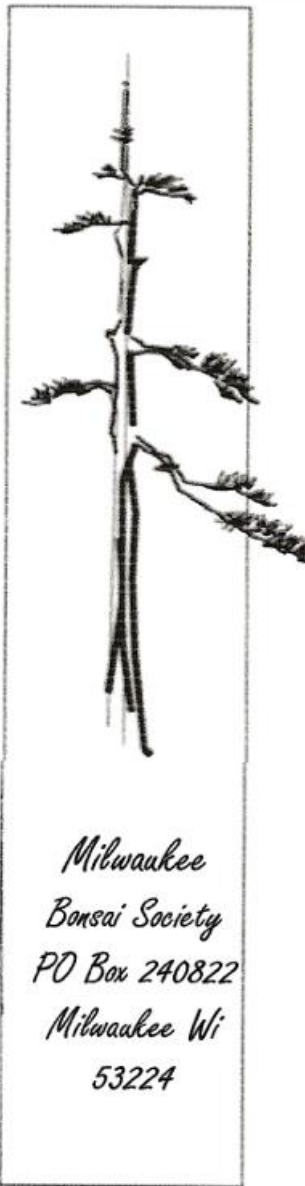


BONSAI NEWS

July 2024



Upcoming Meeting

The focus topic of the July meeting will have Steve talking with us about the issues the extreme summer heat can cause for our trees and how to deal with it. Steve will also talk about the hands-off, puff ball stage that trees are in now.

The main topic of the meeting will be a show and tell with member's pines.

****Please note the meeting will be on July 13th, the second Saturday of the month.**



Next Meeting

July 13, 2024

9 am

Boerner
Botanical

July

July 13 – Show and tell-Pines/Hands-off, Puff ball stage, Dealing with Summer heat

August

August 1-11 – State Fair Shows

August 3 – Guest Artist: David Cutchin/
Wire

August 4 – Tropical Workshop w/
David Cutchin*

August 10 – Bonsai Skills 101*

August 11 - Bonsai Skills 201*

September

September 7 – Ryan's Style
Descriptions/Common
Conifers-Deciduous

September 21 – Public Workshop
Boerner Botanical

October

October 5 – Fall cutback of trees in
Development/Root over
Rock revisited

October 12 – Bonsai Skills 101*

October 13 – Bonsai Skills 201*

*Open to MBS members only

President's Message

As I write this, the summer solstice, longest day of the year, was just a couple of days ago. It seems hard to believe that only ninety days or so ago, we were deep into the frenzy of repotting, shuffling trees into and out of the weather, and getting trees together for the exhibit. Now it feels something like the feeling of taking a canoe or kayak through a stretch of whitewater rapids, and then hitting the calm water before the next stretch. Other than watering and fertilizing, there isn't a lot to do with our trees, but just beyond this calm stretch lies another flurry of activity in fall.

I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the annual exhibition a success. We had over 300 people from the public in attendance, just based on the people's choice votes alone. Personally, I think the display was great, and my thanks to everyone who helped to set up and take down. Also, my thanks to everyone who decided to show one or more trees. The public got to see a wide variety of species in displays of varying levels of formality and settings, and we showed them a pretty broad spectrum of what bonsai can be about.

I don't usually name names, but there are a couple who should be mentioned because of what made their displays special. I had the opportunity to discuss with Rick Garcia after the fact, what he saw in each that piqued his enthusiasm or moved him in some way. The first one he mentioned was Greg R., who took first in intermediate with his contorted hazel. In Rick's estimation, the display had all of the things he was looking for in an intermediate display—an unusual species, obviously healthy and well cared for, matched with attractive pots and an exquisitely contrasting accent plant. Rick was also struck by the original stand, all the more so after he was told where the wood came from, and what it meant to Greg.

And then there's Joe T.—the man, the myth, the monster. He not only swept first and second in novice, but got the honorable mention for best combination of pot and stand as well. Rick was pleasantly surprised when he was told that all three were from the same guy. His comment was, "Interesting—you can see the same aesthetic sense and skill level across all three."

There is some conversation and thinking going on now about where we want to go with the exhibition. This year was a one-off, intended (albeit with limited success) to allow flowering trees to be seen. We recognize that many other types of trees are not really showable in early summer, and that the end of August is a time when most of the trees owned by most of our members are going to be at their best. It has been suggested that in the future we might do something in early summer which is being referred to as "AE light", perhaps a one day event, a simpler setting, and without all of the ribbons and other "stuff"—just purely a display of trees. We could combine this with a more traditional exhibit in late August.

