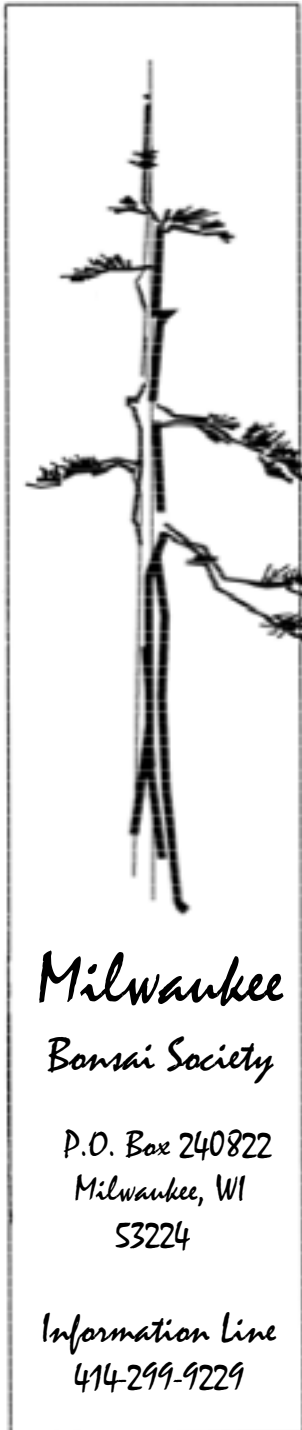


APRIL 2015

Bonsai News



At last!!

***The long-awaited
GROUP SLASH.
What is that, you ask?***

***We will be bringing in 6 or 7
trees to be worked on 'by
committee'. Get together
with a group and decide
what to do to make this
tree look like a bonsai. It's
a great way for beginners
to see how more
experienced bonsaists view
raw material.***

***There will be cutting,
wiring, styling but no
repotting. Please bring
along tools.***

***At the end of the evening a
non-bonsai person will look
at the trees and decide the
1st, 2nd and 3rd places.
Awards will be given and
the trees will be
auctioned off.***

***Also, there will be raffles
and a silent auction for a
greenhouse in great
condition.***

2015

APRIL

- Apr 7 - Society Meeting**
Group Slash
Apr 11 (Sat)- Novice Class #4*
Apr 12 (Sunday) - Repotting
Workshop 10-1

MAY

- May 2 - Children's workshop
(grades 1-5) at Lynden
9:00 - 12:00
May 3-Intermediate Class #1*
May 5 Society Meeting
Guest Artist - Mauro
Stemberger
May 6-7 - Mauro Stemberger
workshops*
May 8 (Friday) National Public
Gardens day at Boerner
May 29-31 Peter Tea Classes
#2 *

May 30-Exhibit at Lynden

JUNE

- June 1 - Peter Tea Class #2*
June 2 Society Meeting
Guest Artist - Peter Tea
June 20 - Teen's Workshop at
Boerner 9-12
June 21 - Intermediate Class
#2*
June 28 - Teen's workshop at
Lynden 1-4

***Members only**

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday Apr 7 - 6:45 pm
Boerner Botanical Gardens

President's Message

Greetings Everyone!

As I sit here writing this it's 55 degrees out! Hopefully it stays around for a while. And no more snow, please.

I hope everyone who had a chance to work with Andy Smith learned a lot and had a good time. Andy really enjoyed his experience here and even sent a thank you note to us. I think it's a first.

The meeting for April will be exciting with the group slash. It's design and style a bonsai as a group. Trees will be available to work on and then judged. Then they will be auctioned off. Fun working on and learning how other people work on designing a bonsai.

