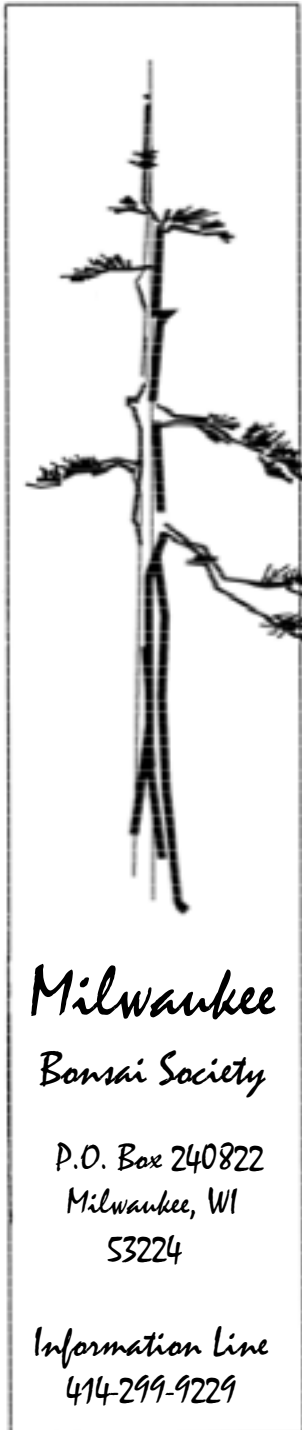


MARCH 2013

Bonsai News



COLIN LEWIS IN MARCH

For those who might not be familiar with Colin Lewis, here is a short resume:

At eight years old he made his first attempt at bonsai, inspired by a chapter in a children's activity book. Failure was inevitable.

Then working as a book designer, he made his second attempt at bonsai on the window ledge of his London flat. Success!

Window ledge now too small - moved to a large garden with a small house in Surrey. Joined the Bonsai Kai of the Japan Society of London.

Exhibited on gold medal winning stand at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Launched "Bonsai Magazine" in the UK and visited the first world convention in Omiya, Japan, to study bonsai in greater depth. Began teaching in UK.

Consulting Editor for "Bonsai" magazine (UK).

Board Member of the European Bonsai Association

Member of the Bonsai Judging Panel at the Chelsea Flower Show, London

Relocated to the United States to work full-time as a bonsai teacher, artist and consultant

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2013 Events

MARCH

March 1-3 - Colin Lewis Intensive Weekend

March 5 - Club Meeting
Guest Artist Colin Lewis -
Juniper styling Demo

March 23 - Novice Class #1

APRIL

April 2 - Club Meeting
Guest Artist Ted Matson -
Black Pine styling Demo

April 5-7 - Ted Matson workshops

April 14 - Novice Class #2 and repotting workshop

MAY

May 4 - Spring Public Workshop

May 4 - Novice Class #3

May 7 - Society Meeting
Blended Tree Demo

May 10 - National Public Gardens Day at Boerner Botanical Gardens

May 18-19 - Bonsai Shows in Chicago and Madison

www.milwaukeebonsai.org

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday Mar 5 - 6:45 pm
Boerner Botanical Gardens

President's Message

Greetings to all bonsai enthusiasts

We have two excellent bonsai artists coming to Milwaukee in the near future. First is Colin Lewis. He will be here for the March MBS Meeting on March 5th. He will also be headlining a sold-out intensive bonsai workshop the weekend before the meeting. Mr Lewis will be styling a Society owned juniper during the Tuesday night meeting, don't miss this demo.

In April our Society sensei, Ted Matson, will be in Milwaukee for his only visit this year. Check this newsletter for workshop registration information. It's always a good bonsai day when you work with Ted.

Each year we should emphasize one area of skills improvement. This year we will ask all of our presenters to give more focus to wiring. This is an area where almost all of us could use some help.

Our Silhouette Display at the Domes this past weekend was well attended and again as we have seen at our most recent displays and exhibits there was a lot of enthusiasm from the public.

The schedule for next year is almost set. Arthur Joura, the curator of the North Carolina Arboretum has confirmed his visit to Milwaukee in June of 2014. We are proposing workshops with Mr Joura on the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday before the Society meeting. Mr Joura is willing to return in 2015 if there is enough interest.

We have also received an initial agreement from Peter Tea to teach a Masters/Advanced Class here in Milwaukee. The Class will meet three times a year for three years. We will try to begin this Class in 2014. More information about the Class and registration as it becomes available.

