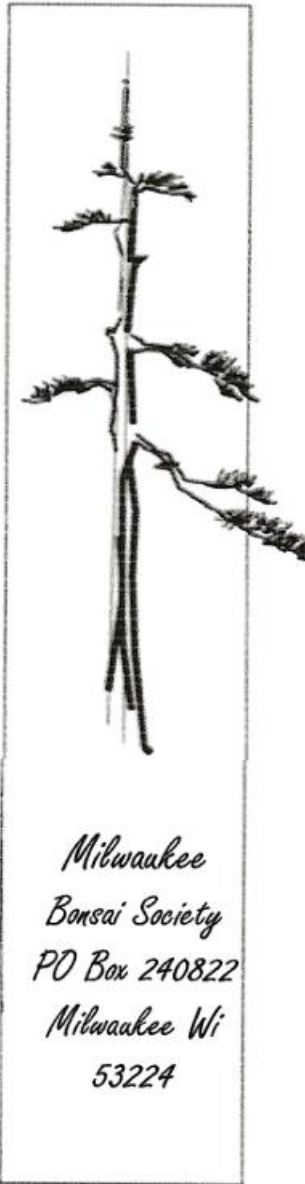


BONSAI NEWS

April 2023



Next Meeting

April 1, 2023
9 am
Boerner
Botanical

Upcoming Meeting

The April meeting will start with Ron F talking about watering, fertilization, and pest management. Ron has a wealth of knowledge to share on these topics.

The second part of the meeting will be focused on talking about some tips for bringing our trees to the outdoors.

There will be time for questions so bring plenty.

There are more, in-depth explanations of each section of the meeting further in the newsletter.



Meeting Schedule

April

April 1 – Watering, fertilization & pest mngt/bringing trees out of winter

April 1 – Workshop – Yamadori Dig

April 8 – Repotting Workshop
Nightowl Bonsai

April 15 – Novice Class #4*

April 15 – Skill Builder 101*

April 16 – Skill Builder 201*

April 22 – Juniper workshop
WISCO Bonsai

May

May 6 – Air Layering/Repotting
Tropicals

May 20 – Tropical workshop-
Previous beginner
Participants*

May 27 – Novice Class #5*

June

June 3 – Summer Juniper Work/
Pruning Tropicals

June 24 – Skill Builder 101*

June 25 – Skill Builder 201*

*Open to MBS members only

President's Message

Hello again and happy repotting season! I hope all your trees made it safely through our rather mild winter. We have another fantastic club meeting coming up where we'll be rolling our new a/v equipment, literally, to make your in-person meeting experience even better. The new set up will also enhance the meeting recordings that will be available very soon on the club website.

Speaking of the next club meeting, I want to encourage everyone to bring any trees that you need help with, advice, or just want to show off a tree that you're proud of.

Hope to see you all there!

Erich

Member's Corner

There are many overlooked treasures in our MBS community. The long-term members in our membership offer a rich source of history, bonsai-lessons, friendship, and perspective that we need. Making Member's Corner a priority in our newsletter will yield a store of lasting memories to share. Speaking of sharing, Houston is one of

our treasures. Houston has shared many lessons, stories, and trees. He is well known for his propagation expertise and shared that as a presenter at MABA last year. This past weekend he held a Root on Rock workshop and everyone who attend left with one of his own propagated trees. During the workshop Houston explained root cuttings and you can learn more about it in his April 2007 article "*Just Goofing Around - Root Trimming for Field-Grown Tree*". Another lesson during the workshop was his approach to development of bonsai and you can read it in his article in the May 2006 newsletter "*Development of Bonsai*". Many of you saw me dwelling over purchase of an indoor species but I remember Houston talking about this species. You can read his "*Recommended Indoor Bonsai Species: Luma (Myrtus luma)*" in the December 2005 issue. He probably has a dozen or more articles on different species. And to prepare for the upcoming meeting read Houston's article "*Fertilization for Bonsai*" in the June 2007 and "*Cake Fertilizer*" in the July 2008 newsletters where he shares his recipe for making organic fertilizer. Let's all thank Houston for his long-time commitment to sharing his bonsai!

Pam W.

