



Milwaukee
Bonsai
Society

BONSAI NEWS

August, 2002

August Program

Yvonne Szatkowski, Editor

Traditionally in August, the club hosts a Dead Tree Contest. All members are invited to bring in trees that have succumbed to the elements (or in some cases), our well-intentioned albeit bungling attempts at horticulture. Some of you may recall last year; Rita Luedke swept the field, taking all three ribbons for her entries! We can't let that happen again...so bring in those deceased trees.

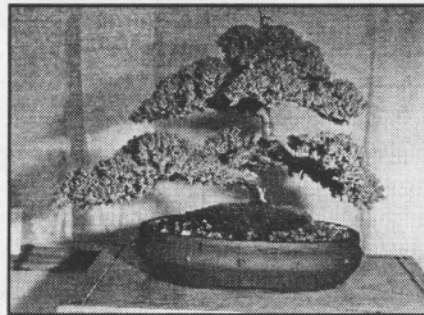
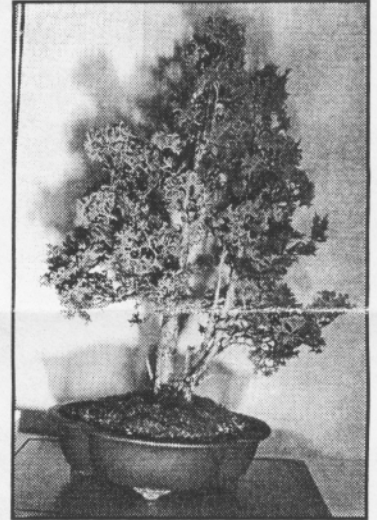
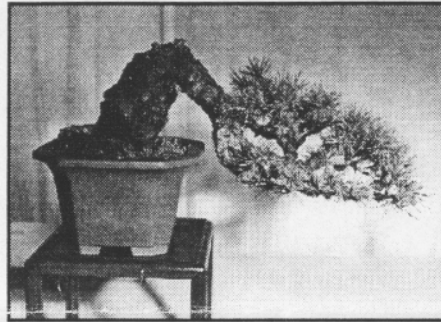
We also encourage members to bring in any bonsai-related items that they may wish to sell at the meeting. We call this our "white elephant sale," sort of a bonsai rummage sale. Put little tags on your wares with your name and a price, so people will know who to approach if they wish to buy.

The club will have additional items for sale: pins with the new club logo (designed by Jeff Moths) will sell for \$3 each and the limited edition pins from the recent ABS Symposium will be available for \$5 each. "Wedgies" to prop up a tree while styling it will also be on sale. Be sure to bring a little spare cash to the meeting and check it all out!

**Special thanks to Larry Michael for Symposium photos in this issue.*

Editor's Correction:

My apologies to Roger Hein who was incorrectly listed as having taken third place in the Novice category for the Club Show in June. He actually took second place, and Jean Sher was third. Congratulations to you both. Sorry for the mistake.



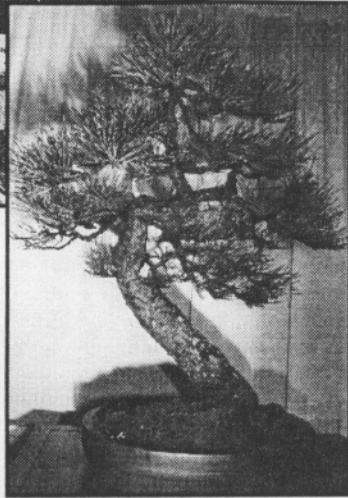
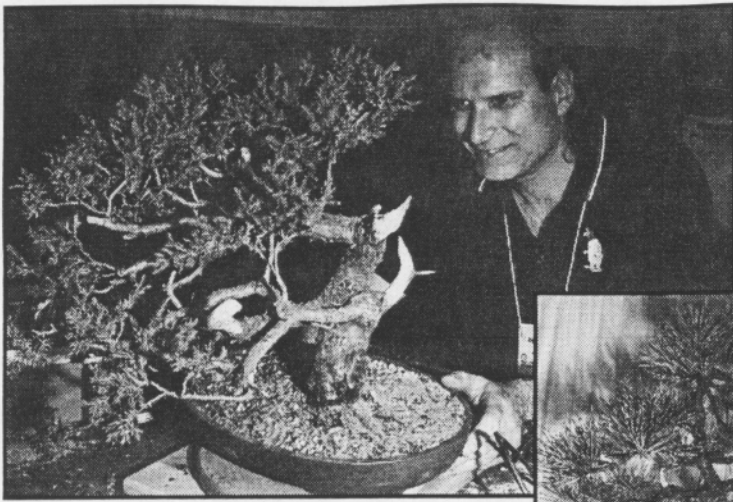
These were among my favorite trees displayed at the Symposium; a larch cascade by John Biel, Scott Hurula's procumbens juniper, and Cindy Dries' Eastern red cedar. So beautiful!