The MBS Website will soon include a section devoted to our library. Our book collection is quite extensive and a listing of these publications will be included on the website. We will try to

have these books available for check out during monthly meetings

The Novice Class this year will have its first meeting on March 23rd this year. A sign up sheet for the Novice Class will be available at the open workshop on February 24th and at the March 5th monthly meeting. Please refer to the related article in this issue.

"There is always music amongst trees in the garden, but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it" - Minnie Aumonior

- *Steve*

COLIN LEWIS (cont)

Residing just north of Kennebunkport in Southern Maine, USA, and working full-time as a bonsai teacher, artist and consultant

Founder and Principal of the [Ho Yoku School of Bonsai](#) ; Bonsai Consultant to the historic [Lars Anderson Collection](#), Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Boston.

Colin has written seven books and has contributed to numerous bonsai publications.



TED MATSON

COMING IN APRIL

IS

Advanced/Master's class

Last year Ted was recognized for his great service to Golden State Bonsai Federation and to the art of bonsai. To impress the significance of this award (the President's Gold Diamond Award), we should note only one other person has ever been bestowed this award and that was John Naka.

*Ted's service extends to our club. We owe a great deal of our continued growth and success to him. Ted has been our club's sensei (Japanese title used to refer to or address for master instructor) for the past 10 years. All of the novice and intermediate instructors at Milwaukee Bonsai Society have been students of Ted. At this year's Tuesday evening meeting, Ted will continue working on a Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus thunbergii*). Pines are one of the classic tree genera used for bonsai throughout the world, however they are also one of the most difficult to understand how to style and prune.*

He will discuss/analyze this tree with an eye toward future refinement. He will highlight specific structural elements or processes that help to create the highest levels of bonsai expression.

Also last year, Ted was named Curator of the Bonsai Collections housed at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California.



Peter Tea has assented to teach a Study Group in Milwaukee!!

You do not need to have advanced skills for this class. It is meant to take students with intermediate and above skill levels and improve upon them. This training session is intensive study with Peter 3 times a year for three years. A master's class must have total commitment.

Keep watching the newsletter for more information about the Master's class, Those interested can contact Barbara S at 2b2sweet@sbcglobal.net or 414-462-0938.

NOTES FROM JOE N.

Moss growing in a moss garden can be fertilized by a mixture of 10 parts of water to 1 part of unsweetened yogurt by volume.

TED MATSON WORKSHOPS

We will have 3 days of workshops with Ted, Friday April 5, Saturday April 6 and Sunday April 7 at Boerner downstairs.

This may be your only chance to work with a guest artist until our Annual Club Show in September.

Ted is a wonderful teacher (talk with members who have taken classes with him), so bring a notebook or tape recorder so you're sure to get down great information about your trees and others.

The workshops:

Full day workshops - 8:30 - 4:30 with a lunch break \$115

Half day workshops - 8:30 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 4:30 \$65

Please fill out the following form and bring it to the February 24 workshop or the March meeting with your check or send to our P.O. Box 240822 Milwaukee, WI 53224

Silent observers:

\$5 - 1/2 day, \$10 full day

Pay at the door

REMEMBER - YOUR MEMBERSHIP MUST BE CURRENT TO PARTICIPATE

Ted Matson Workshops - April 5-7, 2013

Name _____

Home phone _____

Cell _____

Email _____

Choice of workshop day(s) (1st, 2nd, 3rd choice)

Friday _____ Saturday _____ Sunday _____

Full Day \$115 - check # _____ or cash _____

1/2 day \$65 - check # _____ or cash _____

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!!

If you choose 1/2 day, please indicate am or pm

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

2013 NOVICE CLASSES

by Ron Fortmann

If you are in the early stages of learning about the bonsai hobby, these classes will help expand your knowledge of understanding of bonsai styles, practices and techniques and set the foundation on which your future bonsai experiences and lessons will build.