Ancient Arts Bonsai

Bonsai Supplier Established
in 2005

Bonsai a Growing Hobby
Wisconsin's Leading Full Line Bonsai Supplier

Tools, Wire – Aluminum & Copper, Pots, Fertilizers
Soils – Akadama, Lava, Pumice, Kanuma, Blends
Trees – Tropical, Deciduous, Conifers, Evergreens
Services – Lessons, Consults, Repotting, Wiring, Boarding

See our updated Website: aabonsai.com

Email – aabonsai@charter.net

Phone – 262-490-8733

CALLING ALL CAT OWNERS AND BONSAI HOBBYISTS

If you have any empty litter containers, I would be willing to recycle them, so they don't end up in a landfill.

Please bring any containers to club meetings or contact me and I can arrange to pick them up.

They will be used to package bonsai soil, without creating a need to make more plastics in our world. I have been using these types of containers for years, but the pandemic has put a wrinkle in my supply chain, and sadly I don't have any cats



These are the two sizes of container I am looking for, if you can help it will be appreciated.



APRIL 1st MEETING TOPICS

MAIN TOPIC - WATERING, FERTILIZATION & PEST MANAGEMENT

Ron F

As our trees start to wake up after a long winter nap it is time to get back into some of our bonsai routines. Because watering is probably the number one problem maker for any bonsai hobbyist, we will review the many factors involved with watering our collections.

With the new spring growth happening the next topic we will discuss is our fertilization practices that will likely begin in the spring and continue throughout the growing season. Fertilization must have a purpose and haphazard applications will likely do more harm than good.

Finally with new spring growth, some pest invasions are likely to occur and how do we protect and possibly prevent them. Better yet how do you identify them and possible treatments to eliminate or control their proliferation. I will share my experiences that have happened over the past 28 years, and we will view a recording of a presentation about pests given last year at the MABA Convention.

Look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Fundamentals Presentation

Steve C

This month we move into Spring in Wisconsin and many of us have been overwintering our tropical bonsai indoors. As the daytime weather begins to warm up, I certainly get the itch to think about moving my trees outside. This is a good thought to have but it requires me to be conscious of a few things.

Stay for the Bonsai Fundamentals portion of the MBS April monthly meeting to hear a few tips about this transition to the outdoor environment.



Dear fellow Bonsai enthusiast:

We are proud to announce the release of a new Milwaukee Bonsai Society member benefit: The MBS Membership Video Site! Here you will find recordings of our monthly meetings, special events such as last year's MABA convention, bonsai techniques, as well as additional special information.

If you can't attend one of our monthly meetings, forgot to take notes, your dog ate your notes, or you simply want to review the information that was presented, we got you covered!

Although you can find many bonsai related videos online at sites such as YouTube. What makes our videos different and special? Most of these videos present the knowledge of your fellow Milwaukee Bonsai Society members and trainers. The information that they provide is specific to our climate, growing conditions, and seasons. You won't have to wonder how to translate the information from someone in California or Hawaii into what we experience in Wisconsin.

The site is password protected and, for security, we will be changing the password annually or as needed. The new password will be sent to you in an email on or about February 1st of each year if your membership is up to date. The log in information will be in the email but not in any of our newsletters as newsletters are publicly available. We ask that you do not share the login information with anyone outside of our organization. We have invested quite a large amount of time, effort, and money in setting up this site and producing the videos.

In our monthly newsletter, we will list the new videos that have been added during the previous month.

We expect to add videos to the site monthly. Currently, we have available the following videos:

Monthly Meetings

December 2021 – Positive Energy vs. Negative Energy

January 2023 – Bonsai Terms we use in our club

MABA Presentations

LED Lighting

Soil Biology

Techniques

Preparing a bonsai pot

Preparing top dressing

Special Information

MBS judging guidelines

Securing your tree in your pot
A year in the life in a Wisconsin Bonsai Hobbyist

Watch your email for your login ID and Password. Once you receive them, navigate to <http://milwaukeebonsai.org/> and, in the right-hand column on the home page, in the “Members Only” tile, click the Log In button. In the window that appears, enter your login credentials, click the Sign in button, and start watching!

Special thanks go out to the MBS members who helped make this site a reality. These dedicated members include Pam W., Jack S., Sadie J., Camrin L., and John N. Explore the new Membership Video section and let us know what you think. We trust that you will be pleased with what we have to offer.



