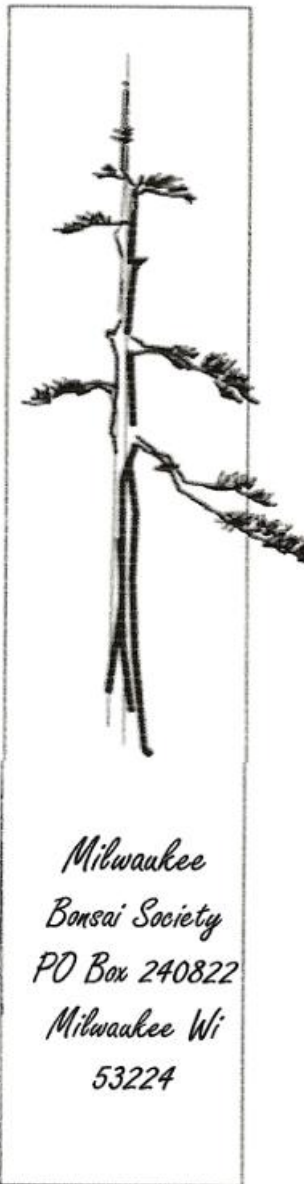


BONSAI NEWS

May 2025



Upcoming Meeting

Due to a scheduling conflict with the presenters for the multi-flush talk we will be working on boxwoods instead.

We have nursery-bought Boxwoods to discuss in small groups and style. Six tables, each with a tree and an experienced member will be set up for this month's meeting .

Bring your tools (with ID on them) as well as cash or a check book. The trees will be auctioned off at the end of the meeting. Don't miss out!

Focus Topic: Accent Plant Placement

Where do your accent plants go when displaying your bonsai? These small, but significant additions can enhance the composition and tell a complete story. Join us for the discussion to find out more.

Next Meeting

May 3, 2025
9 am
Boerner
Botanical

May

May 3 – General Meeting: Boxwood work/Accent Plant Placement

May 10 – Class: Fundamentals*

May 10 – Exhibit: World Bonsai Day at Boerner Botanic Gardens

May 24 – Workshop: Ficus Review*

June

June 7 – General Meeting: Post Flush cut back deciduous

June 14-15 – 54th Annual Exhibit
Lynden Sculpture Garden

June 28 - Class: Skills 101*

June 29 – Class: Skills 201*

July

July 12 – General Meeting: Tropical Work/Rooting-Cuttings

July 31-Aug 10 – WI State Fair Exhibits

August

August 2 – General Meeting: Guest Artist – David Cutchin

August 2 – Workshop: Critique & Discussion with David Cutchin*

August 3 – Workshop: Bring your own Tree with David Cutchin*

*Open to MBS members only

President's Message

It might be difficult to prove based on our weather, but spring truly is underway. The bright purple crocuses coming up in my front yard are the first harbingers of change, and a sign that we made it through another Wisconsin winter. To my thinking, we are now entering the time of year that makes bonsai so special, when we get to see some of the rewards for the patience, study and hard work that our trees require.

In very short order, World Bonsai Day will be upon us, and we will be putting on our first exhibition at Boerner in connection with the event. Please do consider entering a tree. It's also going to be a great preview of the annual exhibit a month later in June, an opportunity to sort out some design questions and decide what you might want to show then.

I have often said that one of best gifts I have received in being involved with MBS is making some really good friends, whom I would otherwise have never met. In that context, I think it's worthwhile to understand how World Bonsai Day came about and why it endures.

One of the most outstanding figures in twentieth century bonsai was the master, Saburo Kato. His story could go on for pages, but for our purpose here, suffice to say that he was a pioneering proponent of the idea that bonsai could transcend international boundaries, and help foster greater worldwide understanding and camaraderie.

It was he who was the driving force behind the friendship gift from the people of Japan to commemorate our bicentennial. A gift of fifty three trees and six spectacular stones were presented, and formed the basis of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the National Arboretum in Washington DC. If you are ever in DC, it would be a tragedy to not visit the collection, and in fact the collection is so spectacular that it could justify the trip all in itself.

Included in that gift was a white pine, donated by Mr. Masaru Yamaki. Again, making a long story shorter, when he contributed the tree, it had been in his family, in training as a bonsai, for three hundred and fifty years. It was later learned in 2002 that Mr. Yasmaki's tree was approximately a mile and a half from ground zero when the United States dropped the world's first nuclear weapon on his home city of Hiroshima. The tree survived because it was sheltered behind a thick stone wall, and it endures to this day.

In 1989, Mr. Kato worked with John Naka and others to establish the World Bonsai Friendship Federation. He frequently spoke of what he called the spirit of bonsai, the idea that practicing the art and horticulture of bonsai raises one's awareness of the beauty and fragility of nature, and opens up one's consciousness to the wonders of the natural world. He passed in 2008, and the Federation established World Bonsai Day to honor his commitment to using the art of bonsai to build world peace, understanding, and friendship.

