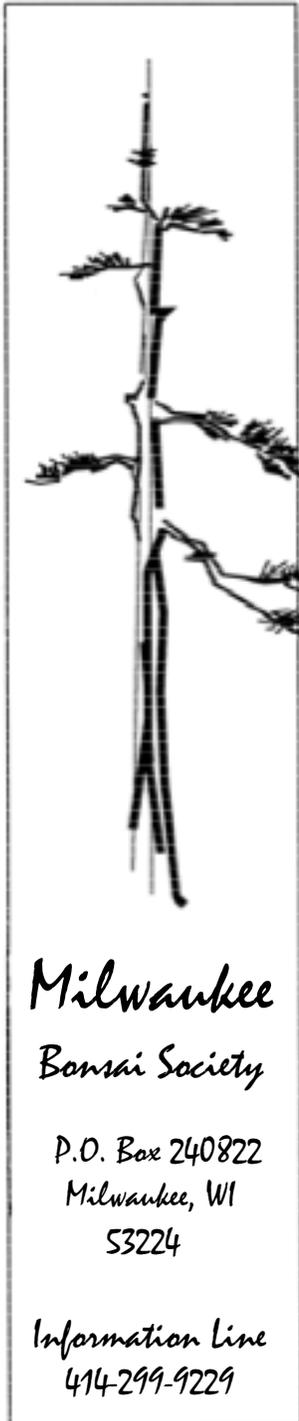


MAY 2012

# Bonsai News



## May 1 Club meeting

### Group Slash

Back by popular demand. Our May meeting is one everyone has been waiting for. THE GROUP SLASH!

Teams will be formed, and each group will style provided nursery material into a bonsai creation. If you've never experienced a "Slash" before, it's amazing the many different visions there can be for one tree. At the end of the night the trees will be judged by a non-bonsai person and awards will be presented to the top three. Then we will auction off the newly created masterpieces. Come join the fun at this meeting, and bring tools if you have them.



## 2012 Events

### MAY

- May 1 - Club Meeting**  
Group Slash / Tree Styling
- May 5 am PUBLIC WORKSHOP**  
& Novice Class #3
- May 11 - National Public Gardens Day - Boerner 9-3**
- May 19-20 Bonsai Spring Show**  
Chicago Botanical Garden

### JUNE

- June 5 - Club Meeting**  
Guest Artist - Tom Longfellow  
Hemlock/spruce display

### JULY

- No Club Meeting**
- July 7 - Tropical repotting workshop 9-1 Boerner**
- July 14 - Wauwatosa Garden Tour and bonsai exhibit**
- July 15 - MBS picnic.**

[www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday May 1 - 6:30 pm  
Boerner Botanical Gardens

# President's Message

## Greetings bonsai addicts!

I hope you have been able to complete all of your early spring bonsai duties. I have been very busy this year repotting, building a bench and more repotting. The mild winter was good to me, losing only one tree. Everything else is at least showing signs of life.

Our April monthly meeting was so exciting that went beyond our scheduled time and were late leaving the building. This shouldn't be a problem but it is. MBS agreed to be out of the building no later than 9 PM except for meetings that include guest artists with a later finishing time agreed to in advance. You as members can help us avoid this problem in the future in two ways:

- 1) Do your vendor shopping earlier rather than later (all shopping should be completed no later than 8:40 PM) and
- 2) please assist the vendors transfer their wares into and out of the building. MBS has two carts that can be used to help transport stuff. If you arrive at BBG early or can come early please help the vendors get in and set up. The same is true later, if you can help transport their merchandise out of the building please do so.

Read the article elsewhere in this newsletter regarding the outreach program at Mahone Middle School. Jean Sher deserves a big pat on the back for

the great job she has done with that program over the years.

We have begun preliminary investigations into starting one or even two other children's outreach programs in the Milwaukee area. I will let keep you updated as progress is made.

**-Steve**

## Blended Trees

*There will be a short presentation/discussion on a technique that is used to produce trees with many of the qualities that we desire in the bonsai hobby in a shortened timeframe. No, this technique does not use a household appliance that should be making Margarita's, but it can be a fun way to develop some trees from some rather inexpensive initial materials. Come to the May meeting to see what this is all about.*

The National Public Gardens Day promotes and increases awareness of botanic gardens, arboreta, zoos, historic gardens, and any of America's public gardens. This is an opportunity for you to display and share the best you have and are with the local community.

Join MBS Friday May 11, 2012 from 9-3 at Boerner to view our bonsai exhibit.