April is a transitional month. Moving trees out of winter storage? This means having to provide frost protection for emerging buds and leaves. If leaves suffer frost burn before new leaf buds have developed, some

branches may die back.. It may mean moving trees in and out of protection during this month. Indoor tropical trees should not be moved outside until night temperatures remain above 50°F. Shelter newly potted trees from excessive sun, wind and rain. It's also a time when there is bursts of vigorous growth. Check any wiring on your trees. Especially deciduous trees. During this period of vigorous growth, rotate your trees for even light to avoid strong directional growth of new shoots. Feeding routines should be underway at this time on established trees, not potted this spring. Did I mention check your wiring? This would also be a good time to strip bark for shari and jin. The bark strips away easily and the wood will dry for summer application of lime-sulfur. Let's get those trees growing!

Greg



Intermediate Class anyone?

For those who have not yet taken the Intermediate Class, please check the website for the printable form:

http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/Newsletters/Intermediate_Class_Flyer.pdf

Classes begin May 3!

At the April Society Meeting, MBS members may sign up for a membership at Boerner for a \$10 discount. This is for new Boerner memberships only. Renewing members would pay the regular price. Having a Boerner membership will get you into the Chicago Botanical Garden for free.

Looking for a newsletter editor to put out the monthly newsletter. Follow the format currently used or create your own. It's a way to keep in the know about what's going on in MBS.

Please contact Kris at hagr8d@mac.com or 262-512-1228

Thanks



Photos from Andy Smith workshops
and Tuesday night meeting...



The Milwaukee Chapter of the Arbor Arts Collective (AAC) is offering their services to those who may be in need of assistance in moving their trees due to age, disability, injury or other factors which may make moving your trees difficult. This includes moving trees in or out of winter storage, or even just help moving one particularly large tree that you can no longer manage.

This service is on an "as available" basis. We currently have about 10 members in the Milwaukee chapter so there is a pretty good chance that we will have someone available.

This service is free to MBS members, though those in outlying areas may consider offering fuel compensation.

Simply shoot us an email at arborartscollective@gmail.com including your name, contact info and the day that you would need assistance. We will then see if we have someone available and get back to you. Requests with advance notice would be best to ensure someone is available. Last minute requests may have very little likelihood of having someone available.

This is just one small way for us to pay back to those who may have given of themselves over the years, and to pay forward for those of us that may one day need similar assistance.

Have a good day !
The Arbor Arts Collective

Workshops with Mauro Stemberger

Bring your own material workshops with Mauro Stemberger will be on Wednesday May 6th and Thursday May 7th. The 8 am to 4 pm workshops will take place at Boerner Botanical Garden with the Wed workshop in the Grandparents Room and the Thurs workshop in the Garden House. Participation will be limited to 8 each day on a first come first serve basis by postmark or payment. See registration form in this issue. Registrations will be accepted as of the March meeting.

Milwaukee Bonsai Society

2015 Mauro Stemberger Workshop Registration

Sponsored by the Excellence in Bonsai Program



Contact Information

Name	
Street Address	
City ST Zip	
Cell/Home Phone	
E-mail	

Please check the appropriate information below

Choice *In the first column please indicate your 1st and second choice for day. Workshop registration is on a first come first serve basis by postmark and/or payment and is limited to 8 per workshop.*

_____ Wednesday May 6th, 2015, 8am-4pm Grandparents Room at BBG

_____ Thursday May 7th, 2014 8am-4pm Garden House at BBG

Payment / Fee

The fee for the bring your own material workshop is \$100

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

Bring to the March meeting or send to: MBS
542 Pleasant View St
Wauwatosa, WI 53223

(if sending be sure that it is received before May 5th to ensure your spot, all open slots will be offered at the end of the meeting on May 5th)

Plant Strengtheners

by PAM W

This article is the third in a series of yearly articles I have written on my experiences with the latest research in plant additive chemistry. Please check out the April 2014 for Plant Activators and April 2013 for Repotting Additives. You may ask why yearly and my simple answer is I use and experiment in each prior season the category of plant additives I want to write about.

