

July 2007

# Bonsai News

## JULY MEETING –JIM DOYLE: Guest Artist

*By Jean Sher*

Profile: Jim Doyle  
In 1973, with a B.S. degree in horticulture from Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture, Jim started Nature's Way Nursery and developed an early interest in Asian culture and plants. By 1980, through the influence of Chase Rosade, bonsai passed from being a hobby to a business/life-style. Jim attends many symposia, teaches year round to both adults and children at his studio and travels extensively.

After a brief visit to Japan, Jim started a quest for new information. He was involved in founding the Susquehanna Bonsai Club, boasting membership of over 100, and co-chaired the 1992 ABS Convention in Hershey. He has written articles for national publication and consulted regionally in Japanese garden design.

Today, along with his teaching, Jim continues to import bonsai, pots, tools and related garden items. Other interests include conifers, Japanese maples, writing haiku, volleyball, fishing and spending time with his wife Mary Kay and children Sarah and Max. Jim's favorite tree is, of course, the one he is working on.

As time goes by, Jim continues to enjoy the benefits of knowledge

through bonsai. He has discovered a caring and understanding friendship with plants and with people.

The Saturday, June 30th Doyle Literati \$95 Workshop is full with a waiting list. The Saturday afternoon class \$40 BYOT (Bring Your Own Tree!) has three openings left. The Sunday, July 1 \$40 BYOT workshop has several openings and will be discussed at the July Meeting.

### Jim Doyle Workshop Times:

Saturday AM (June 30)

Literati Workshop

(workshop material will be a Shimpaku Juniper in 3-gal pot)

Saturday PM (July 1)

Bring Your Own Tree (\$40)

Sun AM and PM (July 1)

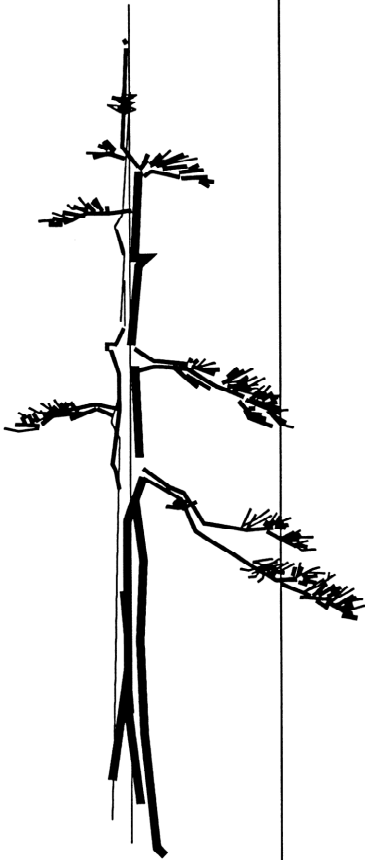
BYO TREE \$40 (per session)

Such an inexpensive chance to work with Jim!! Sign up right away to make sure you get your spot. The literati is almost full (so hurry to sign up). Call or email Scott Hurula (hankengai2@aol.com or 414.759.3274).

### Bring LITERATI Trees for Display at the July Meeting

The July meeting topic is Bunjin (literati) We hope some people will display their literati style trees during the meeting.

Thank you to Joe Herbert for the excellent Rafting Demo at the MBS June meeting.



*Milwaukee  
Bonsai Society*

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

*Information Line  
414-299-9229*

## NEXT MEETING

July 3, 7 PM

Grace Lutheran  
Church

## President's Message

By Jean Sher

This summer is such an active time for bonsai enthusiasts. We have guest artists Jim Doyle and Marty Schmalenberg visiting with MBS. Our July and August meetings(respectively) feature demos by these guest artists. Opportunities for participation in Material included and BYOT workshops are offered. There is more workshop information elsewhere in this newsletter. Silent observers are welcome to attend for a fee of \$5.00.

Members of both the Intermediate and Master classes are working to improve styling, growing and repotting techniques. Trees are growing and the care requirements are increasing with the changes in the weather. During a recent discussion, I overheard several bonsai members mention that they have concluded that Wisconsin weather is the worst enemy of bonsai trees.

