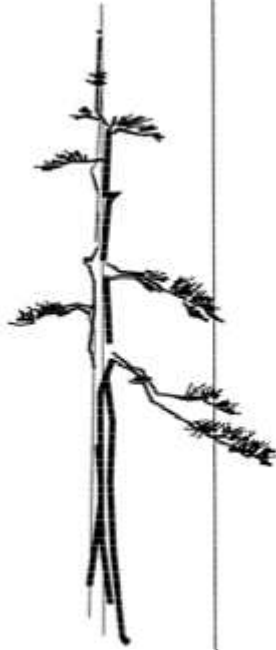


BONSAI NEWS

June 2016



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society
PO Box 240822
Milwaukee Wi
53224*

*Information Line
414-299-9229*

June Meeting

You asked for it,
you got it!!

Many members have wanted to bring trees to work on or get questions answered about their trees at meetings. The June meeting is your chance to do just that. We will not be repotting, but you will be able to cut, style, etc. Bring your tree, tools, wire, etc. We'll have "experts" on hand to help and answer questions.

Also, we're very excited to have Kyle T start out our meeting with an update on Lynden (the design / construction of the home for our Public Collection trees).

Please join us!



June

June 7—MBS *meeting*—Bring your own tree
June 10-13—Peter Tea Classes #2**
June 18—Intermediate Class**
June 25—Children's' workshop

July

July 5—MBS *meeting*—Maples
July 9—Wauwatosa Exhibit
July 16—Adult workshop
July 23—Intermediate Class**
July 23— Repotting workshop
July 30-31—Jerry Meislik workshop**

August

Aug 2—MBS *meeting*—Jerry Meislik
Aug 4-14 WI State Fair exhibit
Aug 19-21—Chicago exhibit
Aug 27— Bonsai Basics #1

September

Sept 6—MBS *meeting*—update on fertilizers
Sept 10—Fall Beginner workshop
Sept 16-18—Annual Exhibit—Peter Tea
Sept 24—Bonsai Basics #2

** Members only

Next Meeting

June 7, 2016

6:45pm

**Boerner Botanical
Gardens**

President's Message June 2016

I've recently returned from the American Bonsai Society's 2016 Convention at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, MI. If you can imagine putting Boerner Botanical Gardens together with the Domes and Lynden Sculpture Gardens, plus many million dollars more for a world class Japanese Garden, you'll have an approximation of what the Meijer Gardens look like.

The conference was held in their expansive education building. For the price of registration, you received entrance into four workshops as well as lunches and dinners for both Saturday and Sunday. Vendors from all over the country displayed their wares in addition to an exhibition of world-class bonsai trees.

Many familiar faces such as Ted Matson, Mark Fields and Andy Smith were there as well as our August presenter, Jerry Meislik.

Kris Z. and I were able to bring back a couple of interesting ficus and dwarf schefflera for Jerry to style during the **August** meeting. Jerry is a talented bonsai artist who grows his world-class tropical bonsai in his green house in Montana. Don't miss Jerry's presentations for MBS.

Next year's 50th Anniversary ABS meeting will be held over Memorial Day weekend in Orlando, FL.

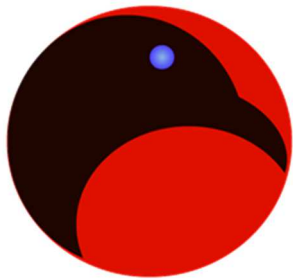
Our June meeting should get us thinking about which trees we will exhibit at Sate Fair and in which ways we can volunteer to help MBS and bonsai in Wisconsin. Bring along a potential State Fair entry to the June meeting and get some advice on getting it ready for August. The Wisconsin State Fair will run from August 4 through the 14th and MBS will have three separate shows and judges. See Tony Plicka for details.

I'm Looking forward to seeing your trees at the June meeting.

Sincerely,

Judy

Interested in selling some of your pots, trees, bonsai tools, etc. You may rent a table at the MBS meetings for \$5, but only two times per year. The limit of sales tables at each meeting is 3. So, contact our treasurer. Wally V
wvadv1@sbcglobal.net or 262-784-7399 to reserve your table.



Tools for Sharpening

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

Sharpening Tools

At some point we all need to sharpen our tools. Sharp tools help us make easier cuts and cuts tend to heal better when they are clean. I will bring my sharpening stones this time and demonstrate how I sharpen some of our most used tools. I will also demonstrate how I adjust some of the tools we use in Bonsai if they are either too loose or too stiff. Tools that are too loose tend to cut poorly and tools that are too stiff causes hand fatigue.

