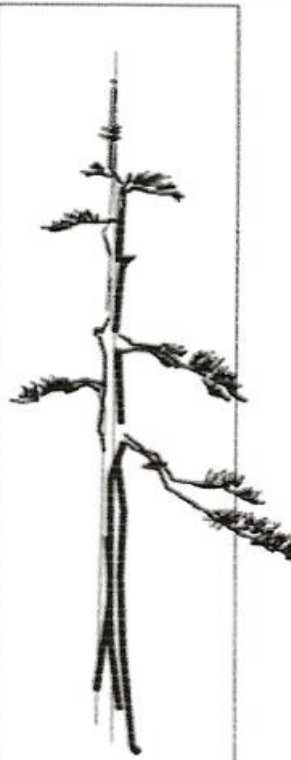


BONSAI NEWS

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2025



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society
PO Box 240822
Milwaukee Wi
53224*

Upcoming Meeting

The July meeting will be held July 12th and has changed to a picnic/swap meet at Whitnall Park, starting at 10am.

There is more information further in the newsletter about the location and explaining the swap meet.

This is an opportunity to just relax and unwind with bonsai friends after the hectic schedule and excitement of the Annual Exhibit.

Join us for some food and conversation!

Next Meeting

July 12, 2025
10 am
Whitnall Park



July

July 12 – General meeting: ***Change-
Picnic/swap meet (see page 3)

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*

August 16 – Class: Skills 101*

August 17 – Class: Skills 201*

September

Sept 6 – General Meeting: Pondarosa
Deep Dive/Late Summer-
Early Fall /work and Wire,
Wire, wire

Sept 20 – Public Workshop

October

Oct 4 – General Meeting: Deadwood
Preservation/Revisit work
trees

Oct 11 – Workshop: Fall Cleanup*

*Open to MBS members only

President's Message

As I write this, I am still in awe of what a fantastic event we had for the annual exhibit. First and foremost, I want to extend my thanks, and that of the entire club, to the hardy group of volunteers who made this possible. A special tip of the hat to Erich, who has declared that this was his last time as exhibition chair. [We'll see.]

I am frankly at a loss for words to describe our experience with Jennifer Price. A great artist and a great teacher are not necessarily correlated, but in Jennifer we found both. I will say sincerely that I learned more from her during her Friday evening critique than I have from several previous artists put together. My personal understanding of the balance of the tree, in combination with the proportion and balance of the display, grew enormously while just listening to her remarks. On Sunday afternoon in her BYO workshop, I came in with a tree that I thought had just one structural flaw. I left with an entirely different tree, that will eventually be repotted with a completely different orientation. She showed me the tree within the tree—kind of like that old thing about how you carve a statue of an elephant [start with a block of marble, and remove everything that isn't an elephant].

I was particularly struck by her demonstration on Saturday, and the way in which she walked the audience through the process. I personally loved the way she did not dictate her opinion, but instead invited the audience to form a consensus at various steps along the way. She took us from a big, ungainly tree, step by step, to a flowing, aesthetically balanced design. At each step, the questions she posed and the consensus that was formed, illuminated another facet of her artistry, and constituted another specific lesson.

There are so many thank you's to be handed out. To Ron F., for being Jennifer's demo partner. To Judy, for transporting the tree at some expense to the headliner of her car. To Kris, who hosted Jennifer in her home. Near the top of my personal hit parade are Laura and Camrin, who facilitated the professional photography of each tree and ancillary exhibit [pots, suiseki, etc.]. It was a huge amount of work, made even more challenging in that it took place during the frantic scramble of set-up. I've seen the photos of the trees taken before set-up, and they are simply astonishing. I looked at one of my azaleas this morning and thought to myself, "I never appreciated how pretty you are until I saw your picture."

At the top of the heap, though, is our own dear Melissa. While awaiting knee replacement surgery, she managed to further injure the same knee. Despite being in enormous pain and discomfort, she showed up and soldiered through, sitting all day Saturday and Sunday to run the raffles and lend her presence. But that's what Melissa does—she just shows up. Period. Whatever is asked of her, whatever we need, she just...shows up. MBS would not function at our current level without her, and being on the board, much less president, would be vastly more challenging without her tireless contribution. On behalf of all of MBS, I want to extend our sincere, profound gratitude.

Now: rest a little, have a beverage or two, and then start getting your mind right for State Fair.

Happy heat wave!

Rick

Announcement

The July 12th General meeting is being changed to a member picnic/swap meet/bring a tree event at Whitnall Park, close to the Beer Garden location (see the map below—we will be in the vicinity of the red square).

Bring items for a swap meet, bring a tree to talk about or get advice on or just bring yourself and enjoy the company of other bonsai members.

