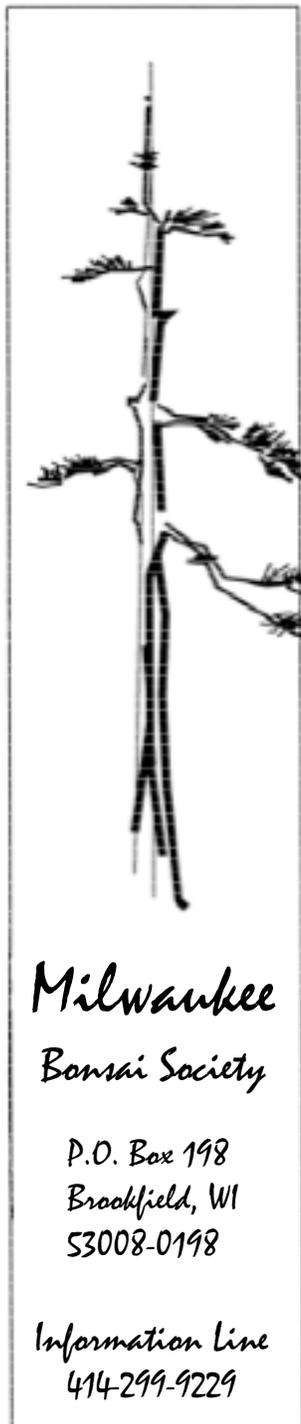


SEPTEMBER 2008

# Bonsai News



*Milwaukee  
Bonsai Society*

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

*Information Line  
414-299-9229*

## TIME TO GET READY FOR THE MBS CLUB SHOW!

Whether you entered a tree at State Fair or not, please bring a tree to exhibit at our club show on **September 2**. Ribbons will be given in the following categories: Youth, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Open (Open is open to anyone). Please have your trees there **BEFORE 6:45** so we can assemble the exhibit. Bring the following information: **common name of your tree, latin name and approximate age.**

Also, if you have lost a tree this year, bring it for a final display in our **DEAD TREE CONTEST** in October. Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

## SEPTEMBER

Sept 2 - CLUB MEETING\*  
Club Show and critique  
Sept 20 - Public Workshop \*  
Pre-registration required  
Limit of 25

## OCTOBER

Oct 7 - CLUB MEETING\*  
Dead Tree contest and  
fall clean up

## NOVEMBER

Nov 4 - CLUB MEETING\*  
Year end wrap-up

## DECEMBER

NO CLUB MEETING

## JANUARY

Friday Jan 9  
After the Holidays  
Holiday Party

\* Only meetings with an \*  
are open to the public.

**NEXT MEETING**  
September 2 - 7 pm  
Grace Lutheran Church

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** for the Public Workshop  
Saturday September 20..... 9 - noon at the church.  
Please bring tools.  
Sign up at the September Club meeting.

## President's Message

Thanks to all who gave of their time and efforts to make State Fair 2008 an excellent display of Bonsai trees. At the August meeting we had five visitors to the club meeting directly due to conversations and sharing of the excitement of bonsai at State Fair by knowledgeable and interesting tree sitters. Our judges were impressed by the quality and beauty of the trees on exhibit at all three shows. Congratulations to all the award winners. I sincerely hope that even if you did not enter a tree you were able to visit and see the fascinating displays.

It was a rare pleasure to have Martin Schmalenberg demonstrate the art of bonsai literati at the August meeting. Despite the rather stuffy and hot conditions, his slide show, discussion and tree styling offered all a chance to appreciate the art involved in literati creations. I am inspired to try some of his styling tips soon and hope others will too.

The September meeting will be our MBS club show. I invite all of our members to exhibit trees. Please remember to arrive a bit early so the committee can properly arrange the trees for viewing. You will need to sign in and fill out a form to place with your tree on display. Ribbons will be awarded by a judge and critique will be offered. I look forward to visiting during the social hour while the trees are judged and hearing the commentary.

