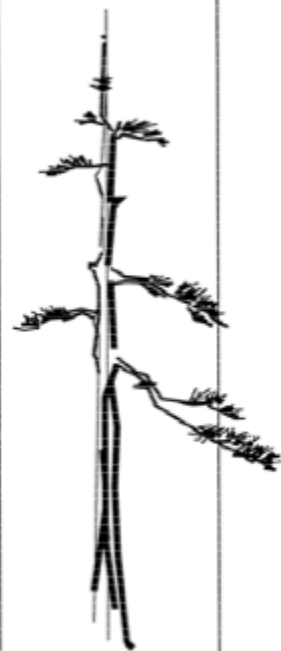


# BONSAI NEWS

June 2019



*Milwaukee  
Bonsai Society  
PO Box 240822  
Milwaukee Wi  
53224*

*Information Line  
414-299-9229*

## June Meeting Black Pines 101

Its not unusual... you are standing at a vendor's booth looking at a really cool pine. You've always wanted to buy a pine to add to your collection of bonsai. You have seen them in bonsai exhibits and you really admire them. They embody the essence of what a Japanese bonsai really is. And that last bonsai magazine that came in the mail had an awesome pine on the front cover. You dream... "I would just love to have a black pine".

*But then that voice begins to talk to you inside your head... "don't buy that pine you idiot... you could never keep it alive... they are really difficult... you shouldn't get into pines... they are too hard for you to handle..."*

Well I am sure that this has happened for many of us over the years and at this years June meeting we will try to lift the spring fog around Black Pines!

## June

- June 4—**MBS meeting**  
Pines
- June 22—Intermediate Class (A)\*
- June 23—Intermediate Class (B)\*
- June 29-30 — Advanced Class w/  
Peter Tea

## July

- July 13—**MBS picnic**

## August

- Aug 1-11—State Fair
- Aug 6 — **MBS meeting**  
Group slash
- Aug 10—Intermediate Class (A)\*
- Aug 11—Intermediate Class (B)\*

## September

- Sept 3 — **MBS meeting** State  
Fair Winners
- Sept 7—Beginner Workshop
- Sept 7—Jennifer Price Work-  
shop\*
- Sept 28-29—Annual Exhibit

**Next Meeting  
June 4, 2019  
6:45 pm  
Boerner Botanical  
Gardens**

*Continued on page 3*

## President's Message June 2019

Well, fellow bonsai lovers, I believe spring has finally sprung for good. My tropicals are loving this weather; every one of them is starting to grow like crazy. My outdoor trees didn't do so well and none of them made it through the winter unfortunately. I don't think I'm cut out for having anything other than tropicals. L

With spring here our thoughts can turn to finally working on our trees after a long winter. As you are repotting and styling your trees remember that the Annual Exhibit raffle committee will always appreciate your donations of pots or other bonsai items that you don't want or use any more. The raffles that are held at AE are a great fund raiser for the club and we couldn't offer the items we do without donations from you. If you would like to donate anything to the raffle please contact me or bring your items to a Tuesday night meeting. All donations are tax deductible and you will be given a receipt for your items with a tax deductible letter being sent to you later in the year.

Our June meeting promises to be very educational and enjoyable with Steve C and Brian S talking about Black Pines. These trees sound to be a challenging species for use as bonsai and Steve and Brian will help to take some of the mystic out of working with these trees. Be sure to join the meeting in order to learn more about black pines.

July will not have a Tuesday meeting, but instead will offer our annual picnic/flea market at Grace Lutheran Church on Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. MBS will once again be supplying the meat and buns with members being asked to bring a dish to pass. Find the sign up on Eventbrite and plan on joining us for a fun filled morning. You might even find something you need at the swap meet.

This warm weather reminds us that State Fair is right around the corner and will be here before you know it. Consider tree sitting at the fair this year and talking bonsai with fair goers. All the visitors I have talked to over the years really enjoy our booth and we wouldn't be able to offer

such a fantastic exhibit without help from club members volunteering. In exchange for helping out you will receive a ticket to the fair and you can enjoy all the fair has to offer before or after your tree sitting shift. It's a win-win situation; you get into the fair for free, you get to talk bonsai with people who are interested and fascinated by our art and MBS gets help tree sitting. Sign up is available on Eventbrite.

