

Bonsai News



WE NEED YOUR TREES!

If you have not yet signed up to display your trees at State Fair, please look out in your backyard, on your bonsai benches, under a tomato plant and see what you would like to bring to State Fair. It's not really as scary as you might think. Spruce your tree up a little .. find a stand, piece of wood, placemat to display it on and bring it to the drop off point at the following times:

Exhibit #1 Deliver trees to church parking lot Wed 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 Sat Aug 4 from 6pm - 7pm Pick up trees from church Thursday Aug 9 from 9am - 10am

Exhibit #3 Deliver trees to church parking lot Wed Aug 8 from 6pm - 7pm Pick up trees from church Mon Aug 13 from 9am - 10am

Please bring:

- your list of scientific 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)

Trees must have been in your care over two winters - Youth and Novice classes are exempt from this requirement.

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 the arrangements so trees cannot be misdirected, lost or stolen.

Call or email Jean with questions at 414.979.0281 or jsher@wi.rr.com.

CLASSES

Youth - 18 and under

Novice - less than 5 years experience

Intermediate - more than 5 years experience

Advanced - have previously won an Award of Merit in Intermed or Best of Show in any class at State Fair

Open - open to all exhibitors

For Exhibit only - not eligible for any award

NEXT MEETING

August 7 - 7pm
Grace Lutheran Church

President's Message

Hello to all of you.

It's the middle of summer and I hope everyone is enjoying their bonsai trees.

We welcome Martin Schmalenberg as our visitor and guest artist for the August 7th MBS meeting. He will also be offering a Boxwood workshop Saturday, August 4 from 8 AM to Noon and an afternoon Bring Your Own Tree workshop 1:00 PM- 5:00 PM at the church. PLEASE SEE ARTICLE FOLLOWING TO SEE HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THESE WORKSHOPS!!

I am busy getting trees ready for entry at the 2007 Wisconsin State Fair. We need **trees for exhibits #2 and #3**. Please call 414-979-0281 to let the State Fair committee know how many trees you will submit for judging. This is an excellent opportunity to receive commentary from our judges about each tree. Perhaps you will even win a ribbon. State Fair is a big commitment for our club and we **need more people to help tree sit**. To volunteer to tree sit call Gregg at 262-754-0273. This is a chance to earn buddy bucks and share your pleasure, interest and knowledge of bonsai with the public. Every year I meet the nicest people who always say "we come to see the trees every year."

Getting trees ready for the Fair is also a good time to begin thinking about your MBS Club Show in September. This is an evening of sharing your trees with other club members. This is a chance to share your trees with others who know the hours of love and work that result in a wonderful bonsai tree. We will have a judge and ribbons for winners in each class.

As you can sense, there is never a dull moment in life with bonsai. Get your trees ready and enjoy the rest of the summer. See you at the Fair, the August 4 workshops and the MBS August meeting.

Jean

MBS SCHEDULE 2007

AUGUST

2 - 12 ~ Wisconsin State Fair Bonsai Shows
4 ~ MARTY SCHMALENBERG WORKSHOP
7 ~ Club meeting MARTY SCHMALENBERG,
GUEST BONSAI ARTIST

SEPTEMBER

4 ~ Club meeting MBS CLUB SHOW
15 ~ Public workshop 9am-Noon
29-30 ~ Master's classes

OCTOBER

2 ~ Club meeting Master's CLASS FINALE

NOVEMBER

6 ~ Club Meeting
WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION |

DECEMBER

4 ~ HOLIDAY PARTY

MARTIN SCHMALENBERG VISITS MBS

This is your chance to meet Martin Schmalenberg the director of Asian studies at Blair Academy, New Jersey where he teaches Japanese and Chinese history, culture and religion. Marty has been developing bonsai trees for 30 years and also enjoys Suiseki. He has spent over 15 years designing and building Japanese and Chinese gardens. He is an avid collector of native material for bonsai and has also been collecting and researching stones from all over the world for over 20 years. In addition to being a featured artist at conventions he is a world traveler and has won many awards for his bonsai design. Rumor has it that he is also a musical playwright. This may be our chance to find out if music helps bonsai grow better.

The **August 4th AM workshop** from 8AM - Noon is full but Silent Observers are welcome (\$5 fee). The **afternoon BYOT workshop** 1:00-5:00 PM still has several spots open. Call Jean at 414.979.0281 or Scott 414.759.3274 to reserve your place.