As summer wanes, enjoy your trees,  
Sincerely,

*Jean*

Thank you to Ron F who served as the nomination chairperson. Following is a list of candidates for the 2009 Executive Board. If you wish to add you name to the following slate, please contact Ron at 262-490-8733 or [rfortmann@charter.net](mailto:rfortmann@charter.net) or you may nominate someone from the floor at a Club meeting.

President	Joe Herbert
1st Vice President	Jeff Moths
2nd Vice President	John Moore
Secretary	Pam Woythal
Director - 3 year position	Steve Carini

Those with terms to finish:

Treasurer	Laura Larabee
Director - 2 year position	Jerry Niemiec
Director - 1 year position	Michele Zimmer



Thank you to the out-going board members, Susan C, Allen K and Kris Z, who have given of their time and expertise to keep our Club active and exciting.

# State Fair Results

O=Open, A=Advanced, I=Intermediate, N=Novice, Y=Youth

Show #1 - July 31- August 3 - Judge: Ron Fortmann  
Fox Valley Bonsai & MBS

## Best of Show



Larch (O)- Dennis D



## Awards of Merit

Narrow Leaf Ficus (A) - Dennis C

Larch (A) - Dennis C

Vietnamese Water Jasmine (A) -  
Kris Z (MBS)

## Blue Ribbons

Larch (O)- Dennis D

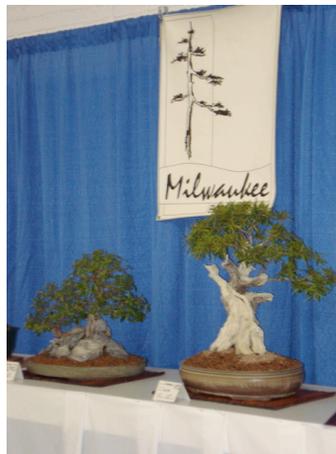
Narrow Leaf Ficus (A) - Dennis C

Larch (A) - Dennis C

Vietnamese Water Jasmine (A) -  
Kris Z (MBS)

Serissa (A) - Dennis C

Jade (O)- Dennis D



A big THANK YOU to Jean S who created the background scenery for this year's theme of "Windows and Doors". It took a lot of time and effort to put these screens together! Thanks, Jean.

## Red Ribbons

Mugho Pine (O) - Ralph M

Mugho Pine (A) - Dennis C

Juniper (O) - Ralph M

Ficus Burt Davii (O) - Ralph M

Boulevard Cypress(I) - Tony P (MBS)



## White Ribbons

Narrow Leaf Ficus (A) - Dennis C

Barberry (A) - Dennis C

Banyan ficus (A) - Dennis C

Hornbeam (O)- Dennis D

Narrow Leaf Ficus (O) - Dennis D

Golden Gate Ficus (I) - Tony P (MBS)

Fox Valley Volunteers



## State Fair Results (cont)

O=Open, A=Advanced, I=Intermediate, N=Novice, Y=Youth  
Show #2 - August 3-7 - Judge: Marty Schmalenberg  
Milwaukee Bonsai Society

### 2 "Firsts" for MBS at this show

This is the first time a visiting Master has judged a show!  
This is the first time two trees were awarded Best of Show!

#### Best of Show

Sharp's Pygmy Maple (O) - Jack D →  
Yew (A) - Kris Z →



#### Awards of Merit

Boxwood (A) - Jean S  
Ponderosa Pine (A) - Steve C  
Liquid Amber (A) - Pam W

#### Blue Ribbons

Sharp's Pygmy Maple (O) - Jack D  
Yew (A) - Kris Z  
Boxwood (A) - Jean S  
Ponderosa Pine (A) - Steve C  
Liquid Amber (A) - Pam W  
Shimpaku (A) - Jean S  
Corkbark Elm (A) - Ken K