State Fair is almost upon us so we need to prepare trees for display. This year MBS will be directly in charge of two of the three shows for State Fair. The Appleton club has expressed interest in displaying from August 2-4, we will have our displays August 5-8 and August 9-12. MBS members' trees are needed for all three shows. Trees and tree sitters are needed to greet the public during the State Fair August 2-12. Tree sitting is a wonderful way to meet new people. Tree display offers a personal opportunity to receive comments and critique about your trees from the judges. Too, a chance to enjoy cream puffs and bratwurst makes the twelve days special.

Our annual MBS Club Show will be held during the September meeting. Ribbons will be awarded and judge's critiques will be shared. This is also a very exciting social gathering. We can enjoy our trees in a formal display and spend time visiting with bonsai friends.

I look forward to seeing each of you at the next meetings, workshops and at State Fair.

Enjoy your bonsai!

*Jean*

## 2007 MBS Schedule

### JULY

June 30- JIM DOYLE WORKSHOP

### JULY

July 3 - Club meeting-JIM DOYLE, GUEST BONSAI ARTIST

### AUGUST

August 2 - 12 - Wisconsin State Fair Bonsai Shows

August 4- MARTY SCHMALENBERG WORKSHOP

August 7 - Club meeting-MARTY SCHMALENBERG, GUEST BONSAI ARTIST

### SEPTEMBER

September 4 - Club meeting- MBS CLUB SHOW

September 15 - Public workshop 9AM-Noon

September 29-30 Master's classes

### OCTOBER

October 2 - Club meeting - Master's CLASS FINALE

### NOVEMBER

November 6 -Club Meeting- WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION

### DECEMBER

December 4 - Holiday Party NO MEETING

## CONGRATULATIONS !!!

SCOTT HURULA participated in the New Talent Contest during the ABS Learning Seminars on Thursday, June 21 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. We are pleased to announce that after 8 hours effort, Scott was declared tied for 2nd place. The material was a San Jose Juniper.

New talent competitors are chosen through judging of a photo portfolio showing their favorite "best" trees which they have created. All drew lots for the tree which they styled. Work is done in a supervised session, open to public observation. Trees are either purchased by the competitor or auctioned. Scott was allowed to buy his tree and will display it at the July meeting.

I am sure it will be a topic of conversation and pleasure for all of us to see.

Congratulations Scott, you are the best!!!

I would also like to congratulate our recent Graduates:

Delores Day, Cardinal Stritch University  
Scott Hurula Jr., St. Francis High School  
Carolyn Sanders, Mahone Middle School

## TREES NEEDED

Enter your trees in the State Fair competition. Sign up at the JULY MEETING to get set for the Fair.

Each tree displayed must meet the following criteria. Trees that are diseased will be rejected or removed from the exhibit.

1. Trees must be Pest free and in good health.
2. Trees are to be presented for display on a suitable stand or mat.
3. Accent plants and figures must be pest free and in good health.
4. Trees will be displayed with both common and scientific names.
5. Trees and accompanying effects must be clean and marked clearly with the owners name to the back.
6. A small sketch of the overall display vision will be helpful for the show chairman to assure proper setup.

\*Youth and Novice class may enter any tree that meet the above criteria and were personally styled.  
\*\*Intermediate, Advanced and Open class entries must meet the above criteria, must have been personally styled and in the presenter's care during the past two winters. Decisions of the judges are final.



Photos from the June Masterclass  
by Jean Sher



This could be your tree after the Jim Doyle workshop →



# STATE FAIR 2007

by Jean Sher

This is your chance to enter trees for critique by a certified judge. While the ribbons are nice, the information and perspective gained from comments about our trees from knowledgeable judges is priceless. If you are considering entering a bonsai or two, (three?) here are several tips about displaying a tree from Ted Matson.

#1 Clean pots are more attractive for display. Wash the pot, dry it with a soft, non-fuzzy cloth. An application of light oil will allow the true color of the pot to shine through. Some people use mineral oil, baby oil or vegetable oil to oil pots. Be sure to wipe off the excess oil with a soft cloth that will not leave fuzzies. This gives a nice sheen to the surface of the pot. Water marks and chemical build up need to be removed from the legs and bottom of the pot.

