

NOVEMBER 2013

Bonsai News

ONLY WEEKS TO GO

Nine weeks ago, Jack D. announced that he would match contributions to a fund
for a

Public Bonsai Collection in Milwaukee.

Since then, the bonsai community
has contributed \$34,616 dollars!
This is an accomplishment we can be proud of!

BUT

Our goal is \$50,000 by the end of the year, so
we need to raise an additional \$15,384 in the next six weeks.

WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN DO IT

If three people contribute \$5,000 each
(several people have donated at this level)

or

Sixteen people contribute \$1000 each

or

Thirty two people contribute \$500 each

WE WILL MEET OUR GOAL!

Every contribution, regardless of size, gets us closer to our goal!

But we need everyone to contribute.

If you have not yet made your contribution

or

**want to increase the size of your
previous contribution**

[Click here to](#)

[Donate](#)

But don't delay because, the money has to be deposited before the end of the year to
meet Jack's challenge. Or, if you are coming to the Holiday Party bring it with you.

Think what a party it would be, if we could reach our goal
by the night of the party!!!!!!!



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

*P.O. Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI
53224*

*Information line
414-299-9229*

NEXT MEETING

Sunday Feb 16

Boerner Botanical Gardens

President's Message

Seasons Greetings to all,

This is my last message as president. It has been a very interesting two years for me serving as your leader. I have learned that there is group of people who are very committed to this society but the successes that we have attained over the years are due to the membership as a whole and our love of bonsai. I applaud you all.

Since I joined the society about 12 years ago one of our main goals was to have a permanent bonsai collection in the Milwaukee area. About 2 years ago the Executive Committee began to work toward this goal with more vigor. Then along comes Jack D. with his challenge grant. A tremendous forward move is now being taken. The Lynden Sculpture Garden is showing a lot of promise as the venue for the bonsai collection. This would be a good fit since bonsai is essentially living sculpture. We have to realize also that if these plans come true and Milwaukee is home to a world-class bonsai collection that it will be more work for our society but I think the commitment is there to help maintain the collection.

That said, we have not quite reached our fundraising goal. If you have not contributed to the collection fund yet please do so. Remember, every dollar you donate by the end of the year will be matched (up to \$50,000) by Jack. See related articles in this issue.

Speaking for the society I would like to thank the outgoing members of the Executive Committee Kris Z., Pam W., John Moore and Ron F. The experience and wisdom they brought to the EC was a tremendous help to me and they will be missed. New to the EC next year will be Teri W. and John M. The make up of the new EC will afford younger members a stronger voice in determining the future direction of the society. Welcome newbies.

Don't forget to register for our Holiday Party. The registration form is in last month's newsletter. Also see related article in this issue. Please note that in lieu of present exchange this year we will be passing the hat to try to reach our fundraising goal.

Happy Holidays. tree, don't miss the opportunity!

- *Steve*



SPECIAL NEWS



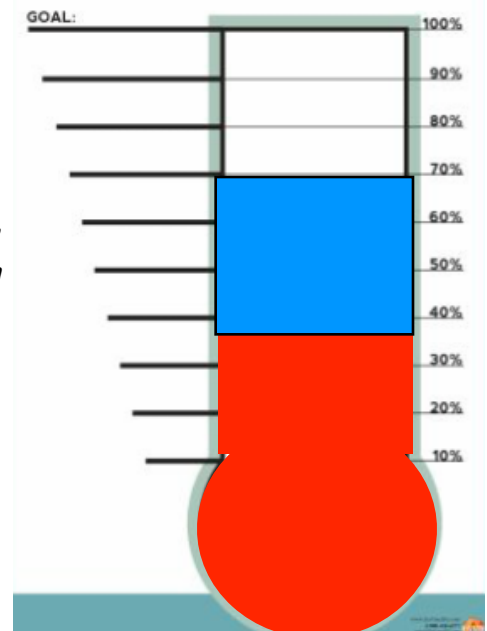
Holiday Party 2013

This year instead of a gift exchange at the holiday Party bring a donation for the Permanent Bonsai Collection Fund. Make your Checks payable to Milwaukee Bonsai Society, and receive a tax deduction. Even if you have donated already, donating the amount you would have spent on a gift would be great gift for everyone in the club, and matched by the Jack D. Challenge Grant.

