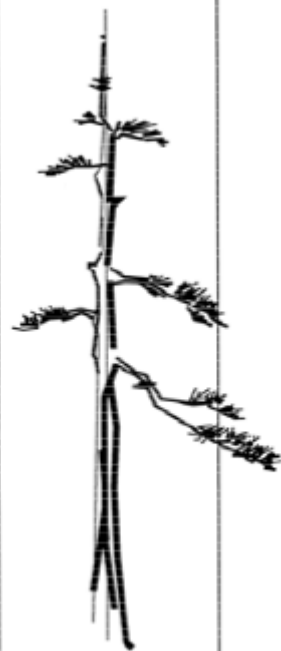


# BONSAI NEWS

February 2017



*Milwaukee  
Bonsai Society  
PO Box 240822  
Milwaukee Wi  
53224*

*Information Line  
414-299-9229*

## February Meeting

Dale Sievert will be joining us for our first meeting of 2017 on Saturday the 18th of February. The meeting will begin at 10:00am and go until 1:00 pm. Snacks will be served.

Dale is the Moss guy in our area and has traveled extensively to view and learn about moss around the world. He is the owner of Sieverts Gardens.

[www.Sievertgardens.blogspot.com](http://www.Sievertgardens.blogspot.com)

Dale grew up on a Wisconsin farm, where he started landscape gardening at age seven in 1949 when he planted flower seeds in various geometric designs in several plots.

(Cont. page 2)

**Next Meeting**  
**Feb 18, 2017**  
**10am**  
**Boerner Botanical**  
**Gardens**

## February

Feb 5—Silhouette show—Milw. County Domes

Feb 11—Novice Class #1\*

Feb 18—**MBS meeting**—Moss

Feb 25—Novice Class #2\*

## March

Mar 7—**MBS meeting**—Taking bonsai out of storage

Mar 11—Novice Class #3\*

Mar 18—Intermediate Class #1\*

Mar 24-28—Peter Tea Classes #1\*

## April

April 1—Novice Class #4\*

April 4—**MBS meeting**—Jin/Shari/Carving

April 8—Jin/Shari/Carving workshop Ted Matson\*

April 15—Intermediate Class #2\*

## May

May 2—**MBS meeting**—Plant diseases

May 6—Novice Class #5\*

## June

June 2-6—Peter Tea Classes #2\*

June 6—MBS Meeting—Pots & Stands

June 17—Intermediate Class #3\*

\*Open to MBS members only

The space race sidetracked Dale, when he envisioned himself designing rocket engines. After selling the family farm in 1963, he sensed a great loss, so he switched to studying agronomy. A mistake, as in 1966 he rediscovered horticulture and landscape design by being enthralled by a single beautiful small garden. He studied the two fields on his own and for two years worked for a landscape firm. Another detour took him to agricultural economics, then, economics, in which he earned M.S. degrees. He taught economics at Milwaukee Area Technical College from 1970 until 1999, simultaneously operating a part-time nursery and contracting firm

He began building his gardens after buying a bare, one-acre lot near Waukesha, WI in 1969. Every year witnessed new gardens and features, and the end does not appear in sight.

The most significant change occurred in 2005 when he started a Japanese-style garden. He visited Foxfire Gardens, a Japanese-style garden, near Marshfield, WI, where he was stunned by the beauty of owner Steve Schulte's small moss garden. It was the most important garden he ever visited. He grows over 50 species of moss, usually on the ground, but also in over 300 containers and on over 600 rocks. Recently, his gardens appeared in books and magazines, and he now give lectures on moss gardening.

A passionate moss gardener, Dale Sievert's garden has been featured in a wide array of books and magazines, and he has written articles on moss for several national magazines. In this special afternoon discussion, Dale will highlight some of the many moss varieties he grows, as well as the culture of moss, showing how he uses them on the ground, on rocks, and in containers.

If you are interested in gardening or bonsai this speaker will interest you. He will have a great PowerPoint presentation and give us some advice on how to choose and grow mosses. He suggests that anyone interested in growing moss get the book by Annie Martin called Magical World of Moss Gardening by timber press. The club is purchasing a few copies of the book for us to read and share.



## President's Message February 2017

Welcome to 2017. I hope that all of you enjoyed a wonderful Holiday Season. Don't forget about your trees. If they are in "cold storage", place some snow on the surface so that they will be watered as they warm. That is, if you still have any snow left. Do not water frozen trees. This will encourage root damage.