There has also been talk of de-emphasizing the guest artist element, which benefits a relatively small proportion of the membership due to limited workshop slots, etc. The idea would be to turn our focus to more of a member-centered event, celebrating our trees with less emphasis on judging, etc.

None of these things are in a decision phase, by any means. Rather, I bring them up because the club leadership is constantly striving to identify what we can do, and what course we can follow, to provide the richest and most rewarding experience for our members. If you have thoughts on these, or any other topics about the club and its direction, corner one of your board members at a meeting and let them know what you think. As an alternative, all of their email addresses, mine included, are on the website for precisely that reason.

Meanwhile, I have been told we are now in the “puffball phase” of the bonsai year. Time to relax, care for them, and give some thought to where you want to take them when the time becomes right again to do the work. It’s also a great time to look for pots, new material, and so on. Happy summer!

Rick



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 COMPONANTS 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

Focus on temperate, sub-tropical, and tropical cultivation with guest artist David Cutchin at the August 2024 Meeting

by Pam W

MBS is thrilled to introduce the newest Bonsai Mirai educator, David Cutchin. As Ryan Neil states “A proud Floridian and highly talented bonsai professional at the top of his class.”

Educating with a focus on the nuances of propagation and material development within the coveted tropical bonsai model, David’s accessible approach to teaching combines physiology, technique, and artistry that is unique to his personal evolution of understanding species that thrive in tropical regions.

David Cutchin is a 6th generation Floridian, and a 2nd generation bonsai artist and grower. Born and raised in the Florida panhandle David moved to central Florida in 2011 to study horticulture at UF following an 11-year career with the Forest Service. This is also when he met David & Linda VanBuskirk of DL Nursery and began training to be a bonsai professional. In 2016 David became a student of Ryan Neil of Bonsai Mirai where he concentrated on technical application and design. Bridging the historically self-taught bonsai application of the southeast and the technical mastery of the west really pushed David to a greater appreciation of the art form and nuances in his home state. In 2021, David founded The Florida Collective. His aim to celebrate Florida’s collective uniqueness. Florida being the most diverse state in the US to practice bonsai, and his nursery centrally located, allowed David the opportunity to deploy many stylistic approaches across many horticultural applications. Currently, David teaches temperate, sub-tropical, and tropical cultivation through DL Nursery and Mirai Live, as well as clubs and individuals across the United States

We are honored to have him help us.

Be intrigued as David provides understanding how species evolve and their relationship to bonsai can only lead to a greater appreciation of the art form at our August 3 general meeting at 9:00 AM. He will be refining a good size Brazilian Raintree purchased from Brussels’ for this his demonstration.

Take advantage of more discussion after the meeting in the temperate, sub-tropical, and tropical cultivation Critique and Discussion Workshop. Registered members can bring up to two bonsai. David will critique and set a clear design objective for your tree. [Register](#)

On Sunday take a 6-hour workshop where David will, with a clear design objective mapping your actions, help you employ pruning techniques to stimulate new growth. This hands-on workshop for temperate, sub-tropical, and tropical cultivation including Ficus. Registered members can bring up to two bonsai. - [Register for workshop](#)



David Cutchin



Working on a juniper at Mirai



One of David’s tropical Bonsai



And one of his not so tropical Bonsai

June Kelly Award of Merit Award – Melissa James

By Pam W

June Kelly Award of Merit

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society established the June Kelly Award of Merit to honor individuals who have generously shared their time and talent with members of MBS. The award is not a yearly award and is considered for service above and beyond.

Recognition along with a lifetime membership is awarded to these individuals. Past honorees include Gloria Roisler (founding member) Mary Turner, Rita Luedke, Jim Toepfer, Jack Douthitt, Pam Woythal, Tony Plicka, Ron Fortmann, Kris Ziemann, Steve Carini and Steve Cotney. Current count is nine.

Melissa James

Melissa James has been a Milwaukee Bonsai Society member since February 2013. She has served on the MBS board for five years including President and Past President. While she regularly attends American Bonsai Society (ABS) Conventions, she is currently working with ABS editors as a contributor.

Melissa has been the newsletter editor for the past nine years. That's easily over 90 editions without fail! She has an easy and agreeable manner, willingness to take on anything for the success of MBS. This fact is especially evident in her ability to get fourteen sponsorships for the 2023 Annual Exhibit and her ability to raise funds at raffle events throughout the year.