**\$100,000
by
December
31, 2013!!**



Challenge Grant



A Collection's Story

A look at the North Carolina Arboretum Collection By Pam W

Curator



Arthur Joura is the Curator of Bonsai for the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville and is the chief engineer and moving forces behind the annual Carolina Bonsai Expo, the premier bonsai event in the southeastern US.

Mr. Joura has been the bonsai Collection

curator at the NC Arboretum since the collection's beginning in 1992, when Mr. and Mrs. George Staples of Butner, N.C., offered a significant collection of bonsai specimens to the Arboretum. Arthur was selected to learn about and manage the collection because of his extensive education and talent in art, as well as his growing interest in horticulture. His credentials tell it all: School of Visual Arts and The Art Student's League in New York City.

One of Arthur's first assignments was to attend the 1993 Second World Bonsai Convention in Orlando, Florida. Arthur trained at the National Arboretum's Bonsai and Penjing Museum, in a study experience with the Nippon Bonsai Association, and in New York State as the last student of Japanese-born and classically trained Yuji Yoshimura, father of American Bonsai, before he died in 1997.

Today, Joura manages the bonsai collection, probably the largest of its kind in America and certainly the finest collection in the Southeast, at the stunning North Carolina Arboretum, affiliated with the University of North Carolina.

Over the past decade, Joura has built the bonsai program, which originated with a donation of 100 bonsai from a family in Butner, N.C., into a nationally recognized collection and the arboretum's strongest component.

In the years that have followed, Arthur has built the collection and program into one of the best in the U.S. through acquisition of gift specimens as well as through crafting his own specimens. The Bonsai Exhibition Garden, funded entirely by private donations, opened to the public in October 2005, the culmination of a three-year design process in which Arthur was intimately involved.

Collection

The arboretum, which began in 1986, is home to the richest biodiversity in the world, has 65 acres of cultivated gardens, 10 miles of hiking and biking trails and a greenhouse system developed by Dutch horticultural scientists that is state-of-the-art and then some. The greenhouse - actually several barn-shaped, full-windowed buildings - runs on autopilot and is kept cool and crisp by an air-water system that makes air conditioning seem like the Gobi Desert.

Joura says the arboretum has never had to purchase any of its bonsai. He isn't certain of the ages of the trees, but that isn't the important element for the maestro of the little world. It is the art, the statement, the individuality of the tree, its shape and what it conveys to the observer. It is all very Zen-like.



"These trees can live hundreds of years. Bonsai is thousands of years old," says Joura. "The trees we have could be from 20 to 70 years old. Some older. Who knows?" As if to say, "you are missing the important stuff here. Look, take in the environment of the little world, understand what it means."



A two-foot plant in a ceramic bowl could be a 20-foot tall tree in the wild. He has reduced such plants as the Native American elm, witch alder, red maple, Virginia pine and American hornbeam to mere inches of their wild selves.

The greenhouse is also home to glorious tropical bonsai: willow leaf ficus (*Ficus neriifolia*), paper flower (*Bougainvillea glabra*) and coontie (*Zamia pumila*). Of course, the collection also has much more traditional trees, the ones most everyone has seen in the local garden shops: Japanese maple, Chinese elm, Japanese white pine, Japanese black pine and Satsuki azalea.

Some of the azaleas, which he has miniaturized to look like a tree instead of a shrub, bloom in magnificent profusion. They have been reduced in size so the roots, which are trained to spread wide instead of deep, fit in a bowl barely big enough to hold a foot of dirt.

Bonsai, Joura says, is all about wires, stunting and training a limb to go the way you want it to go. He wraps coils of wire around tiny limbs.

Other tree limbs have braces. Some are pulled and harnessed with pieces of small rubber patches to prevent damage.

In some larger arrangements, several of the diminutive trees join other elements to create entire settings, representing a full forest, or a forest scene. Sand and pebbles are used to simulate water.

Artist Visit to MBS

Arthur has developed a special interest in the use of native species for bonsai and the artful display of bonsai in American environments and will be the featured speaker at our June 2014 MBS meeting.