Last year it was my increasing interest in the use of plant strengtheners to increase or induce plant tolerance to environmental stresses. By definition, a plant strengthener protects the plant by stimulating resistance or defense mechanisms or by out-competing the attacking organism for space and food (European Commission, 2001). Ideally plant strengtheners need to be low risk and provide an adequate benefit such as an increased ramification or reduced pest infestation.

These products are neither fertilizers that provide nutrients nor pesticides that kill the insects and diseases. These natural products improve plant health and resilience by strengthening their resistance. Typical plant strengtheners on the market include products like herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and anti-transpirants. Traditionally, these products aid plant growth by preventing or attacking unwanted organisms.

Growth enhancers do not replace fertilizer. They are used as a supplement to your regular fertilizing, the way we add supplements to our regular food to increase nutrition and health.

Stress Reducers solve specific problems such as stress decline, caused by the freezing winter and high heat in summer. I am still in testing, but in my (and other bonsai enthusiast) preliminary testing is showing excellent results.

I have been using MicroTotal and Pro-TeKt for several years. Last year I started adding JAZ Plant-Strengthener and will be replacing Pro-TeKt as it is completely organic and seemed to work. I have seen improvement in my battle with a virus that infects my shimpaku and improvement with powdery mildew on my serviceberry cascade. But juniper mites remain troublesome.

I would also be tempted to try SuperNova to replace SUPERthrive as they do provide all ingredients and it is

organic. But I have not done so. Here is a list to get started in your own testing.



JAZ Plant-Strengthener enhance natural stress tolerance so that plants suffer less damage and better thrive in the face of drought, extreme temperatures and other environmental stress conditions.

It contains a natural plant-strengthening molecule called methyl dihydrojasmonate (MDHJ). This molecule is related to the family of jasmonate compounds naturally found in plants and is named from the

jasmine plant where jasmonates were originally identified. MDHJ is responsible for improving natural stress tolerance by strengthening the defense systems plants use to protect themselves from adverse environmental conditions



Pro-TeKt 0-0-3 The Silicon Solution liquid supplement supplies higher levels of potassium and silicon to help plants build stronger cell walls. The stronger cell walls provide a Pro-TeKt-ive barrier against piercing-sucking insects and invading fungi. Applying Pro-TeKt 0-0-3 on a regular basis will minimize or eliminate the need for pesticides and

fungicides. Additional benefits include increased stem strength and leaf positioning of plants, which improves photosynthesis; increased heat, drought and cold tolerance, plus longer lasting leaves and blooms.



MicroTotal contains eight essential chelated micronutrients: Magnesium (Mg), Sulphur (S), Boron (B), Copper (Cu), Iron (Fe), Manganese (Mn), Molebdenum (Mo) and Zinc (Zn), in a formula that is extremely effective when applied as a foliar spray, or can be used as a soil drench during normal watering.



SuperNova (1-1-1) is a unique blend of seaweed extract (*Ascophyllum nodosum*), specialized amino acids, carbohydrates and vitamins C and B. This enhanced seaweed “bio-blend” will improve the growth performance of any plant and make plants more tolerant to high nutrient levels & drought and promotes bushier plants with an increase in flowering sites.

SUPERthrive is a liquid concentrated growth enhancer product for plants, which has been available since 1940. It contains ".09% vitamin B1, .048% 1-Naphthyl acetic acid, plus over 50 secret proprietary ingredients that the company does not disclose.



Biomac category A is an acidic solution consisting of small amounts of: acetoin, diacetyl, acetate, organic acids, amino acids, sulfur, Procyanidins, plifenoles. It prevents the appearance of powdery mildew. Heals and regenerates damaged parts powdery mildew. It activates the growth of areas affected by powdery mildew and heals spots on the trunk, branches and clusters. It works as acaricide and natural repellent fungicide against aphid melon, all kind of moths, caterpillars, spiders, mosquitoes and other small sucking insects and acts as a healing to wounds or bites of small insects and against damage caused by storms, hail, etc.-- results in a more homogeneous and heavier fruit. It is an effective product for the prevention and cure of the botrytis of the fruit.

