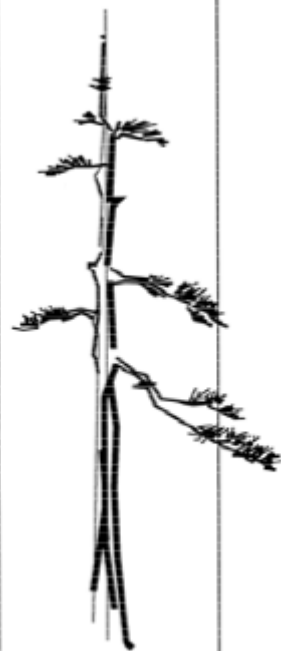


BONSAI NEWS

May 2017



Milwaukee
Bonsai Society
PO Box 240822
Milwaukee Wi
53224

Information Line
414-299-9229

May Meeting

Brian Hudelson is affectionately known as "Dr. Death" because of his love of plant diseases. Brian received his BS in Botany, Bacteriology and Molecular Biology, MS in Biometry and PhD in Plant Pathology from the UW-Madison, and in 1998, became the director of the Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic (PDDC). The PDDC (part of the Department of Plant Pathology in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as University of Wisconsin-Extension) provides expertise in diagnosing plant disease problems, and information on plant diseases and their control to a wide range of clientele throughout the state of Wisconsin. For more information on Brian and the PDDC, check out the PDDC website at <http://pddc.wisc.edu>. You can also follow the PDDC on Facebook and Twitter @UWPDDC.

May

- May 2—**MBS meeting**-Plant diseases
- May 6—Novice Class #5*
- May 20-21—Chicago Exhibit
- May 26-28—ABS Convention-Orlando

June

- June 2-6—Peter Tea Classes #2*
- June 6—**MBS Meeting**-Pots & Stands
- June-17—Intermediate Class #3*

July

- July 4—**No** MBS Meeting
- July 8 — Wauwatosa Exhibit
- July 7-9 — MABA Convention—Indianapolis
- July 15 — Intermediate Class #4*
- July 15—Repotting workshop
- July 22 — MBS picnic & Swap meet

August

- August 1—**MBS meeting**
- August 3-13—WI State Fair
- August 18-20—Chicago Exhibit
- August 26-Intermediate Class #5*
- August 26—Bonsai Basics #1*

September

- Sept 5—**MBS meeting**-Rich's Fox Willow
- Sept 9—Beginner Workshop
- Sept 23—Bonsai Basics #2*

Next Meeting

May 2 2017
6:45pm

Boerner Botanical
Gardens

*Open to MBS members only

President's Message April 2017

As I write this message, I have just begun to bring my trees out of winter storage. One of the first things that I did was to check my trees for evidence of insect and fungal problems. After last night's rainstorm, my *Juni-perus virginiana* is showing evidence of cedar-apple rust. The galls are interesting looking fingers of orange clusters. Fungicide is needed and I have proceeded in spraying with *Daconil* and using a systemic *Cleary 3336* fungicide. Peter Tea has recommended using both the *Cleary* and the systemic insecticide *Merit* every three months throughout the year as a preventative for potential problems.

This brings me to the topic of our May meeting, plant diseases. Dr. Brian Hudleson, UW Madison/Extension Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic (PDDC) hudleson@wisc.edu, will be featured. Brian will be focusing on plant diseases that attack the trees most often used for bonsai in this area. Please, plan to attend this meeting. Brian is not only informative, but also very entertaining.

I also wanted to point out the great opportunity MBS members had on April 8th. Ted Matson did a really great workshop on making shari and jin. One of his tips on using lime-sulfur should appear later in this newsletter. It is science-based and makes the whitening process go even faster.

There have been some questions from members as to why MBS is not bringing in more guest artists. Unfortunately, when we do, members are not taking advantage of these opportunities to their full extent. Happily, more interest has been shown by bonsai enthusiasts from the Fox Valley to the Chicago area to take advantage by becoming members of MBS. Still, I feel that too many of our local members are missing out on great opportunities.

A reminder that the opening of the Public Bonsai Collection at Lynden will be on Father's Day, June 18th, and the **Mid-American Bonsai Alliance (MABA) conference** will be held on July 6 & 7 just outside of Indianapolis. Search mababonsai.org for more information.

Mark your calendars! The 13th Annual **Midwest Bonsai Society's May Exhibit** returns to the Chicago Botanic Garden on May 20th and 21st, 9AM to 5PM.

I hope to see you at the May meeting!

Thanks.

Judy



Spring is here. And this time of year our thoughts turn to Bonsai. Our 13th annual May Bonsai Exhibit will be held May 20th and 21st at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Workshops range from an entry and up workshop by Brian Ciskowski of Cass Bonsai, Jim Beck's Lavender Star Flower workshop and two Bring Your Own Tree workshops with Ivan Watters, our Bonsai Master. Frank Mihalic has generously volunteered to do Children's workshops on both afternoons. Our vendors will be selling trees, pots, stands, scrolls and stones. For details and to sign up for workshops click this link.

<http://www.midwestbonsai.org/may-exhibit/>

May 20-21, 2017 - 9AM to 5PM



Mid-America Bonsai Alliance



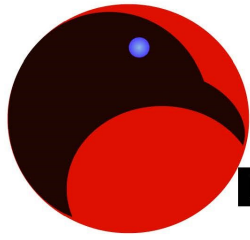
MABA 2017 Convention - July 7 & 8

The MABA 2017 Convention will be hosted by the Indianapolis Bonsai Club. The Event will be held at the Clarion Waterfront Hotel and Conference Center, located on the Northwest side of Indianapolis.

The Headlining artist for this event is Matt Reel.