53rd Annual Exhibit Results judged by Rick Garcia

By Pam W

The MBS Education Committee has identified three categories of bonsai skills that all bonsai

enthusiast should learn. Becoming proficient in these skills will give you the confidence to grow and maintain your trees.

Horticulture Skills - watering, fertilizing, seasonal care, repotting (Keeping my trees alive)

Styling Skills - Growing out trunks and branches, cutting back, pruning, building ramification, placing wire on a tree (Making the tree look good)

Presentation Skills - Pot selection, stand selection, accent piece selection and overall composition (pulling it all together and creating a great picture).



Best of Show – Ponderosa Pine/Trident Maple- Pinus ponderosa/Acer buergerianum Trees are 50 and 25 years and has been in training with **Houston S.** for 8 and 25 years. Container artists are Sara Rayner / Levi Archuleta. Stand by Houston Sanders



Peoples' Choice was a Hinoki cypress 50 years old in training with **Judy S.** for 10 years. Container is Sara Rayner

Each MBS member should reflect on the skill categories and self-determine at which level of proficiency their skills are at. The following pages describes these levels and has more pictures of the Annual Exhibit winning trees.

Open

You feel confident and reasonable proficient in performing these skills (Horticulture, Styling and Presentation).



First Place was an Hinoki cypress, *Chamaecyparis obtuse* about 30 years old in training with **Pam W.** for 15 years. Container by Sara Raynor



Second Place was a Limber Pine, *Pinus flexilis* 74 years old in training with **Scott D.** for 5 years. Container by Tom Benda. Stand is reclaimed timber.



Third Place was Hinoki cypress, *Chamaecyparis obtuse* about 50 years old in training with **Judy S.** for 10 years. Container by Sara Rayner

Intermediate

You are becoming more confident/comfortable in performing these skills but you still are learning and refining these skills.



First Place was a Harry Lauder's Walking Stick, Contorted Filbert, *Corylus avellana Contorta* in training with **Greg R** 3 years. Stand by Greg Raleigh



Second Place was a Shimpaku Juniper, *Juniper Chineseis* 75 years old training with **Erich B.** 15 years. Container by Sara Raynor. Stand by Clif Orphal



Third Place was a Satsuki azalea "karenko", *Rhododendron indicum* 30 years old in training with **Rick W** 5 years. Container is Yamaaki [Japan] and stand is Antique Japanese

Novice

You are learning these skills and do not feel comfortable or proficient with all of these skills at this point in time.



First Place was a Chinese Thuja, *Platycladus orientalis* 7 years old in training with **Joe T.** for 3 years Containers is Chinese production



Honorable mention for Novice Display was **Joe T.** Western juniper in a container by Byron Myrick



Second Place was a Brazilian Rain Tree, *Pithecellobium Tortum* about 8 years old in training with **Joe T.** for 2 years. Container is Zaishu Pottery



Third Place was a Potentilla, Cinquefoils about 8 years in training with **Rob S.** for 2 years. Container is Studio Vatra

Congratulations New Talent

by PAM W

The story begins with five very brave novices as they approach six multi-trunk junipers scattered on five table. These New Talent Competition entrants have 5 years or less as an MBS artist, taken at least one course (Novice aka Fundamental, or Intermediate now known as Skills 101). They are nervous. They are competing! What makes the contest so fun is that the artist style their trees in public view. It is their job during the next few short hours to create the best bonsai they can from the material provided. Next thing you know they are sharing tools, keeping their work space clean, joking with each other and encouraging new MBS members as they observe the competition Why would one go to such effort and subject oneself to public scrutiny? Not only the top prize – \$100 voucher for an MBS educational opportunity. These bold artists are motivated to be **The Best New Talent.**



Joe T working the top



Mike determining the front



Ben removing shoots



Phil already testing the strength of branches



Rob still assessing the trees

The first hour (pictures above) shows each artist approaching their tree. Generally, it was clean-up, removing some shoots, then giving the tree a once over to see what can be done with remaining shoots.

The second hour the artists are settled in and fighting the clock. The intensity is climbing



Joe is intent on hammering it home.



Mike is taking a breath!



Ben is in a trance



Phil looks relaxed as he is focused



Rob is muscling his branch.

As the close of the competition is near, the tiny room they had to move to in mid competition gets quieter as the final details are being applied to the bonsai. Now it's in the hands of the judges; instructors for MBS Brian S. Ron F. and Steve C. And they chose BEN.

Congratulations to each of the entrants for accomplishing so much with their trees in a very limited period of time – well done!

