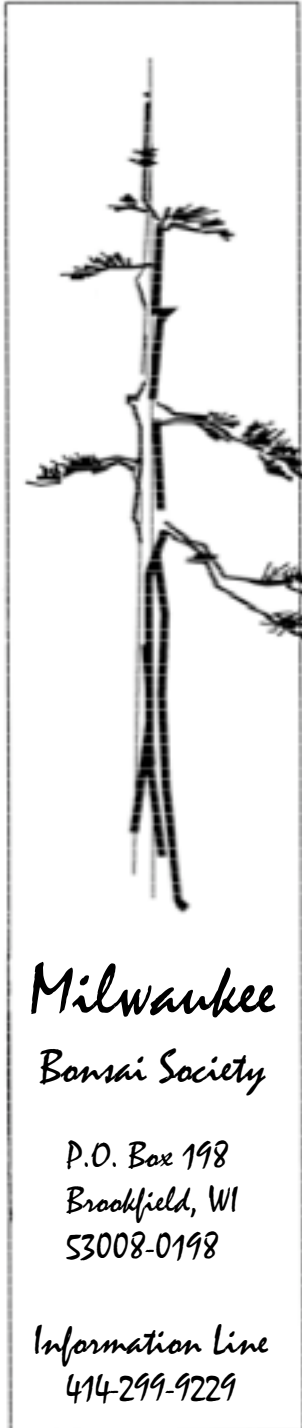


Bonsai News



Masterclass - 2008 forming...

By Michelle Zimmer

A new 1 year "masterclass" will start in 2008. All club members with intermediate or advanced skills who want to increase their knowledge, work on techniques, improve horticultural skills and have fun learning in a group environment are invited to join.

This will be a series of three or four all-day classes, taught by an artist skilled in design and teaching. The three artists being considered are Ted Matson, Jim Doyle and Marty Schmalenberg. The cost will be between \$200 and \$360 per student depending on the number of students and the teacher selected. The students who make a firm commitment (\$50 non-refundable deposit) will elect the teacher and decide on the details. The Milwaukee Bonsai Society absorbs some or all of the travel expenses of the artist.

Members of the 2004 three year masterclass with Ted Matson need not fill out a questionnaire, but must pay a \$50 non-refundable deposit by the

2007 MBS Schedule

SEPTEMBER

September 4- Club meeting
MBS CLUB SHOW

September 15 - 9AM-Noon
PUBLIC WORKSHOP

September 29-30
Master's classes

OCTOBER

October 2 - Club meeting -
Master's **CLASS FINALE**

NOVEMBER

November 6 -Club Meeting-
WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION

November 16-18
FOLK FAIR

DECEMBER

December 4 - Holiday Party

deadline (September 15th.)
Others can fill out a questionnaire and return it with a \$50 non-refundable deposit to Jack Douthitt.

An informational meeting to answer questions and pick up a questionnaire will be held prior to the Club Meeting at **6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2007-** see you there!

NEXT MEETING

September 4 - 7pm
Grace Lutheran Church

President's Message

Hello to everyone,

This is the first Fall issue of 2007 and with it comes my hope that your trees have survived the heat and rains of August.

I'm sure that you will join me in congratulating all of the entrants of our bonsai shows at the Wisconsin State Fair. This year's exhibits were awesome and all three judges were impressed with the quality of both trees and presentations. Thank you all so much for donating tree sitting time and trees to make this year's State Fair exhibits show the general public the art of bonsai.

A big thank you as well to everyone who helped make the Martin Schmalenberg workshops and Club Demo successful. Ron F., Allen K. and Jack D. brought trees to share and provided Martin with material for a very entertaining and informative evening.

As we enter the fall bonsai season it's time to prepare trees for the September Club Show. Bring your tree, stand and accent plant to the church ***before 6:45 PM*** in order to set up before the judging begins. Please mark everything with your name to avoid confusion at the end of the evening. Also please bring the ***common and scientific name*** of your tree when registering.

September also offers us a chance to volunteer to help new bonsai enthusiasts style trees at the MBS Public Workshop. A volunteer sign-up list will be available at the meeting. This is always a nice way to help create bonsai and meet new people who share our interest.