# ESSENTIAL TO CONTROVERSIAL

## Needle Cast

by PAM W

### What is Needle Cast?

The term needle cast refers to a fungus-caused disease of needles. The fungus disease Lophodermium needle cast occurs on pine and will attack all bonsai pine species. In our area, at least three types of the fungus Lophodermium can cause damage: the first type is responsible for damage to last year's needles; the second causes damage to needles from two years ago; and, a third causes damage to the growth from three and four years ago. Older growth occurs more toward the center of the tree. As a result, damage to it is less obvious than damage to the most recent growth.

### How to Recognize It?

Small, pale spots on the needles are the first symptom of this disease. As the spots enlarge, they become yellow, and then reddish brown. Gradually the entire needle turns brown and dies.



### How to Control It?

When practical, diseased needles which have fallen and have piled up on branches or under landscape trees should be raked up and destroyed. This effort will reduce the number of spores in the vicinity of your bonsai.

Several factors must be considered before a chemical control procedure is followed. If only the older needles of the tree are affected, no control may be needed or desired. The disease on the most recently formed needles is the most destructive and usually requires fungicide applications. Second, the degree of desired control must be determined. For a high degree of control, monthly sprays throughout the year may be necessary; however, fairly good control has been achieved by monthly sprays during the late summer and fall (August to October).

Many bonsai enthusiasts believe in the "spray more, be compulsive less" mindset. Doug Hawley's control methods include spraying with triforine (the fungicide in Ortho products Funginex and Orthinex) at least 4-6 times per growing season. Additionally around 2-3 times use triforine and chlorothalonil (Daconil) mixed together in full strength. As he says, they are compatible, and seem more effective together. Both have very low carcinogenicity or environmental harm.

Jack's control method is to use a systemic formula, the new Bayer Advanced Disease Control. Be sure to read the product label for specific rate and timing instructions. Good coverage and proper timing of applications are critical for successful disease control. (continued on next page)

(Needle cast continued)

In addition to fungicide sprays, other control measures include spacing bonsai adequately to promote good air circulation, improving tree vigor through fertilizer and watering when needed. What is the Debate?

Fungicide applications are more effective in preventing disease when the number of spores has been significantly reduced. At least in our area, fungal spores are so ubiquitous that the exposure is constant. I feel as though the time I have available to spend with my trees is not well spent worrying about the spores on my tools, if I can't do anything about the spores in the air.

Milwaukee has typical high summer humidity; rust, needle cast and occasional sooty mold are inevitable on my pines without a spraying schedule. However as long as I keep it up, I don't worry about sterilizing tools, bagging needles or even hesitate to acquire a new pine with obvious rust or cast.

Keep in mind that you can never clear the infection from the old needles, but you can prevent it in the either new or at least subsequent generation of opening candles. So the faster you can replace old needles with new ones, the faster you will be able to clear cast or rust. Thus, good habits of autumn needle reduction, and candle pruning for an added generation of needles (in those pines which are amenable) will help to eliminate rust and cast more quickly, sometimes even in a single year.

The Wauwatosa Beautification Committee, Inc. proudly present its **18th** annual

**Secret Gardens of Wauwatosa Tour**

Saturday, July 14, 2012

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

Tour Headquarters: Kneeland-Walker House

7406 Hilcrest Dr, Wauwatosa, WI

Tour seven private gardens plus the beautiful gardens at the Kneeland-Walker house, where master gardeners and plant societies will be on hand selling plants and garden related items. Melinda Myers, the "plant Doctor" will be available. She is sponsored by Kanavas Landscape Management.

Advance tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased beginning in early June at the following ticket outlets: Alfa Flower Shop, Blue Lapin, The Flower Lady, Fruit of the Bloom, Hawks Nursery, Locker's Florist, Rose's Flower Shop, and Wisconsin Garden & Pet. On tour day, tickets are \$12.00 and will be available at the Kneeland-Walker House (7406 Hillcrest Drive, Wauwatosa), the starting point for the tour.

## MAHONE BONSAI DAY - MARCH 12, 2012

by Steve Co

2012 marks the 8th year for an MBS outreach program at Mahone Middle School in Kenosha. The program was initiated by our own Jean Sher who was able to gather enough interest in bonsai among her students to start a Bonsai Club at Mahone. To the best of my knowledge this is the only formal bonsai club in a middle school in the USA. Jean deserves a lot of credit for her tireless efforts on behalf of her



students and the art of bonsai. The administration at Mahone and parents should also be recognized for their wholehearted support for the club. Guest artists have included: Ted Matson 7 years, Colin Lewis and Jim Doyle. The Bonsai Kids have worked at the MABA 2006 convention, the Chicago Show and have shown twice at the Kenosha Flower show. The club presents a formal, judged bonsai show every year for the school and parents in the library.



