

# Bonsai News

## KRIS' KORNER

Hello all and welcome to 2006. How cruel winter is to us to make it feel like April and get our hopes up!! :o) But there's still lots to do before activity starts in March. I'm in the process of sifting crushed (rotten) granite to use as a component in my soil mix. I'm making a list of what trees need to be repotted and getting everything ready for that. I'm taking inventory of what I really want to keep and what I should cull to keep the number down (have you ever noticed how much bonsai trees are like rabbits??). And then which pots go with which stands. I check eBay every now and then for some interesting stands and pots. Also, I'm pulling out my library and doing more research on the trees that I own.

To kick off the new year, our February meeting will feature Jeff Moths, who will have lots of info and visuals for us on how to set up a bonsai display. It's not just as simple as putting your tree in a pot and plopping it on a piece of wood. Jeff will be sharing many aspects of creating an artistic bonsai display.

And at our March meeting Jack Douthitt and I will be doing demonstrations on repotting. I'm also in the process of putting together a short episode of "Bonsai on the cheap" or "Bonsai - How not to break the bank". If anyone has tips on how you have saved money in this hobby, please email me

(krisziemann@mac.com) or bring your ideas to share in March.

See you in February!

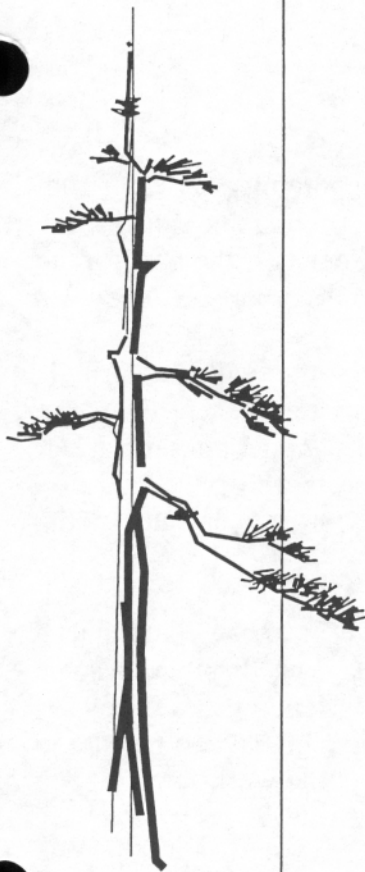
*Kris*

## New Librarian Needed

The club is looking for a new librarian(s) (maybe a couple would like to share the duties?) The librarian is in charge of imposing order on our large collection of books and magazines. And twisting the arms of members who check them out don't return them promptly. It is a great opportunity to help the club. Joe Nemecek has everything in pretty good order. If you are interested in this opportunity, or have any questions, please talk to Joe or Kris.

## Membership Update

Please check the top line of your address label on the back of this newsletter. It contains your membership status as of January 27. If it reads "Paid 2005," it's time to renew your membership now! Remember that our dues have changed, so please use the form in your newsletter (page 5) or download the form from the MBS website.



*Milwaukee  
Bonsai Society*

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

*Information Line  
414-299-9229*

## **2006 MABA CONVENTION IN MILWAUKEE**

By Jack Douthitt

If you attended the American Bonsai Society Symposium that we hosted in 2002, you know how exciting such a convention can be. This summer you will have another awesome opportunity to learn from bonsai artists from around the world, and to purchase outstanding material and tools from sixteen distinctive vendors. Right here in Milwaukee! All in one short weekend! The Milwaukee Bonsai Society is the host for the 2006 Mid-America Bonsai Alliance (MABA) Convention at the Sheraton Four Points – Airport on June 22 – 25, 2006.

The Convention Committee cordially invites you to attend this spectacular event that will present Luis Vallejo from Spain working on collected Winged Elms from Oklahoma. Luis has been a consistent winner at the Ginkgo Awards exhibit in Belgium, and is well known throughout Europe as an outstanding bonsai teacher. His workshop trees are collected material that the Oklahoma crows have already styled into their version of a bonsai and now it is our turn! This is the only opportunity you will have to work with such an outstanding bonsai teacher on this high quality material.

Roy Nagatoshi, Jerry Meislik, and Guy Guidry will also be here for demonstrations and workshops. Dana Quattlebaum, Andy Smith and Jack Douthitt will present bonsai workshops and Jeff Moths will conduct a workshop on Kusamono. Also there will be presentations on bonsai judging and Suiseki. Plus there will also be an outstanding exhibit of bonsai from around the Midwest. It promises to be an outstanding bonsai event! Additional information and registration forms will be available at the February meeting. You have to register to participate! Workshops are limited to eight people per workshop, so register early to get the workshop that you want! Do not miss this exciting event!

### **Convention Volunteers Needed**

The MABA 2006 Convention is beginning to take shape. In order for the Convention to be successful, we need your help. The committee members have been working on the convention for over a year and soon it will be the time when other club members have to step forward to help make the convention a roaring success.

Some of the areas where help will be needed include: Registration, Raffle, and Security.

