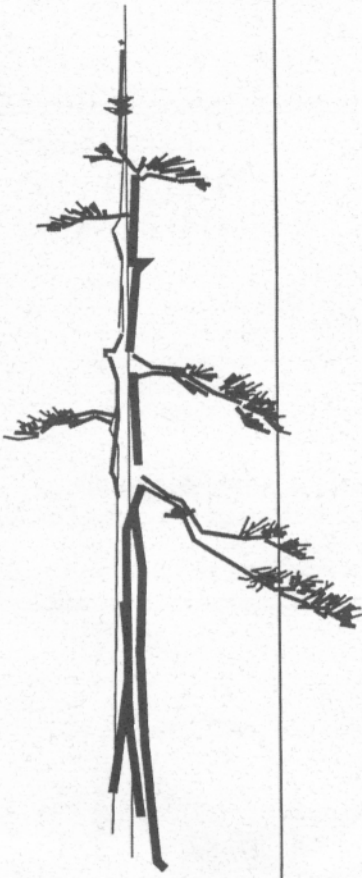


BONSAI NEWS



Milwaukee Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, Wisconsin
53208-0198

Information Line
414-299-9229

MBS Meetings and Information Line:

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 3030 W. Oklahoma Avenue. 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>

November Meeting

Every time we work on our bonsai, we use our tools. Every time we use them we dull them just a little. After a while, without our even noticing, our tools have gotten very dull. Since we do not work on our trees as much in the winter, sharpening of our tools is a good winter chore.

Bonsai tools are different than our usual scissors and other household cutting tools so we are sometimes hesitant to sharpen our bonsai tools. But they need to be sharpened on a regular basis. When we are cutting our branches and roots, a clean cut will heal much cleaner and faster. And clean cuts require sharp tools.

The first part of the November meeting will be a seminar on how to sharpen the various bonsai tools. Even those curved ones! We will have several sharpening devices on hand to inspect and talk about. Handouts will be available.

The second part of the meeting will be a short discussion of the various power grinding tools that are used in bonsai, and how to use them. We will also have one tool to demonstrate that is often used on larger trees. What is it? You will have to come and find out.

See you at the meeting.

Holiday Folk Fair

The annual Holiday Folk Fair is coming up on Friday November 21st through Sunday November 23rd. Last year was the first time in several years that the bonsai club participated in this popular annual event, and we were the "hit" of the show! The Folk Fair is an annual affair sponsored by the International Institute of Wisconsin, and is a showcase for the many cultures that have a home in Wisconsin. At the meeting we will have brochures about the Folk Fair, and the International Institute, for those that are interested.

On Friday, attendance is primarily young people of school age who are brought to the event from all over the state. And, I believe, from northern Illinois also. Last year there were three club members staffing on Friday afternoon and we were totally overwhelmed! There were tons of kids and they were interested in our trees. Even though we were "buried" for a little while, we all had a lot of fun.

All of the young people are all given "passports" which they then take to each of the cultural exhibits to be "stamped" with that cultures stamp. Many of them get all of the stamps. For the bonsai exhibit, we had cards printed. Each card has a description of one the "five basic styles" (in 25 words or less) along with a small sketch. Each person has to draw a card from the pile and find a tree that matches that style before we will stamp his or her passport. Some of them get it right away and some have to look several times, but they all seem to enjoy it. And they learn something in the process. Everyone also has the opportunity to vote for his or her favorite, and that creates more interest.

We need trees and tree sitters for this event. Specifically we need to ensure that we have at least one tree of each of the five basic styles and a total of 23-24 trees. We encourage those of you who took a prize in the State Fair to participate. As for tree sitters the schedule will be:

From 10 AM until 2 PM, from 2 PM until 6 PM, & from 6 PM until 10 PM Friday and Saturday, and from 10 AM until 1 PM, from 1 PM until 4 PM, and from 4 PM until 7 PM on Sunday. Sign up sheets for trees and for tree sitters will be available at the November meeting. If you cannot be at the meeting but want to participate please call Jack at 414/228-9628 and let him know.