Library News

At the last meeting we received a total of 52 books generously donated by three club members, Kathy K, Rick W, and Phil R. I have cataloged 36 of them and they are now ready to be checked out. The other 16 books were duplicates of items that we already have, so they can be used to raise funds via auctions. The books cover various topics and in general are much newer than what was in the library.

Books will be available near the greeters table during each meeting. Please remember to completely fill out a library check out card for each book that you want to take home. Borrowed books are due for return at the following meeting. This is a great resource to further your bonsai education. Check it out.

LSG Volunteers Needed 2023

MBS members wishing to volunteer at the bonsai exhibit at Lynden Sculpture Garden (LSG) for the 2023 season are asked to meet for an orientation/ cleanup meeting at **noon, Saturday, April 29 or Sunday, April 30** on the bonsai patio at the LSG exhibit. April 29 is International Sculpture Day.

No experience is necessary.

Please bring your calendars and be prepared to sign up to host the exhibit for May and June dates. The exhibit is open on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during usual LSG hours, 10am-4pm.

Wear old clothes and bring your finishing tools and maybe a tabletop turntable.

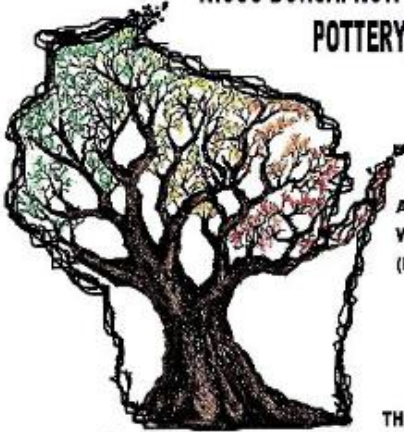
We will be refreshing the exhibit area, patio, gates and changing house, cleaning, weeding, raking gravel and sanding and repairing display benches.

We will prepare the bonsai for exhibit. We can work until the garden closes at 4 p.m.

We plan to open the exhibit to the public on **World Bonsai Day, Saturday, May 13**, the date of the MBS workshop.

Anyone interested, please contact Michelle Z. (mgaz.md@gmail.com) so I'll know how many to plan for. Can't wait to get started!

<https://www.milwaukeebonsaifoundation.org/>



WISCO BONSAI NOW HAS THE AREA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF ARTISIAN, HANDMADE BONSAI POTTERY, MUCH OF WHICH CONSISTS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL ARTISTS.

WE ALSO NOW CARRY A LINE OF TOOLS GEARED TOWARD THE BEGINNER AND NOVICE AMONG US, ALONG WITH ALL MANNER OF BONSAI SUNDRIES, SUCH AS, COPPER & ALUMINUM WIRE, JIN SEAL, WOUND PUTTY, ETC.

AND OF COURSE THERES THE SUBSTRATE, WISCO GOLD... THE BEST NON-JAPANESE MIX AROUND WE ALSO OCCASIONALLY HAVE OTHER RAW SUBSTRATE COMPONENTS AVAILABLE (PUMICE, LAVA, ETC). SEVERAL SIZES OF KANUMA NOW AVAILABLE !!! GOT ORCHIDS ? WE HAVE A SUBSTRATE FOR THOSE TOO !!!

WiscoBonsai@gmail.com 414-248-3827 www.WiscoBonsai.com
INSTAGRAM @wisco.bonsai

THE SHOP NOW HAS REGULAR HOURS IN THE SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL. HOURS ARE UPDATED WEEKLY ON MY GOOGLE INFO SITE. OR, TO BE THE AMONG FIRST TO KNOW ABOUT ALL THE WORKSHOPS AND OTHER FUN GOING DOWN AT WISCO BONSAI, JUST SHOOT AN EMAIL AND I WILL ADD YOU TO THE EMAIL LIST.

"BONSAI IS THE ART OF NATURE, GUIDED AND NURTURED BY HUMAN HANDS" - KMS

WISCO BONSAI
www.WiscoBonsai.com

What do I do next with my Ficus Tree?

A "Proposed Member Workshop" for anyone who has attended the MBS Public Workshop in the past few years.

