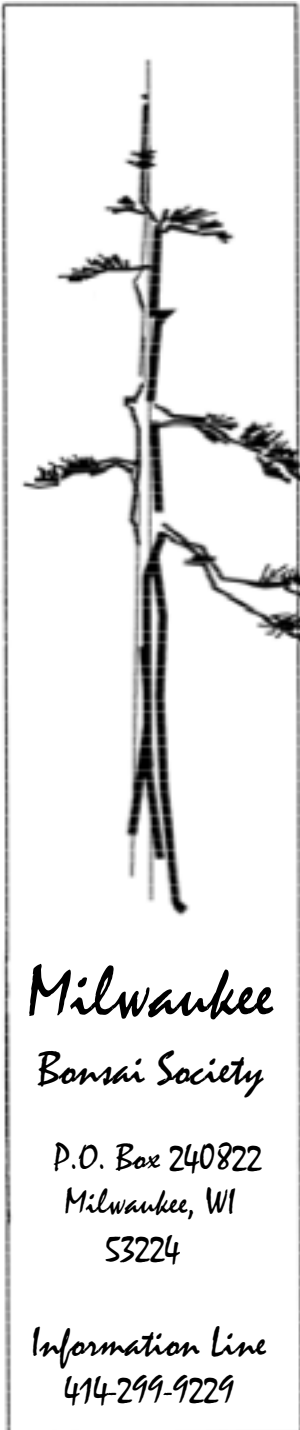


FEBRUARY 2015

# Bonsai News



*Milwaukee  
Bonsai Society*

*P.O. Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI  
53224*

*Information Line  
414-299-9229*

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Sunday Feb 15 - 10:00am**  
Boerner Botanical Gardens

**NO Tuesday night meeting in February, but... we will have an exciting kick off meeting on Sunday Feb 8 from 10-1. *There'll be plenty of surprises for those attending.* We will have a station set up to help you clean your pots before this year's potting season and a station to help you sharpen your tools. So, be prepared and bring pots and tools. Also, we'll have a **mystery pot exchange**. Wrap a pot in newspaper then put in a brown paper bag. If you bring a pot, at noon, you'll be able to pick from the bags that are there. **Should be fun!** If you have a stand you would like to sell, please bring that. From your sale, please donate 10% to MBS. **And, a silent auction!!****

## 2015

### FEBRUARY

Feb 3 - no Society meeting  
Feb 8 (Sunday) - Winter Silhouette show at the Domes 9-4  
Feb 15 (Sunday) 10:00-1:00 Kick off meeting at Boerner  
Feb 21 (Saturday) - Novice Class #1 at Boerner\*

### MARCH

Mar 1-2 (Sun/Mon) - workshops with Andy Smith\*  
Mar 3 - Society Meeting  
Andy Smith guest artist  
Mar 7 (Sat)- Novice Class #2\*  
Mar 21 (Sat)-Novice Class #3\*  
Mar 27-30 - Advanced classes #1 with Peter Tea\*

### APRIL

Apr 7 - Society Meeting  
Tool Sharpening / Group Slash  
Apr 11 (Sat)- Novice Class #4\*  
Apr 12 (Sunday) - Repotting Workshop 10-1

**\*Members only**

# President's Message

MBS keeps getting better.

The first exhibit of the year, The Silhouette Show at the Domes on February 8th. For more info check out the Silhouette Flyer on our web site.

There is no Tuesday night meeting in FEB. instead we will start the year with a Kick Off Meeting Sunday February 15th at Boerner. Bring some pots to clean and some tools to sharpen and clean. Members will be there to help get you ready for another season of Bonsai

For 2015 MBS has an awesome schedule which includes: The four major exhibits: Silhouette, State Fair, Folk Fair and our Annual Exhibit. Displays at National Gardens Day, Wauwatosa Garden Tour. A special Show the Last weekend in May at Lynden Sculpture Gardens, celebrating Lynden's fifth anniversary. Plus other shows at Lynden Sculpture Gardens. Open workshops on weekends several times during the year dealing with various themes. Novice and intermediate level classes for members.

March starts off with Andy Smith as a guest artist known for his collecting of high mountain trees. We are offering workshops with Andy, plus he will be at the March meeting to work on a tree. Don't miss it.

In May The Excellence in Bonsai program starts off with guest artist Mauro Stemberger, world famous Italian bonsai artist, frequently featured in Bonsai Focus magazine. He will also be demo-ing a fabulous tree at the May MBS Meeting. Another don't want to miss evening!

And that's just the start of the year.

Go to the MBS web site and check out the full Schedule for 2015!

<http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/Newsletters/Schedule.pdf>

*Greg*



## **REMEMBER:**

***Our first meeting is SUNDAY February 15 from 10:00 to 1:00. There are lots of activities scheduled. Please look again at the front page of this newsletter.***

## **Novice Class anyone?**

For those who have not yet taken the Novice Class, please check the website for the printable form:

[http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/Newsletters/Novice\\_Class\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/Newsletters/Novice_Class_Flyer.pdf)

**Classes begin February 21, so get your registration in ASAP!**

This is your last chance to sign up for Andy Smith activities. There are still a few spots left in the Sunday and Monday workshops. (See registration below)

Also, there are opportunities for a private lesson with Andy at your home Sunday afternoon or Tuesday early afternoon. You may split with someone if you wish or have Andy all to yourself. The cost is \$350.