This is an excellent opportunity to share your enthusiasm with young people. And to see the excitement in their eyes when they realize what it is that they are seeing. Some are seeing bonsai for the very first time. Come and have some fun with us!

President's Message

2003 is beginning to draw to a close. It has been an exciting year for the Milwaukee Bonsai Society. We have had four nationally known visiting artists, many excellent workshops and lots of interesting programs. We did the Holiday Folk Fair for the first time in several years, and were the highlight of the Fair. We did an exhibit at the State Fair for eleven full days, and were the highlight of the horticultural exhibit. The 2003 Novice Class was very large and we had a great collecting trip to Northern Michigan. And we're not done yet. We still have the November meeting, 2004 Folk Fair and our annual Christmas Party to go! Wow!! There are several other things that are occurring behind the scenes that we are not quite ready to announce. But, as soon as they are finalized and in operation, you will learn about them. It has been an ambitious 2003 but it has been great fun, educational, and inspirational for all of us.

The survey that each of you filled out last month was very helpful in knowing what it is that you want to see. It appears that you would like to continue having outstanding bonsai artists to teach us, along with more workshops to work on your trees. The Board will take all of these suggestions into account as they plan the 2004 program schedule.

The first good news about 2004 is that we have convinced Jack Wikle, the mame bonsai guru from Michigan to come for a visit during the year. We also are planning a trip to Sarah Raynor's studio to look at (and buy) some of her fabulous pots. We have already been asked, and the Board has voted their approval, to produce the full eleven days of the State Fair again next year. There is a lot of interest in another collecting trip. They are always fun and you can get some good trees for just your time. If anyone knows of a good location to collect, please let someone on the Board know.

One of the ways that you can help the club continue its success is to volunteer to chair one of our many public events. We do a large number of events compared to most other clubs. All of you have been very generous with your time by volunteering to help at one or more of these events. We would like for some of you to move up and volunteer to chair one of these events. If you would be willing to take this next step please talk to Jean Sher at the November meeting.

Holiday Party

Our December meeting is always our annual Holiday party. It will be held at Meyer's Restaurant again - BUT THEY HAVE MOVED (Forest Home and 74th St.).

People always have a good time at the party. In the spirit of the holidays, please bring a small, wrapped gift for our drawing. It is a cash bar. The food is great and it is family style.

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a reservation form to make your reservation. Those of you with "Buddy Bucks" can get a reduction on the cost of your meal with the Buddy Bucks (\$3 per Buddy Buck).

Come join us for an enjoyable social event with the other members of the club. Spouses, partners, and friends are always welcome at the party.



Tony Plicka
(414) 761-9298
Fax (414) 327-4882

NINO'S
Landscape Company

P.O. Box 510108
New Berlin WI 53151

Bonsai Supplier


❖ Specimen trees ❖ Stock material ❖ Seedlings
❖ Tools ❖ Pots ❖ Books ❖ Videos ❖ Mail Order

Now accepting VISA and MasterCard

Ambiance



2619 W. State Street Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 345-0810 (800) 345-0810

<p>Bonsai Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repotting• Landscape Design• Boarding• Revitalization• Bonsai Placement• Training• Special Orders• Technical Assistance		<p>Other Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• elegant fresh floral arrangements for all occasions• exceptional green and tropical plant selection• delivery and shipping available
--	---	---

Ambiance Floral & Bonsai prides itself in giving its customers the highest quality trees and related services while providing unique and interesting bonsai specimens for your collection. We are located on the first floor of a grand Queen Anne Victorian - where your every selection creates a unique Ambiance.

Hours: Monday thru Friday 9AM to 7PM and Saturdays 9AM to 5PM

Dormancy and Indoor Bonsai

evergreengardenworks.com by Brent Walston

From the newsletter of the Fort Wayne Bonsai Club - submitted by Don Fortmann

Introduction: The most difficult barrier to growing bonsai indoors is the need for a cold dormant period in temperate climate woody plants. The following article discusses the problems associated with dormancy and how one may overcome them.

