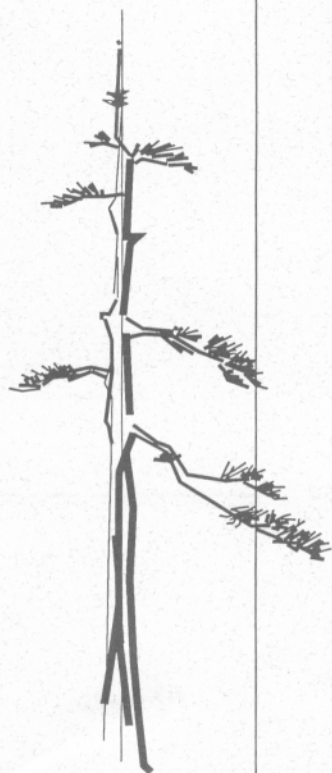


BONSAI NEWS



Milwaukee Bonsai Society

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

Information Line
414-299-9229

August Meeting

Our August meeting will feature Randy Clark and "phoenix graft" bonsai. Randy, used to live in Minneapolis and was very active there, but moved to Charlotte, North Carolina several years ago, where he opened the "Bonsai Learning Center." "Phoenix graft" bonsai, or as the Japanese call them "tanuki" is when you marry a live tree to a separate piece of driftwood. If you want to do a little research about "phoenix graft" bonsai find Volume 81 of *Bonsai Today* (it's the fourth issue of 2002) where Randy has a very nice article about them. Randy will be doing a workshop on Saturday, August 2 from 8 am until Noon. The workshop is limited to eight people and sign up sheets will be available at the July meeting.

President's Message

With the attendance that we have been having at our meetings our Milwaukee Bonsai Society is becoming known as one of the largest and most active bonsai clubs in the Midwest. Several of our presenters have commented about the large attendance at our meetings. Congratulations to all of you for your part in making this happen.

A larger club has many benefits. We are able to bring in more visiting artists to show us the way to become better bonsai artists. We are able to plan, and execute bigger and better events. We get to meet more new

people and have a lot more fun with our hobby of bonsai.

With the increase in size, of course come problems. It takes time for your Executive Committee to plan and execute all of the events that we produce. Many of you have stepped up and contributed your time and your efforts to help the club keep active and growing. More of you will be asked. We need your help in all sorts of ways, so please make every effort to participate when asked to help.

Another problem that is becoming more pronounced, is the general overall level of noise at our meetings. When we have ninety (90!) people at our meetings the noise level sometimes gets quite high. And when we have a speaker or a demonstrator, then the excessive noise can be very disturbing. Although we want you to come to the meetings and have a good time, with 90 people in attendance, we have to be a little less noisy so that everyone can hear the program.

Your Board, at their last meeting, reviewed the policies for being a vendor at our meetings. First of all, the vendor has to be a club member and pay regular club dues. Then there is an additional annual fee to be a vendor. The fee is the same whether it is for one meeting or for every meeting. This year the fee is \$35. For this fee each vendor will be allowed no more than two tables to display their merchandise at any club meeting. When we have a visiting artist who is presenting a program, he or she will be allowed to

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be a vendor, for that meeting only, at no cost. He or she, will be allowed one table to display the material they wish to sell.

Club members have the privilege to occasionally sell items at a club meeting. When a club member does sell something at a club meeting, they are expected to donate 10% of their total sales to the club. This is on the honor system, so if you do occasionally sell something at the club meetings, please give your donation to our treasurer. When we have our "White Elephant Sales" night, which for newer members is a club meeting when all club members are invited to bring any material that they wish to sell, trade, or give away, there are no commissions due to the club.

The State Fair is coming up very fast. The Fair will feature bonsai from around the entire state of Wisconsin. More information will be available at the July meeting. Be sure to sign up to help produce this large event. I am confident that you will all volunteer and help us make it into a successful event.

2003 Club Show Awards

Jean Sher

Thanks to all members for displaying such outstanding trees during this year's Club Show on June 3. Members displayed over seventy-five trees. The excitement and enthusiasm generated at this event continues to motivate us to keep working on our trees, searching for the "perfect bonsai."

This year our judge was Mr. Tom Longfellow from Chicago. He spent an hour looking at all the entries and as the ribbons were awarded he offered comments about his reasons for selecting each winner and, in some cases, his suggestions for future improvements.

