with **Rob S.** for 2.5 years.

June Kelly Award of Merit Award – Judy Schmidt

By Pam W

June Kelly Award of Merit

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society established the June Kelly Award of Merit to honor individuals who have generously shared their time and talent with members of MBS. The award is not a yearly award and is considered for service above and beyond.

Recognition along with a lifetime membership is awarded these individuals. Past honorees include Gloria Roisler (founding member) Mary Turner, Rita Luedke, Jim Toepfer, Jack Douthitt, Pam Woythal, Tony Plicka, Ron Fortmann, Kris Ziemann, Steve Carini and Steve Cotney. Current count is nine.

Judy Schmidt

Judy Schmidt has been a Milwaukee Bonsai Society member since March of 2011. She has served on the MBS board for seven years as 1st Vice president, 2nd Vice President, President and Past President. Judy serves the regional bonsai community as she served as President of Mid-America Bonsai Alliance from 2017 to 2021. Currently she serves the region by reporting on the bonsai happenings around the state sort of the unofficial American Bonsai Society editor for Wisconsin.

She regularly exhibits bonsai shows, volunteers extensively for State Fair. However, her crowning achievement started when she was assigned the chairmanship of the newly formed Education Committee by then president Bryan Lorenntzen. Judy still chairs the committee and has leveled up our education programs not only for those who pay for the classes, but all who attend our general meetings at no cost for this stellar education. This committee has been in existence for three years, and definitely sets our MBS apart from other societies.

Judy is constantly challenging herself in her bonsai practice. She classes with Mauro Stemberger and Mauro recently asked her to come to Italy to work on his collection. Judy truly represents MBS in the most positive light.



This year's Public Workshop took place on September 16th at Boerner with 34 new members attending. It was a fun morning helping the newest members work on their new "babies". More pictures can be found by clicking this [link](#).



New Videos for September are now available!

In the month of September, **TEN new videos** have been posted to the MBS Membership Video Site. You will find new recordings of the main and focus topics from two of our monthly meetings, along with two special presentations. In addition, for those of you who were unable to attend our Annual Event, you will be able to get an insight into Bjorn Bjornholm's demonstration of the art of bonsai.

Here's what's new:

Monthly Meetings

August Meeting Main Topic #1 – Season End Deciduous Pruning – by Steve Carini

August Meeting Main Topic #2 – Pre-Show Tree Pruning – by Steve Carini

August Meeting Main Topic #3 – Tree Show Prep – by Ron Fortman

August Meeting Main Topic #4 – Mossing your Tree – by Brian Sussler

September Meeting Main Topic – Structural Wiring – by Brian Sussler and Steve Carini

Focus Topics

Midsummer Cutback - by Steve Carini

Working with Tropical Trees - by Irene Haley and Judy Schnidt

Special Presentations

Summer Watering - by Ron Fortman

The Art of Mossing - by Ron Fortman

Annual Event: The Art of Bonsai - by Bjorn Bjornholm

Remember, the site is password protected and we ask that you do not share the login information with anyone outside of our organization. If you have lost or did not receive your login information, send us an email.

Additional videos will be added next month.

Some of our Very Best at the 2023 8TH US National Bonsai Exhibition.

by Pam W

Just in... William N. Valavanis' 100th event that he organized and chaired. The 2023 8TH US National Bonsai Exhibition featured 304 of the best bonsai from all over the USA and Canada. Bill was very proud to have 109 different species.

The trees accepted were all extremely good, even world class.

For several years the top award has gone to bonsai by Suthin Sukosolvisit currently "Artistic Director" for the Bonsai Exhibit at Lynden Sculpture Garden. This year the top award goes to a Scots Pine owned by Michael Kidder, styled and maintained by our recent Annual Exhibit artist Bjorn L Bjorholm.

Milwaukee Bonsai Society artists had three trees on exhibit. While 4 were accepted, Ron was not happy with his tree and did not take it to the exhibition.

Members of MBS who attended include Isaiah G, Jorge R and Rocio S, Pam and partner Ann, Rob P and Rena, Ron and wife Kathy, Steve and partner Lori. All of us were thrilled to be in attendance and enjoyed shopping at the over 40 vendors where at least four of us came home with trees.

Future major exhibitions include

- American Bonsai Society May 9-12, 2024 in Grand Rapids, MI
- Bonsai Central May 3-5, 2024 in St. Louis MO.
- And possibly The Pacific Bonsai Expo in 2024 will provide a West Coast rivalry to this East Coast exhibition in Rochester NY.