A reminder to all of you who have not yet taken advantage of our Novice class, that sign up will begin shortly. This is a very popular class and a must for those of you who are just beginning your bonsai adventure. You must be a MBS member to qualify for sign up. If you have yet to pay your MBS dues for 2017, please do so ASAP. The first Novice Class is February 11, 2017 and there are a limited number of spots open.

Our first activity of the year will be our Silhouette Show at the Domes on February 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be presenting this concurrently with the Train Show and all of the domes are open to the public. We will be asking for members to volunteer to tree sit and answer questions about our beautiful deciduous trees. Please contact Kris Z. if you are interested in displaying trees or assisting.

Our 2017 Kickoff meeting will be on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10 AM at Boerner. Dale Sievert, moss expert from Waukesha will be doing a presentation. For those of you who are up-to-date with your dues, this will be the first opportunity to pick up your new 2017 names tags. Please, wear them proudly.

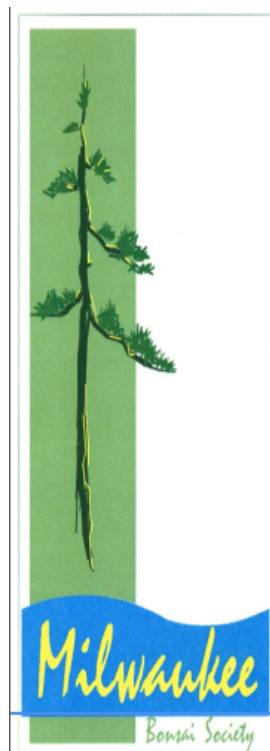
Chris Baker, curator of the bonsai collection at the Chicago Botanic Gardens, will be our speaker for our first Tuesday meeting in March. Ted Matson has agreed to do a Saturday workshop in early April on making shari and jin. You'll be able to bring in your trees for help in adding this interesting feature. This workshop will be limited to 6-8 people. Silent Observers are welcomed.

The Executive Committee has met in mid-January to work out the details of the 2017 schedule. Details will be listed on the website as soon as speakers are confirmed.

Your Executive Committee is working hard to provide MBS members with interesting and informative monthly meetings. We will be looking for people who would be interested in joining the Executive Committee for 2018. Let me know if you would be willing to be a part of the decision making team for MBS.

Thanks.

Judy



### **Winter Silhouettes Bonsai Display**

Presented by

Milwaukee Bonsai Society

Sunday February 5, 2017

In addition to the joys of snow during the winter and early spring months, we in the Midwest have an opportunity to view our landscape in the 'raw', that is, without the dressing of buds, leaves and flowers

Only deciduous trees will be featured in this event. Maples, hombearns, elms, hawthorns, apples, crabapples, pomegranate, crape myrtle, ginkgos, larches and swamp cypress are some of the species which would be suitable.

County Park Admission applies

**Display Hours**  
9 am-4 pm

**The Domes**  
at **Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory**

524 S. Layton Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53215  
(414) 257-5611

**Atrium on the First Level**

# Milwaukee Bonsai Society

## 2017 Novice Classes



If you are in the early stages of learning about the bonsai hobby, these classes will help expand your knowledge of understanding of bonsai styles, practices and techniques and set the foundation on which your future bonsai experiences and lessons will build.

Novice classes this year will be lead by Ron Fortmann. This series of five classes will review a number of topics in each session and you will also work on a provided tree in the fourth and fifth sessions. We will work from a text that will be provided as part of the class.

Session 1 Saturday February 11 (9-1 PM) at Boerner Botanical Gardens – Grandparents Room

Introductions and expectations	Bonsai Terms
Bonsai History	Bonsai Styles
Bonsai Tools	Bonsai Horticulture

Session 2 Saturday February 25 (9-1 PM) at Boerner Botanical Gardens – Grandparents Room

Review Styles and their application	Pot Selection
Bonsai Rules	Potting/Repotting Practices
Bonsai Development	Repotting Workshop

Session 3 Saturday March 11 (9-2 PM) at Boerner Botanical Gardens – Grandparents Room

Bonsai Soils	Discussion about Taper
Bonsai Fertilization	Wire and Wiring

Session 4 Saturday April 1 (9-3 PM) at Boerner Botanical Gardens – Grandparents Room

Work on your class tree

Session 5 Saturday May 5 (9-1 PM) at Boerner Botanical Gardens – TBD

Work on your class tree	Review previous sessions
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Now that your feet are wet..... Jump in! Create your own Bonsai 'masterpiece'! Cost is \$150

The cost of these five classes is \$150.00 which includes a tree and must be paid by the first session to reserve your space. Class participation will be based on first paid first included basis. Class size will be limited to 12 and you must be an MBS member.

