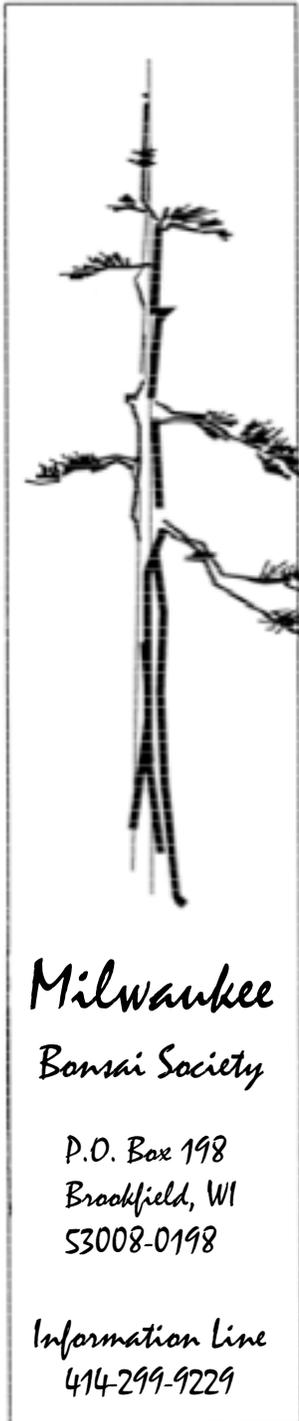


# Bonsai News



*Milwaukee  
Bonsai Society*

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

*Information Line  
414-299-9229*

## White Elephant Auction

Once again, it's time to clean out your bonsai area and bring your unwanted goodies to the **Auction** at our Nov 6 club meeting. Come prepared with a list of the items you are bringing and the lowest price you will take for each. If you have smaller items, you might consider grouping them into a "lot", i.e. 3 or 4 small pots sold together. Check them in before 6:45, then get your bidding paddle and enjoy the fun. Remember: **10% of your total will go to the club**. Our skilled treasurer and her assistants will figure everything out so that you will have a check or cash by the end of the evening. This was a great hit last year. We're looking forward to another exciting evening.

All payments (to MBS and to sellers) will be made that night. Please bring checks or plenty of cash. **PLEASE PAY** for your auction items before you leave. Sellers will be paid that night.

(While you're at it, please renew your membership and make reservations for the Holiday Party!)

**NEXT MEETING**  
November 6 - 7 pm  
Grace Lutheran Church

**NOVEMBER**  
November 16-18  
FOLK FAIR

**DECEMBER**  
December 4 - Holiday Party

Also at the November Meeting... A display of trees presented by the Intermediate Classes of 2007.

## FOLK FAIR 2007

If you wish to exhibit your tree(s) at Folk Fair this year, please contact Scott H (414-759-3274 or email [hankengai@aol.com](mailto:hankengai@aol.com)) ASAP. You may also sign up at the Nov 6 meeting. **Then bring your tree(s) and stands to the Park n Ride at Watertown / Plank on Thursday, Nov 15 between 6:00-7:00pm.**

We are still in need of volunteers for Friday - Sunday (Nov 16-18). Please contact Gregg W (262-968-3090 or email [runngregg@yahoo.com](mailto:runngregg@yahoo.com)). You may also sign up at the November 6 meeting.

## President's Message

Greetings to everyone!

I have been pondering the term "white elephant" and came across this information. Traditionally, a "White Elephant" is something lying around the house that you don't want (some horribly ugly item that someone gave you as a gift or some other item unwanted for some reason). The term came into usage after someone said that an item was "as useful as a white elephant." Why would we want to have a "white elephant sale" at our November MBS meeting? So we can have a riotous time trying to outbid each other for other people's junk that looks enticing to our bonsai fevered artistic souls.

Last year I bought a box of stuff so I could own one small interesting bonsai pot... wouldn't ya know, I bid and won the wrong box! Ah well, some of the stuff made really great holiday gift exchange items. I hope to do better this year in my attention to details about boxes! Come join us for the November meeting and maybe you'll find a bonsai bargain!

Please remember to bring your calendars so you can check dates and times for the Folk Fair tree sitting. Also check out the notice about **tree pick up and delivery** to a central location rather than all of us trying deliver trees to the State Fair park. We hope this change in routine will make it easier for trees to be entered for display.

This is also the time of year to pay your dues and make holiday party reservations. Recently members were mailed a holiday party form and a short but important survey. Please return your survey to Mary T. at the November meeting.

I, as always, look forward to seeing everyone on the first Tuesday of the month. Enjoy your bonsai as they reveal fall colors and forms.

*Jean*

### 2008 Officers

We welcome the new officers for 2008\* and welcome back the continuing officers ...

President - Jean S

1st Vice President - Joe H\*

2nd Vice President - Allen K\*

Secretary - Susan C

Treasurer - Laura L\*

Directors - Jerry N\*, Michelle Z & John M

Past President - Kris Z

### Winter-time tip

from Joe Nemec

Before you put your outdoor trees away for the winter, spray them with **Cloud Cover®** a product used to prevent excessive moisture loss (available at Stein's).