Please send in the reservation form ASAP so insure your spot in the workshop. If you are interested in a private, please contact Judy S at [schmidtjm@aol.com](mailto:schmidtjm@aol.com) or call 414-529-2973.

## Registration for Andy Smith workshop 9:00 - 12:00

(circle one)      Sunday March 1              Monday March 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

\$75 paid to MBS check # \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to:  
Milwaukee Bonsai Society  
P.O. Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI 53224

**Workshops are filling fast. Get your reservation in ASAP.**



# Newcomers to MBS

My name is John Menzel. I'm 27, a college grad working as an arborist for a tree service company, with a healthy interest in pottery and bonsai. Pottery and bonsai settle me, center me, and relax me. I tend to fidget, so keeping my hands and mind busy is an ideal way to build focus and motivation in other parts of my life.

Whether you plan to care for one bonsai, or several dozen, MBS caters to your needs by bringing in guest artists, speakers, and even inviting the club's own members to demonstrate various bonsai techniques, occasionally having to start fires. (The best demonstrations involve something being set on fire, in my opinion)

It is with some amusement that I think back through my time with MBS. I found that there are several steps that members go through when they join and "mature" with their trees. There is the first monthly meeting for a new member, which, for most, is an overwhelming and somewhat terrifying experience. Like being the new kid at school, as a newcomer, I felt out of place and everyone seemed to know what they were talking about! And I knew nothing about bonsai, all of a sudden. That feeling soon passes and come spring, the meetings, demonstrations, workshops, and even bonsai digs abound, all arranged and hosted by the club! Certain dedicated members lead bonsai classes, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced Class. If someone is genuinely interested in

exhibiting a tree in his or her collection, or even if that someone is extremely self-conscious about the "stick-in-a-pot" that is being displayed, by working through the classes, one can greatly improve the quality and variety of his or her collection. When a guest artist is visiting, one can bet that the artist is also leading guided workshops during that week. Most workshops have quality material provided, with the alternative being able to work on your own bonsai-in-progress.

As a non-profit organization, MBS strives to live up to that term by providing great opportunities for members to learn and develop skills by supplying materials and hosting guest artists at the lowest possible cost. Fees for any activity are simply divided among the participants in the workshop to cover the cost of materials, if any, and to compensate the artist for sharing their time and experience.

The option to come as a "Silent Observer" is especially attractive if a member is unsure about the cost of a workshop and what it offers, I promise you'll be pleasantly surprised at how much fun is had. More recently, I became a member of the MBS Executive Committee as a Director, I became much more aware and enthusiastic about the goings on with the club and more importantly respectful of how much time and dedication is put towards organizing the club's activities.

I truly enjoy being a part of MBS, and I look forward to seeing new and familiar faces (and trees) this spring. I'll be the one selling his bonsai pots.

# Mauro Stemberger Workshops

As you all know already, Mauro Stemberger from Feltre, Italy will visit Milwaukee for our May meeting. Mr. Stemberger is coming as the first artist in our Excellence in Bonsai Program (EIBP).

Mauro will be doing the initial styling of a monster Ponderosa Pine that he chose as his demo tree and is excited about working on it so don't miss this meeting.

Mauro will be available for "bring your own tree" workshops on the Wednesday and Thursday following the May meeting. He specializes in high mountain pines, but works with a variety of different trees (even tropicals). The all day workshops will be limited to a maximum of 5 participants each day. Registration for the workshops will be in the March newsletter and the fee will be \$100.



You can learn more about Mauro and his trees by visiting his website at [www.italianbonsaidream.com](http://www.italianbonsaidream.com)

Dear Society Members,

For those interested in further discussion of the student proposals for a bonsai garden at Lynden, I wanted to recommend the Internet Bonsai Club. This is an on-line, international forum for the discussion of the art of bonsai. I recently started a discussion thread on this website related to a bonsai garden at Lynden. There you can find a collection of photos posted by myself and Kevin Stoeveken, as well as detailed discussion of some aspects of the student design proposals. Also, you can read great comments posted by members of our Society such as Leo Schordje, as well as bonsai enthusiasts around the world. If you like this discussion, there are many others as well on the website, on every bonsai-related subject under the sun. Below is a link to the Lynden discussion, or you can find it by going to the main page of Internet Bonsai Club, then navigating to: Forums > Display > Exhibition of Design Proposals for a New Permanent Bonsai Garden. If you're looking for a bonsai re-charge during this sleepy month, please explore the forum and join the discussion!

<http://ibonsaiclub.forumotion.com/t16234-exhibition-of-design-proposals-for-a-new-permanent-bonsai-garden>

Best wishes,

Kyle Talbott



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

Next Meeting of MBS  
Sunday February 15, 2015  
Boerner Botanical Gardens  
9400 Boerner Dr  
Hales Corners, WI 53130

## 2015 MBS OFFICERS

President [Greg P](#)  
First VP [Kris Z](#)  
Second VP [Judy S](#)  
Secretary [Julie McN](#)  
Treasurer [Barbara S](#)  
Director [John Me](#)  
Director [Teri W](#)  
Director [Susan L](#)  
Past Pres. [Steve Co](#)



### Other Club Functions:

Newsletter - Kris Z  
Webmaster - [Pam W](#)  
Director of Children's Education - Jean S  
PAB Board - Rob P, Ron F & Houston S

Blanketed in snow  
Life slowed - bonsai joy postponed  
Wakening in May

- Joe Nemeec