Diamond Sharpening Stones

Diamond sharpening stones are, if one takes into account their strengths and weaknesses, a real alternative to wet grinding wheels and sharpening stones. Conventional sharpening stones sooner or later become hollowed with use, while diamond stones remain flat. One cannot flatten the back of a chisel or plane iron on a grinding wheel, but a diamond stone is ideal for the job. They are also ideal for removing lots of material, to grind out a notched edge, for instance. But for honing an edge, sharpening stones are much better, as the diamond stones cannot be made with a fine enough grit for a really good edge.

Using a dry diamond stone is bad for the surface of the diamond stone, and does not sharpen as well. Wet the sharpening surface before every use! You should also be careful not to put too much pressure on the surface when sharpening, and absolutely not near the edges of the plate, as this can deform the plate and scrape off the diamond coating.

EZE-LAP (manufacturer of diamond stone) says that 98% of all sharpening can be performed by the fine (600) grit diamond. This fine grit diamond has the abrasive ability to effectively sharpen a dull knife in less than a minute and bring the edge to keen razor finish. EZE-LAP offers a medium (400) grit diamond. For those who wish to get the job done fast but are still interested in a good quality finish EZE-LAP offers a grob (250) grit diamond. This diamond surface lends itself well for sharpening garden tools. For very fast metal removal try the extra grob (150) grit diamond for roughing in or prepping for final finish. To achieve the ultimate in a polished finish try the superfine (1200) grit diamond surface. It is designed to polish and fine finish to mirror perfection.



Never use diamond stones dry.

A perfect stone would have a very consistent grain, be uniform in texture and color (preferably yellow), would have no cracks, stains or blemishes.



King wetting stone including Nagura stone used to prepare stone for use.

Continued on page 4

Japanese Waterstones

Bonsai cutting tools and their sharpening stones built the cultural basis for traditional handwork and skills. The need to find a suitable abrasive dates back many thousands of years. Even today "high tech" man-made sharpening stones are praised by saying "It grinds like a real stone," that is, the manufacturer found the right materials to allow their stones to mimic the "High-tech" natural stones in use for thousands of years.

A natural Japanese sharpening stone, which can be considered perfect would have a very consistent grain, be uniform in texture and color (preferably yellow), would have no cracks, stains or other blemishes, and is over all a very beautiful stone. Normally natural stones are nowhere near perfect in appearance. The color can be various shades of yellow, brown or grey can be different in different areas of the face of the same stone and can change with use. The edges and corners are often rough and uneven or chipped. But surprisingly, the quality of edge that can be obtained with these more common stones is often very close to that of the "perfect" stones.

Wetting the Stone

Put the natural stones in a water bath for at least 30 minutes before use. If once you have used the stone for a while, you have the feeling that it is not enough, and then you can try up to 24 hours or even longer if needed. The ideas on how long before use one should put natural sharpening and honing stones in the water are, even in Japan, very different. There are professionals who speak of 2 weeks!

Storing the Stone

In Japan natural sharpening and honing stones are normally stored dry and out of the sun. They should never ever be exposed to freezing temperatures when wet. The water in the stone will freeze, expand, and this will damage or break the stone. Also, avoid rapid changes in the temperature or drying them out too quickly. Never put one on or close to a strong heat source! Naturally, they can also break if dropped onto a hard surface.

Dressing and Flattening

Dressing and flattening is the long-term care of the stones, not just tuning them up for their first use. Waterstones are made to wear relatively quickly. Thus they'll require flattening often, but it won't take much work to get the job done. Ideally, flatten your stones every time you use them, so they're always ready to work and never need more than a few seconds' light lapping to restore them to good condition. There are different methods to flatten or dress the stones. For us, there are two practical and effective methods: other sharpening stones and diamond plates

Fine natural stones can be flattened with a medium-grit (600-1000) sharpening stone: both natural and artificial stones work well, and harder stones are better than softer varieties. The most effective option is however a diamond plate of between 400 and 600 grit. If the stone has a deep hollow, and a lot of material

needs to be taken off, then a coarser dressing stone should be used. Grinding stones of 120 grit or a diamond plate of about 140 grit are good for this kind of job.