Our October meeting will feature a presentation of trees from the Members of the Master's Class. We will have an opportunity to see the results of three years of bonsai study, work, agony and joy under the direction of Mr Ted Matson. **This is a definite date to mark on your calendar!**

This is also the time to begin looking for items that you wish to sell at the November meeting's White Elephant Auction. Trees, Stands, Pots, Accent plants and other bonsai related items will be offered at auction. So as you begin to think about winter storage space you can consider what needs "to go." Remember that my "JUNK" might be your "TREASURE!"

It's almost Fall Color Exhibit time at the 2007 International Folk Fair. Plan now to show a tree and become involved as a volunteer tree sitter. As always I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting, until then...

Enjoy your Bonsai,

Jean

Election of 2008 Officers

The following have agreed to run for office for the vacant positions in 2008. How about you? You don't have to be an expert bonsai-ist. We're looking for candidates with energy and ideas.

1st Vice President - Joe H

2nd Vice President - Allen K

Treasurer - Laura L

Director - Jerry N

The following have agreed to continue in their current positions

President - Jean S

Secretary - Susan

Directors - Michelle Z & John M

Please consider adding your name to the list of candidates. Contact Jack at jackbd@mindspring.com or you can be nominated from the floor at the September meeting. Voting for officers will occur at the October meeting.

Congratulations to this year's State Fair winners!

(Y=Youth [Mahone Middle School], N=Novice, I=Intermediate, A=Advanced, O=Open)

Show #1 - Ron Fortmann - Judge

Award Of Merit

Ken Krueger - Cork Bark Elm - A

Blue Ribbon Award Winners

Sydney Cochran - Ficus Salicifolia - Y
Megan Hobbs - Norfolk Island Pine - Y
Makenzie Jones - Chinese Elm - Y
Ken Krueger - Cork Bark Elm - A

Red Ribbon Award Winners

Makenzie Jones - Ficus Nerifolia - Y
Kayla Clair - Chinese Elm - Y

White Ribbon Award Winners

Kayla Clair - Cotoneaster - Y
Sydney Cochran - Buddhist Pine - Y
Matt Peterson - Chinese Elm - Y
Matt Peterson - Privet - Y

Show #2 - Tom Longfellow - Judge

Best of Show

Kris Ziemann- Korean
Hornbeam - I →



Awards Of Merit

Ron Fortmann -
Japanese Larch - A
Michelle Zimmer -
San José Juniper - O
Ron Fortmann -
Japanese Larch - A

Blue Ribbon Award Winners

Michelle Zimmer - San José Juniper - O
Ron Fortmann - Japanese Larch - A
Kris Ziemann- Korean Hornbeam - I
Ron Fortmann - Japanese Larch - A
Pat Basich - Ficus Benjamina - N
Ron Fortmann - Narrow Leaf Ficus - A
Carolyn Sanders - New Zealand Christmas
Kris Ziemann- Buttonwood - I Tree - N

Blue Ribbon Award Winners (cont)

Kris Ziemann- Juniper Procumbens Nana I
Pam Woythal - Hill Hornbeam - A

Red Ribbon Award Winners

Jorge Rossette - Ficus - N
Kris Ziemann- Green Island Ficus - I
Jerry Niemiec - Trident Maple - I
Michelle Zimmer - Japanese Hornbeam Grove
- O

White Ribbon Award Winners

Susan Lindell - Golden Gate Ficus - I
Houston Sanders - Ponderosa Pine - A
Susan Lindell - Ficus Benjamina - I
Michelle Zimmer - Korean Boxwood - O

Show #3 - Rich Helminiak - Judge

Best of Show

Jack Douthitt-
Smooth Leaf Elm - O →



Awards Of Merit

Scott Hurula -
Boulevard Cypress - A
Pam Woythal -
Shimpaku - A
Kris Ziemann -
Itoigawa Shimpaku - I

Blue Ribbon Award Winners

Jack Douthitt- Smooth Leaf Elm - O
Scott Hurula - Boulevard Cypress - A
Pam Woythal - Shimpaku - A
Kris Ziemann - Itoigawa Shimpaku - I
John Moore - Juniper - I
Tony Plicka - Golden Gate Ficus - I
Rita Luedke - Ponderosa Pine - A

Red Ribbon Award Winners

Joe Nemeč- Juniper Sargentii - A
Jim Toepfer - Wisteria - I

Red Ribbon Award Winners (cont)

- Jim Toepfer - Japanese Maple - I
- Scott Hurula - Hinoki Cypress - A
- Jack Douthitt - Pygmy Maple - O
- Jack Douthitt - Boxwood - O
- Jean Sher - Boxwood - A
- John Moore - Green Island Ficus - I
- Pam Woythal - Kingsville Boxwood - A
- Tony Plicka - Boulevard Cypress - I

