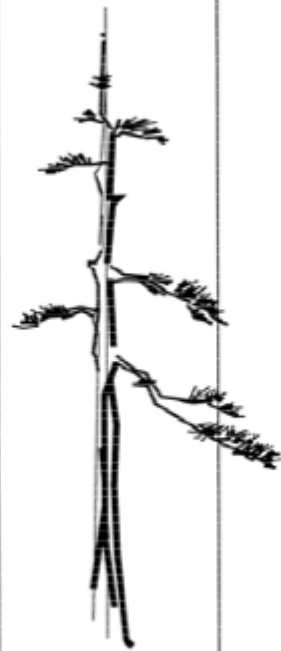


BONSAI NEWS

November 2015



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society
PO Box 240822
Milwaukee Wi
53224*

*Information Line
414-299-9229*

November MBS Meeting

Our guest speaker is Chris Baker, curator of the Chicago Botanic Garden. Chris will be sharing with us ways of storing our trees in winter. He will have a different slant on things having 175 trees that he is in charge of.

Chris has been studying and working on bonsai for more than 13 years. Previously, from 2011 to early 2014, he was an intern and volunteer at the United States National Arboretum's National Bonsai and Penjing Museum in Washington, D.C.

As an active member of the Maryland bonsai community, Chris gave many demonstrations and talks at the Potomac Bonsai Association Spring Show in Washington, D.C., as well as to garden clubs. He spent six months in 2012 studying bonsai with third-generation bonsai master Tohru Suzuki at the Daijuen Nursery in Okazaki, Japan.

Join us for a great evening!

November

Nov 3 **Society Meeting**—Prepare for Winter
Nov 20-22 Folk Fair

December

No Society Meeting

January

No Society Meeting



**Next Meeting
November 3, 2015
6:45pm
Boerner Botanical
Gardens**

President's Message

Happy Fall! The year is winding down and November is the last meeting this year. Time to ready our trees for winter. November's meeting should help with information on preparing bonsai for winter storage. If you can't make the meeting or want more ideas on sheltering your trees there is a lot of information on the Internet. On [YouTube](#) there are many videos from a lot of different sources. Or a .pdf on preparing your trees at Inlandbonsai.com.

I would like to thank all the volunteers and the Executive Committee I had the privilege to work with this year. MBS owes its existence to volunteers. Volunteers produce the newsletter, schedule speakers, develop workshops and programs, teach classes, and stage larger scale events that take months to plan. In order for MBS to continue to be viable, it is inherent that new members as well as current members volunteer. If we continue to rely on the same group of volunteers to get things done year after year, we will eventually exhaust our supply of volunteers. Don't know how to volunteer?

Here's how you can get started:

- Attend MBS Events: Talk to the event coordinator or board member., listen to the announcements during the meetings and sign up to tree sit or bring a tree for exhibit.
- Read our newsletter for upcoming events. Call the person(s) in charge to find out what still needs to be done. Apply for the volunteer openings mentioned.
- Review our [website](http://milwaukeebonsai.org) (milwaukeebonsai.org); our Contact Us page lists all committee members. Each of these members is a volunteer, and knows exactly what needs to be done to keep MBS running smoothly. Contact one to volunteer.

Our organization has been very lucky to have over 10% of its membership willing to take an active role in maintaining quality and professionalism, continually making this bonsai organization a worthwhile investment.

Holiday Folk Fair is coming up this month, November 20 thru 22, and we need tree sitters and some trees to display. Contact Susan L. if you would like to volunteer.

Thank You.

-Gregory

October MBS Meeting

The Art of Viewing Stones



Photos courtesy of Bryan L.