It is always a good idea to rinse the stone after flattening it. If this is not done some of the coarser grit stays on the surface of the finer stone and leaves ugly scratches on your tools. Since the surface of your grinding or sharpening stone was roughened up by flattening with a coarser grit, you can smooth the surface using a Nagura stone, ("nagura" means "correcting" in Japanese,) gently, without pressure. The result will be a fine abrasive slurry that is perfect for sharpening. Routine maintenance of 6000 and 8000 finishing stones is best done with a Nagura, used with a circular scrubbing motion (like flattening your coarser stones on glass) to lap the entire surface of the finish stone.

It is a good idea to get in the habit of flattening your stones after each time you use them. This takes advantage of the fact the stone is already wet and uses the abrasive slurry from the sharpening session. The stone is then rinsed and put aside; ready to go when you need it again.

Next month we will discuss Three Steps in Sharpening and the Process.



Sharpening Stone holder



Positioning tool on the Stone



Small sharpening stone for Cutters

IT'S HAPPENING!

Jack D

Things are progressing on our exhibit space at the Lynden Sculpture Garden. The posts for the enclosure and the shade system have all been set, the water line is in and the conduit for the electrical is also in.

The contract has been let for the installation of the patio. The landscaping boulders have been selected and will be delivered soon.

The liability insurance for the Foundation has been secured. Soon we will be cutting the weathered lumber saved from the old fence into pieces that are suitable to be used in the new fence.

We have had a prototype built of the display pedestals and are making modifications before building the rest of them.

The decorative gates are getting close to a final design.

All of this is in preparation for starting to put all the pieces together into a cohesive and harmonious bonsai exhibit area.

If all goes well we hope to have the dedication of the new bonsai exhibit at Lynden Sculpture Garden in August!



STATE FAIR 2016 - Are you interested in entering a tree at State Fair? If you have never exhibited before, please consider doing so this year. Classes are: Youth, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Open. Please sign up at Club meetings or call Tony P (414-350-8069) to participate.

WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

AUGUST 4-14

STATE FAIR EXHIBIT SCHEDULE 2016

Exhibit #1 (August 4 - August 6)
Exhibit #2 (August 7 - August 10)
Exhibit #3 (August 11 - August 14)

Exhibit #1

Deliver trees to **

Wednesday, August 3 from 6pm - 6:30pm OR
bring to Society meeting Tuesday Aug 2

Pick up trees from **

Sunday, Aug 7 from 9am - 9:30am

Exhibit #2

Deliver trees to **

Saturday, Aug 6 from 6pm - 6:30pm

Pick up trees from **

Thursday, Aug 11 from 9am - 9:30am

Exhibit #3

Deliver trees to **

Wednesday, Aug 10 6pm - 6:30pm

Pick up trees from **

Monday Aug, 15 from 9am - 9:30am

** Strip mall parking lot approx. 102nd and National, just west of Baker's Square. Turn in by the Sentry sign. Meet in the area nearest the street (National)

When checking in please bring:

+ your list of scientific names and common names,
+ the approximate age of the tree,
+ stand, accent, sketch of display, and the proposed style of tree.

HAVING A PICTURE OF YOUR SET-UP IS RECOMMENDED!!

It is also wise to mark all components of your display with your name.

(an address sticker is usually adequate)

Note: If the drop off/pick up schedule is not good for you, please make personal arrangements for your trees with someone who will care for them. YOU must alert the crew about these arrangements so trees will not be misdirected, lost or stolen.

Call or email

Tony P 414-350-8069 or
ninoslandscapeco@gmail.com

Good luck and thanks for supporting the MBS 2016 State Fair committee.

For specific information as to whether your tree will qualify to be entered at State Fair, please go to:

http://www.wistatefair.com/pdfs/competitions/entry_info/general_info/hort/society_shows.pdf

Go to Bonsai info... p15-16

If you wish to help out at State Fair by greeting people who pass by our exhibit, please contact Steve by phone or email: 414-774-7714 or stephen.contney@att.net

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°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.





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

Next MBS meeting will be
June 7, 2016 at 6:45pm
Boerner Botanical Gardens
9400 Boerner Dr
Hales Corners, WI 53130

2016 MBS OFFICERS

President [Judy S](#)
First VP [Kris Z](#)
Second VP [Tony P](#)
Secretary [Leo S](#)
Treasurer [Wally V](#)
Director [Rob P](#)
Director
Director [Bryan L](#)
Past Pres. [Greg P](#)

Other Club Functions

Newsletter [Melissa J](#)
Webmaster [Pam W](#)
Director of Children's Education—Jean S
PAB Board—Steve Co, Ron F & Houston S



Children's sand castles
Stealthy tide slowly creeps in
San castles tumble
~Joe N.