The swap meet is a great time to bring bonsai items or trees you are interested in selling or trading to other members. This is also an excellent time to acquire items for yourself.

Bring your own tables and lawn chairs.

Food will be provided but bring your own beverages. The Beer Garden does open at 11am.

Set up will begin at 10am, food served around 11:30am. The party ends when everyone goes home!!!



Annual Exhibit Recap

The weekend of the Annual Exhibit dawned fair and clear at Lynden Sculpture Garden on Friday, June 14th. A slew of volunteers arrived at the grounds bright-eyed and ready to get started setting up for the weekend's activities. Trees for the exhibit would start arriving soon and judging by the guest artist, Jennifer Price, was due to start at 1pm. Under the watchful eye of Erich B, the committee chair, the exhibit was successfully set up, all the trees were put on display and Jennifer was able to start judging that afternoon.

Friday evening brought cool temperatures and an informative and compelling critique of the exhibit by Jennifer for the members in attendance at the evening's reception. Jennifer proved to be a wonderful guest that weekend in Milwaukee. She was engaging, very knowledgeable, offered many insightful ideas and positive compliments for the trees she discussed.

Saturday promised to also be a nice weather day and started with a material-provided workshop at which members had a chance to work with Jennifer with Shimpaku Junipers. With the start of a wonderful bonsai in hand, everyone walked out of the classroom with having a clear plan for taking the tree into the future and ideas for the next steps.

The afternoon brought an engaging, entertaining, and delightful demo in which Jennifer, and with our own Ron F helping, transformed a rather large collected Rocky Mountain Juniper into a lovely bonsai that was auctioned off at the end of the demo.

Sunday was another lovely day offering 2 bring-your-own-tree workshops with Jennifer. Students brought their trees in and left with a positive experience from working with Jennifer to take the trees further on their bonsai journey. Each person I talked with could not stop telling me how much they enjoyed working with Jennifer, how knowledgeable she is, and how lucky the club was to be able to bring her in as our guest artist for the weekend. If you missed meeting Jennifer, you really missed an opportunity to meet a gifted bonsai artist.

The weekend also included a few raffles where everyone had a chance to take home a few goodies. The club did make end up making some money from the raffles; thank you to everyone who donated something to the raffles; your support is greatly appreciated. Also, a very **big** shout out to my husband, Michael, for helping me run the raffles this year. I wouldn't have been able to do as much as I did without him since I only have one good leg right now!

There were also food trucks over the weekend. In case you missed it, there was Romero's tacos on Saturday and Smokin' Jack's BBQ on Sunday. We ate well both days!!! Lakefront beer was also available at the beer tent.

This truly was a group endeavor and never would have taken place without the help of everyone involved. If you did not have a chance to display a tree, participate in a workshop, or visit the exhibit you will have a chance next June when Andy Smith visits June 26-28, 2026.

Melissa J.

It's that time of the year again! Time for State Fair! MBS has a golden opportunity to show the whole state (and beyond) what we are all about. Do you want to be part of the fun? We need tree sitters and trees to show. Exhibit classes/levels are: Novice, Intermediate, and Open. Sign up on Eventbrite under Milwaukee Bonsai Society.

State Fair Exhibit Schedule:

- Exhibit #1 July 31 - August 2
- Exhibit #2 August 3 - 6
- Exhibit #3 August 7 - 10

Entering a tree is easy. Trees are dropped off and picked up at the strip mall parking lot in front of Piggly Wiggly at 102nd and National Ave, in the area nearest to National Ave.

Drop off/Pick up Schedule:

- Exhibit #1 - Drop off: Wednesday July 30 (6-6:30pm) Pick up: Sunday Aug 3 (9-9:30am)
- Exhibit #2 - Drop off: Saturday Aug 2 (6-6:30pm) Pick up: Wednesday Aug 7 (9-9:30am)
- Exhibit #3 - Drop off: Tuesday Aug 6 (6-6:30pm) Pick up: Monday Aug 11 (9-9:30am)

If the drop off/pick up schedule does not work for you, please make arrangements with someone who will care for your trees. Any heavy, large trees will need to be delivered separately by the owners. YOU should alert Rob S. of these arrangements so trees are not lost, stolen or misdirected.

When checking in please bring:

- Scientific and Common names
- The approximate age of your tree
- A stand and accent plant
- Sketch or picture of how you would like the display set-up, otherwise we might accidentally face "the back" of the tree to the front or put your accent plant on the "wrong side".

It is required to have your name on all components of your display including boxes/totes/watering bottles/towels and anything else you want returned.