Outdoor versus Indoor

All trees are outdoor trees. The terms 'indoor bonsai' and 'outdoor bonsai' are meaningless except to describe where you keep your trees. There are no plants that cannot be grown 'indoors' if you can supply them with what they need. In most cases, keeping temperate climate woody plants indoors is very difficult. The factors involved in keeping plants indoors are light, temperature, humidity, watering, and most importantly, dormancy requirements. We have had intensive discussions about the role of dormancy in bonsai in the Internet Bonsai Club. The last round was just recently with some excellent information and research from Andy Walsh and Anton Nijuis. The archives of the IBC may be found at <http://home.ease.lsoft.com/Archives/bonsai.html>

What is Dormancy?

Dormancy is a survival strategy that temperate climate species have evolved to stay alive over the winter. These species have a biological clock that tells them to slow activity and prepare soft tissues for an onslaught of freezing temperatures. Species that have well developed dormancy needs cannot be tricked out of them. If you attempt to give a such as species, for instance Japanese maple, *Acer palmatum*, an eternal summer by bringing it in the house, it will grow continuously for as long as two years. After a maximum period of sustained growth, a temperate climate plant will automatically go dormant no matter what the season or condition. Deciduous plants will lose their leaves, evergreens will curtail all new growth. This is very stressful to a plant and usually fatal. It will be 100% fatal if the plant does not receive the necessary period of cold temperatures required to break the dormancy. To summarize, temperate climate plants require a cold dormant period. They have internal clocks that tell them when to go dormant. The clocks can be tricked to some degree. After a normal growing season, dormancy can be brought on by decreasing temperatures and shortened daylength, or delayed by maintaining summer temperatures and daylength.

Cold Hardiness

Cold hardiness acquisition is also a necessary part of dormancy in temperate climates. Plants begin entering dormancy by setting buds in mid to late summer. Stem tissues begin increasing levels of sugars and carbohydrates in response to lowering temperatures in the fall. By the time freezing temperatures arrive, they have developed enough natural antifreeze to survive freezes. Different species develop different degrees of cold hardiness according to their natural environment. The degree of cold hardiness they can acquire is genetically determined. Roots do not develop cold hardiness in the same fashion and must be protected to a greater extent than top growth in container plants.

Breaking Dormancy

In order for these species to break dormancy and begin growing again they must acquire the requisite number of hours of cold temperatures. For most of these species it is 1000 hours of temperatures below 40°F. Once this requirement has been satisfied the plant may begin growing again immediately. The new growth is triggered by temperature alone. If temperatures rise much above 40°F for any extended period of time, say a week or so, the buds will break and the plant will begin growing. This can happen outside in January if there is a freak warm spell, or it can be artificially manipulated if plants are brought indoors. A return to cold weather will of course kill the new growth and buds.

Dormancy in Tropicals

Tropical and subtropical plants that have evolved under milder conditions have modest or no dormancy requirements. They are capable of continuous growth at 70°F+ temperatures. In fact most tropical species will grow more slowly or not at all at certain times of the year, but this is not related to dormancy. Andy Walsh refers to this phenomenon as 'quiescence'. Temperate climate plants also exhibit this phenomenon, most notably during the hot dry

part of summer for desert plants. Growth resumes when favorable conditions return.

Treatment of Subtropicals

Subtropicals such as Chinese elms, *Ulmus parvifolia*, have little if any dormancy requirements. In colder areas they drop their leaves, go dormant and act like deciduous trees. In milder, non-freezing environments, they are evergreen and exhibit continuous growth except for occasional 'quiescence'. They require fairly high light levels and that will be the most difficult factor to maintain. A sunny window is usually insufficient and supplemental light, such as a fluorescent lamp six inches above the plant, is strongly recommended. Most subtropical plants that do not have strict dormancy requirements, still seem to perform better if they have a brief cold dormant period that allows them to lose their foliage. Both Chinese elm and Pomegranate, *Punica granatum*, fall into this category.

Determining Which Plants Need Dormancy

When determining whether or not a plant can be grown indoors, the strongest clue will come from its natural environment. If the species is native to a temperate climate area that receives regular freezing winter temperatures, it will be impossible to grow this plant continuously indoors. It can only be an indoor plant if you can also satisfy its dormancy requirement by providing it with the requisite number of hours of temperatures under 40°F. daylength.