This statement can sum up Joura's bonsai philosophy: "At its best, bonsai is living art, expressing in miniature an experience of nature." In his development of the Arboretum's collection (which now numbers over 200 specimens, plus many others in production), Joura constantly seeks to forge connections between the art of bonsai and the Arboretum's mission to promote appreciation of the flora and culture of the Southern Appalachians. He has introduced to bonsai culture more than 50 different species native to western North Carolina, and created several tray landscapes depicting well-known natural sites of the region. Perhaps of even greater significance, the model for the Arboretum's bonsai plantings as Joura styles them is not the bonsai depicted in books and magazines, but rather the example of nature as represented by the wild trees of the forests and mountain tops of the Blue Ridge region. Joura feels that this is a return to the roots of bonsai as an artistic expression, not of a certain culture, but of an individual's experience of the natural world around them.

Photos from the last meeting: working on the club Hemlock...



MEMBERSHIP PRICES GOING UP
Dues haven't changed since 2006. Because of the number of exciting programs MBS is bringing to its membership, it was necessary to up the dues a bit:

Individual	1 year	\$30
	2 years	\$57
	3 years	\$84
Family	1 year	\$42
	2 years	\$81
	3 years	\$120

RENEW BEFORE JANUARY 1 USING THE OLD PRICES!!

Please remember that if you are a lifetime member, it is an individual membership only.

RENEW NOW AT OLD PRICES!!!

Please remember that if you are a lifetime member,
it is an individual membership only.

Milwaukee Bonsai Society



2013 Membership Application

Contact Information

Please Print:

Name(s)	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Home Phone	
Cell/Work Phone	
E-Mail Address	

Membership Type

New or Renewal:

- Individual 1 year \$25 Individual 2 years \$48 Individual 3 years \$70
 Family 1 year \$35 Family 2 years \$68 Family 3 years \$100

Overpayment of dues will be considered a donation to the club. MBS is a non-profit organization under 501(3) (c)

Interests

Tell us in which areas you are interested in volunteering

- Events Administration Other (let us know your interest)
 Fundraising Newsletter production
 Tree Exhibiting/Sitting Volunteer coordination

Payment

Please make your check or money order payable to: **Milwaukee Bonsai Society**

Mail to:

Milwaukee Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI 53224

Our Policy

This information will not be published or otherwise distributed to the public and is for MBS Board members only. MBS membership applications are also accepted at monthly meetings, which the public is always invited.

Thank you for completing this application form and for your interest in joining and volunteering with us.

Problems for Trees...

By Pam W

Excessive Leaf Shedding and Yellow Leaves

If your tree sheds an abnormally high amount of leaves, or the leaves are yellow, it is symptomatic of three things; too much water, too little water or not enough sunlight.

Typically the cause of yellowing leaves is not enough sunlight. Make sure your tree is placed in an area where it gets six hours of direct light exposure daily. Some trees, depending on the species, can suffer from too much shade. Simply put, many conifers and hardwood trees have to be in full sunlight most of the day to survive. These trees are what foresters and botanists call "shade intolerant". Trees that can take shade are "shade tolerant".

Excess leaf shedding is usually a watering issue, or your tree may be pot bound. Normally it is a result of too much or too little watering. The soil should be on the dry side of moist before you water.



Pests Have Invaded My Tree

Every once in a while, your tree might become infested with common garden pests, this can be easily rectified. First of all, you will be able to see the pests on or around the tree. A good misting usually does the trick. Every so often, you may have to remove pests by hand. Use a tweezer to remove the pests, usually aphids or possibly scale. Then, mist the tree and add misting to your maintenance schedule. That should resolve the issue.

Make sure you regularly cleanse the bark according to the problem areas. You can use a home based solution such as vinegar to clean up the bark problems. Apple cider vinegar can also be used. This will regularly clean up the bark and provide you with a great texture of the plant.

Evidence of Decay

Decaying trees are prone to failure, but the presence of decay alone does not necessarily mean failure. Still, advanced decay (soft, crumbly wood with a cavity) is serious. Advanced decay is associated with cracks, weak branch unions, or other defects.

Cankers and Splits

Canker-causing microorganisms often become established on dying branches before invading the trunk. Most cankers start from poorly healed branch stubs.

The bark often splits above and below poorly healed branch stubs. These splits are additional entry points for trunk-infecting microorganisms.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT OVER-WINTERING YOUR TREES, PLEASE SEE LAST YEAR'S DECEMBER ONLINE ISSUE. Lots of good information....



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

Next Meeting of MBS
Sunday Feb 16, 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, Ron F & Houston S



Tropical bonsai
Bedecked with things of Christmas
Brings holiday cheer

- Joe N