This year's winners were awarded beautiful ribbons with our new club logo for the following:

Advanced Division:

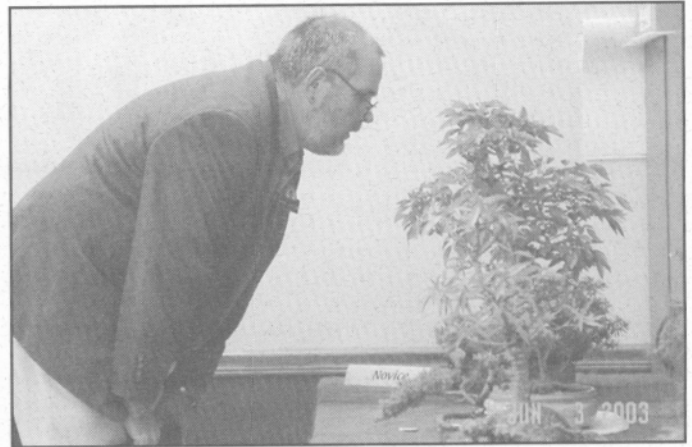
THIRD PLACE: Ron Fortmann - Larch

SECOND PLACE: Jack Douthitt - San José Juniper

FIRST PLACE: Jack Douthitt - Japanese Flowering Hawthorne

Intermediate Division:

THIRD PLACE: Tom Kerner - Needle Juniper



Tom Longfellow in the process of judging our club member trees in June.



Ron Fortmann's larch took 3rd place in the Advanced Class.

Jack Douthitt's lovely San Jose Juniper.



Novice Class: Jean Sher took first and second place - way to go! Jerry Niemiec walked away with third.



Intermediate Class winners – Congratulations to Melba & Tom.



Best of Show & People's Choice Award. Wow, what a beauty! This photo doesn't do Jack Douthitt's gorgeous blooming hawthorne justice.



SECOND PLACE: Melba Stockhausen - Mame-Erodiums

FIRST PLACE: Melba Stockhausen - Pisifera Plumosa

Novice Division:

THIRD PLACE: Jerry Niemiec - Dwarf Hawaiian Umbrella Tree

SECOND PLACE: Jean Sher - Juniper

FIRST PLACE: Jean Sher - Dwarf Rhododendron

BEST OF SHOW: Jack Douthitt - Japanese Flowering Hawthorne

PEOPLE'S CHOICE: Jack Douthitt - Japanese Flowering Hawthorne

“What next?” Workshop

Do you have any trees that you're just not sure what to do next? Well, this is the workshop for you! For the unbelievably low price of \$10 you can bring a tree or two for expert advice. Some of our experienced club members will be on hand to offer their opinions and expertise.

Saturday, July 19 at 8 am - Noon
Grace Lutheran Church

You will be able to sign-up and pay at the July 1 meeting. If you cannot make the meeting, please call Jean Sher (414-427-0630) or Kris Ziemann (262-512-1228) to reserve your spot.

Asian Moon Festival

The weather was beautiful. A lovely opportunity to savor the sounds and aromas of the Asian cultures featured. There were lots of interested folks passing by our booth located in the Potawatomi “tent.” Thanks to all who worked the booth!

Ken Hahn gave a demonstration on Saturday afternoon. The picture (left) with his arms out is an example of what to look for in branching.

Why Should I Go to a Convention?

Ron Fortmann

If you are relatively new to the hobby (and even if you are not), you have heard your club officers mention the convention that was held in Milwaukee just last year and there is often mention of conventions at the monthly meetings. Why should you consider attending a

convention? I believe that there are five good reasons to attend a convention, the first is the chance to participate in a workshop with a bonsai master of National or International fame who is often using material that you would not normally have access too. The second reason is the chance to see a bonsai master demonstrate his/her techniques on material. A few years ago I was fortunate to see John Naka assemble a forest planting very similar to his famous "Goshen" forest planting that is in the National Bonsai Arboretum. The third reason to attend a convention is there is usually a bonsai display of trees from hobbyists from the area or attending the convention. The trees in these displays are masterpieces in their own right and do not take a backseat in looks to the trees you see in the bonsai magazines and books. The fourth reason to attend a convention is the vendor area, which often has vendors with every conceivable bonsai accessory, tool or pot and a larger and more varied selection of plant material than you can possibly imagine. But the final reason to attend a bonsai convention is the chance to form new friendships with other bonsai hobbyists from across the country or the world.

With those five reasons you should consider attending a convention in the near future. Coincidentally the MABA (Mid America Bonsai Alliance) convention is in Cincinnati, Ohio this July 3-6. The main artist is Colin Lewis who has authored several books. Other artists that will be at this convention are Mary Madison who is a noted expert on tropical material, and Salvatore Liporace who is an up and coming artist from Italy who studied under Kimura from Japan. Another very popular artist that is becoming known worldwide, from California, Boon Manakitivipart will have several workshops as well as regional artists Doug Hawley and Vance Hanna. For more information check the website for the convention www.maba2003.com. And finally if Cincinnati doesn't work into your plans start smaller by attending the bonsai show in Chicago at the Botanical Gardens, August 15-17, they offer many of the same activities as a convention on a smaller scale; get your feet wet and go. If you have any questions regarding conventions see me at the club meetings and I will be happy to discuss them with you.