#### Red Ribbons

Grape (I) - Jerry N  
Green Island Ficus (N) - Jorge R

#### White Ribbons

Phoenix Graft - Red Cedar (I) - Jim T  
Maple (I) - Jim T  
Shimpaku (I) - Richard P  
Black Pine (A) - Kris Z  
Schefflera (I) - Allen K  
Boulevard Cypress (I) - Tony P  
Caliandra (A) - Jean S



#### Honorable Mention

Kusamono - Steve C



## State Fair Results (cont)

O=Open, A=Advanced, I=Intermediate, N=Novice, Y=Youth

Show #3 - August 7-10 - Judge: Tom Longfellow

Milwaukee Bonsai Society

### Best of Show

Corkbark Elm (O) - Jack D



### Awards of Merit

Procumbens Nana Juniper (A) - Scott H

Fukien Tea (A) - Joe N

### Blue Ribbons

Corkbark Elm (O) - Jack D

Procumbens Nana (A) - Scott H

Fukien Tea (A) - Joe N

Boxwood (N) - Barbara S

Ficus (Y) - Kayla C

Shimpaku (A) - Jean S

### Red Ribbons

Fukien Tea (I) - Susan L

Kingsville Boxwood (I) - Susan L

False Aralia (Y) - Mahone Bonsai Boys

Burning Bush (I) - Tony P

Chinese Elm (A) - Jean S

Kingsville Boxwood (N) - Pat B



Procumbens Nana Juniper



Fukien tea

### White Ribbons

Japanese Yew (N) - David E

Ficus Grove (A) - Joe N

### Honorable mention

Kusamono - Allen K



# Bonsai from your backyard

## STAR MAGNOLIA

*Magnolia stellata*

Of all the Magnolia genus, the Star Magnolia (*Magnolia stellata*) has the best qualities for bonsai. It is a slow-growing, deciduous shrub with a dense bushy habit. Unlike some Magnolias that can take 20-30 years to flower for the first time, *M. stellata* bears white star shaped flowers on it's bare branches at a very early age. Due to it's relatively large flowers (5" across) and leaves (4" across) it tends to suit medium to large sized bonsai. It is most commonly seen in single or multiple trunk informal upright styles.

**General Cultivation:** Position in full sun or partial shade. Protect frosted flowers from the early morning sun as rapid thawing discolors and shortens the life of the flowers. Magnolias are otherwise fully hardy down to -10 degrees centigrade (14 F). Feed every two weeks whilst the tree is in leaf using a balanced fertilizer, from August the use of a low-nitrogen feed is recommended to harden the years growth in preparation for the winter.

**Repotting:** Repotting should be carried out in early spring as the flower buds start to extend. Magnolias dislike root disturbance and should only be repotted every 3 years, remove only 1/3 to 1/4 of the rootball. Use a basic bonsai soil mix. Contrary to popular opinion, *Magnolia stellata* does not require acidic soil; rather it dislikes lime/alkaline soil. Neutral to acid soil is sufficient. A twice yearly acid-based feed will neutralize any lime or alkaline in the soil.

**Pruning:** Prune back hard to shape after flowering - try to anticipate the growth that the tree will make in the following weeks. *M. stellata* puts out the majority of it's years' growth in the 5 or 6 weeks after flowering. In late June prune back to shape. After this time, next years' flower buds will be forming and further pruning will result in fewer flowers the following Spring.

**Propagation:** Magnolias are easily ground or air-layered in late spring. Root greenwood cuttings in early summer or semi-ripe cuttings in early Autumn.

**Pests and Diseases:** Magnolias are relatively disease free, yellow leaves are a sign of an alkaline soil, an acid-based feed should help green up the foliage. Aphids can occasionally be a problem. The main pests to be aware of are scale insects, particularly around flowering time. Either spray with Malathion before the flowers open or rub off with fingers. Do not spray open flowers with insecticides as they will discolor.

from: [www.bonsai4me.com](http://www.bonsai4me.com)



# Memorial Tree Workshop

What do you do with your deceased trees? Last winter was a bad one and many trees met their demise. Other than stoke the fire with them, here's something you can do to memorialize the tree you worked on for so long.