White Ribbon Award Winners

- Joe Nemec - Fukien Tea - A
- Joe Nemec - Schefflera - A
- Jean Sher - Ginkgo Biloba - A
- Jim Toepfer - Japanese Juniper - I
- Jim Toepfer - Juniper on rock - I
- Kris Ziemann - Grape - I
- Rita Luedke - Ginkgo - A

Award of Merit Show #1

Ken Krueger -
Cork Bark Elm - A



Awards of Merit Show #2



Ron Fortmann -
Japanese Larch - A

Michelle Zimmer -
San José Juniper
- O



Ron Fortmann -
Japanese Larch - A

Awards of Merit Show #3



Scott Hurula -
Boulevard Cypress - A



Kris Ziemann -
Itoigawa Shimpaku - I



Pam Woythal -
Shimpaku - A

Bonsai from your backyard

Spiraea

Spiraea is a genus of around 80 species of deciduous or semi-evergreen shrubs found in rocky places, thickets and woodland. Widely distributed in northern temperate regions of Europe, Asia and North America including Mexico. Spiraea have alternate leaves that are entire, toothed or lobed and in many species are decorative.

Two Spiraea species are commonly used for bonsai, *S. japonica* and *S. thunbergii*.

Spiraea japonica

Spiraea japonica is a clump forming, deciduous shrub with erect shoots, native to China and Japan where heights of around 6' are reached. It has ovate, sharply toothed, dark-green leaves to about 4" long. In mid- to late-Summer, it bears bowl-shaped, pink or white flowers in terminal corymbs to about 8" across.

As a popular garden shrub, *Spiraea japonica* has a large number of varieties which carry varying leaf and flower colors.

Spiraea thunbergii

S. thunbergii is a dense, bushy, deciduous or semi-evergreen shrub with arching branches and slender, lance-shaped, sparsely-toothed, light-green leaves to 1-1/2". In Spring and early Summer, it bears bowl- or saucer-shaped white flowers in clusters to 2" across. Native to China and Japan where heights of around 5' can be reached.

BONSAI CULTIVATION NOTES

POSITION Full sun. Frost hardy to 15°F.

FEEDING Every two weeks throughout the growing season.

REPOTTING Every two years in Spring as buds extend. Use basic soil mix.

PRUNING Spiraea produce numerous long arching shoots from old wood in Spring and these need to be pruned back hard or removed to keep shape. After this, pruning should be stopped to allow flowering to occur.

After flowering, prune back repeatedly to shape through the remainder of the season. Deadhead spent flowers. Once branches have hardened and lignified they become very brittle; wire whilst shoots are still young.

PROPAGATION Take greenwood cuttings in Summer and hardwood cuttings in Winter.

PESTS AND DISEASES Trouble free though mildew can be a problem in warm, damp conditions, if so provide a position with better air-circulation.

STYLING Suitable for informal upright, slanting and cascade forms in extra-small to medium sizes. Particularly suitable for clumps or root connected bonsai.



Bonsai and Lime Sulphur

(extracted from Fort Wayne Bonsai newsletter)

Over the years we have seen, heard and read so many myths about Lime Sulphur (sometimes spelled as Lime Sulfur). Why there is so much invention, misinformation and almost mystique surrounding this chemical I am not sure, but it seems to stem from less-informed bonsai literature of yesteryear. **What is Lime Sulphur?** Lime Sulphur is a foul-smelling liquid that bonsai enthusiasts brush onto deadwood in order to produce a distinctive white color. It does not paint a coat of color onto the wood, but rather as the lime sulphur dries, it 'bleaches' or 'stains' the wood with a white, chalky color. Lime Sulphur was originally developed as a winter wash (fungicide and insecticide) and used to spray trees during the winter to kill any residual molds, fungi and overwintering insects or eggs. It was first developed during the mid 19th century to control mildews on grapevines in French vineyards. From the early 1900's to the 1940's, lime sulphur was used widely and produced on a commercial basis until it was superseded by newer, more efficient chemicals. **How does Lime Sulphur stain the wood of a tree?** The Lime Sulphur mixture produces a certain amount of Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) as it dries (dependent on the ambient temperature, the warmer Lime Sulphur solution is as it dries, the greater the volume of Sulphur Dioxide that is produced). Sulphur dioxide is a known preservative still used in the wine-making and dried-fruits industries where it is used for its ability to kill microbes and bacteria. Sulphur dioxide is also known as a reductant; that is, in the presence of water, it is able to remove the colors of permeable materials that it comes into contact with (Sulphur dioxide is still used in some industries to bleach paper and delicate fabrics such as clothes). The bleaching effect of Sulphur dioxide is not permanent however, after exposure to oxygen (in the air), the bleached material is slowly oxidized and the natural, original color or pigment of the stained material returns. This is one of the reasons why Lime Sulphur must be repeatedly applied to the deadwood of bonsai to ensure it stays white. Lime-sulphur isn't a pleasant liquid. Without doubt it should be treated with respect. Wear gloves when applying it. Store it out of reach of children.