This is the first year I had the pleasure of accompanying a group of volunteer instructors from

MBS for a full day of teaching and hands on with the Bonsai Club at Mahone. The bonsai day at Mahone has traditionally correlated with a visit to Milwaukee by Ted Matson. Over the years Ted has most graciously donated a day of his time for the



kids on each visit as he did again this year. Jean runs a tight ship so the kids were very well behaved and anxious to learn bonsai (also enjoying a day off regular classes). The accompanying pictures show the great group of kids in the Bonsai Club.

It was a wonderful experience for me to be a part of this day, which turned a little emotional for me when a blind student was brought in to experience bonsai. The student and Ted talked for a time about trees and bonsai with the student seeing the small trees with his hands and "visualizing" for the first time what a large



tree in nature would be like.

I am looking forward to another rewarding day at Mahone next year. Join us if you can. Thank you Jean for all your efforts!

March 24, 2012  
Bonsai Dig at BC Bonsai



Everyone had a great time!



## Bonsai from your backyard

### HONEYSUCKLE - LONICERA species

Lonicera is a genus of about 180 species of which many are climbers unsuitable for bonsai use. However, there are a number of shrubby honeysuckles / Lonicera that make excellent subjects for bonsai.

Shrubby Lonicera species include *L. pileata* and *L. nitida* which are both evergreen shrubs often used for hedging. It is their ability to regenerate from old wood and the minute size of their leaves that make these two honeysuckles such good species for use as bonsai. With sufficient growth in the ground both species develop heavy, thick trunks and have light, fawn coloured bark that peels off in strips revealing a smooth, light- coloured underbark. Both species produce insignificant flowers and purple berries.

**POSITION** Full sun. Frosts below  $-5^{\circ}\text{C}$  (23o F) can cause lose of foliage though this is quickly replaced in Spring. Some frost protection is advised for trees in very small pots.

**FEEDING** Every two weeks during the growing season.

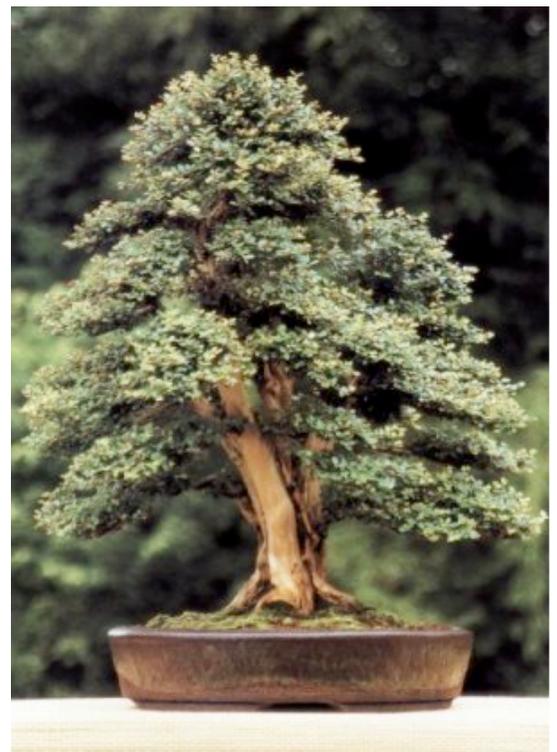
**REPOTTING** In Spring as new leaf-buds appear. Use basic soil mix.

**PRUNING** Constant clipping is essential to keep foliage pads tidy and to encourage dense growth. Foliage should be thinned out in Spring to allow light to reach inner leaves. Carving or hard pruning can be carried out during late- Autumn and Winter.

**PROPAGATION** All types of cutting strike readily during July and August. Ground-layer shoots August to November. Sow seed outside in February or March. By division in Spring.

**PESTS AND DISEASES** Trouble free

**STYLING** Old Lonicera trunks tend to be stiff and erect and this can create difficulties when designing them as bonsai. Trees can either have curves built into their design by using primary and secondary branches or can be carved to create dead-wood effects. Suitable for all forms except broom in all sizes.





P.O. Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI 53224  
[www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS  
Tuesday, May 1  
Boerner Botanical Gardens  
9400 Boerner Dr  
Hales Corners, WI 53130

## 2012 MBS OFFICERS

President	Steve Con.
First VP	Tony P
Second VP	Kris Z
Secretary	Ron F
Treasurer	Susan L
Director	John M
Director	Greg P
Director	Allen K
Past Pres.	Pam W

### Other Club Functions:

Newsletter - Kris Z  
Webmaster - Pam W  
PAB Board - Ron F, Don G & Houston S



Brown furrowed fields  
Basking in the sun  
Incubating spring

- Rita Luedke