Novice classes this year will be lead by Steve Carini and Ron Fortmann. This series of four classes will review a number of topics in each session and you will also work on a provided tree in the forth session. We will work from a text that will be provided as part of the classes. A general outline of what we will cover is as follows:

- Session One March 23 at Boerner Botanical Gardens – Grandparents Room
 - Introductions and expectations from students and leaders
 - Bonsai History
 - Bonsai Tools
 - Bonsai Terms
 - Bonsai Styles
 - Bonsai Horticulture
 - Declaration of tree selection for the forth session
- Session Two April 14th at Boerner Botanical Gardens – Grandparents Room
 - Review Styles and their application
 - Bonsai Rules
 - Bonsai Development
 - Pot Selection
 - Discussion about Taper
 - Wire and Wiring
- Session Three May 4th at Boerner botanical Gardens – Grandparents Room
 - Bonsai Soils
 - Bonsai Fertilization
 - Potting/Repotting practices
 - Repotting Workshop
- Session Four - Date and Location To Be Determined
 - Review previous sessions
 - Work on your class tree

The cost of these four classes is \$100.00 which must be paid by the first session to reserve your space. Class participation will be based on first paid first included basis. Class size will be limited but if there is enough interest there may be a second session planned to accommodate all those who are interested.

If you are interested please let me know by phone 262-490-8733 or email aabonsai@charter.net and have your payment at the March meeting or send it to the Milwaukee Bonsai Society, PO Box 240822, Milwaukee WI 53224

Spotlight on MBS Members

Interview with Kris Ziemann

Our current membership has the growth opportunities because of past efforts by many individuals. This column will offer a look at them with a short interview so we can get to know our members and heroes.

Can You Tell us a Bit about Who You are?

I just retired from a long teaching career. I started just after college in Appleton, WI to fill in a semester, then down to Prairie View / Lincolnshire, IL to teach (about 4 1/2 years) until I got married. After a few years hiatus, I began teaching again at Homestead HS in Mequon. I stayed there 21 years until I retired in June of 2011. So, teaching is in my blood. Every September I get the urge to head back to school.

I love to travel. In college I studied in Germany and Spain. I've been many times to Ireland, Scotland, England - kind of like my homeland. Some of the most impressive places I have visited are the Alps (first time I ever skied was in the Alps), the Great Wall (I saw lots of bonsai in China, but could never stop to admire as I was on a tour) and Macchu Picchu in Peru.

At present, I still substitute teach as well as foster rescue dogs. Oh, yes. And there's bonsai, too!!

In your bonsai career, what failure or lesson have you experienced that has changed how you do bonsai today?

Patience is a key to learning bonsai techniques. In the beginning, I was a card carrying member for a while, because I was afraid to make mistakes on my bonsai. I am a visual learner, so I attended many workshops / demos to pick up the art. But, if you don't cut off a few wrong branches or forget to water each tree appropriately some will die. But, that's how I learned. I am still a little reticent working on trees I'm not familiar with, but with guidance from visiting artists, I am no longer fearful

of cutting, pruning, re-potting, etc. It just took practice, practice, practice and a lot of patience.

What technique are you finding most difficult?

The most difficult thing for me is the artistic side. I am still a bit left-brained, so I get the mechanics quite well. I had to look at a lot of pictures in books, online, exhibits to start seeing the artistic side. I still can look at a tree for a long while and not 'visualize' it's potential. When possibilities are pointed out by guest artists or more knowledgeable club members, I can then 'see' and go from there with my own ideas. It's a life-long project this bonsai!

This Leads into the Primary Question: What are you finding to be the most fun?

Being a teacher, I am also very enthusiastic about learning. I love going to workshops to work with guest artists. I have traveled to Washington, DC (the 5th World Bonsai Convention and the National Arboretum), New York (1st National Exhibit), California (GSBF convention) and to a few midwestern states to attend MABA conventions. This combines my love for travel and bonsai.



Kris at Blarney Castle in Ireland

Milwaukee Bonsai Society Membership Form 2013

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # (home) _____

(cell) _____

*Email _____

Check # _____

for (circle)

Single 1 year \$25 2 years \$48 3 years \$70

Family 1 year \$35 2 years \$68 3 years \$100

(*This e-mail address will not be shared with other parties and is for MBS Board use only.)

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





P.O. Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI 53224
www.milwaukeebonsai.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS
Tuesday March 5, 2013
Boerner Botanical Gardens
9400 Boerner Dr
Hales Corners, WI 53130

2013 MBS OFFICERS

President	Steve Con.
First VP	Judy S
Second VP	Kris Z
Secretary	Ron F
Treasurer	Susan L
Director	John M
Director	Barbara S
Director	Allen K
Past Pres.	Pam W

Other Club Functions:

Newsletter - Kris Z
Webmaster- Pam W
PAB Board - Rob P, Anna S & Houston S