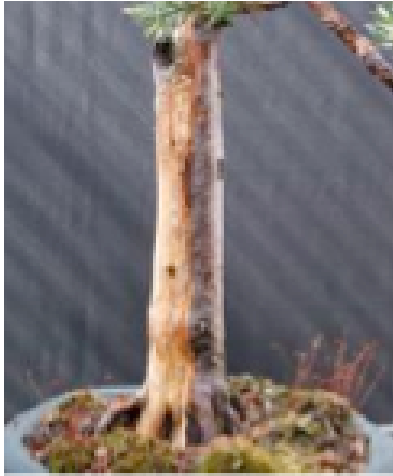
Wear a face mask if you use it as a spray. If you swallow any solution or get any in your eyes, seek medical assistance. **Where do you obtain Lime Sulphur?** Lime sulphur is virtually impossible to obtain at general horticultural outlets as it has long been superseded by other insecticides, fungicides and winter washes. These days, the only place you will find Lime Sulphur liquid is at Bonsai nurseries or online through Bonsai mail order companies. It is a relatively cheap product and a small bottle will last a long time. I have only ever seen one authoritative



guide to producing your own Lime Sulphur that involves boiling calcium hydroxide and sulphur and allowing it to simmer for a few hours. Given the cost of obtaining the ingredients,

the danger of this process and the fact that it is extremely smelly, it is not worth trying to produce your own lime sulphur! **Materials Required for applying Lime Sulphur to Bonsai Deadwood** Together with your lime-sulphur, you will require a separate dish. Pour a small amount of the lime sulphur solution into the dish or container. Do not apply the lime sulphur directly from the bottle as it will spoil the mixture. You need to use a covered or old surface to work on as the lime sulphur can splash and flick as you apply it to the deadwood. The lime sulphur will stain almost anything that it comes into contact with. You must work outside. Lime sulphur is very pungent until it dries, do not apply it indoors! Use a paintbrush to apply the lime sulphur to the deadwood. The exact size of brush you require will depend on the size and intricacy of the deadwood but generally an old paintbrush of 1 cm or less is required. It is worth finding some old artist's paintbrushes if possible; I find that the bristles of cheap brushes tend to disintegrate quickly with the combined effects of the rough

deadwood surface and the effect of the lime sulphur on the glue used to attach the bristles. Otherwise you can spend a lot of time carefully removing bristles from the deadwood! The brush can be cleaned with soapy water if done so immediately after use. However, if allowed to dry, the lime sulphur will render the brush unusable. Lastly, have some absorbent



paper cloth (kitchen roll/tissue) at hand to absorb spills and excess Lime sulphur on the deadwood.

This is a Juniper trunk that has recently had its bark removed to create a shari. The live vein of growth is on the right hand side of

the trunk and its edge has been sealed with wound sealant for the purposes of helping the edge of the live wood heal. It is not necessary to protect the live wood, bark or cambium (even when green) against the lime sulphur. The tree will not be damaged even if the live green cambium layer is exposed to lime sulphur. It does not matter whether the deadwood is fresh and has just been created (from live wood) or has been 'allowed to dry for a while'. You will find that new deadwood is slightly sappy and the lime sulphur will not take quite as well as when the deadwood is older, but again, it is not necessary to wait after creating deadwood before applying lime sulphur.