Jean Sher not only helped us out a lot by volunteering during the Symposium, she managed to enjoy a few of the workshops as well!

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More memories from
the ABS Symposium.



Visiting Artist in Sept. Martha Meehan

Houston Sanders, Vice President

Martha Meehan will be our special guest artist in September. Ms. Meehan runs Meehan's Nursery in the Baltimore/Washington DC area, and specializes in growing pre-bonsai material, especially unusual and hard-to-find varieties. Those who have been to the MABA show in Chicago will remember Meehan's as the most popular (and crowded!) vendor at the show.

Ms. Meehan will do a demonstration on root-over-rock style ficus for the club meeting on Tuesday, September 3.

Many club members have requested a root-over-rock demo, so make sure to be there! Also, there will be a workshop from 9-12 a.m. on Saturday, September 7 at Grace Lutheran Church. The workshop trees will be Bougainvillea. Ms. Meehan provides excellent material, and has already potted up the workshop trees for us in ceramic pots.

This is a great bargain at \$65!

I had the opportunity to participate in a MBS workshop with Ms. Meehan in 2000, and highly recommend this to the beginner and intermediate level club members. You get an excellent tree that is ready for growing indoors and refinement in a bonsai pot. Also, bougainvillea is an excellent species for growing in your window at home or work.

For the August club meeting, I will bring my Natal plum tree from the Martha Meehan workshop sponsored by MBS in 2000. Perhaps other club members can bring some of the other Natal plum trees from the 2000 workshop to our August meeting?

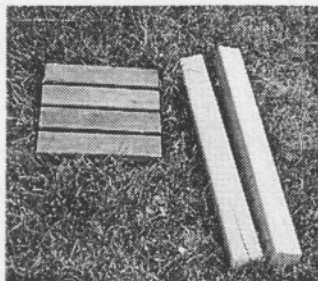
A One-Hour Bonsai Shelf

Houston Sanders

This project was born when I acquired a very large ponderosa pine at the recent convention, and it needed full sun. What to do? This is a suggestion for "lazy" or non-mechanically inclined people to build a quick growing and display area. Your local Menards sells very handy little pre-built squares made from pressure-treated 2x4's, and these form the basis for a very handy bonsai shelf.