#2 Dress the soil surface with small particle gravel, grit or soil. The smaller particles in the soil surface make the roots and trunk look larger. Add some small areas of moss to add interest and dimension. Remove all weeds and debris from the moss and soil with tweezers or a small bonsai brush.

#3 Use the stand to "frame" the tree and pot. This means attention to details of the stand. Lower stands are usually used to display taller trees, sai-kei and forests. Taller stands are used to display semi-cascades, full cascades and low trees. The color of foliage, pot and stand need to be considered as a unit and add interest and color balance to the composition.

#4 Accents (plants, figurines or scrolls) need to harmonize with the display of the tree. Accent plants are put on very low stands usually so that they will form a complementary display. Choice of an object as an accent must be very carefully thought through. Accents can be used to depict a season, a geographic location, an elevation and an environment in which the tree might grow.

#5 Possibly the most important step in display preparation is the cleaning of the tree itself. Dead, brown and damaged needles or leaves must be removed. Leaves and needles that extend beyond the desired profile of the tree should be taken off.

A last minute check of the surface of the soil and moss, the pot and the profile of the tree will make a good tree look exceptional.

Good luck at State Fair 2007!

Your tree maybe be this year's BEST of SHOW!!

## State Fair Exhibit Schedule 2007

### Exhibit #1

Deliver trees to church parking lot  
Wednesday Aug 1 from 6pm - 7pm

Pick up trees from church parking lot  
Sunday Aug 5 from 9am - 10am

### Exhibit #2

Deliver trees to church parking lot  
Saturday Aug 4 from 6pm - 7pm

Pick up trees from church parking lot  
Thursday Aug 9 from 9am - 10am

### Exhibit #3

Deliver trees to church parking lot  
Wednesday Aug 8 from 6pm - 7pm

Pick up trees from church parking lot  
Monday Aug 13 from 9am - 10am

Please bring:

- your list of scientific names and common names.
- the approximate age of the tree,
- stand, accent, sketch of display, and the proposed style of tree.
- It is also wise to mark all components of your display with your name. (an address sticker is usually adequate)

Note: If the drop off/pick up schedule is not good for you, please make personal arrangements for your trees with someone who will care for them. YOU must alert the crew about these arrangements so trees cannot be misdirected, lost or stolen.

Call or email Jean Sher at 414.979.0281  
[jsher@wi.rr.com](mailto:jsher@wi.rr.com) with concerns or comments.

Good luck and thanks for supporting the MBS state Fair 2007 committee.



## THANK YOU MBS!!!

Wow! a raffle just to help us at Mahone Bonsai Club.

Thank you so much for the \$255.00 donation raised at the June MBS meeting. We have hope to visit a convention somewhere to learn more about Bonsai. The money from the raffle will be added to what we are raising so we can travel.

This year we have learned a lot and had a really fun time with our trees. Many people from MBS have supported us with trees, tools, help and money. We never knew that you would be so kind and generous when you became our official sponsor.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us learn more about Bonsai.

Sincerely,  
All the MAHONE BONSAI CLUB members



Trees from the Mahone Bonsai Club Show in May



## Marty Schmalenberg, August 7 Guest Artist

By Michelle Zimmer

In the throes of the two week long State Fair celebration, we will have the privilege of entertaining Marty Schmalenberg, the director of Asian studies at Blair Academy, New Jersey. Marty has been involved in bonsai and Suiseki for 30 years and has been designing Japanese and Chinese Gardens for the last 20 years.

He has been the featured artist at conventions and has received many awards for bonsai design. In addition, he is a world traveler and a musical playwright.

Marty will offer a Saturday morning workshop which includes material on August 4th and is available for individual private or group classes on the 5th, 6th, and 7th prior to his club presentation on the 7th. If you would like more information, or KNOW that you want to reserve some time, please contact Scott Hurula, phone 414.759.3274 or e-mail at hankengai2@aol.com to reserve your time. Sign us soon, this is a first come, first serve opportunity!

**NOTE:** Reservations for the Saturday, August 4th \$85 Boxwood and BYOT workshops with Marty Schmalenberg are filling up rapidly. Time to make a commitment, send a check to the MBS post office box to reserve your space. There will be sign up opportunities during the July meeting for work with Marty Schmalenberg. You must sign up for Jim Doyle's workshops and send a check to the MBS PO box.



