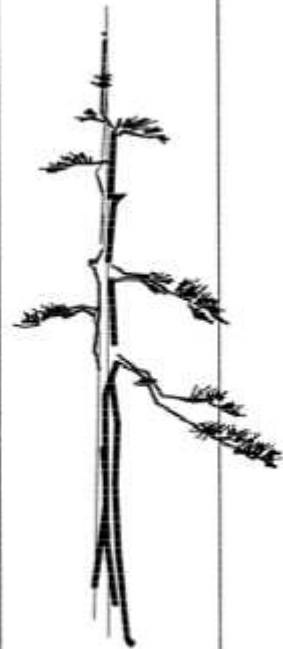


BONSAI NEWS

July 2016



Milwaukee
Bonsai Society
PO Box 240822
Milwaukee Wi
53224

Information Line
414-299-9229

July Meeting

MAPLES - Everything you always wanted to know about maples (but were afraid to ask).

We'll be having a lively panel discussion about all sorts of maples. How do they grow? Are they hard to grow? What sorts of maples are good for bonsai? On hand will be Houston S, Steve Ca and Kris Z to answer your questions. If you wish, please bring along a maple to display



July

- July 5—MBS meeting-Maples
- July 9—Wauwatosa Exhibit
- July 16—Adult workshop
- July 23—Intermediate Class**
- July 23— Repotting workshop
- July 30-31—Jerry Meislik workshop**

August

- Aug 2—MBS meeting-Jerry Meislik
- Aug 4-14 WI State Fair exhibit
- Aug 19-21—Chicago exhibit
- Aug 27— Bonsai Basics #1

September

- Sept 6-MBS meeting-update on fertilizers
- Sept 10—Fall Beginner workshop
- Sept 16-18—Annual Exhibit—Peter Tea
- Sept 24—Bonsai Basics #2

** Members only



You can put a small ad in the newsletter for free?

Contact missyuc2@yahoo.com to sell or give away items

Next Meeting

**July 5, 2016
6:45pm**

**Boerner Botanical
Gardens**

President's Message July 2016

It's the beginning of summer. Your maples should have gotten their growth spurt and have hardened off. Now is the time to think about styling. Our July meeting will feature our local MBS maple experts who will discuss the growth patterns and suggestions for styling of this great tree for bonsai.

July is also the time to consider repotting your tropical trees. MBS will have our repotting workshop on Saturday, July 23 from 9 until noon in the lower level of the Education Building at Boerner. Bring along your own bonsai soil, wire and pot and members will be there to give you advice to help with a successful repot. You will need a minimum of an hour if you plan on completing a repot during this time.

***MBS has a very special opportunity on July 30 and 31. One of the premier tropical stylists, Jerry Meislik, will be giving workshops for MBS members. For \$125, you can get a full day workshop. Jerry specializes in tropical trees, but will work with you on any type of tree. Tropical trees are what we probably all started on and most of us still have one. Now, we can get styling advice from an expert. Send in your check to reserve your spot as soon as possible. The workshops are filling up fast. You don't want to miss this one, even if it means attending as a silent observer (\$10 for the day). Jerry will then style ficus during our August 2nd meeting. These are trees that he has hand picked during the recent ABS meeting. Don't miss this one!

A great opportunity to volunteer and show your trees will be in August at the Wisconsin State Fair, which runs from the 4th to the 14th. All of you know more about bonsai than the general public does and it's really enthusiasm that counts. Share your enthusiasm as a tree sitter. You will get into the Fair for free on the day that you volunteer and earn Bonsai Bucks in the process. These can be used to purchase raffle tickets during the Annual Bonsai Exhibit in September.

Whether a Novice, Intermediate or Advanced, there is a spot for your tree in one of three judged exhibits during the Fair. Don't miss this chance to get ideas on improving your trees from experts.

Please volunteer, MBS needs your help...and it's FUN!

Judy

Bonsai Bucks - what are they and why do I want them?