This year we will have to replace many board members with new nominees. If you would like to be able to influence decisions the board makes on behalf of the club's membership, consider volunteering for a spot on the Executive Committee. We will be looking for a director, treasurer, secretary and president. From my experience the hardest part about being president is writing these monthly messages so that everyone will enjoy me rambling. J An election committee will be put together in the next few weeks. If you are interested in being on the board please contact one of the current EC members who can put you in touch with the election committee.

And finally, I'm sure you may have heard that MBS will be hosting the 2020 MABA (Mid-America Bonsai Alliance) convention. Although June 2020 seems to be a long time off, and it is a year away, before you realize it the convention will be here. From being involved in some of the recent planning I am truly excited to attend this event. I have been to an ABS convention and am hopeful that our MABA event will be just as educational and fun. Keep in mind that your MABA registration fee allows you to be an observer in all the workshops, attend the demos, learn at the lectures and attend the dinners each evening. I do have to say that the meals sound to be well worth the money, too. If you've never been to a bonsai convention this is your chance to experience the event without leaving your back yard. You won't have the added expense of airfare or hotel costs since this convention will be right here in Milwaukee.

Enjoy the nice weather and stay safe!

Melissa J

Cont. from front page

If you were to ask Brian S what his favorite material is to use for bonsai, he will undoubtedly say a BLACK PINE ! And if you ask Steve C what is the most confusing tree he has in his collection, the one that keeps him questioning his technique the most, the one that he most avoids working on... he will very likely say Black PINES !

So at the June meeting, we will have both Brian S and Steve C present a talk on Pines in general and Black Pines most specifically.

You know, really, pines are no different than any other species. There are pines that grow along the water's edge at sea level in the fog and rain and there are pines that grow at 10,000 feet of elevation in the thin air and frigid cold of winter in the mountains. There are even pines that grow in tropical climates. But that is no different than deciduous trees. You can and should do things to a maple but you would never think of doing that same technique to a beech or elm or boxwood.

Most tree species require an UNDERSTANDING of what to do... on each species... and when. Brian and Steve will try to remove most of the confusion we carry around Black Pines this month.

Don't miss the meeting !!



## Milwaukee Historical Society Banquet

~Melissa J

MBS was recently recognized as a long lasting organization in the Milwaukee community. On May 8, 2019 I was invited to the Milwaukee Historical Society's annual awards banquet to receive an award acknowledging the fact that MBS has been in existence for 50 years. MBS was also asked to have a demonstration table before the dinner. Bryan L and Erich B did a great job engaging the crowd.

We received the below plaque and were among other Milwaukee organizations who have been around for 50 or more years. One such company, Pabst, has been in our community for 175 years! Other organizations that were honored included Ned's Pizza (50 years), Goodwill Industries (100 years) and Children's Hospital (125 years). The award will be on display in the library beside our collection of books and magazines for everyone to appreciate. Thank you for your support of MBS. Without members our club could not exist.



# Ten Things to Look for in Selecting a Garden center Plant for a Bonsai

Jack Douthitt  
5.2.2019

## 1: Trunk

Does the trunk have character?  
Does it have suitable size?  
Is there taper? No taper no tree.

## 2: Location of branches

Are the lower branches in places that are workable?  
Are the branches in a location compatible with your vision of the finished bonsai?

## 3: Quantity of branches

Are there enough branches to work with? Are they of a suitable size?

## 4: Roots

Dig around the bottom of the trunk to see if there are any roots spreading out from the trunk. If they are a long way down, how does the longer length of the trunk affect the design of the bonsai?

## 5: Leaf size

Is the leaf a suitable size? Leaves can be reduced but if the normal size of the leaf is 10" and you reduce it by half, it is still 5". Is the reduced leaf size compatible with the proposed size of the final bonsai?

## 6: Flexibility

Are the branches bendable? Some plants have extremely stiff branches that once they get to a certain size cannot be bent without using extreme techniques. If you are not willing to utilize those techniques then don't buy the plant!

