December
No meeting

January
No Meeting

February
Feb 15—Novice Class #1*
Feb 22 — **MBS meeting**
   Orchids as kusomono
Feb 29—Novice Class #2*

March
March 14 —Novice Class #3*
March 3 — **MBS meeting**
   Chris Baker

April
April 4 —Novice Class #4*
April 7 — **MBS meeting**
   TBD

May
May 2 —Novice Class #5*
May 5 — **MBS meeting**
   TBD

*Open to MBS members only
President's Message December 2019

Well, here it is...my last President's message for the newsletter. In a way I’m sad that this is the last message and in a way I’m glad this is the last message. I remember the first message I wrote 2 years ago. I was so scared and nervous that I didn’t know what to write about. A wise girl of 20 (my daughter) gave me some great advice that day and told me to write about something I know and that is what I’ve been doing ever since. I don’t know who, if anyone reads my messages, but I figure since I may have a captive audience I’ll just ramble along for a while.

I’m sad to be writing my last message because this marks the end of the “Melissa James presidency” for MBS. I have enjoyed my time as president even though there have been some bumps along the way. I believe I’m leaving the club in better shape than when I started which was one of my goals. I was able to help bring Eventbrite to the club to make registering for classes, workshops or just about anything easier than having to send in forms and checks and hope the mail makes it to where it needs to get. In a way MBS has entered the 21st Century!

I’m a little happy to be done writing president’s messages since this is the hardest part of the job. Although I did admit to enjoying rambling, some times even I can’t think of things to write about. After a while I was scared to write about the weather because it seemed as if every time I did we got hit with major snow storms for a while there last winter and one spring never really did happen. Maybe me mentioning that spring was right around the corner had something to do with that.

All in all, I’ve seen myself grow as a person and a leader from my term as president. I feel more confident to make decisions which I believe has carried over to how I take care of my trees. Although I still tend to have slight anxiety over cutting branches, I am starting to over come that. I may always live by the saying, “think twice, cut once”. After all, you can’t glue the branch that was mistakenly cut back on. I would rather think long and hard before cutting just to make sure that is the right decision for me and my tree.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. The next meeting that we will see each other is on February 22nd (a Saturday) at Boerner. That sounds like a very long time away, but rest assure the board will be working hard to make sure the topics of the 2020 meetings will be enjoyable, entertaining and educational for everyone.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be president of MBS. I have enjoyed every minute of these past 2 years!

Happy Holidays from my family to yours! Melissa J.
A big Thank You to the executive committee members who have completed their terms and are leaving the board at the end of 2019:

Wally V  Leo S
Judy S  Rob P

Your contributions to MBS are greatly appreciated.

IMPORTANT CONVENTION INFORMATION coming to you on December 8. Please watch for this email!

WISCO BONSAI
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ALSO TAKING ORDERS FOR LARGE QUANTITIES OF SUBSTRATE
contact: WiscoBonsai@gmail.com
Sign up Now for the 2020 Novice Class

The registration window has opened for the 2020 Novice Class. There will be ONLY 12 openings for this class so if you are interested do not delay, as it will fill up quickly.

What does this class provide?

The Novice Class curriculum is focused on helping you develop and prepare a solid foundation of basic bonsai skills and knowledge.

Sessions 1 thru 3 are mainly lecture based with demonstrations to help you better understand the ins and outs of bonsai cultivation.

We will have discussions about watering; soil compositions; fertilization; pest management; repotting; design; pruning; wiring; seasonal timing of work, and much more.

This class provides a work book for future reference and you will also leave with a new tree for your collection.

In the 4th session you will be working on the tree provided, styling and reporting.

The 5th session you will bring your tree back, we will review its current state and provide suggestions as to what you should be doing in the future with this tree.

We will also visit a local nursery and discuss how to evaluate “potential bonsai” from typically available nursery stock.

The class dates are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>February 15th</th>
<th>9:00 AM till 1:00 PM</th>
<th>Boerner Botanic Gardens</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>February 29th</td>
<td>9:00 AM till 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Boerner Botanical Gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>March 14th</td>
<td>9:00 AM till 1:00 PM</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>April 4th</td>
<td>9:00 AM till 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Boerner Botanical Gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>May 2nd</td>
<td>9:30 AM till 2:00 PM</td>
<td>Oconomowoc</td>
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The cost for this class is $170. You can click on the Eventbrite link or the link on the MBS website to register.

Your instructor is Ron Fortmann, who has been practicing bonsai for 25 years and has taught the Novice classes for several years now.
INTRODUCTION

On June 25-28, 2020, Bonsai artists and MABA members are heading to Milwaukee, WI for the MABA/Milwaukee Convention! Read more.

BEGINNER FRIENDLY

Beginner friendly headlining artist Ted Matson from Southern California will help you get started. Read More.

WORKSHOPS

One of the most enticing events of any bonsai convention should be the workshop and material opportunities. Read More.

REASONS TO ATTEND

Learn from the best is the first of 10 reasons to attend MABA Milwaukee regional convention. Read More.

HOLIDAY PLANNING FROM MABA MILWAUKEE

It’s that time of year again. Snow. Christmas music. And the joy of trying to figure out what to get that special bonsai person in your life. Look no further! Well, maybe a bit further, give the gift of MABA.

First, book your accommodations. For the discounted rate $129 you (or your party of 4) can have relaxing access and storage for all your purchases, trees and raffle winnings. It also includes a full buffet breakfast for each guest. Book now at: https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1572980237325&key=GRP&app=resvlink

Then plan to purchase a full registration (until Feb 28 it’s discounted to $195). http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/maba/2020_Registration.html

Plan your daily activities by checking out the schedule: http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/maba/2020_Schedule.html

Just a couple of clicks for planning. This opportunity to work with great material and artists starts soon. December 8 the Registration Packet will be emailed to all clubs so you can now give (ask) the gift of MABA.

Entry date for workshop will be determined from postmark or from date of online registration. Confirmation of workshops will be sent by email.

WWW.MILWAUKEEBONSAI.ORG/MABA
Next MBS meeting will be
Feb 22, 2020 at 9 am
Boerner Botanical Gardens
9400 Boerner Dr
Hales Corners, WI  53130

2019 MBS OFFICERS

President  Melissa J
First VP      Bryan L
Second VP    Erich B
Secretary   Leo S
Treasurer   Wally V
Director    Rob P
Director    Rick W
Director    Phil R
Past Pres.  Judy S

Other Club Functions
Newsletter  Melissa J
Webmaster   Pam W

Heavenly snow
Sprinkles falling
On Christmas eve