## MBS Classy-fied Ads

**FOR SALE:** I'm thinning out my collection and will have some trees at the July 3 meeting. Please see me. (10% will go to the club).  
Kris Ziemann

### WANTED: VOLUNTEERS

We need YOU! There are ten days of tree sitting during State Fair. We need three people for each of three daily shifts. Tree sitters will receive free entrance tickets for the fair but parking and bus transfers are the responsibility of the volunteer.

We also need volunteers to check in trees for the show, transport to and set up the trees at State Fair, then return trees to their owners after the show ends.

Sign up at the July meeting or contact Gregg Wein at 262.968.3090.

### MISSING

Books and magazines from our MBS library. Check your coffee table, kitchen table, nightstand, tool box, glove compartment, backpack and desk for these publications and return at the very next meeting so another member can also benefit. See Laura or Josh, or just slip it past either of them unnoticed if you've borrowed that book for a couple of years or so.

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### 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](mailto:mbs@asapnet.net) Look for us on the web at: <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org>



## NINO'S

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## **Critique – Part 1**

*submitted by Pam Woythal and Michelle Zimmer*

### ***Introduction***

Critiquing can be intimidating for novice bonsai artists. You may feel you don't have the skills, the knowledge, or experience. Not true, critiques at the most basic level are only opinion and everyone has opinions.

Critiques are the single best source of feedback that a bonsai artist can use to find flaws with their trees and to improve their bonsai skills. When you critique, you are helping another person improve their tree. You're moving the artist closer to getting their tree to a finished bonsai. You also benefit. Critiquing is your opportunity to enhance your understanding of what makes good bonsai design. Good critiquing skills are essential if you ever want to have your bonsai judged best in show.

It's natural to want to avoid critiquing negatively because you are worried about hurting the bonsai artist's feeling. Keep in mind that it is not the negative or positive aspect of the critique that causes pain; it's the level of condensation, antagonism, sarcasm, or nastiness that is implied by what you write or say. Remember critiquing is not a game, you are not scoring against the artist; you are trying to help. Don't just tell the artist what's wrong; make a suggestion about how the artist can fix the problems you see.

In the next issue we will cover the Language of Critique to provide you with the vocabulary and knowledge necessary to critique bonsai.



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. . . And because it belongs to You.

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[www.bonsai-nbf.org](http://www.bonsai-nbf.org)





P.O. Box 198  
Brookfield, WI 53008-0198  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS  
7PM, Tuesday, July 3  
Grace Lutheran Church  
3030 W. Oklahoma

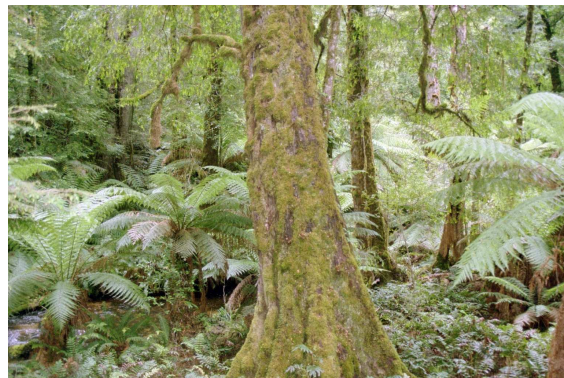
## MEET THE 2007 OFFICERS

The MBS Officers for 2007 are:

President	Jean Sher
First VP	Scott Hurula
Second VP	Gregg Wein
Secretary	Susan Coleman
Treasurer	Mary Turner
Director	Allen Koszarek
Director	John Moore
Director	Michelle Zimmer
Past Pres.	Kris Ziemann

### Other Club Functions:

Houston Sanders – Newsletter Editor  
Pam Woythal – Webmaster  
Josh Rageth – Librarian  
Jean Sher - Distribution / Telephone  
response  
Mary Turner - Membership Chairperson



Misty marsh spirits  
Green leaves bejeweled with dew  
Sun dawns – spirits fade  
- *Joe Nemec*