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## HOLIDAY PARTY 2007

Our annual Holiday party will again be at Meyer's restaurant at 74th and Forest Home. It's a festive occasion and folks always have a great time. In the spirit of the holidays, please bring a wrapped gift as a contribution for our door prizes. Please fill out the reservation form below and bring it with a check to the November meeting or send to our mailbox: MBS P.O. Box 198, Brookfield, WI 53008-0198.

Date: Tuesday December 5, 2007

Reservations must be

Time: 6:00-7:00 cash bar

**RECEIVED by NOVEMBER 25, 2007**

7:00 Family Style Dinner

Place: Meyer's Restaurant 74th and Forest Home

Price: \$15 per person

**REMEMBER: EVEN IF YOU RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY DINNER,  
YOU MUST FILL OUT A RESERVATION FORM!!!**

..... HOLIDAY PARTY Reservation Form .....

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

Phone # (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of dinners \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Buddy Bucks \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$3 each = - ( \$ \_\_\_\_\_ )

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Milwaukee Bonsai Society (MBS). Bring check to November meeting or send to the P.O. Box 198, Brookfield, WI 53008. Reservations must be RECEIVED by NOVEMBER 25, 2007

## 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:

## OVERWINTERING 101

- by Pauline Muth

We just had a heat wave, BUT cooler, then colder weather is on the way. At this point we are making sure our tropicals are indoors in a greenhouse (heated), under lights or in a well lit window.

Our tender trees like tridents are still outside and will remain there until November when we put them in a well protected storage area for winter. Many of us grow species that are on the edge of hardiness for Zones 4 or 5, so they need special storage that will not dip into the extremely cold temperatures that can occur in our region. We have had several warmer than normal winters and as a result we are not suffering winter kill. It is impossible to know what this winter will bring so plan for the worst and be safe.

The hardy stuff usually can wait until mid December for storage. An unheated garage, shed, barn or dark cold frame does the job. Be sure to prepare your trees for storage by removing fruit, leaves of the deciduous material, thick layers of moss and other debris. I wash my trees in a solution of an agricultural soap like Safer or Concern before storage. In storage I add many packets of DeCon to feed the critters that may find their way into the storage area. The main idea is to protect your hardy material from the harsh sun and winds of winter. In the case of the super hardy material like larch, they can be stored under evergreen trees that protect them from large snow falls that can break branches. If you do store them in your cold storage area be sure that area stays cold and does not drastically fluctuate in temperature during the winter.

If you store in a garage on shelves or have one or two and store them in a cooler in the garage, remember to check for moisture during the winter. Putting handfuls of snow on the soil helps as it will "water" the soil if a thaw occurs.

I personally do not store the hardy material until we have experienced some snow fall. And for our newer members...YES hardy bonsai can freeze. A word of warning: Exposed root styles

need extra protection in the winter. Try to keep them in a place that the temperatures stay below 40 but above 30. If you have a cool greenhouse, you can take them from outside in December and into the cool greenhouse for the rest of winter.



## OVERWINTERING 102

•This is a "tricky" time of year for outdoor bonsai. Watch the weather forecasts regularly. If the actual temperatures dip to 27° F or below, your trees will need protection.

•Pick up fallen leaves and move your bonsai around on the benches to prevent algae forming under the pots.

•Water only as needed. Deciduous trees that are going into dormancy need much less water than evergreen conifers, which may still be actively growing. Water these two types differently. Did you know that intentional limitation of water on deciduous trees will improve their fall colors?

•Watch out for those autumn pests. Industrious squirrels and other "critters" can seriously damage roots with their constant digging. Slugs and snails may also be more prevalent during autumn rains.

•By now, all tropical and semi-indoor varieties should be in their winter quarters.

•Check wiring on branches. At this time of year the plants are storing sugars and starches, causing tissues to swell and branch diameters to increase.

## OVERWINTERING 103

What do you do with your tropicals?

- Kris Z

Perhaps this section will be particularly helpful for our new members from the Public Workshop. By now, your trees should be indoors. Once inside, don't be concerned if leaves drop. Tropicals don't much like to change their environments and they express their displeasure this way. Just put them in one place in your home and keep them there for the winter. That being said, here are some tips that might also help you out.

**Humidity** is a challenge during the winter months.



A well sun-lit bathroom would be nice. If you are not able to mist them a few times a day, you might consider using a smallish type "greenhouse". If you have only a few trees, a

zipper-type might be helpful (you can get different varieties at Stein's, etc.)

You might decide to make a portable hoop-house using PVC pipe and plastic. A rigid door isn't necessary... you can hang strips of plastic as in a walk-in freezer.



Or you might like to convert a room in the basement, as I did, to suit your trees. It already had paneling on the walls. I put plastic on the ceiling and hung overlapping strips of plastic in the doorway. The racks are made with 2X4's and 2x8 sheets of plywood. I use plastic sleds with gravel in the bottom to help with the humidity.