Proposed date: Saturday, May 20th Proposed Location: TBD

By Steve C

Every Fall and some years in Spring, MBS offers new bonsai enthusiasts an opportunity to attend "The Public Workshop." Many had previously attended an MBS event like State Fair or The Silhouette Show at the Domes, gotten excited about this cool art and, like you, signed up for this Workshop. There, you received your first bonsai tree, usually a Ficus or Fig tree, and began to style it with the help of a current club member. Hopefully, you enjoyed yourself and were able to carry home your new bonsai tree in a cool pot.

NOW WHAT DO I DO??

Along with that Public Workshop, MBS had included a full year of membership in the Milwaukee Bonsai Society. Some members attend the meetings and some even bring in their trees to show them off or ask some questions. Some have even reached out to more experienced members for help in solving an issue they are having with their tree. In past years, MBS had offered a spring repotting workshop to help new members navigate this scary procedure called "repotting." Oftentimes this repotting workshop had not been well attended.

This year, The Education Committee has proposed to offer a new workshop called "**What do I do next with my ficus tree?**" Here is your chance to take that next step.

This proposed workshop will be offered in May, the perfect time to assess the growth and health of your tree as well as answer questions you may have including:

- * Is my tree healthy?
- * Does it need to be pruned?
- * Should it be fertilized?
- * How do I do that?
- * What kind of fertilizer do I use?
- * Why are these tiny flying things circling my tree?
- * What is that sticky, shiny stuff that is all over my windowsill?
- * What is repotting and when does it need to be done?

These and other questions you might have will all be answered at this upcoming workshop. You will even have an opportunity to do some of this work on your tree. **Having this continuing support will help keep your tree alive, THRIVING, and giving you years of joy!**

This workshop is in the process of seeking funding and once that is secured, all members who have taken the Public Workshop in the past few years will be invited to attend. It will also be announced in the May Club newsletter and registration will happen through **Eventbrite**. This Workshop is for Novice members but will be open to any current MBS member.

There will be **NO COST** for members to attend, but attendance will be limited.

The number of responses to this workshop will give the Executive Committee, the Education Committee and the funding sources the understanding of what value this sort of workshop holds for the membership.

Instructors will be Brian S and Steve C along with needed support from other more experienced MBS members. Watch your newsletter and your e-mail for additional information.

March 4th Meeting

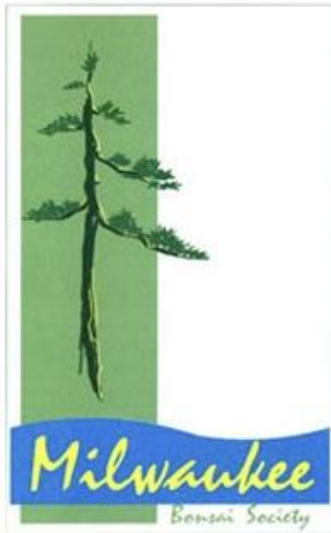
The March 4th meeting brought Rick Garcia from California to visit us for the weekend. He had a wealth of knowledge to share about azaleas. I don't have an azalea but even I took a lot of notes. It was an interesting talk and Rick was an engaging presenter.



The second part of the meeting brought Judy S to talk to us about what we need in front of us before taking a tree out of the pot for repotting. The items are:

- Pot with screens over drain holes
- Soil
- Sifters
- Scoops
- Water in spray bottle
- Root rake or chop stick
- Wire
- Wire cutters
- Flat nose pliers
- Possibly a saw
- Moss





PO Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI 53224
www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Next MBS meeting will be
April 1, 2023 @ 9am
Boerner Botanical Gardens

2023 MBS OFFICERS

President [Erich B](#)
1st VP [Pam W](#)
2nd VP [Rob S](#)
Secretary [Rick W](#)
Treasurer [Clif O](#)
Director [John N](#)
Director [Irene H](#)
Director [Mike B](#)

Other Club Functions

Newsletter [Melissa J](#)
Webmaster [Pam W](#)
Librarian [Greg R](#)

PAB Board-Ron F, Houston S & Judy S



Spring wakens my tree –
A bejeweled perfumed bride. . . .
Love birds make their nest

~Andrea Dietrich