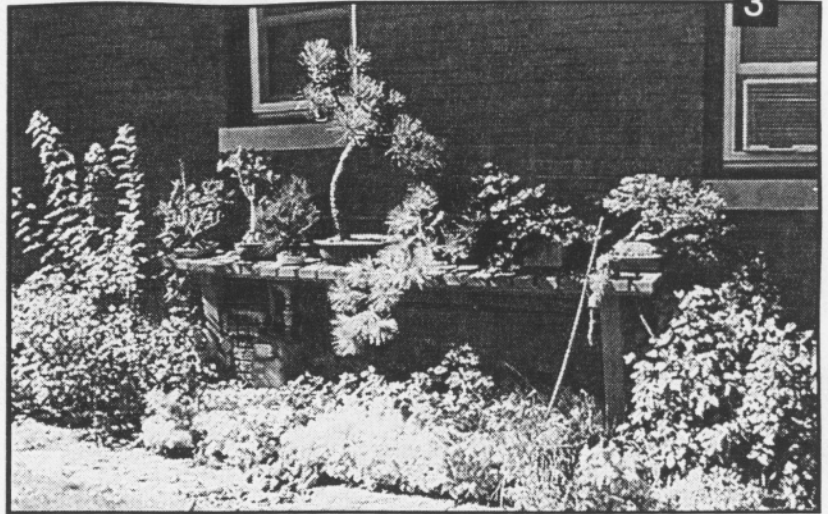
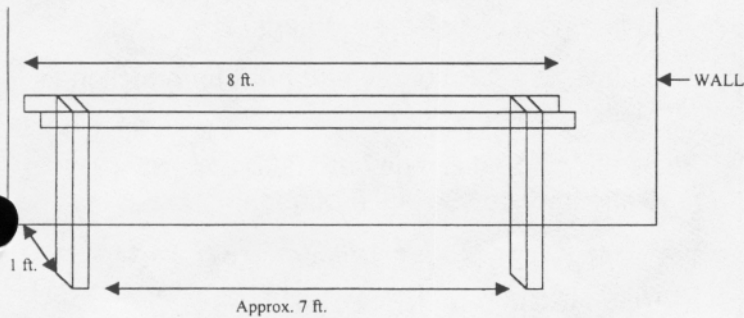
If placing a bench at the side of your house is acceptable, all you need to do is purchase the following:

- One 8-ft 4x4 post – cedar or pressure treated (have the hardware store people saw this into two 4-ft pieces).
- Two 8-ft 2x4's
- Six squares of 2x4's
- One box of nails (2 1/2 inch)
- 1-qt can of outdoor wood finish



When you get these things, simply paint the boards with the wood finish and let them dry overnight.

To place a bench at the side of your house. Dig holes at least 8 inches deep, about 7 feet apart and about 10 inches away from the wall of the house. Use these holes to set the 4x4 posts up. I put gravel at the bottom of the holes to make them a bit firmer. Then place one of the 8-ft 2x4s across the top of the posts and make sure they are level (you may have to add or remove some gravel from the bottom of the holes and try again). Once you have level posts, nail the 2x4's across the tops on each side of the posts



Houston's finished product, neatly nestled in among his wife's flower garden.

It doesn't matter exactly how far apart the posts are, or how far from the wall they are. Once this is set up, just place the 2x4 squares along the top and nail them to the frame you have created.

This project took about one hour to build and cost about \$40. (See photo of finished project on next page). It provides a convenient area for growing bonsai along the side of the house without destroying the precious flower garden that some bonsai-club members' spouses insist must exist alongside the bonsai.

Don't Be Intimidated

Joe Nemece

Growing trees in pots satisfies the instinct in many of us to see things grow. Because bonsai trees need ongoing care, we often read and hear that they require infinite care and patience. This characterization is an overstatement. Given reasonable care based upon research and inquiry, "infinite care" is not essential, but *enthusiasm* is.

Because early Japanese books gave only the "how," but not the "why" of bonsai culture, the art remained somewhat of a mystery. For example, when a person new to bonsai reads that "the best soil for growing bonsai is a hard substratum found only in Japan, and pulverized to a uniform size of about one millimeter," it is little wonder that many of them give up on the idea of growing bonsai.

The fact is that many bonsai articles are excessively detailed and technical, and tend to turn off the prospective grower. However, with common sense, some horticultural knowledge, some research, and a great deal of enthusiasm, anyone is capable of being successful in the art of bonsai.

Chicago Bonsai Show

Every year the Midwest Bonsai Society hosts a show at the Chicago Botanical Gardens. The following information is published for those of you interested in visiting the vendors, or taking one of the workshops. The gardens are an easy drive from Milwaukee, and well worth the time if you have never been there before.