Calendar of Events

- June 28 Kingsville Boxwood Workshop with
Tim Thimios : Morning: 8 am - Noon
Afternoon: 1-5 pm
*Both workshops are full, but silent observers are
welcome for a \$5.00 fee at the door.*
- July 1 Club Meeting - Tim Thimios Kingsville
Boxwood Demonstration
- July 3-6 MABA Convention in Cincinnati
- July 12 Wauwatosa Garden Tour
- July 19 What's Next? Workshop
- July 31 -
Aug. 10 Bonsai Exhibit at State Fair
- August 2 Randy Clark "Phoenix Graft"
Workshop
- August 5 Club Meeting - Randy Clark
"Phoenix Graft" Demonstration
- August 23 Fall Public Workshop
- Sept. 2 Club Meeting - Dead tree contest
and white elephant sale
- Oct. 7 Club Meeting - Bonsai Critique
- Nov. 4 Club Meeting - Tool care & Power
tool demo
- Nov. 21-23 Folk Fair
- Dec. 2 Holiday Party



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Start with character...

Kingsville Dwarf Box

Albert J. Lake (submitted by Joe Nemeč)

Indoor bonsai. Outdoor bonsai, "instant" bonsai, mamé bonsai – whatever! The prime factor is to find a decent tree or plant to work with. Some plants will *never* make a bonsai, others can be turned and wired into a presentable or even a good one. The best way to make a proper bonsai is to find a plant with at least some measure of character to start with.

The average garden center seldom offers much in the way of proper bonsai material for indoors. Therefore, the enthusiast must seek out a rare plant nursery or a bonsai establishment, or inquire among members of bonsai clubs, horticultural societies and arboreta. The satisfaction and excitement of finding good material more than justifies the time spent.

Kingsville Dwarf boxwood (*Buxus inicrophylla* 'Compacta') may be rather difficult to find in garden centers,* but it is probably the aristocrat of all indoor bonsai. This magnificent plant, generally petite in size, with its tiny leaves, remarkable branching and aged-looking bark is superb in every respect. It was introduced many years ago by the late H. J. Hohman of Kingsville Nurseries in Maryland and has steadily gained the favor of bonsai enthusiasts.

Kingsville Dwarf box is extremely slow growing. It is not particularly fussy about soil so long as there is good drainage and good light. Partial shade or filtered sunlight is best, although once acclimated in the home it can get along nicely with no direct sunshine at all. Growth may amount to no more than a quarter- or half-inch a year. New leaves are a handsome light green, contrasting delightfully with the darker older foliage. When grown as an outdoor shrub it is hardy in most of the northern states, but the leaves will bronze in winter. As an indoor bonsai the foliage remains green year round. Often, perfectly charming bonsai can be fashioned, from the Kingsville Dwarf

box by pruning and pinching alone – no wiring needed!

A fifty-year-old specimen is only about 20 inches tall: eight- to twelve-year plants may reach 6 or 7 inches in height: four-year plants are about 3 inches tall. Spread is likely to be wider than the height. Regardless of size, Kingsville Dwarf never fails to enchant all who see it.


Kingsville Dwarf is one of the relatively few plants from the cool temperate zone that makes a good indoor bonsai. It is derived from an Oriental species which should not be confused with the common box (*Buxus sempervirens*).

*-ed. For a list of mail-order sources see Brooklyn Botanic Garden Handbook No. 63. 1200 Trees and Shrubs-Where to Buy Them.

Ambiance Floral & Bonsai

2619 W. State Street Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 345-9810 (866) 345-9810



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Ambiance Floral & Bonsai prides itself in giving its customers the highest quality trees and related services while providing unique and interesting bonsai specimens for your collection. We are located on the first floor of a grand Queen Anne Victorian – where your every selection creates a unique Ambiance.

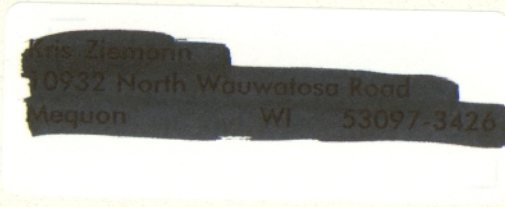
Hours: Monday thru Friday 9AM to 7PM and Saturdays 9AM to 5PM

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>



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



*Next Meeting of MBS
Tuesday, July 1
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*

*Garden butterfly
clothed in Spring's iridescence
without vanity.*

~ Joe Nemeč



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