During this season, I am adding nutrients and a specific spraying schedule. So next year I will share some of those discoveries.

Support MBS

Anyone wishing to make a donation to support MBS can now do so using a donation form available on our website. Just click the “what’s new” tab on the home page and look in the upper right hand corner for “Support Us” and click on it. The Support Us page includes the Purpose of the Society, a description of three funds that can be supported, tax facts and a link to the printable donation form. Keep in mind that all donations to MBS are tax deductible.

Thank you to our webmaster for assistance in getting this page added to our site.



www.maba2015.com

WANTED: A FEW GOOD DEAD TREES!!

If you have lost a tree over the past winter (or previous winters) and would like to donate them to MBS, please email hagr8d@mac.com or call Kris at 262-512-1228

**We wish to use them in a display!
Thanks!**

BONSAI DISPLAY STANDS

by Walter Pall (reprinted from earlier newsletter)

The style of the stand must correspond with the style of the tree. A strong tree must have a strong looking stand. A formal upright tree looks best on a stand with rather straight legs. An informal upright is put on a stand with curved legs. An optically heavy bonsai is placed on an optically heavy stand. A classically styled tree must stand on a classical table. A freestyle tree should stand on a modern table.

The color of the stand should correspond with the color of the pot and the appearance of the tree. A conifer is put on a rather dark stand. A light brown stand can be used for a deciduous tree.

Special situations: a cascade is put on a very high stand. A semi-cascade on a medium high stand. A literati tree looks often best on a very low stand that is round or irregular. Wooden slabs can be used. Bonsai which appear wild and do not readily conform to rules are put on wild stands, like raw wood slabs from a fence or an old building. While frowned upon in Japan one can place trees on stone slabs.

Placement of bonsai on the stand and size of stand: The stand should be one third longer than the pot. The pot is not put exactly in the center. E.g. if the tree is more on the right side of the pot, the pot is placed more on the left side of the stand. If the tree has a long branch slanting far out of the pot it is placed more on the opposite side of the slanting branch. The whole thing must be a composition just like placing a tree in a pot.

The style of the stand should be as subdued as possible. Just like with pots usually less is more. Wild natural wood stands with lots of carving are a matter of taste which is not mine.

Shohin are placed on combined stands. Their placement is a bit freer as is choice of pot.

Accent plants should also have their own table. It is usually best if it is very low, just a slab of wood or some bamboo sticks together, also a rice mat. Sometimes one can place the tree and the accent plant on the same table, if it is very flat, like a slab.

In a large exhibition it is not necessary for all trees to be on stands. There can definitely be too many stands in a room. Often stands are very useful to raise a tree to the eye level. Especially very small trees can be overlooked, if they are not placed on rather high stands. Very large trees can be placed on stands that are placed directly on the floor.

At exhibits, when there are high tables offered, it is sometimes better to place a tree on a slab, so that it does not stand too high.

These are just a few thoughts. As with choice of pots it is a skill that has to be developed over years. It takes five years to learn about styling trees. Another five years to choose the right pot. Another five to place them together with a stand and an accent plant.



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

Next Meeting of MBS
Tuesday April 7, 2015
Boerner Botanical Gardens
9400 Boerner Dr
Hales Corners, WI 53130

2015 MBS OFFICERS

President [Greg P](#)
First VP [Kris Z](#)
Second VP [Judy S](#)
Secretary [Julie McN](#)
Treasurer [Barbara S](#)
Director [John Me](#)
Director [Teri W](#)
Director [Susan L](#)
Past Pres. [Steve Co](#)

Other Club Functions:

Newsletter - [Kris Z](#)
Webmaster - [Pam W](#)
Director of Children's Education - Jean S
PAB Board - Rob P, Ron F & Houston S



Tauntingly spring crept
into our bonsais' abodes...
Rats! Snow on Friday :o(