## 7: Health

Is the plant healthy? Is the color good? Any new growth showing?

## 8: Size

If you want BIG bonsai then buy really BIG plants. Buying a small plant and waiting for it to get big is a colossal waste of time. If you want a bonsai with a big trunk, buy a plant far bigger than what you want for a final size and then keep reducing it in size, till it is the size you want.

## 9: Plant characteristics

Will the plant bud back if you cut it back really, really hard? Many deciduous trees will but pines generally will not. If you plan on cutting the plant back severely, then make sure it will survive and grow out again!

## 10: Climate adaptability

Is the plant you are considering hardy in your climate? If they are not suitable for the weather where you live then it will require very special care to keep them alive. Are you willing to give them that care?

## **LYNDEN WORKSHOP**

There is a public workshop at Lynden Sculpture garden on June 15 from 10 am until 1 pm. Volunteers are needed to work with the participants. We will be styling and repotting dwarf schefflera's from Wiegerts Bonsai Nursery. We are anticipating 10 people in the workshop so we could use at least 5 people to help. It is a great opportunity to spread the word about bonsai to new people and have fun at the same time. Contact Jack at [jack.douthitt@gmail.com](mailto:jack.douthitt@gmail.com) to sign up.



*Hawaiian Umbrella Schefflera*



**WISCO BONSAI**  
[www.WiscoBonsai.blogspot.com](http://www.WiscoBonsai.blogspot.com)  
[www.WiscoBonsai@gmail.com](mailto:www.WiscoBonsai@gmail.com)

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**contact: [WiscoBonsai@gmail.com](mailto:WiscoBonsai@gmail.com)**

# WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

## AUGUST 1-11

**STATE FAIR 2019** - 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, email or call [eab659@outlook.com](mailto:eab659@outlook.com) (262-989-0875) to participate.**

### STATE FAIR EXHIBIT SCHEDULE 2019

Exhibit #1 (August 1 - August 3)  
Exhibit #2 (August 4 - August 7)  
Exhibit #3 (August 8 - August 11)

#### Exhibit #1

Deliver trees to \*\*  
Wednesday, July 31 from **6pm - 6:30pm**  
Pick up trees from \*\*  
Sunday, Aug 4 from **9am - 9:30am**

#### Exhibit #2

Deliver trees to \*\*  
Saturday, Aug 3 from **6pm - 6:30pm**  
  
Pick up trees from \*\*  
Thursday, Aug 8 from **9am - 9:30am**

#### Exhibit #3

Deliver trees to \*\*  
Wednesday, Aug 7 **6pm - 6:30pm**  
  
Pick up trees from \*\*  
Monday Aug, 12 from **9am - 9:30am**

\*\* Strip mall parking lot approx. 102nd and National, just west of Baker's Square. Turn in by the Piggly Wiggly 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
- \*\*OR bring a copy of the Eventbrite sheet

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 for exhibiting trees

(262-989-0875) or [eab659@outlook.com](mailto:eab659@outlook.com)

Good luck and thanks for supporting the MBS 2019 State Fair committee.

\*\*\* If you wish to help out at State Fair by greeting people who pass by our exhibit, please contact Erich by phone or email: 262-989-0875 [eab659@outlook.com](mailto:eab659@outlook.com)

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

Go to Bonsai info... p12-13



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

Next MBS meeting will be  
June 4, 2019 at 6:45pm  
Boerner Botanical Gardens  
9400 Boerner Dr  
Hales Corners, WI 53130


### 2019 MBS OFFICERS

President	<a href="#">Melissa J</a>
First VP	<a href="#">Bryan L</a>
Second VP	<a href="#">Erich B</a>
Secretary	<a href="#">Leo S</a>
Treasurer	<a href="#">Wally V</a>
Director	<a href="#">Rob P</a>
Director	<a href="#">Rick W</a>
Director	<a href="#">Phil R</a>
Past Pres.	<a href="#">Judy S</a>

### Other Club Functions

Newsletter	<a href="#">Melissa J</a>
Webmaster	<a href="#">Pam W</a>

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



Stone frog—silent, mute  
Waterfall sounds splashing cool  
But it does not hear

~Joe N