AUGUST SHOW - Chicago Botanical Gardens WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

FRIDAY ALL DAY WORKSHOP:

AUGUST 16 9 am to 4 pm

1. David Knittle / San Jose Juniper / Multi-Purpose Advanced Limit 10 Your Own Material or Dave has six San Jose Juniper at \$225 each

FRIDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS:

AUGUST 16 1 pm to 4 pm

2. Brussel Martin / Shimpaku / West Gallery Inter/advanced \$60 material Informal upright (20 yrs. in bonsai pots)
3. Ivan Watters / Japanese White Pine / Classroom 3 Inter/advanced \$100 material (1 inch caliper) Informal Upright

SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS:

AUGUST 18 9 am to 12 noon

4. Bill Valavanis / Korean Hornbeam / Multi-Purpose Intermediate \$125 material (12" to 14" with 3/4 inch trunks)
5. Ivan Watters / Willow Leaf Ficus / Classroom 3 Beginner \$50 material Informal Upright
6. Jim Doyle / Kingsville Boxwood / West Gallery Inter/Advanced \$85 / Limit 10 / Informal Upright (20 to 25 Yrs old 1/2 to 11 /4' trunks)

SATURDAY AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS:

AUGUST 17 1 pm to 4 pm

7. Hotsumi Terakawa / Style and Refinement Multi-Purpose / Advanced / Your Material
8. Frank Mihalic / Dwarf Shimpaku / West Gallery Beginner/Intermed. \$75 material / Informal (15" with 3/4" trunks) or Formal Upright

9. Brussel Martin / Chinese Elm / Classroom 3 Beginner \$30 material / Informal upright (10"-14" age 20 yrs. in finished bonsai pots)

SUNDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS:

AUGUST 18 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon

10. Bill Valavanis / Shimpaku / Multi-Purpose Inter/advanced \$125 Informal Upright (10"-12" with 1" trunks)
11. Frank Mihalic / Ulmus Nire (cork-bark elm) West Gallery / Beginner \$50 (5" to 6" with 1" trunk) Formal Upright
12. Hotsumi Terakawa / Style and Refinement Multi-Purpose / Advanced Your material

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FEES are \$50 for each workshop to be paid at time of registration. The Dave Knittle Workshop Registration Fee is \$100. **Material charges are additional and are collected by the Master at the workshop.**

You may check your registration by calling 630-530-4050 between 8 am and 10 pm CDT.

DEMONSTRATIONS AND LECTURES

Hotsumi Terakawa on Saturday at 10:30 am - Refinement of Selected Material

Bill Valavanis on Saturday at 2 pm - Introduction to Classic Bonsai Art

Brussel Martin on Sunday at 10:30 am - Styling and Refinement of Selected Material

THE BANQUET IS SATURDAY NIGHT. SIGN UP AT THE REGISTRATION DESK.

Calendar of Events

- August 6 Club Meeting - Annual Dead Tree Contest and "white elephant" sale
- August 16-18 Chicago Bonsai Show at the Chicago Botanical Gardens
- Sept. 3 Monthly Meeting - Root over rock (ficus) with Martha Meehan
- Sept. 7 Martha Meehan Workshop
- Sept. 14-15 Boerner Botanical Gardens show
- October 1 Club Meeting - Arborist comedian show - Michael Yanni
- Nov. 5 Club Meeting - Wintering - Houston Sanders
- Dec. 3 Holiday Party



Our resident author (as well as, Symposium Committee President), Jack Douthitt enjoyed learning from presenter David DeGroot (who graciously filled in for David Rowe at the 11th hour). You can always learn something new, even after many years of experience, right Jack?

MBS Meetings and Information Line:

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Wehr Nature Center, 9701 W. College Avenue, Franklin, WI 53232. The phone number there is (414) 425-8550; Fax (414) 425-6992. Call the MBS Voice Mail/Message System at (414) 299-9229 to learn about upcoming events and meeting times. To contact the club via email: mbs@asapnet.net Look for us on the web at: <http://www.asapnet.net/milwaukee-bonsai/index.html>



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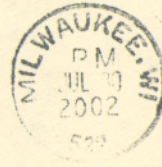
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Kris Ziemann
0932 North Wauwatosa Road
Mequon WI 53097-3426

*Next Meeting of MBS
August 6, 2002
7 p.m. at Wehr Nature Center*

MBS Board - 2002

Brian Palevac, *President*
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Vacant, *Second Vice President*
Russell Weiss, *Secretary*
Kris Ziemann, *Treasurer*
Scott Hurula, *Officer*
Nicky Metza, *Officer*
Ken Hahn, *Past President*

*Baby linden tree...
small gift, quite unexpected,
fills me with delight!*

~ Yvonne Szatkowski







AUG 24 2002