The trees pictured here are from a former member of the MBS who now resides in New Mexico. Yvonne S has made beautiful sculptures from her dead trees.



Join us at the Memorial Tree Workshop on Saturday October 25 from 9-12 at the church. Email [hagr8d@mac.com](mailto:hagr8d@mac.com) or call 262-512-1228 to register.



Start collecting a few trees, silk flowers, snow, etc. Anything you think you might need to re-create your tree. We have leaf punches and a number of silk flowers from which to punch the leaves. We may not have the colors you need, so rummage around at garage sales, Goodwill, etc to find what you want.



## FALL DEALS !!??

It's just about time for the garden centers to be having their fall sales on trees, etc. Many of us eagerly await this time of year to stock up on bonsai possibilities. So the question arises, ¿Are these really deals?

I look at my bonsai benches and realize that the majority of the trees I got on sale are no longer here. So did I waste my money? Not really. They offered me great practice in pruning, styling, wiring and trying to keep them alive. Better to experiment on something inexpensive than a real Pre-Bonsai specimen. A number of my deals died. so I learned something about how not to take care of them. The majority I just lost the vision and passed them on to other club members, some of whom did wonderful jobs re-creating them.

So, what are some things to remember as you hunt for deals:

1. Don't just buy because it's cheap. Really look at the trunk and the roots to see if there is a bonsai in there somewhere. (Remember, the trunk will not grow much once it's in a pot and a root bound tree will be hard to work on).

2. Make sure the tree is healthy.

3. If you just have to get a couple of trees, take note as to how you keep them though the winter. Did they survive?

All in all, purchasing sale trees can offer you an inexpensive way to increase your bonsai skills and who knows? Maybe you'll end up with a show-stopper!!

Many thanks to the following volunteers. For their contributions they have received Buddy Bucks worth \$3 each towards the After the Holidays Holiday Party on Friday January 9, 2009. A raffle ticket (to be used at any time) will be given for all buddy bucks over the 5 needed for the Holiday Party.

### WAUWATOSA GARDEN TOUR

2 Buddy Bucks  
Jean S, Allen K

### STATE FAIR 2008

1 Buddy Buck  
Pam W, Lori H, Ken K, Jorge R, Rocío S, Tom A, Susan C, Pauline J, Dennis G, Greg W, Karen G, Kayla C, Laura L, Joe N, Rita L, David E and Leo S

2 Buddy Bucks  
Ken J, Ron F. Steve C, Jerry N, Gen M, Pat B, Jack D, Susan L, Michelle Z, Norb B, Don G, Dione H and Scott H

3 Buddy Bucks  
Jeff M and John M

4 Buddy Bucks  
Bill G and Allen K

7 Buddy Bucks  
Kris Z

11 Buddy Bucks  
Jean S

13 Buddy Bucks  
Tony P

Martin Schmalenberg at Tuesday August 5 meeting.

Martin demonstrated the literati style on a hemlock and a number of other trees.

Martin's slide presentation gave way to much discussion.



## More State Fair Photos



Marty hugging the hemlock!





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

Next Meeting of MBS  
7PM, Tuesday, September 2  
Grace Lutheran Church  
3030 W. Oklahoma  
Milwaukee, WI

## 2008 MBS OFFICERS

The MBS Officers are:

President	Jean S
First VP	Joe H
Second VP	Allen K
Secretary	Susan C
Treasurer	Laura L
Director	Jerry N
Director	John M
Director	Michelle Z
Past Pres.	Kris Z

### Other Club Functions:

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



*Bonsai on display  
Admiring crowds passing by  
Beauty shared with all  
-Joe Nemec*