More photos from the meeting available on [Google Photos](#)



Aesthetics

Pruning Tips

Quiet Crow Bonsai is a collection of articles, essays, and views for bonsai artist, devotees and supporters.
www.QuietCrowBonsai.com

People who love bonsai appreciate the beauty of nature and plant trees in small containers. Even a person who doesn't understand bonsai can appreciate and be moved by its beauty. The power of bonsai is in its ability to portray the beauty of nature. This is the goal for all who grow bonsai. I can't tell you what form a bonsai should have. Be creative. Check out another article of mine [Practicing is an Art](#), not a skill. A skill is something you can be taught in a certain number of lessons, while an art is something you learn slowly and gradually over your entire life.

When pruning a plant, do the [Maintenance Pruning](#) first, and then you are prepared for the aesthetic pruning. When applying pruning techniques for aesthetics it's about art and beauty. You create it.

1. Think twice, cut once. While this sounds the same as Tips 2 and 3 in previous articles this time you are thinking aesthetically. Start thinking about how you want the bonsai to look. Use a turntable and look at the tree from all sides several times. As you formulate an image of the bonsai, visualize how you want the bonsai to look. Remember to consider wiring as an alternative to cutting. Don't be afraid to bend, move and hold limbs in new positions, to see if wiring the branch would improve the appearance. By selecting primary and secondary branches the branches that need to be removed will become apparent. Remove them as you see them.

2. Locate the Cut: A general rule for deciduous material, it is usually possible to force the plant to bud-back (form new branches) just about anywhere on the tree, including from the root collar. There are many exceptions to this rule. Pay attention to the direction the bud is pointing. New branches that result from the cut will grow in that direction. If you want the new branch to grow to the right, make your cut at a bud that is pointing to the right.

Conversely, with most conifers, forcing the plant to bud back past

the point of the oldest needles (closest to the trunk on a branch) is very difficult. In fact, with almost all conifers, pruning a limb back beyond the oldest needles will kill the branch. You must leave at least some green foliage on conifer branches. On some conifers (like Hinoki cypress and arborvitae) it's virtually impossible to get them to bud back on old wood. There are a few exceptions.

3. Reveal the Essence. Each individual tree has its own character, its own essence. The shape, color, and texture of the trunk, leaves, branches, flowers, fruits; the overall shape of the tree; the direction of the branches and their placement on the trunk; the growth habit, how it reaches for the sun; nebari (the way the tree grips the ground). All are a part of the tree's essence. Revealing the beauty of that essence is what aesthetic pruning is all about. To get to this essence, simplify, envision the tree without its complicating elements. Branches that detract from the tree's beauty, excess bulk, competing apex (top-most part of the tree)—revealing the beautiful design already within the tree. At times, this can entail a major restructuring; at other times, a gentle re-touch.

5. Make It Look Old. Having your bonsai look like it is much older than it is, imparts a feeling of stability, reliability and safety in us. Those feelings help to calm and relax us. Like revealing the essence, simplify, remove chaos. Find the shape that best imparts a feeling of the tree being old, what it would look like when it was mature. One example would be a pine tree such as a Limber pine. When they are young, they mostly grow straight up. Once they get to a height and age they are comfortable with, they start spreading out. Here are some characteristics we often associate with older trees:

- Wide spreading as opposed to growing mostly upwards
- Smaller annual growth of branches
- Movement in branches instead of long straight
- Open spaces where branches have been shaded out
- Thicker branches towards the center of the tree

The final article will cover more of how to accomplish the look of age



This lacy, much-photographed Japanese maple sits on a hill at the Portland Japanese Garden. Viewed from below, the transition from coarse to fine is clearly visible in trunk and branches. The base of the tree and its roots grip the mound it is planted on—an important aspect of its "essence." Photograph by Richard Stanton

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-pollinations. *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 growth. Use basic bonsai soil mix.

Pests and diseases: Caterpillars, aphids.





PO Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI 53224
Www.milwaukeebonsai.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS
Tuesday November 3, 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 [Melissa J](#)
Webmaster [Pam W](#)

Director of Children's Education—Jean S
PAB Board—Rob P, Ron F & Houston S



Black against the sky
Trees leafless, golden days past
Brooks silent, waiting
~ Joe N.