WWW.MABABONSAI.ORG



Diaza Making

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

Not all workshops are related to working on trees. Over the last two years, I took two workshops in making Diaza which is the "stand" for Suseki. Like stands for bonsai the same rules apply the diaza should complement and not distract from the stone.

The first workshop was at MABA in Indianapolis where 3 of us from Milwaukee attended this workshop with Scott Yelick. Scott prefers 1/2 inch walnut stained mahogany, cherry, Sedona or a golden oak. Scott's technique includes several stages with steps outlined here:

Stage 1 Create the bed for the stone.

1. Trace the stone on the wood
2. Using a router, carefully remove the inside area
3. Check the stone's fit, re-trace if needed
4. Continue carving and repeating steps 2 and 3 until you have a snug fit

Stage 2 Create the outside wall.

1. Set the stone inside its bed and trace 1/8 inch larger the outside of the stone
2. Using a scroll saw set it at a 15-degree angle to tuck the stone
3. Cut the outside to create the diaza

Stage 3 Create the feet.

1. Site the rock on the diaza, look for visual weight for placing feet.
2. Mark the feet
3. Using a router, carefully remove the underside area leaving feet 1/8th inch high
4. Detail the feet using a pencil to mark each foot for a smaller area like a crescent moon.

Stage 4 Carve and Detail the Diaza using a Dremel

1. Hold stone and Diaza, bevel top edge down toward rock.
2. Hold Diaza and bevel underside about a 40-degree angle
3. Hold diaza and buzz a bevel into feet
4. Buzz the bottom feet with a round bit at an angle from the middle to peak of the foot
5. Sand using medium and fine sandpaper
6. Sand using fine and extra fine sandpaper
7. Stain



Router ready to remove the bed for the stone.



Skill Saw at the 15-degree angle.



First Workshop with Scott Yelick.



Second Workshop with Sean Smith.

The second workshop was at Milwaukee Bonsai Society with Sean Smith. Sean's preferred wood is again a dark wood. He uses Pennsylvania Walnut; however, Rosewood is best. Sean's technique includes several single steps outlined here:

Step 1 Center the rock on the wood and trace the outline of the rock in pencil

Step 2 Support the wood using C-clamps to your work table. Using a Ryobi Formica router, wedge into the wood and route out 1/8th inch deep not quite to the pencil line

Step 3 Using a 1/2 inch sanding bit in the dremel tool, hold the dremel perfectly upright to sand the outline.

Step 4 Re-seat the stone, re-draw the outline, re-sand the outline

Step 5 Repeat step 4

Step 6 Re-seat the stone, draw a new outline 1/8th inch out from the cavity

Step 7 Using a skill-saw, set the blade at 15-degree angle. Cut the outline.

Step 8 Determine the feet. Kuji Suzuki (Japan's best and possibly one of the world's best diaza carver) was Sean's mentor and passed his Japanese secret for determining the feet. Pretend the stone is an island, every place there is a peninsula there should be a foot.

Step 9 Sand edges to the feet, leaving the feet. Round the edge and bottom.

Step 10 Sand the top edge

Step 11 Using 150 to 220 fine sandpaper, continue sanding

Step 12 Repeat sanding

Step 13 Stain the entire wood using oil based stain.

Step 14 Finish with Minwax spray on liquor. Do not use oil as it transfers to the stone.

I love the craftsmanship, attention to detail, patience along with an artistic eye needed to have the stone and diaza meld together.

In conclusion, now is the time to pass along something in writing about the stone and diaza. Include the location the stone was collected or purchased, date originally acquired, all owners (past and current) yourself as the creator of the diaza. Include personal importance of the stone, a more personal story of why the stone was collected and or memories it conjures.



Route out 1/8th inch deep not quite to the pencil line



Hold the dremel perfectly upright to sand the outline.



Round the edge and bottom.

Tidbits from Ted - Applying Lime Sulfur

1. Pick a cool, damp overcast morning.
Can also be done on humid, cool evening.
Keep out of sun.
2. Wash wood with toothbrush with lots of water from a spray bottle.
Make sure the wood is saturated.
3. Apply lime sulfur in a nice even coat.
4. Mist area to slow evaporation.
(30 minutes or so as the oxygen pulls the sulfur out as a gas leaving the calcium in the wood.) Keep the humidity up to slow evaporation until it turns bone white.



Usually within 30 minutes the jin / shari will turn bone white with no yellow areas. The final step is to clean off the live wood with a toothbrush to get rid of any white.

Ted's Jin/Shari workshop (April 8, 2017)



On Saturday, April 8 a small group of MBS members worked with Ted Matson to add these features (jin/shari) to our own trees. Ted believes in creating deadwood that is natural and believable. Being rather new to serious bonsai, I really appreciated how thoroughly Ted explained not only how we would carve the tree but why.

Ted's knowledge and understanding of the topic was so evident. Most of the trees worked on were junipers but he also worked with several other varieties. Some of my trees were really improved by just a few touches, some were much easier to fit in my car on the way home but all were much better trees than when we started.

Kathy K



Photos by Bryan L

April 4, 2017 MBS Meeting





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

Next MBS meeting will be
May 2, 2017 at 6:45 pm
Boerner Botanical Gardens
9400 Boerner Dr
Hales Corners, WI 53130

2017 MBS OFFICERS

President [Judy S](#)
First VP [Bryan L](#)
Second VP [Kris Z](#)
Secretary [Leo S](#)
Treasurer [Wally V](#)
Director [Rob P](#)
Director [Penny T](#)
Director [Melissa J](#)
Past Pres. [Greg P](#)

Other Club Functions

Newsletter [Melissa J](#)
Webmaster [Pam W](#)

Director of Children's Education—Jean S
PAB Board—Ron F, Houston S & Jean S



Seashell's grand design
Spirals artfully crafted
Nature's calculus
~Joe N