**Lighting** - Your tropicals need good light, whether sitting near a window or under artificial light for about 14 to 16 hours daily. I use 1 cool and 1 warm fluorescent tube. One halogen light is hung in the center of the room, more for heat than lighting. (I have timers set to control lighting.)

**Watering** - Continue to water as you did outside. If the soil feels dry, water it thoroughly. I use de-humidifier water on my trees. I had my tap water and outside water tested, and the dehumidifier water had the lowest % of metals in it. I have 'de-h' water all winter due to the humidity that leaks out of the basement "greenhouse". I also have the clothes drier hose venting to the inside, so as to collect the humidity from that. The trees like to keep their feet warm, so I allow the collected water to sit in the greenhouse until it warms up.

**Feeding** - Keep feeding your indoor trees ( I tone it down just a bit from the outdoor regimen). I use Bio-Gold mostly ( a time-released fertilizer), but I also supplement with Miracle Grow. I use Chelated Iron if the leaves look a sickly light green.

**Odds and Ends** - Before the trees go into the indoor greenhouse, they are blasted with a spray of water to get rid of as many pests as possible. But, flying critters do appear during the winter. I use a house-type bug spray and spray over the tops of the trees. **Use caution** - I am confident in the spray I use... this may not work for you. Otherwise a Safer Soap spray can work.

Sometimes it gets a little stagnant in the greenhouse, so I put on an oscillating fan for about 8 hours a day. That's also on a timer.

•This is certainly not the definitive word for all tropicals. It's just what works for me here around Milwaukee in zone 4/5. If you have any questions, feel free to email:

[hagr8d@mac.com](mailto:hagr8d@mac.com)

## Bonsai from your backyard

### Burning Bush - *Euonymus*

**General information:** The spindle tree, or burning bush, is popular as an ornamental shrub for its brilliant red autumn coloration and for the interesting "wing" structures which form on the branches. Bonsai enthusiasts differ on this point: some find the wings an interesting feature, whereas others consider them a nuisance. Both evergreen and deciduous varieties of spindle tree can be used for bonsai.

**Lighting:** Needs a lot of indirect light, but only limited exposure to full sun.

**Temperature:** Varies according to species, with some *Euonymus* being quite hardy (to zone 4) while others being considerably more tender. Tender varieties can be kept indoors during winter, but need outdoor light and air come spring. Small sized *Euonymus* bonsai need frost protection for their roots.

**Watering:** Moderate. Do not allow the soil to dry out. May appreciate daily misting during growth.

**Feeding:** Every two weeks from late spring through summer. Use bonsai food, half-strength plant food or timed-release pellets.

**Pruning and wiring:** Cut back new shoots to 2-3 leaves. Can be wired during spring and summer, but protect the delicate

bark. A single plant will flower, but if fruiting is desired, several specimens are required for cross-pollination. *E. sieboldianus* has naturally long internodes, and Murata warns that attempting to make the tree look "restrained" will seem artificial. He encourages bonsaists to appreciate the "unrestrained" nature of the tree. Those who find the wings unattractive or out of proportion in their bonsai often choose to remove them.

**Propagation:** Seed, layering in spring or summer, softwood cuttings in summer, hardwood cuttings in autumn.

**Repotting:** Every 2-3 years in early spring, although yearly repotting may be necessary during the tree's first ten years depending on root growth. Use basic bonsai soil mix.

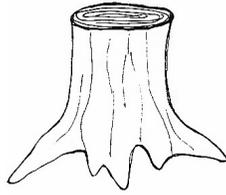
**Pests and diseases:** Caterpillars, aphids.



Here's your chance to get answers for all your bonsai questions! Just email your question to:

[Tree.Stump@yahoo.com](mailto:Tree.Stump@yahoo.com)

by the 18th of the month. Your questions will be answered the the order they were received.



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Photos from the MasterClass Finale  
October 2, 2007 See  
[www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)  
for more pictures





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

Next Meeting of MBS  
7PM, Tuesday, November 6  
Grace Lutheran Church  
3030 W. Oklahoma

**Reservations for the Holiday Party due November 25.**

If you are having challenges  
opening the online newsletter,  
please email: [hagr8d@mac.com](mailto:hagr8d@mac.com)

## 2007/ NEW 2008\* MBS OFFICERS

The MBS Officers are:

President	Jean S
First VP	Scott H/Joe H*
Second VP	Gregg W/Allen K*
Secretary	Susan C
Treasurer	Mary T/Laura L*
Director	Allen K /Jerry N*
Director	John M
Director	Michelle Z
Past Pres.	Kris Z

### Other Club Functions:

Kris Z - Newsletter Editor/Distribution  
Pam W - Webmaster  
Laura L/Josh R - Librarians  
Jean S - Telephone response  
Mary T - Membership Chairperson



Yellowing leaves play  
their own crackling game of tag  
loosed by the harsh wind

- Mary Turner