If you are a new MBS bonsai artist keep an eye on the newsletter for sign-ups in 2025.



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Services – Lessons, Consults, Repotting, Wiring, Boarding

See our updated Website: aabonsai.com

Email – aabonsai@charter.net

Phone – 262-490-8733



Above is a photo of the 2024 Bonsai Fundamentals Class

Starting on the left are:

Shannon Musial, Benjamin Haehnel, Lisa Freigang, Ashley Gray Mueller, David Mantey, Jen Charles, Zuhui Kazmiershi, Susan Flaherty, Tim Detzer

They all successfully completed the class and have begun their individual bonsai journeys. Wish them all congratulations and encourage them to continue learning to create wonderful bonsai that they and others can enjoy.

We've reached a milestone!

With the addition of this month's videos in the Milwaukee Bonsai Society Members-Only library, we now have a total of 50 videos available for your viewing pleasure... and education!

Remember, as opposed to videos that you might find on YouTube and other sites, these videos cover topics for trees we need to care for in our climate.

Five new videos have just been added.

Here's what's new:

Monthly Meeting

April 2024 Meeting Main Topic – Creating a Forest – by Steve Carini

June 2024 Meeting Main Topic - Summer Bonsai Tasks - by Steve Carini and Brian Susler

Focus Topic Presentations

Using a Curved Chisel – by Steve Carini

Cedar Apple Rust Revisited – by Steve Carini and Brian Susler

Energy Positive and Energy Negative Revisited... Again! - by Steve Carini and Brian Susler

Remember, the site is password protected and we ask that you do not share the login information with anyone outside of our organization. If you have lost or did not receive your login information, send us an email.

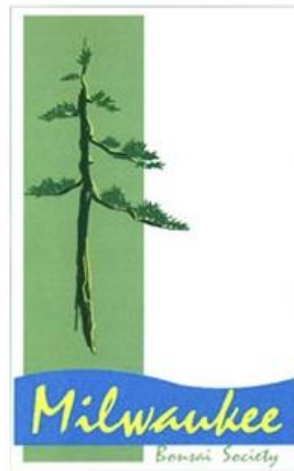
Additional videos will be added soon

Logo Contest

The MBS logo has been a tried-and-true part of the club for quite a few years now, but its time to freshen its look.

This is your chance to be a part of club history and submit an idea for the next MBS logo.

Below is what we have now:



If you are creative or just have a great idea and want to offer a suggestion, send an email before September 1st to the executive committee at:

MBS.EXEC.MBS@gmail.com

Muck Recipe

by PAM W

Recently I was asked to look into finding a recipe for “Muck”. I was sure MBS had an article on a recipe from Houston or Kris. Not being able to find it, I looked to my notes and to Google.

Majority of Muck is 50% earth clay, 35% chopped sphagnum moss and 15 % fine sand. My recipe is basically akadama dust, sphagnum moss, and akadama fines. But the last few times I have just been purchasing it. Below I have included links to other recipes and places to purchase it.

Why use muck? Anytime you are doing a planting on a slab or where the roots would be above the pot and exposed you may need to make a dike to hold bonsai soil around the tree. Adding green moss onto the muck gives it the finishing touch

Preparing muck is always a big mess. So, it’s best to make up a big supply at one time. Mix your ingredients to the right consistency sloppy moist and but holds form (or some prefer pie dough.)

A friend of mine Doug Hawke adds water that contains some fertilizer then slowly rolls it into rolls like sausage about 2 inches by 16 inches long. Wraps the sausage in plastic cling wrap, places (molds) them in a container and stores in the freezer. When needed he defrosts a sausage roll which then ready to place on the slab. He takes the left-over muck, rolls it again and back into the freezer for a later date.

I just store it in a tight freezer bag in the garage adding water as needed to ensure it does not dry out.

[Muck Recipes – Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society](#)

[Muck Recipes | Bonsai Society of Brevard](#)

[Muck-O Specialty Soil - 2 lbs – Stone Lantern](#)

[Super Muck for Bonsai | Bonsai Learning Center Store \(mysimplestore.com\)](#)

Below is a picture of one of MBS’ Kusamono classes where everyone was quite happy in muck.





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

Next MBS meeting will be
July 13, 2024 @ 9am

2024 MBS OFFICERS

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

Other Club Functions

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

PAB Board-Ron F, Houston S & Judy S



*Weeping cypress-
Looking pensive
In the fog*

~Vaughn Banting