Whenever you work a 3-4 hour shift as a volunteer, you will receive a bonsai buck. **And what do I need bonsai bucks for???** Each BB will be used as cash to purchase raffle tickets at the Annual Exhibit in September. Your next opportunity to earn BB is to volunteer at State Fair in August.



STATE FAIR 2016 - Are you interested in entering a tree at State Fair? If you have never exhibited before, please consider doing so this year. Classes are: Youth, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Open. Please sign up at Club meetings or call Tony P (414-350-8069) to participate.

WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

AUGUST 4-14

STATE FAIR EXHIBIT SCHEDULE 2016

Exhibit #1 (August 4 - August 6)
Exhibit #2 (August 7 - August 10)
Exhibit #3 (August 11 - August 14)

Exhibit #1

Deliver trees to **

Wednesday, August 3 from 6pm - 6:30pm OR
bring to Society meeting Tuesday Aug 2

Pick up trees from **

Sunday, Aug 7 from 9am - 9:30am

Exhibit #2

Deliver trees to **

Saturday, Aug 6 from 6pm - 6:30pm

Pick up trees from **

Thursday, Aug 11 from 9am - 9:30am

Exhibit #3

Deliver trees to **

Wednesday, Aug 10 6pm - 6:30pm

Pick up trees from **

Monday Aug, 15 from 9am - 9:30am

** Strip mall parking lot approx. 102nd and National, just west of Baker's Square. Turn in by the Sentry sign. Meet in the area nearest the street (National)

When checking in please bring:

- + your list of scientific names and common names,
- + the approximate age of the tree,
- + stand, accent, sketch of display, and the proposed style of tree.

HAVING A PICTURE OF YOUR SET-UP IS RECOMMENDED!!

It is also wise to mark all components of your display with your name.

(an address sticker is usually adequate)

Note: If the drop off/pick up schedule is not good for you, please make personal arrangements for your trees with someone who will care for them. YOU must alert the crew about these arrangements so trees will not be misdirected, lost or stolen.

Call or email

Tony P 414-350-8069 or
ninoslandscapeco@gmail.com

Good luck and thanks for supporting the MBS 2016 State Fair committee.

For specific information as to whether your tree will qualify to be entered at State Fair, please go to:

http://www.wistatefair.com/pdfs/competitions/entry_info/general_info/hort/society_shows.pdf

Go to Bonsai info... p15-16

No matter what experience level you are in the wonderful world of bonsai, there's always room to work on your basic skills.
So, MBS is introducing ...

BonsaiBasics

Prerequisite: Novice class or like training

Participants must have:

tools

pots

wire

a deciduous tree

a conifer - If you don't have one, we'll find one at the nursery crawl

a tropical tree (optional)

Class #1 (Saturday August 27, 9-12
Boerner)

Wiring with wire branches

Tool sharpening

cut paste...

Homework

Please bring to the July or August meeting
or mail to:

Milwaukee Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 240822

Milwaukee, WI 53224

Class #2 (Saturday September 24, 9-12
Boerner)

Wiring with dead trees

Pot cleaning

fertilizer / pest control / soil

Homework

Class #3 (Saturday October 15, 9-4)

field trip to nursery

cleaning out a tree

pruning (not leaving knobs...)

watering system

Homework

Class #4 (Saturday October 29, 9-12
Boerner)

Wiring on conifers

wiring with copper wire

miscellaneous

wrap up

Fee: \$75

Limit of 8 students

BonsaiBasics Class

Name _____ Contact # _____

Email _____

Experience level: Novice Intermediate \$75 Fee enclosed check # _____



Process for Sharpening

Quiet Crow Bonsai is a collection of articles, essays, and views for bonsai artist, devotees and supporters. www.QuietCrowBonsai.com.