How to Give Plants a Dormant Period

It is not easy, but some people have become adept at growing temperate plants indoors by giving them a dormant period each year. This can be done by keeping plants in the refrigerator, in a cold garage, or outside until the dormancy requirements are met. The plants are then brought back into the house and growth is reinitiated by providing warmer temperatures and increased daylength with grow lights. This is not a procedure for beginners, and if you wish to try it, expect failures until you learn the proper techniques and the eccentricities of each species. If, for some reason, you cannot keep your temperate plants outside all winter to give them a dormant period, here is how you can do it in the refrigerator: First (if possible), keep them outside and let them enjoy a few light frosts. Ideally, four to six weeks of decreasing day length and mild cool weather where the temps are around 25° to 35°F at night, will adequately prepare them. If this is not possible, just keep them as cool as possible as late as possible in the fall, and then put them in the fridge. The above preparation is not strictly necessary, but it does keep them healthier and minimizes the refrigerator period. Going directly from a growing state (AFTER a full season of growth) into cold storage will not adversely affect any temperate climate plant. They will just go dormant in the fridge, drop their leaves, etc. Some precaution against drying out in the fridge must be taken, especially in modern frost-free refrigerators. You can wrap them loosely with plastic, but do allow some circulation. Take them out weekly and check to see if they need watering. They still must be watered normally when they begin to dry out. Light is not necessary as long as the temperature is low, about 35°F or lower. If you have the option, keep the temperature hovering just above freezing, it will minimize fungal problems. As a minimum, keep them in the fridge for six weeks, longer is fine. After six weeks, they will have the 1000 hours of chill considered necessary for most temperate climate plants. You can then take them out and return them to growing conditions. This may be inside, but please read the articles on growing indoors. This will almost certainly mean good air circulation, grow lights, and added humidity such as a growing chamber or small greenhouse. In the beginning, it is far more important to learn how to properly water, prune, fertilize, and repot your tropical bonsai than it is to manipulate the dormant period of temperate climate species. And finally: Why is there so much apparent conflict in the advice of individuals and books on which plants can be grown indoors? The key goes back to my opening statement: All plants are outdoor plants, but any plant may be grown indoors if you give it what it needs. Some people have discovered what a particular temperate species needs, others have not. As a beginner, stick to tropical plants, such as *Ficus* species, that have no dormancy requirements for indoor growing. Match their natural growing conditions as closely as possible. As you gain experience you may want to try to grow some temperate species indoors by providing them with a yearly dormant period. copyright 1997, all rights reserved

<http://www.Evergreengardenworks.com>

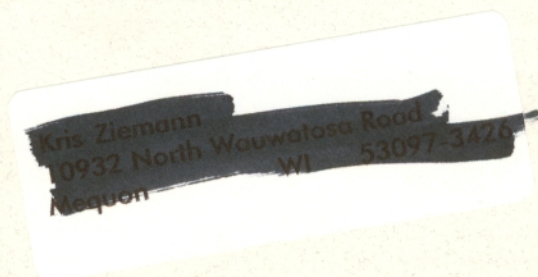
for free pricelist by mail-Evergreen Gardenworks, PO Box 537, Kelseyville, CA 95451



P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, WI 53008-0198

Return Service Requested

Next Meeting of MBS
Tuesday, November 4
7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church



MBS Board - 2003

- Jack Douthitt, President
- Houston Sanders, First Vice President
- Jean Sher, Second Vice President
- Russell Weiss, Secretary
- Kris Ziemann, Treasurer
- Sharon Schmidt, Director
- Dr. Erskine Tucker, Director
- Pam Woythal, Director
- Brian Palevac, Past President
- Ron Fortmann, MABA Representative
- Yvonne Szatkowski, Newsletter Editor

*Turning leaves alight,
The maple's persimmon boughs
Make roadside splendor.*

- Mary Ann Barragry

Members with questions or concerns for
the Executive Committee should contact
Russ Weiss, Club Secretary at
cowbell@wi.rr.com