Prior to the convention help is needed to stuff the “goodie bags” that every attendee receives. Helping with the registration means that you get to meet a lot of people and to show them some of that famous Milwaukee hospitality. Helping with the raffle means helping to accept and catalog the items being donated. And moving items from the store room to the raffle area takes manpower. Selling raffle tickets is a big job, but it is also a lot of fun! Volunteers also provide security in the Exhibit, Workshop, and the Demonstration areas. It is a necessary but easy job.

You do not have to be registered to be a Volunteer. You do have to be either a full registrant or a day registrant to work in the demonstration and workshop areas. But there are many other areas where you do not have to be registered.

The Convention is being held at the Four Points Sheraton at the Airport. Parking is free. And every volunteer will receive free raffle tickets! You may win the item of your dreams just by volunteering! A sign up sheet will be available at our meetings.

# Milwaukee Bonsai Society - 2006 Events

- February 7** ~ Monthly meeting (7:00pm)      Setting up a bonsai display stands, pots, viewing stones, etc.  
Repotting demonstration
- March 7** ~ Monthly meeting (7:00pm)  
11 - Novice Class #1 \*  
18-19 - Master's classes\*
- April 4** ~ Monthly meeting (7:00pm)      Group slash - Trees are brought for "teams" to work on.  
8 - Novice Class #2 \*  
22 - Novice Class #3 \*  
29-30 - Master's classes\*
- May 2** ~ Monthly meeting (7:00pm)      Member worknight- BYOTree  
6 - Novice Class nursery crawl. \*  
13 - Novice Class #4 \*
- June 6** ~ Monthly meeting (7:00pm)      Club Show + something special
- June 22-25**      MABA/MILWAUKEE CONVENTION
- July 4** ~ NO MEETING  
8 - Wauwatosa Show
- August 1** ~ Monthly meeting (7:00pm)      Slab making and muck party  
Bring your own form
- August 3-13** ~ Wisconsin State Fair
- September 5** ~ Monthly meeting (7:00pm)      Dead Tree Contest  
White elephant auction  
AM (PM if needed) Open to the general public, no experience needed.  
Registration required. Contact MBS for more information.  
16 - Public Workshop      Ted Matson discussion  
Master's classes display
- October 3** ~ Monthly meeting (7:00pm)      Jin, shari, carving demonstrations  
Phoenix graft display
- November 7** ~ Monthly meeting (7:00pm)  
17-19 Folk Fair
- December 5** ~ Holiday Party

The public is invited to attend these events except where noted with an "\*"

Members may participate as silent observers at any workshop for \$5 at the door.

# John Y. Naka Award

The American Bonsai Society is pleased to announce an annual award to be given in honor of John Y. Naka. This award will be given to a North American Bonsai Artist who exhibits the spirit of artistic design taught by Master John Y. Naka using native North American material as exhibited by one of his or her bonsai.

## Requirements:

### *The Artist*

1. Any bonsai artist who is a citizen of a North American country is eligible.
2. Applicants must be a current member of the American Bonsai Society

### *The Bonsai*

1. Must be from nursery stock or collected material styled exclusively by the artist submitting it.
2. Must be native material.
3. Must not be a previous winner of this award.

### *The Application*

1. For each entry the artist must submit three identical photographs no larger than 8 by 10 inches of the front of the bonsai. No retouching of the photograph is permitted.
2. The bonsai description form
3. The artist information form

**All of the above must be submitted by March 5th, 2006. See ABS website ([www.absbonsai.org](http://www.absbonsai.org)) for application**

### *The Judging*

1. The American Bonsai Society Board of Directors will appoint 3 judges to review the applications submitted and select the winning bonsai.
2. The judges will be given only the Bonsai Information Sheet and a photograph NOT the name of the artist.
3. Applicants will be notified by email or post of the results on **May 1, 2006**.
4. Photographs and paperwork will become the property of ABS and may be used in its publications.

**The decision of the judges will be final.**

### *The Award*

**The American Bonsai Society will present the winner with the John Y. Naka Award at the ABS Learning Seminars 2006 in Saratoga Springs, New York, USA.**

For Questions Contact:

**ABS**

At

[gduncanABS@buckeye-express.com](mailto:gduncanABS@buckeye-express.com)

Or

The American Bonsai Society

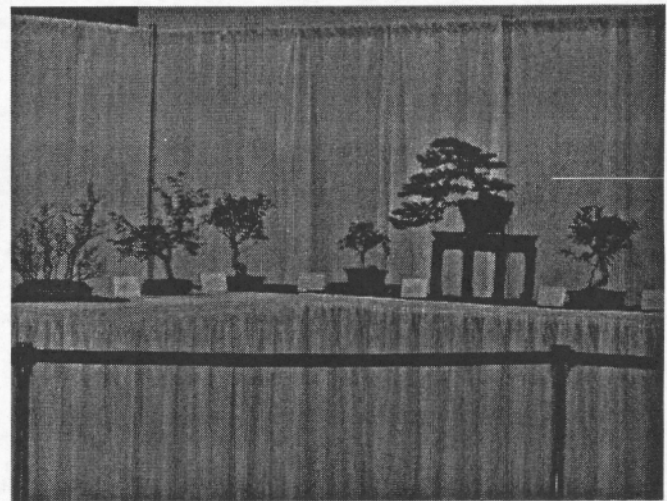
P O Box 351604

Toledo Ohio

43635-1604

# Holiday Folk Fair Display

Photos by Jean Sher



# Milwaukee Bonsai Society Membership Form 2006

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (home) \_\_\_\_\_  
(work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check # for (circle) Single 1 year \$25 2 years \$48 3 years \$70  
Family 1 year \$35 2 years \$68 3 years \$100