Last month we looked at tools needed to sharpen our tools. We looked at Diamond Sharpening Stones and Japanese Waterstones. We also covered how to wet, store, dress and flatten these stones. Now let's look at how to use the stones for Sharpening:

Three Steps in Sharpening

The absolute pinnacle of sharpness is achieved by using water stones. It is recommended having a stone combination that includes fine, medium and coarse grits. Simply stated there are three steps in sharpening:

1. Sharpening: removing metal to form a new edge either by
 - a. Rough sharpening or grinding to remove a lot of material from the face of the tool, but it also will leave grooves in the face of the tool. These grooves need to be removed for the tool to be truly sharp.
 - b. Fine sharpening using the same tools as above, but in finer grits
2. Honing is the step for removing these grooves, and for getting the tool 95% of the way to being ready to use
3. Polishing, the final step to sharpening your tool. The purpose of this step is to remove the wire edge, and to give it a mirror finish, but not significantly altering the edge. It cleans up any tiny grooves that may remain in the face of the tool from the previous two steps.

Process

The key to forming a good edge on a flat-bladed tool is a proper angle. Hold the knife in your right hand (or left) with your index finger along the spine of the knife and be comfortable, hold it tight enough so it doesn't move as you sharpen but you don't need a death grip on it. The height of the spine of your knife off the stone below it will determine the angle. A typical sharpening angle for a knife is 19 or 20 degrees.

Here is a good exercise and confidence builder: Paint the edge of your knife and bevel with a Sharpie and sharpen the knife at an angle that results in the removal of that Sharpie. In many cases it will be close to the 20 deg angle anyway. When you have achieved success, repeat the process and do that ten times.

For the best results, the face of the blade must be kept in full contact with the sharpening stone throughout the sharpening process. As sharpening progresses, a slurry will form, made of material from the sharpening stone and the blade. It is important that this slurry remain on the stone to facilitate sharpening of the blade. As the moisture in the stone drops, add water. Always keep your stone wet and your slurry in place.

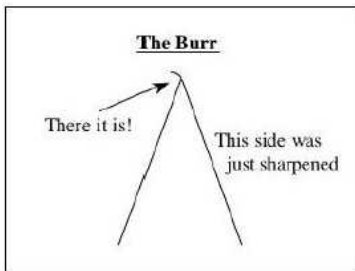


Japanese water stones in 400, 1000, 5000 grit.



Practice by coloring the edge of your blade with a Sharpie.

Always keep your stone wet and your slurry in place.



Raising the burr is crucial

Pressure is paramount, if in doubt, minimize it, go at it as if you are dismantling a bomb, gently and focused.



Mirror edge on a sharp knife

The process, once you are comfortable with the position of the tool against the stone, is one of nearly mindless repetition. Many strokes are required to properly shape a dull blade. One with gouges in the edge may need grinding before it can be properly honed. As you make progress, you will want to move to finer stones until you are satisfied with the sharpness. Ultimately, the goal is to polish the face to a mirror surface. This will ensure the finest edge, making the smoothest cuts, helping the tree to heal itself quickly and easily.

Raise the Burr

Your immediate goal is to raise a burr on the side of blade opposite to the side you are sharpening. The sharpening process is incomplete with no burr creation on your first stone. Burr is the debris that is making the knife dull being forced down the blade towards the edge and over to the other side of the by your sharpening prowess. You form the burr, that knife will get sharp, no burr, you just need to look at your work. A Loupe is handy here, an inexpensive magnifying device with a light that allows you to see the edge very well, if you are not forming a burr, you are not reaching the edge.

The burr needs to be formed at the tip of the blade as well. Here is a simple trick, as you get to the tip area of the blade, the front inch, raise your elbow so that it is parallel to the ground, you can also raise your sharpening angle very slightly but just raising your elbow will likely eliminate the tip sharpening area issue.

Applying the Right Amount of Pressure

Applying the correct amount of pressure is extremely important. When you initiate the sharpening process, when you have all your ducks lined up and you are ready to start, use almost maximum pressure. In this case it is you and the stone working together, you are going to apply pressure with your finger tips (2 or 3 finger tips) placed as close to the primary edge as you can get, i.e. over the area you are working on, on the opposite side of the blade. As you push the knife away from you in a trailing motion, apply pressure to the knife as it glides over the wet stone, you will see the black residue start to form in the water on the surface, this is Swarf and this is good, don't feel obliged to remove this with water, it is fine. Continue working from the heel to the tip of the knife moving your fingers along the edge and applying pressure as you move the knife away from you on the right side of the knife and as you pull it towards you on the left side, these are called edge trailing strokes.