If you have never shown a tree before, this is a great opportunity to gain insight and feedback from the judges about your trees. And who knows? You may win an award, and forever be able to call yourself "an award-winning bonsai artist". For the more experienced, it's a great time to debut new styling from some of your well-known trees or show some creativity and try out some new display elements. Either way, the public LOVES IT so don't be shy.

Volunteers for the MBS booth work in scheduled shifts with at least one other club member. Our main focus is to talk to the public as they walk through the trees marveling at the beauty in miniature. Tell them about your experiences. They will ask you how old a tree is, they will ask you which tree is yours, and hopefully you can tell them the story of your tree and really make that personal connection.

If you feel you are too inexperienced or too shy to engage the public, I encourage you to try it out. As a member of MBS your bonsai education is second to none. Even if you have only been to a few meetings your knowledge is significantly greater than an average person. Once you start talking about trees, people will see your passion for the subject, and it will be really easy to talk to them. **Plus**, you get a free ticket to the fair so you can enjoy yourself before and after your shift. MBS is one of the best clubs in the country, but we can only maintain this level if we recruit and retain new members. Let's all work together to make this State Fair the best event of the season. And with you involved, I know we can do it!

Please call or text Rob S @ 920-917-0050 with any questions

[Register to Tree Sit at the Fair](#)

[Register to display a tree at the Fair](#)

[Register to set up/tear down the Fair Exhibit](#)

Ancient Arts Bonsai Bonsai Supplier Established in 2005	Tools, Wire – Aluminum & Copper, Pots, Fertilizers Soils – Akadama, Lava, Pumice, Kanuma, Blends Trees – Tropical, Deciduous, Conifers, Evergreens Services – Lessons, Consults, Repotting, Wiring, Boarding
Bonsai a Growing Hobby Wisconsin's Leading Full Line Bonsai Supplier	See our updated Website: aabonsai.com Email – aabonsai@charter.net Phone – 262-490-8733

AUGUST MEETING/WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

David Cutchin is returning to Milwaukee for the August general meeting and will be hosting 2 workshops that weekend. The first workshop will start immediately after the August meeting by sharing lunch with David. Participants can bring up to 2 trees (temperate, sub-tropical, and tropical species) to the afternoon discussion/critique with David. The cost of the workshop is \$55/person and lunch is included.

Sunday morning there will be a 6-hour hands on workshop with David. This day members will receive guidance for taking their temperate, sub-tropical and tropical trees to the next level. The cost of the workshop is \$80/person and lunch is included.

Register on Eventbrite using the links below:

[Saturday Discussion/Critique with David Cutchin](#)

[Sunday Hands-on Workshop with David Cutchin](#)



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 OCCAISIONALLY HAVE OTHER RAW SUBSTRATE COMPONENTS AVAILABLE (PUMICE, LAVA, ETC). SEVERAL SIZES OF KANUMA NOW AVAILABLE !!!

WISCO BONSAI
www.WiscoBonsai.com

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

54th Annual Exhibit Results judged by Jennifer Price

By Pam W



Best of Show – Zuisho Japanese White Pine - *Pinus parviflora*
'Zuisho' Tree is about 70 years and has been in training with Pam W. for 2 years. Container artists are Sara Rayner / John M. Stand by Clif Orphal

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

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 have more pictures of the Annual Exhibit winning trees.



Peoples' Choice was a very large white flowering Satsuki azalea- *Rhododendron Indicum* "Gyoten"

Open

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



First Place was a Big Wyoming sagebrush, *Artemisia tridentata* about 54 years old in training with **Scott D** for 4 years.



Second Place was a Japanese White pine- *Pinus parviflora* about 45 years old in training with **Judy S.**



Third Place was a European Beech Forest – *Fagus sylvatica* 15 years old in training with **Scott D.** for 2 years

Intermediate

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



First Place was a Shimpaku – *Juniper chinensis shimpaku* 85 years old, in training with **Erich B.** for 5 years.



Second Place was a Satsuki Azalia Hinomaru – *Rhododendron Indicum* about 40 years old, in training with **Rick W.** for 10 years.



Third Place was a Trident maple and red pine - *Acer buergerianum* and *Akamatsu* each about 10 years old, in training with **Greg B** for 4 years.

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 Juniper, *procumbens nana* about 35 years old and in training with **Michael G.** for 2 years



Second Place was a Burning bush, *Euonymus alatus* 15 years old in training with **Valerie S.** for 4 years.

Bonsai Events

July 10 – **Madison, WI** (Olbrich Botanical Gardens)
[Kusamono Artist Young Choe](#)

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
July 12, 2025 @ 10am

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

Education Committee - Steve C, John
N, Ron F, Valerie S & Judy S



*Sunlight through the trees,
Basket filled with summer treats,
Laughter fills the air.*