Ted will be working on a black pine at the Tuesday evening, April 2, society meeting. Ted has a wealth of information about black pines as well as other trees. There are still a few openings in the workshops Saturday April 5 and Sunday April 6. Please see the reservation form on page 3.

2013 Events

APRIL
April 2 – Club Meeting
Guest Artist Ted Matson - Black Pine styling Demo
April 5-7 – Ted Matson workshops
April 14 – Novice Class #2 9-12 and repotting workshop 12-2:00

MAY
May 4 – Spring Public Workshop
May 4 – Novice Class #3
May 7 – Society Meeting
Blended Tree Demo/Workshop
May 10 – National Public Gardens Day at Boerner Botanical Gardens
May 11 (Sat) – Forest workshop
May 18-19 – Bonsai Shows in Chicago and Madison

JUNE
June 4 – Society Meeting
New thinking in fertilizers
June 16 (Sun) – Boerner’s Fathers Day in the park
June 22 (Sat) – Intermediate Class #1
www.milwaukeebonsai.org

STARTING IN APRIL
Come to the society meetings at 6:00 for social time and to work on trees. See the short article on page 2 for a special event during April’s social time!
**President's Message**

Happy Spring?? Is this really April? All the outdoor trees are getting a much longer rest this year compared to last.

Impressive! MBS has some very dedicated members. On Tuesday March 5th, 32 of us braved the terrible weather only to wait for an hour in the parking lot until the facilities were opened (an hour late)! For those who did persist it was worth it. The demonstration by Colin Lewis was excellent. The juniper that he worked on is much smaller now and shows a lot of promise as a bonsai. His use of a torch to add years to the look of the tree was successful and luckily the smoke alarm and sprinkler system were not activated. I even received an email from Colin indicating how impressed he was with the turnout.

Beginning with the April meeting, we will start the monthly meetings at 6 PM (on a trial basis) with a social time where members can bring trees that they have questions about and would like advice from other members. Coffee will be served and maybe a snack. The library will be open at this time also to allow members to check out or return books from the MBS collection. We will also have a table with a few items for sale like pins and aprons.

There are still a few openings to work with Ted Matson on Saturday April 6th and Sunday April 7th. Check with Kris Z at the meeting on April 2 if you are interested.

A reminder to those of you who are interested in the intermediate class this year, the first meeting will be on June 22nd at BBG. More information at the April meeting.

"Trees are always a relief, after people" - David Mitchell

**Steve**

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**Green Box**

Come one, come all... to our first social before the April meeting. We’ll have coffee, tea and munchies.

Bring along a tree to work on or to receive advice on.

We will also be offering a swap / sale of any pots you may want to bring. If you have pots you won’t be using bring them along. If you need pots for repotting, bring along some cash :o)

All the fun starts at 6:00, Tuesday April 2
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

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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
Blended tree workshop at the May 7 Society Meeting

10 participants are needed to demonstrate how to create a larger tree by using whips. Ron F and Kris Z will be instructing the participants while meeting attendees look on. We will start with 6 ‘whips’ (dwarf flowering crab or hornbeam). By melding them together a larger trunk and branch placement may be accomplished in a shorter period of time. Once you understand how this is done, you can experiment with other varieties of trees. See the reservation form at the bottom of this page to reserve your spot.

Blended tree workshop - Reservation form

Name ________________________________  Home phone # _____________________
Email ________________________________  Cell phone # ______________________
Cost = $22
check # __________ for $22  Please send to: MBS  P.O. Box 240822, Milwaukee, WI 53224
or bring to the April Meeting

Forest workshop coming May 11

Workshop will be limited to 6 paying participants who will need to bring along a partner (at no cost) to hold trees in place while planting.

Jean S, winner of several awards for her forests, will be the instructor.

Please indicate your interest to Jean S jsher46@wi.rr.com ASAP (to determine the number of trees needed).

Material and cost TBD

See next month’s newsletter for the reservation form. 1st come...
Are you curious about your club? What is the history of MBS? What are the club’s seven standing committees? What activities do we plan for the Southeastern Wisconsin community? What are MBS policies? What is the difference between a workshop and a class? These are several questions that are answered in MBS Membership Booklet. This twenty-eight page booklet can be read online or downloaded in pdf format for printing.

It’s free for all MBS members. To read go to membership page on the website or use this link to directly get it: http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/Newsletters/MBS_Membership_Handbook.pdf

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:
Reportting Additives
by Pam W

Recently we have been learning how important various additives and nutrients are for our bonsai. New products and thinking are always being discovered and discussed. Not long ago I was using Osmocote as an additive during my repotting until I experienced several trees that reacted badly (including died) to this flush of fertilizing early in spring.

Today, I have been using several natural products with no additives, synthetics or fillers. They do not burn my trees and will not restrict aeration or water penetration. I am also experimenting with plant activators. I am sharing my approach to ensuring bonsai health throughout the years between repotting.

continued on next page
**Mycorrhizae** are fungi that have a symbiotic relationship with tree roots. Over 95% of plant species form symbiotic relationships with mycorrhizal fungi. The fungi provide nutrients and water to their host plants in exchange for carbohydrates and other goodies. To explore US Government funded research related to mycorrhizal inoculation see

http://search.usa.gov/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&sc=0&query=mycorrhizal&locale=en&m.embedded=&affiliate=usagov&filter=moderate&commit=Search

Many times you can find and collect the fungi in soil of established trees. Pine trees are the obvious choice. It can be spotted by its white color in the soil. To inoculate your soil, dig core samples from the root area of the established tree and mix it in with your soil. I purchase my Mycorrhizae inoculant from various bonsai vendors. Lately I sprinkle Chappy's Power Organics Root Booster directly on the roots.

**Trace Minerals** is natural mined rock. I use Azomite from a specific volcanic deposit in central Utah. Mineralogical, the material can be described as a rhyolitic tuff breccia, which is a hard rock formation formed from the dust of a volcano that exploded, much like when Mount St. Helens did in 1980. Its uniqueness stems from the multitude of trace minerals found in the deposit. Azomite has 67 major and trace elements, so its trade name means "A to Z Of Minerals Including Trace Elements. Chemically, it is a hydrated sodium calcium aluminosilicate (HSCAS) containing other minerals and trace elements. I have been sprinkling this pink powder (trace elements) into my soil mix when repotting for several years.

**Thiamine (Vitamin B1)**, Naphthalene acetic acid (NAA) and Indole acetic acid (IAA) are beneficial following root trauma. These plant hormones stimulate root tip growth and division; we use them commonly for cuttings and for most potted plants after replanting. That is how we stimulate roots to form from a callus in tissue culture.

Plants need Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Potassium, Iron, Manganese, Magnesium, Zinc, water and sunlight to grow. These elements are essential for photosynthesis. I would add that plants get most of these elements through fine roots- so if you have traumatized the roots it will help to encourage new root growth.

One delightfully pragmatic rooting stimulant is homemade willow water. Operating on the theory that because willow branches root so easily when stuck in soil, some gardeners soak cut willow branches in water, and use that water as a root stimulant for all their vegetable sets and other transplants, including bonsai.

You can buy B1, NAA and IAA in solution under the names Rootone (made by GardenTech) or Growth Formula (made by Agricrop). I use Superthrive and on occasion HB101. I just add several drops to my water and water the newly potted trees until the water flows freely through the pot.

In a future article I will share some of the discoveries of Plant Activators and Strengtheners.
Next Meeting of MBS
Tuesday April 2, 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

Cold northern winds cease.
Gentle breezes from the south
Calmly waft in spring.