### Contact Information

Please Print:

Name(s)	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Phone	
E-Mail Address	

### Payment

Please make your check or money order payable to: **Milwaukee Bonsai Society**

Bring to a meeting or mail to:

Milwaukee Bonsai Society  
P.O. Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI 53224

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

## Volunteers Needed

Our dream is about to become a reality!

### **The Grand Opening of the Bonsai Exhibit at LSG is planned for early this summer!**

Many of you contributed to the cause, when the drive to raise money for such an exhibit was under way.

Many of you volunteered your time and your talents during the construction phase. The day we removed the old fence and the brick pavers, fifteen of you came to help!

Now we need you to volunteer to help maintain the bonsai in the collection and to educate the general public about the wonderful world of bonsai.

The workload is greatest in the summer months, starting with repotting in the spring, continuing during the summer when the bonsai are on display and ending when the bonsai are put in their winter quarters. However, some work will continue in the off season so volunteers are needed year round.

You don't have to be an "expert" to volunteer. All experience levels are welcome.

If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the attached Volunteer Application and mail it to the address on the application or bring it to the February meeting.

If you have any questions call Jack at 414.248.6913

### **Volunteer and join in the fun!**



### **VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FOR BONSAI AT LSG**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer for:

(Check all that are applicable)

Working with the bonsai in the collection

Manning the exhibit

Leading special tours through the exhibit

I am available:         During the week         Weekends

I have been doing Bonsai for \_\_\_\_\_ Years

Any special interests or talents \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
Bonsai at LSG  
Milwaukee Bonsai Society  
PO Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI 53224

# Milwaukee Bonsai Society

## 2017 Intermediate Classes



MBS will again sponsor an Intermediate Class in 2017. It is recommended for those members who find that they are committed to furthering their understanding and enjoyment of the art of Bonsai. It is designed to deepen the principles that you have learned in the Novice Class by incorporating teaching methods such as lecture, discussion, demonstration, review, repetition, critique, and hands on work with your own trees and each other's. Many members find that they enroll in this class more than once.

The Intermediate Class will be led by Steve Ca, and take place in his home studio. Each of the six sessions will center around one of the three important seasons of bonsai work: Spring repotting, Summer tree/branch development, and Fall assessment, cut back, and preparation for next year's growth expectations. Each class will be specific to the season, and all will include an understanding of why we do certain things at this time, horticultural principles, and most importantly, DESIGN. We have added an extra class this year so that you have adequate time to focus on display and wiring. As a course requirement, you will have the opportunity to stretch your new understanding of bonsai principles by providing teaching assistance at the club's Beginner Workshop, to be held at BBG on September 9, 2017, from 9-12. Under the supervision of experienced club members, you will be challenged to share what you have learned with new bonsai hobbyists.

The Intermediate Class is limited to six students. Each member is required to bring their own trees, tools, wire, pots, soil and lots of questions to each class. Soil for one tree repotting will be included in the class fee. After completing this class, you will be better prepared and encouraged to participate in special club workshops with visiting guest artists, not to mention you will grow in your enjoyment of Bonsai!

### Repotting 1 Saturday March 18 (10-4 PM) – Steve's Studio

Why repot and repotting demo - focus on deciduous  
Soils and pots  
Prep for growth expectations - branch development

Fertilizing and DESIGN  
Repotting your tree and handouts  
Your plan for the year

### Repotting 2 Saturday April 8 (10-4 PM) – Steve's Studio

Repeat of all of Repotting 1 with focus on conifers

Repotting your tree and handouts

### Summer 1 Saturday June 17 (10-4 PM) – Steve's Studio

Repotting of Tropical species  
Branch development review  
Wiring and jin

Fertilizing and DESIGN  
Work on your trees and handouts

### Summer2 Saturday July 15 (10-4 PM) – Steve's Studio

Repeat of all of Summer 1

Work on your trees and handouts

### Fall 1 Saturday August 26 (10-4 PM) – Steve's Studio

Necessary fall pruning  
Branch development review  
Any necessary fine wiring

Soji, fertilizing and DESIGN  
Work on your trees

Design MBS Beginner Workshop September 9 (9-12 PM) at Boerner Botanical Gardens

Fall 2 Saturday TBA in October... when the fall weather dictates







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

Next MBS meeting will be  
Feb 18, 2017 at 10am  
Boerner Botanical Gardens  
9400 Boerner Dr  
Hales Corners, WI 53130

#### 2017 MBS OFFICERS

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

#### Other Club Functions

Newsletter [Melissa J](#)  
Webmaster [Pam W](#)

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



Spring waits in the wings  
Out of the earth, overnight  
One perfect snowdrop