As you sharpen, visualize in your mind what it is your doing, try to picture that steel rolling down towards the edge and becoming a burr. Check your work very often, have some clean towels and monitor your progress.

As you apply pressure in one direction you release pressure in the opposite direction. So apply pressure with your finger tips as you push the knife from one end of the stone to the other and release as you pull it back. (Avoid lifting the blade off of the stone to keep that angle stable.) Sharpening becomes this repetitive motion with the first step being the raising of the burr on the blade from heel to tip.

Once you have burr formed you are going to use moderate pressure, letting the stone do the work, you are just guiding the knife along, stabilizing it as the amazing water stones does the job. Use the exact same technique, same angle but just moderate pressure, hardly pressing down at all, you are not trying to form a burr here, that is already done, now you refining the edge and bevel, removing some of the scratches left by your first stage of the process. Here is where the blade will get sharp and it will happen quickly. Now you are removing the burr, you are cleaning up the edge. This should only take a couple minutes just mimicking the first step but with lighter pressure and this time visualizing the burr being scraped away, it will start to vanish.

Now to finish: With light pressure, trailing strokes only, this time lift the blade off the stone as you finish pushing it over the stone away from you, bring it back and repeat this 5 times, on each side. The burr should be gone and your blade will be sharp.



At our last meeting, we mentioned a recipe for keeping the mosquitos away:

Mosquito Spray

3 C Epsom Salts

36 oz. beer

1 large bottle blue mouthwash



Mix well (making sure the Epsom salts dissolve).

Spray on ground where mosquitos might develop (or anywhere you are having a problem).

It is supposed to last about 2 months.

If you try this, we'd appreciate your comments as to it's effectiveness.

hagr8d@mac.com

Jerry Meislik is coming to Milwaukee for workshops on Saturday July 30 and Sunday July 31. They will be BYO tree workshops. Jerry is renowned everywhere for his work with tropicals, especially ficus (although he is knowledgeable about many other variety of trees). You may want to purchase his book **Ficus the Exotic Bonsai** for him to sign when he is here. You can find it on Amazon, Stone Lantern and other places. Go to Jerry's website www.bonsaihunk.us to get more information about him and his work.

Jerry's workshops are limited to 6 persons each day. Get your money in soon!! Send to the MBS P.O. Box 240822, Milwaukee, WI 53224 or bring to the next Society meeting on July 5. **Include your name, contact phone number, email address and check for \$125 made out to MBS.**

REPOTTING WORKSHOP

Time to get your tropicals repotted! As stated in the President's message, we'll be having our repotting workshop Saturday July 23 from 9 - 12 (noon). Join your fellow MBS members in a fun-filled morning of dirt, pots, wire and camaraderie. It's a good time to repot your tropicals, but CAUTION... if you plan on working with Jerry Meislik at the end of the month, postpone your repotting until after the workshops. Better to work on the tree first, wait a bit, then repot (less root damage that way). Join us!



Baby bird safe and secure for the night

He is tucked in, perched on a ginkgo on a shelf about six feet from the front door. Definitely feeling safe to be that close to a kitty in the window. I'm glad to welcome this tiny guest in my new bonsai garden. Hope he gets his own breakfast in the morning.

~Jean S





PO Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI 53224
Www.milwaukeebonsai.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next MBS meeting will be
July 5, 2016 at 6:45pm
Boerner Botanical Gardens
9400 Boerner Dr
Hales Corners, WI 53130

2016 MBS OFFICERS

President [Judy S](#)
First VP [Kris Z](#)
Second VP [Tony P](#)
Secretary [Leo S](#)
Treasurer [Wally V](#)
Director [Rob P](#)
Director
Director [Bryan L](#)
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Other Club Functions

Newsletter [Melissa J](#)
Webmaster [Pam W](#)
Director of Children's Education—Jean S
PAB Board—Steve Co, Ron F & Houston S



Human multitudes
Ever growing-teeming life
The death of Nature
~Joe N