Let's plan to make MBS a large contingency to all these future exhibitions. Ask any of us about our dinners, shopping, and experiences as we enjoyed the events and company of friends.



Steve's Oregon oak



Steves coastal redwood

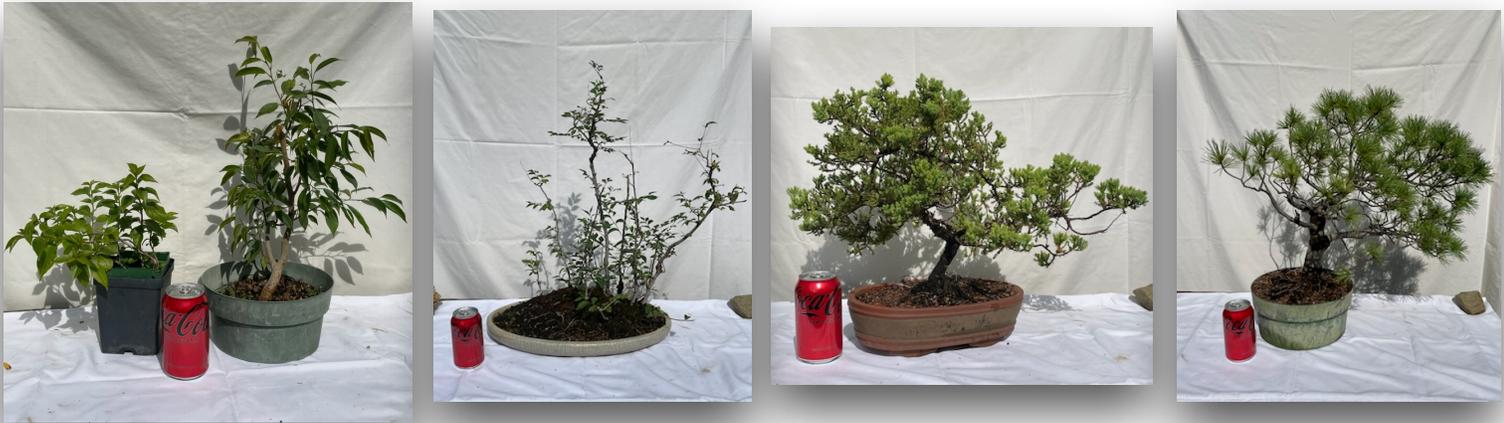


Pam's white birch



TREES, TREES, TREES!!

A former member of MBS is downsizing his collection. A number of the trees will be at our October 7 MBS meeting ready to go to a new home. They will be priced to sell!!! Cash appreciated but checks are ok. See some of the pix below:



Also available are 3 LARGE (and heavy) trees that will be available in a Silent Auction. Email your bids to hagr8d@mac.com. You will be updated every time a bid comes in. Bidding will end on October 15 at 8:00 pm Central Time. Minimum bid for each of the following 3 trees is \$500 with increments of \$50. If you wish to view these trees before bidding, contact Rob at 1-920-917-0050

* Best Guess



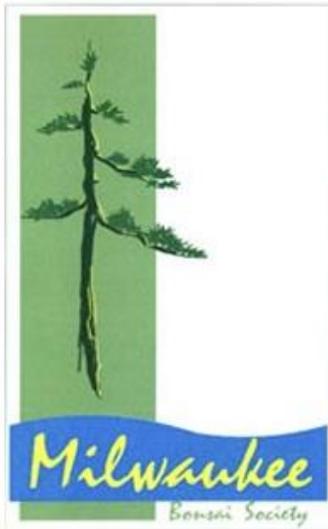
*Golden Gate Ficus
*Approx 30 years old
Approx 30" high and 34" wide
Pot approx 25"w, 16"d, 2.5" h



*Ficus microcarpa
*Approx 35 years old
Approx 30" high and 36" wide
Pot approx 25"w, 18"d, 3.25" h



Bougainvillea
*Approx 40 years old
Approx 30" high and 32" wide
Pot approx 14" diameter, 7.5" h



PO Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI 53224
www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Next MBS meeting will be
October 7, 2023 @ 9am

2023 MBS OFFICERS

President [Erich B](#)
1st VP [Pam W](#)
2nd VP [Rob S](#)
Secretary [Rick W](#)
Treasurer [Clif O](#)
Director [John N](#)
Director [Irene H](#)
Director [Mike B](#)

Other Club Functions

Newsletter [Melissa J](#)
Webmaster [Pam W](#)
Librarian [Greg R](#)

PAB Board-Ron F, Houston S & Judy S



*Fall is upon us,
Splashing color all around;
Cool and refreshing*

~Lenny Sharp