You can also email your reservation to jsher@wi.rr.com or hankengai2@aol.com.

Bonsai from your backyard

Cotoneaster

This plant is a popular shrub as well as a bonsai favorite. Some varieties of Cotoneaster are evergreen, some deciduous, and some, like the rockspray, will either retain their leaves or lose them depending on the climate.

Most Cotoneasters are prostrate shrubs which will also climb over rocks and walls, but a few - the most notable being *C. frigidus* - will grow into trees. All varieties are well-loved for their showy berries, and many Cotoneasters have attractive pink or white flowers as well.

Lighting: Varies according to variety, although most Cotoneasters prefer full sun.

Temperature: Some varieties are occasionally used for indoor bonsai, but most successfully grown outdoors. Generally hardy to zones 6 or 7, but frost protection is advised. Most Cotoneasters do well in hot climates.

Watering: Some claim that Cotoneaster likes a dry soil - allow it to dry out a bit between waterings, then water it well. Some take the opposite view - that the Cotoneaster should be kept moist at all times! Although Cotoneaster likes good drainage, it dislikes a dry atmosphere, and can benefit from regular misting.

Feeding: Every two weeks until flowering, then monthly during growth. Use liquid bonsai fertilizer or half-strength plant food.

Pruning and wiring: Cotoneaster likes to sucker, so if it is not being grown as a clump,

suckers must be vigilantly removed to promote trunk growth. New shoots should be shortened to one or two leaves throughout the growing season. The Cotoneaster takes well to wiring, which can be performed just before bud break in spring. Protect the bark when wiring. Cotoneasters lend themselves to mame and shohin, but are harder to grow as large bonsai.

Propagation: Cuttings may be taken in June-July, and should take about six weeks to root. Air-layering may be used as well; the most optimal time is during bud-swelling in the spring. Cotoneaster may be grown from seed collected from the berries in fall. The seeds must be cold treated and sown in early spring.

Repotting: Annually in spring, using fast-draining soil. Up to a third of the roots may be removed. Cotoneaster does not like to be bare-rooted.

Pests and diseases: Aphids, wooly aphids, scale, leaf blight, crown-gall and bacterial fireblight. A showy display of berries can be decimated by a hungry blackbird. *C. horizontalis* is particularly attractive to bees and wasps - which doesn't bother the plant, but may be a risk to unsuspecting bonsaists!



Jim Doyle Literati Workshop - June 30, 2007



← Group discussion

Joe Herbert with Jim Doyle →



← Before

Material:
Shimpaku
Juniper

After →



Sometimes
you just
need to
stand on a
chair!

Susan
Coleman



What is it they say?

90% inspiration 10% perspiration

Our apologies for not including this invitation in last month's newsletter

July 29, 2007 - Sunday MBS cook out at:

Don & Karen Gumieny
W286 S4684 Woods Rd.
Waukesha, WI 53189

Time: 2 PM to ?

Bring a dish to share - the meat and beverages will be provided.

Come to view bonsai techniques used on our garden train layout.

Collect some moss for your bonsai

RSVP and to get directions

262-548-0480 office

262-513-8395 home

Bring lawn chairs

HEY!!

STATE FAIR IS ALMOST HERE!!

Questions to ask yourself:

•**Have I signed up to do treesitting?** -
Did you know that you get a free entrance ticket?

•**Have I signed up to bring trees?** This is a wonderful opportunity to bring your trees in and receive a written critique from a judge.



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Language of Critique - Part 2

Submitted by Pam Woythal and Michelle Zimmer

In our first installment we talked about the critique process is especially beneficial for bonsai artists because it provides feedback from the audience's point of view. Today we will cover the Language of Critique to provide you with the vocabulary and knowledge necessary to critique bonsai.

Visual Elements

The visual elements are the building blocks of art creation. They can be analyzed, organized, and manipulated by artists. They are the visual language of art. Line and form are the elements that are the greatest concern to the bonsai artist.

Line

Expressed in bonsai by the movement of the trunk and determines the style of the tree.

Form

Expresses by the length, position, and arrangement of the branches, the form is the outline of the tree and helps express the tree's genus, age, and condition. Form refers to three-dimensional shapes that have length, width and depth. In fact, forms are three-dimensional. They take up space. You can hold them, and walk around them. A bonsai artist uses form three-dimensionally.