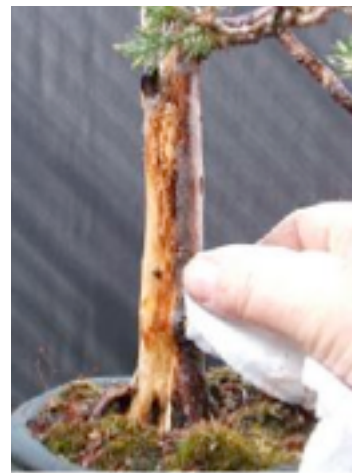
If lime sulphur is painted onto dry wood it tends to run off the wood rather than be absorbed into the wood. Lime sulphur is also unable to penetrate as deeply when the wood is dry. For the lime sulphur to have any preserving effect on the wood (however slight) it must be absorbed as deeply as possible; **by ensuring that the wood is damp, the lime sulphur is able to penetrate much better.**

Secondly, as mentioned previously, moisture (water) is necessary for the Sulphur dioxide to have a bleaching or staining effect. Dry wood takes much longer to whiten and in some cases can retain some

of the original yellow/red color of the lime sulphur mixture. If the wood is not already wet from being outside in rainy weather, spray it thoroughly with water.

Any excess water on the surface of the wood will cause the lime sulphur to run down the wood and bleach areas

of the tree that you do not require to be whitened. Use an absorbent cloth to remove excess water from the deadwood itself and try to dry the bark as much as possible. Apply the lime sulphur, starting at the highest point of the deadwood. It is better to apply several thin coats over the course of a few hours than try to apply a thick coat all at once. Any excess lime sulphur will run down the deadwood. Be prepared to mop up any excess lime sulphur that collects at the

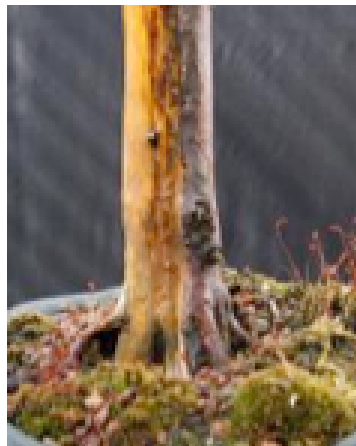


base of the deadwood you are painting. It is necessary to mop up the excess lime sulphur before it runs into the soil or surrounding areas of live wood and bark. This is because the lime sulphur will also bleach the soil and the bark. It is not

because the lime sulphur will 'kill' the tree or 'damage the roots' of the tree. Obviously, a large amount of lime-sulphur in the soil is not a good thing for the health of the tree but this must be kept in perspective. A small amount of run-off will not poison the tree. On many occasions I have lime sulphured deadwood roots (as shown in these images) and lime sulphur has run into the soil with absolutely no detriment to the health of the tree. If you worried that too much

lime sulphur has entered the soil, simply flush the lime sulphur out with water.

If any lime sulphur gets onto the bark of the tree, simply use some wet cloth to wipe away the excess lime sulphur. Do this as soon as possible so the lime sulphur does not have a chance of whitening the bark. If the bark still appears white when the lime sulphur has dried, just use an old toothbrush or similar to clean the bark. The lime sulphur will dry and whiten the wood over the course of the next hours or days depending on how moist the wood is (the more moisture, the quicker the whitening takes effect) and the ambient temperature (the warmer the weather, the faster the lime sulphur will dry). Avoid placing the tree where the lime sulphur will be exposed to rain as this will cause the lime sulphur to run off the deadwood before it has had the necessary bleaching effect. The newly lime sulphured deadwood of the tree above is shown just hours after the lime sulphur was applied. As can be seen, the wood is not as white as can be achieved and this is normal for a first application of lime sulphur on freshly stripped deadwood. Additional applications will ensure that the wood takes on a much more even stark-white finish that contrasts well with the adjoining live wood and bark. **Coloring Lime Sulphur** By its nature, Lime Sulphur produces a white finish to deadwood. While a stark white color is suitable for coniferous species such as pine and juniper, on other tree species such as boxwood, hawthorn, privet and the majority of deciduous and broadleaf trees, lime sulphur is often colored to produce a more appropriate variety of tones and colors. Additionally, because lime sulphur produces such a flat white color with no tone or variety, it can make deadwood look very flat and 2 dimensional. Being able to darken and color lime sulphur allows the artist to produce an appearance of depth and a third dimension to lime sulphured wood.