Today we are living in a moment when both our national and international discourse have become rank with hostility and incivility, when many people would rather wrap themselves in their opinions than be open to discussion with others, and when we find it easy to dismiss the value of others because their beliefs are not the same as ours. If ever there was a time for us to take to heart the spirit that Master Kato embodied, I would suggest that now is that time.

Happy spring!!
Rick

A Message from the Executive Committee

Over the last few months there has been considerable discussion about the way that the calendar for the year is arranged, and what to do about what can be called “spontaneous” events. Some clarification is in order.

The calendar of meetings, exhibits, and events is finalized and approved by the board in October for publication in November. It is developed in concert with the Education Committee, to maintain the seasonality of our teaching schedule. It is also based on what the board believes to be a realistic assessment of how much effort, time, and participation we can ask of our members to support our other activities.

It is our policy that we will only support events that are approved for the calendar. By ‘support’ we mean things like Eventbrite registration, MBS handling funds, use of club materials and resources, and so on. It also extends to the free use of rooms at Boerner, a privilege afforded to us strictly as a nonprofit organization.

We are fortunate to have some club members who want to share the knowledge they possess with others, in any number of areas. We certainly do not want to discourage this, but it has to be done within certain constraints. Independent classes or workshops will not have the support mentioned earlier if they are not submitted and approved prior to the October meeting. Simply put, the board will decide how and when our energies and resources are to be used to serve the entirety of MBS.

We recognize, however, that many of the smaller “spontaneous” classes and workshops are often fun and well received. We will therefore be adding an “Other Events” section to the newsletter, to provide a way that these can be publicized. If you wish to conduct such an event, we will allow a brief listing to be included. It should be no more than a few lines, including topic, time and date, who to contact for information, and so on.

It will be that person’s responsibility to handle their own registration and other requirements outside of membership meetings—no signup tables in the hall, for example. It is important to understand that if they reserve a room at Boerner for their event, they are doing so as an individual, not MBS, and they will be charged for the use of the room.

The primary mission of MBS is really about education and the sharing of knowledge. We hope that providing this accommodation will allow that sharing by people who wish to do so on their own, while still keeping the focus on the club as a whole.

World Bonsai Day

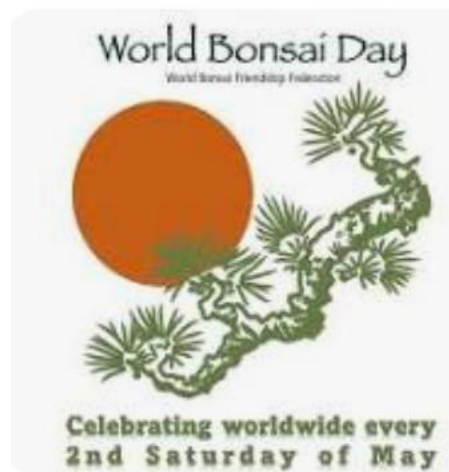
We have been invited by our friends at Boerner to put on an exhibit in the Atrium for World Bonsai Day, which this year is Saturday, May 10. This will be similar to the Silhouette Show in size and scope. Our goal is to have approximately twenty trees for display.

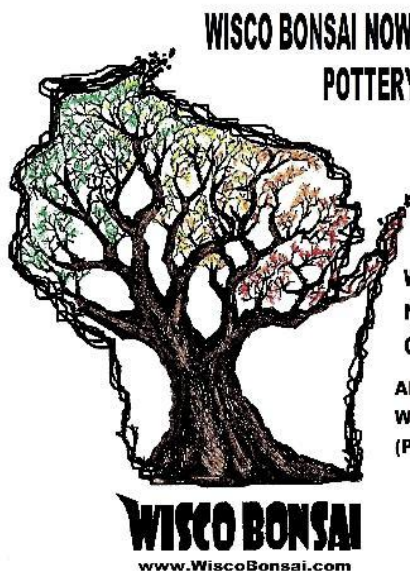
The trees should be in bonsai pots and stands and accents are appropriate. Like the silhouette show, this would be a one-day event, with morning drop off and late afternoon pick up. We will also be doing some sort of demo and will need a couple of volunteers to be on site during the day to babysit the trees and answer questions.

We are meeting with Boerner staff on April 1 to hammer out final details. Please start thinking now about what trees you might have available to show. If we are fortunate, there may be azaleas and other flowering stuff in bloom then, but all species and varieties are welcome.

Also, please bear in mind that we are fortunate to have a home at Boerner for MBS. They have asked us to do this as part of their efforts to draw in greater attendance. Putting on a high-quality exhibit not only raises our profile with the public, but will go a long way toward creating good will with Boerner and their Friends group.