Artistic Principles of Bonsai Design

The artistic principles of design refer to the organization of a work of art or bonsai. Each principle interprets how an artist uses the visual elements, composition and design to express their feelings and ideas. By studying these, your own work will become more sophisticated as you will begin to apply this new knowledge to your own bonsai.

Proportion

Proportion refers to one piece of an object in relation to the rest of the object. In ancient Greece, mathematicians sought the perfect proportional measurement. It became known as the "Golden Ratio" or "Divine Proportion". (For more detail see page 17 of Basic Bonsai Design by David De Groot.)

Since the word "proportion" means one part in relation to another. All people have a sense of proportion concerning themselves as compared to others. "My nose is too long for my face". "She has long legs". "His eyes are wide set." All of these comments reinforce the idea that we

see and have opinions about the relationships between one thing compared to another. Bonsai artists use their sense of proportion to make statements or express the illusion of a large, aged tree in nature.

Balance

We use balance as a way of controlling gravity. Bonsai artists use vertical and horizontal mass as well as negative and positive mass. The entire composition of the tree in its container must be visually balanced.

As humans we experience the need for balance in our everyday life. We use it as we walk or run and to carry things. Balance is also necessary in other ways. We need to balance our awake and sleeping periods, our food intake and energy exports, and relaxation and stress. Balance is also important to a work of art. A balanced artwork leaves the viewer feeling "visually comfortable". On the other hand, a work that is not balanced creates a sense of visual stress.

Unity

The principle of unity is important to works of art. The artist would like the viewer to see the completed work as "finished". The visual elements used to create the artwork should appear to create a "whole" composition. Unity requires that trees have consistent lines in the trunks and branches to create a sense of harmony. When you look at a work and sense that the piece is complete, you can appreciate the importance of unity

"Unity" in art results from a combination of related visual elements creating a pleasing work for the eye. "Unity" infers that the work of art is presented as a "whole". When a work of art has "Unity", the viewer sees the work as a whole, not in separate sections.

In the final installment we put it all together. We will describe Critique as Process, a way of organizing the facts and your thoughts about a particular bonsai.

Displays

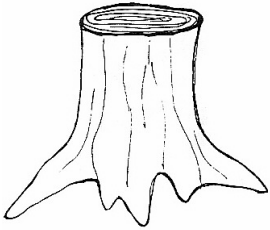
August - Ficus bonsai, any species

September - no display, club show

October - no display- Masterclass finale

November - Suiseki

December - no display, Holiday party



TREE STUMP

Here's your chance to get answers for all your bonsai questions! Just email your question to: Tree.Stump@yahoo.com by the 18th of the month. Your questions will be answered in the order they were received.

Here's one:

Q. If you add twice as much water, does a 20-20-20 fertilizer become a 10-10-10? K.

A. The chemical portions remain the same 20% nitrogen, 20% phosphorus, 20% potassium, but the percentage of fertilizer to water has been reduced by 50% making it a weak solution. Plants that you desire to grow quickly should get a strong solution where more finished plants should get a weak mixture.



Tree sitting at the Wauwatosa Garden tour. Such a relaxing day talking with people and sharing enthusiasm for bonsai.

Camrin LaFond and Kris Ziemann are pictured. Jean Sher snapped this shot.

YOUR NEWSLETTER

You can help to make this a newsletter that you can't wait to read! What is it that you would like included in the newsletter? More articles? Interviews? Cartoons? Would you be willing to send in an article that you find particularly interesting? Please send your suggestions, articles, etc to:

hagr8d@mac.com

Articles must be received by the 20th to be included in the newsletter for the following month. We appreciate your help!!



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WEB BONUS PAGE



Jim Doyle styling a pitch pine at Club Meeting - July 3 (Allen Koszarek helped with wiring)



Mystery Photo - Guess what this is and tell Kris Ziemann at the August 7 Club meeting to receive one **free** raffle ticket for the **pot raffle**.

Houston Sanders and Ted Matson





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

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

IMPORTANT INFO ON STATE FAIR AND AUGUST WORKSHOPS INSIDE!!

MEET THE 2007 OFFICERS

The MBS Officers for 2007 are:

President	Jean S
First VP	Scott H
Second VP	Gregg W
Secretary	Susan C
Treasurer	Mary T
Director	Allen K
Director	John M
Director	Michelle Z
Past Pres.	Kris Z

Other Club Functions:

Kris Z - Newsletter Editor/Distribution
Pam W - Webmaster
Laura L - Librarian
Jean S - Telephone response
Mary T - Membership Chairperson