The hollow trunk of this Thuja was lime sulphured but rather than allow the lime sulphur to produce uniform white finish, the lime sulphur was carefully tinted with black ink to produce a variety of greys and black to increase the feeling of depth in the finish. The outer edges of this trunk were painted with pure lime sulphur and then as I painted deeper and deeper into the hollow, I added a few drops of black ink to the lime-sulphur mixture to produce a steadily darker color. **Lime sulphur can be colored with a variety of ingredients and some experimentation is required.** All waterbased inks and paints will work well but avoid using anything oil-based as it will not mix with the lime sulphur. Generally only a very small amount of black ink or paint is required for the finish to become a grey color. For a more natural 'wood' color, try ochres or burnt umber paints. For a more 'natural' approach to coloring, you can use diluted (in boiling water) tea leaves, instant coffee granules or grinds to produce softened white to ochre tones. For grey tones you can use wood or cigarette ash either mixed into the lime sulphur or applied to the wood after the lime sulphur has dried. Due to the nature of lime sulphur, it is not possible to advise of exact mixtures or recipes and experimentation is necessary. Always allow the lime sulphur to dry to its 'final' color before judging the results of your work!



Using Lime

Sulphur as a Winter Wash for Bonsai Lime Sulphur still has its uses as a winter wash for (outdoor) bonsai. Mix Lime Sulphur with water at a rate of approx 1:25 to 1:50 and spray over the trunk and bare branches to kill any overwintering insects, bacteria or fungi. Rinse off the soil surface and bonsai pot with water afterwards to remove any temporary staining that the diluted lime sulphur may cause (This is purely for aesthetic reasons!). I use a lime sulphur winter wash only on my deciduous trees however I understand that some enthusiasts also spray their coniferous

evergreens; the needles may however have a temporary white color that disappears by Spring. A lower rate of dilution (approx 1:25) with water is useful for cleaning and brightening the trunk of trees with smooth bark such as Hornbeams, Beech and Chinese Elms. Simply spray the solution onto the bark, allow to dry and the bark becomes a subtly lighter and brighter color. Again, for aesthetic reasons rinse away any excess solution that lands on the soil surface or the pot. **Lime Sulphur as a Bird Deterrent** As with

many enthusiasts, I have great problems with birds (in particular blackbirds) in late Winter and early Spring using the soil surface of my trees as a dust bath and making a mess while foraging for food. By accident I have found that spraying my trees with a diluted lime sulphur winter wash is an excellent way of reducing the attraction of my bonsai to birds. Birds have a good sense of smell too! I have since found that if the lime sulphur solution is sprayed as soon as the first birds come to feed in and around your bonsai in Winter, they immediately 'learn' that your bonsai do not smell appetizing and will not return to feed or take a bath for the remainder of Winter and Spring. And please, before I receive e-mails condemning this advice, the smell of the lime sulphur dissuades any feeding long before a bird would consider ingesting it. Finally.

Does Lime Sulphur Actually Preserve Deadwood?

Yes and No. Lime Sulphur kills all (or at least most) bacteria that cause the breakdown and deterioration of wood that we know as 'rot'. It also produces a temporarily hostile environment against bacteria. However, the antibacterial or anti-fungal effect of the lime sulphur is relatively short-lived in comparison to its bleaching effect. Most enthusiasts will have seen lime-sulphured wood begin to turn green and support bacteria within a relatively short period of time. This short term protection requires that the lime sulphur be applied on an annual or even 6 monthly basis to ensure that all of the wood remains stark white (if this is required) and to keep the majority of bacteria and fungi at bay. Not only is the anti-bacterial effect of the lime sulphur relatively short-lived, but it only has an effect on the parts of the deadwood that it is able to access. As has already been discussed, lime sulphur is only able to permeate the wood of a tree to a certain depth (depending on the density and condition of the deadwood).

While lime sulphur is able to kill bacteria on the surface of the wood and possibly to a depth of a few millimeters



on a soft wood), the underlying layers of wood will remain unprotected. If bacteria is able to access the underlying layers of wood that the lime sulphur cannot (for instance through fissures or breaks in the integrity of the wood or through deadwood exposed only to the soil), rotting will continue unabated. **In summary:** lime sulphur cannot and should not be regarded as a preservative that will protect deadwood from rotting or breaking down. While it is able to preserve shallow or thin areas of deadwood for a period of time, it is not a reliable method of rot-prevention. For the dense and hard wood of Yews, Junipers and Pines, lime sulphur is probably going to be sufficient as these woods are naturally resistant to rotting. On species with softer wood such as privet, bougainvillea and most deciduous species, a proper wood preserver or wood hardener must be used.