Sign up: [link here](#)





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

SPRING HOURS:

FRIDAYS 12-4

SATURDAYS 10-4

SUNDAYS 10-3

THRU MEMORIAL DAY

SOME EXCEPTIONS TO SHOP HOURS:

WORLD BONSAI DAY CLOSED (5/10)

AND SOME FRIDAYS MIGHT BE CLOSED...

HOURS ARE UPDATED EVERYWEEK ON THE WISCO BONSAI GOOGLE PAGE

FEEL FREE TO CALL BEFORE STOPPING OUT

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 !!!

WiscoBonsai@gmail.com

414-248-3827

www.WiscoBonsai.com

INSTAGRAM @wisco.bonsai

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

Wisco Bonsai will be closed Saturday, May 10th in order to celebrate World Bonsai Day with MBS, at the Boerner Botanical Gardens

Annual Exhibit - Raffle Donations Needed

The Annual Exhibit is June 14-15th this year and is quickly approaching. The raffles go a long way to help provide funds for the club. We use the money raised for many different projects throughout the year. Every donation is appreciated and is tax-deductible. Gently used bonsai items are always welcome. Bring items to the next meeting or contact Melissa

J. to make arrangements for pick-up. Missyuc2@yahoo.com text: 414-350-3924



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

Ficus Review Workshop

How is your ficus doing from the public workshop this past September? Is your tree from a few Septembers ago still alive? Join us Saturday, May 24th at Boerner's grandparent's room for a ficus review. It is a perfect time of year to talk about styling, wiring and setting your tree up for a fantastic growing season! We will have members available for questions and help.

Bring your ficus, wire, tools and your questions.

Email Valerie with questions: valerie.strukel@icloud.com

This is a free workshop, but please register so we know how many people to expect and have enough helpers.

Sign up on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)



LSG Volunteers Needed

MBS members wishing to volunteer at the bonsai exhibit at Lynden Sculpture Garden (LSG) for the 2025 season are asked to meet for lunch/ orientation/ cleanup at noon, Saturday, May 3, or at noon, Sunday, May 4 on the bonsai patio at the exhibit @ LSG. Drive down and park at the exhibit.

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 from 10a.m.-4p.m. Shifts are for 3 hours, 10-1, 1-4.

Dress for the weather, 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 mobilizing 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 10, 2025 with a beginner workshop led by volunteer and Milwaukee Bonsai Foundation President, Erich B.

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

milwaukeebonsaifoundation.org



Artist Workshops with Jennifer Price

by PAM W

Jennifer Price, a former professional ballet dancer, seamlessly translates her passion for movement into the art of bonsai. Inspired by the natural flow of trees, she specializes in carving and thrives on the challenge of working with diverse materials.



ARTIST WORKSHOPS



JUN. 14
9:00 AM

JUN. 15
9:00 AM

JUN. 15
1:00 PM

Artist:
Jennifer Price

Perfect for beginners and seasoned bonsai artists alike. Join our upcoming hands-on workshops and discover the secrets behind creating captivating bonsai. Learn more: www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Friday evening, we have an opportunity to hear Jennifer discuss the exhibit and review selected trees.

We have an exciting opportunity to work with Jennifer at three workshops on June 14 and 15. See the [Annual Exhibit page](#) on the website for more details and watch for registration.

Jennifer will also be doing a demonstration on Saturday afternoon. She hand-selected a Ponderosa Pine from Andy Smith's collection to work on for this demonstration.

Bonsai Events

May 10 – **Lynden Sculpture Garden**
[Bonsai for Beginners](#)

May 10 – **Lynden Sculpture Garden**
[Opening of Bonsai Exhibit](#)

May 17/18 – **Chicago Botanic Garden**
[Midwest Bonsai Society 19th Annual May Bonsai Exhibit](#)

May 17/18 – **Olbrich Botanical Garden**, Madison WI
[Badger Bonsai Society Annual Show](#)

June 21 – **Boerner Botanic Garden**
Beginner Class-Chinese Elms
Contact: [Bryan L](#)

August 15/17 – **Chicago Botanic Garden**
[47th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition](#)

September 12/14 – **Rochester, NY**
[ABS Learning Seminars](#)

September 13/14 – **Rochester, NY**
[9th US National Bonsai Exhibition](#)

September 26/28-[Wisco Bonsai](#)
Workshop Intensive Weekend



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

Next MBS meeting will be
May 3, 2025 @ 9am

2025 MBS OFFICERS

President [Rick W](#)
1st VP [Valerie S](#)
2nd VP [Rob S](#)
Secretary [Greg R](#)
Treasurer [John N](#)
Director [Joe T](#)
Director [John R](#)
Director [Mike B](#)
Past President [Erich B](#)

Other Club Functions

Newsletter [Melissa J](#)
Newsletter@milwaukeebonsai.org
Webmaster [Pam W](#)
Librarian [Greg R](#)
Social media [Jenna W](#)

PAB Board-Ron F, Houston S & Judy S



*A butterfly flits
Bringing a message of joy
A moment of bliss*