Would you allow us to print your telephone number ONLY in an MBS Phone directory?  
(circle) yes no

Do you have any hidden talents / interests that you would be willing to share with our members?  
If so, please describe:

**Your #1 Milwaukee Bonsai Source!**



**THE CITY GARDENER**  
*Featuring  
Bonsai and bonsai accessories*

- ◆ Indoor and outdoor bonsai
- ◆ Pre-bonsai
- ◆ Pots
- ◆ Bonsai soil
- ◆ Wire
- ◆ Tools
- ◆ Books
- ◆ Clay miniatures and more

*Plus* We offer practical, easy-to-understand help in choosing and caring for your bonsai

1 Block North of Brady Street  
1814 North Farwell Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202  
(414) 224-8224



**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*

**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.milwaukeebonsai.org>

## February Bonsai Tips:

By Doug Hawley (reprinted from the Bonsai Society of Greater Cincinnati newsletter)

Unlike any previous month of the year, the bonsai chores are almost exactly the same as the previous month!

There is one big difference, however; March is only a few weeks away, and is probably the busiest bonsai month of the year. This means prepare, prepare, prepare!! Do you have your soil, screens, wire, the right sized pots, optional repotting nutrients (Superthrive, mycorrhizae, and a touch of 0-10-10), and the other things you need for repotting season?

Look at your trees now and come up with ideas of how you might want to restyle them at the time of repotting so you don't lose much time later. Remember, if you have ten or fifteen deciduous trees that start to open their buds all at the same time, you'll have only a few days to come up with an inspiration for restyling (which might mean a new potting angle, wiring and major pruning), then root pruning and repotting all ten or fifteen. Since most of us have other things to do in life also (little things like employment, taking care of kids, eating, sleeping, etc.) it can be pretty overwhelming, and we often end up saying "what the h\*\*\*, I'm just going to wait until next year."

Repotting time can be a very enjoyable and rewarding time if you are ready. It's the specific day of the year when a tree can most easily move up another notch in quality, in fact, often be literally transformed.

There are a couple of chores in February itself.

This is a big month for pest control. It's the last opportunity to use true dormant oil to get rid of pine needle scale and overwintering aphids, spider mites, etc on your outdoor trees. If you reduce the strength of your dormant oil, you can mix in a little lime sulfur or certain other pesticides and fungicides (be sure this is OK'd on the label and follow instructions carefully).

This is also approaching the time when indoor pests go wild. Spider mites especially like the warm dry windless environment of our homes, and can creep up on you.

Some experienced bonsai people believe this is the best time of year to tip prune eastern white pine, as it forces new buds. But don't do this to your other pines.

Continue to protect your trees from extreme temperatures. Don't let them dry out, but be sure you don't over water either. Outdoor trees in outdoor storage need water every couple of weeks at the most. Those in garages need water more often. Also, be on the lookout for any deciduous trees that put out buds early. This includes mostly those in warmer winter storage (garages, greenhouses), and those plants which are native to higher numerical (more southern) growing zones where Spring starts earlier. Tridents are among this last category. Remember, if the buds start to suddenly swell, you must repot them immediately if you intend to repot them this year. Needless to say, this is a problem, since we have difficulty in Cincinnati providing the outdoor light new buds need without killing them with a frost or carrying them in and out every day.

Finally, read your bonsai books, magazines and websites. The more you know, the more you'll enjoy.



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

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS  
7PM, Tuesday, Feb. 7  
Grace Lutheran Church  
3030 W. Oklahoma

### **MBS Board, 2006**

Kris Ziemann – President  
Scott Hurula – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Darlene Shaginaw – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Mary Turner – Treasurer  
Sharon Schmidt – Secretary  
John Moore – Board Member  
Joe Herbert – Board Member  
Allen Koszarek – Board Member  
Ron Fortmann – MABA Representative  
Jack Douthitt – Past President

### Other Club Functions:

Houston Sanders – Newsletter Editor  
Melba Stockhausen - Distribution  
Pam Woythal – Webmaster  
Joe Nemecek - Librarian  
Mary Turner - membership chairperson  
Jean Sher - telephone response



*Autumn twilight, and  
earth is quiet with color:  
mist-folded silence*

- Mary Turner

If this haiku looks familiar, it is probably because nobody sent any new ones!