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Language of Critique - Part 3

Submitted by Pam Woythal and Michelle Zimmer

Critique as Process

We already covered the benefits for bonsai artists because it provides feedback from the audience's point of view and cover the Language of Critique. In our final installment we put it all together.

The Bonsai Critiquing Process is a method of organizing the facts and your thoughts about a particular bonsai. The process is broken down into four areas or phases. Each area specifically looks at one section. These four phases are Description, Analysis, Interpretation and Judgment. Each section must be covered in order, beginning with description. This order helps you to organize your thoughts and to make intelligent and educated statements about a work of art.

It is very important that you are familiar with Visual Elements and the Artistic Principles of Bonsai Design as they will provide you with the vocabulary and knowledge necessary to critique bonsai.

Description

Often the first thing you do when you look at a work of art is to say "I like it" or "I think that is a terrible piece of art!" It is very difficult not to jump to your opinions first. However, in order to make intelligent statements and educated guesses, we must follow the process and begin with description. Description simply means to describe the bonsai. Tell what you see. Talk about the tree, species, size, and style. This is not the place to add your opinions. You must be objective, like a detective who is surveying the scene of a crime and writing down only what you see.

Analysis

The next step is analysis. Here is the section where you will express your thoughts about what the message of the bonsai is. What idea does this tree represent? This section relies on your knowledge of the visual elements and principles of design to articulate in an intelligent manner the information or clues you see in the bonsai. You will answer the question: How is this work organized?

Interpretation

Interpretation is the step to express your opinions about what you think the tree means. Now you have the opportunity to discuss what this work of art means to you. Ask yourself "What does this bonsai say to me?" You must be able to articulate, or express yourself intelligently using words, and provide insightful

comments as to why you feel the mood or the meaning of the tree? Interpretation is very personal. Understand that your interpretation of a work may differ greatly from someone else's.

Judgment

Judgment is an important section because you can express your opinion. What do you think about this bonsai? Is the composition including the tree, container, stand and companion element successful? Do you like it? Would you display this bonsai in a museum? You should be able to give some reasons as to why you like or do not like a work of art.



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

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Getting the most out of your Milwaukee Bonsai Society membership

by Jack Douthitt

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society presents monthly programs on a wide variety of subjects. In addition, the club also sponsors continuing classes for every level of bonsai enthusiast, from beginner to advanced.

A Novice Class is offered every spring. This class is designed to provide basic information about the art of bonsai. It consists of 4 Saturday sessions (2 classroom style and 2 hands-on) and covers such subjects as wiring, styling, soils, and repotting. The students also visit a nursery to find suitable bonsai material.

An Intermediate Class is available for those members who have completed the Novice Class, or have experience equal to the class, but feel the need for additional instruction. This class meets for four

Most of the time is spent working on trees but some time is spent discussing specific bonsai techniques.

The Master Class is for those members who desire to learn advanced bonsai techniques. The class meets for four full day sessions during the growing season. For the last three years the class teacher has been the nationally known bonsai artist Ted Matson. An informational meeting for the 2008 Master Class is being held prior to the September meeting. Check your newsletter for more details.

As far as I know, there is no other club in the country that provides such a wide variety of continuing education for its members. During the enrollment period, each class is publicized in the newsletter and during club meetings. If you are serious about learning more about the growing of bonsai, watch for the announcement of these classes and sign up. The cost is nominal and you will be amazed at the improvement in your bonsai.

Marty Schmalenberg at MBS meeting Tuesday August 7



Mr. Susumu Nakamura graciously offered to take the Mahone Bonsai "kids" on a critique of the Midwest Bonsai Society Collection Saturday August 18.

Mr Nakamura & Makenzie J (Mahone Bonsai Club) and a tree which Mr Nakamura donated from his personal collection to the Botanic Garden and has since styled several times.

Makenzie has taken 2 workshops with Ted Matson and 1 with Jim Doyle. This year she exhibited at the State Fair and earned 1 blue and 1 red ribbon. Makenzie is also involved in ice skating and dancing and is a superior academic student.

Bonsai closes distances, connects generations and communicates between cultures.



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

Next Meeting of MBS
7PM, Tuesday, September 4
Grace Lutheran Church
3030 W. Oklahoma

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/Josh R - Librarians
Jean S - Telephone response
Mary T - Membership Chairperson

*Fireflies abound
twinkling 'neath the starry sky
watch as they vanish*

