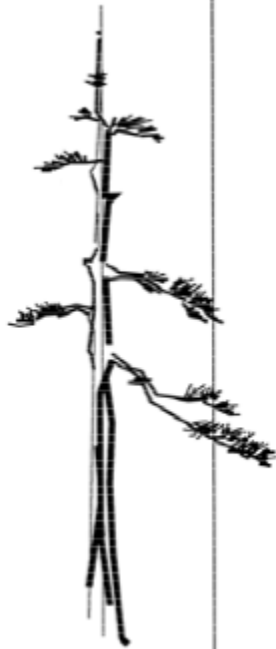


BONSAI NEWS

February 2022



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society
PO Box 240822
Milwaukee Wi
53224*

Upcoming meeting

With the rise in Covid cases Boerner is still closed and we don't know if the building will be opened in time for the February meeting. Please watch your email for updates.

Also, the Milwaukee County Domes have closed due to Covid and the Silhouette Display has been cancelled for this year.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to participate in the display, hopefully next year we can show Milwaukee our wonderful trees in the winter.



February

Feb 5—Review of repotting the club's Ponderosa Pine

Feb 12—Silhouettes Display Milw. Domes

Feb 19—Novice Class #1*

March

March 5 — Repotting demo "bonsai pot to bonsai pot"

March 12—Novice Class #2*

March 26—Novice Class #3*

April

April 2 — Demo of repotting from a nursery container

April 9—Novice Class*

May

May 7 — Horticulture

May 14 — World Bonsai Day

June

June 4 — Wiring demo on branch samples

June 23-26 — MABA

*Open to MBS Members Only

Next Meeting

**February 5, 9am
At Boerner
Botanical
Gardens**

President's Message

Hello again everyone and welcome to winter in Wisconsin. Yuck. Hang in there, it'll be over soon. In the meantime, as we're all day dreaming about working on our trees, I ask that you also think about participating in one or some of the many upcoming club activities. This can be as simple as showing a tree in an exhibit to volunteering to be on an event committee. The events that are put on by the club are all free for the public and club members to attend. To be able to do this, we rely on our members to help in many different areas. Event set up, event planning committees, manning the guest services table, doing demonstrations, and the list goes on. I encourage everyone to consider helping with our events. We always try to make volunteering fun and it gives you the opportunity to meet fellow members.

I bring this up now because I have volunteered to be the chairperson for our 51st annual exhibit coming up in August. I am looking for members to fill the planning committee positions. If you are interested, please email me to let me know, we can discuss the positions and what each entail.

I am also the volunteer chair for the Mid America Bonsai Alliance (MABA) national bonsai convention in June. I am looking for volunteers to fill positions for exhibit docent's, artist assistants, guest services, set up and tear down, and workshop set up. MABA will be held the weekend of June 23-26. Please email me if you are interested in volunteering for this event.

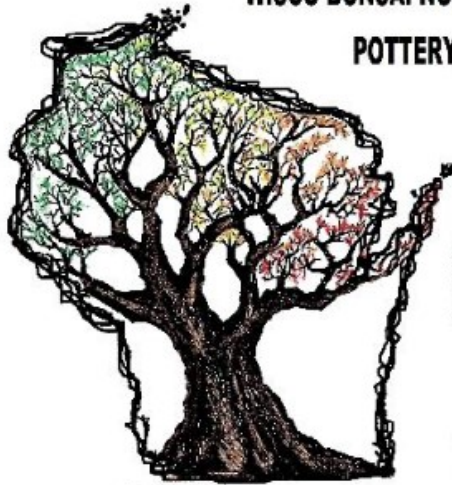
My email address is eab659@outlook.com.

We are also looking for donations to be raffled off at the annual exhibit to help raise funds for the club. Items that have been donated in the past are pots, trees, mostly pre-bonsai or collected saplings, bonsai books and publications, tools, etc. If you have anything that you would like to donate, please email me.

Thank You and I look forward to a flood of emails from members willing to volunteer their time and help make all of our events successful this year!

Erich
President

WISCO BONSAI NOW HAS THE AREA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF ARTISIAN, HANDMADE BONSAI POTTERY, MUCH OF WHICH CONSISTS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL ARTISTS.



WISCO BONSAI
www.WiscoBonsai.com

WE ALSO NOW CARRY A LINE OF TOOLS GEARED TOWARD THE BEGINNER AND NOVICE AMONG US, ALONG WITH ALL MANNER OF BONSAI SUNDRIES, SUCH AS, COPPER & ALUMINUM WIRE, JIN SEAL, WOUND PUTTY, ETC.

AND OF COURSE THERES THE SUBSTRATE, WISCO GOLD... ASK FOR IT BY NAME !!! WE ALSO OCCAISIONALLY HAVE OTHER RAW SUBSTRATE COMPONENTS AVAILABLE (PUMICE, LAVA, ETC).

GOT ORCHIDS ? WE HAVE A SUBSTRATE FOR THOSE TOO !!!

WiscoBonsai@gmail.com 414-248-3827 www.WiscoBonsai.com

DUE TO COVID, SHOP CURRENTLY OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY AND ALL SAFETY MEASURES ARE IN PLACE.

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## Membership Renewal

With the start of 2022 it is time to renew your MBS membership if you have not already done so. The renewal form, if you would like to mail in a check, is located later in this newsletter. If you would like to renew on-line click this [link](#) to be taken to the Eventbrite page.

Not sure if you need to renew? Check your membership status on the MBS webpage at: <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/SL/MembersPrint.pdf> .

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Ancient Arts Bonsai

Bonsai Supplier Established
in 2005

Tools, Wire – Aluminum & Copper, Pots, Fertilizers
Soils – Akadama, Lava, Pumice, Kanuma, Blends
Trees – Tropical, Deciduous, Conifers, Evergreens
Services – Lessons, Consults, Repotting, Wiring, Boarding

Bonsai a Growing Hobby
Wisconsin's Leading Full Line Bonsai Supplier

See our updated Website: aabonsai.com
Email – aabonsai@charter.net
Phone – 262-490-8733

2022 Lecture Series

By Pam W

You don't need to travel or spend a lot to get a world-class bonsai education. In 2022 the Education Committee has planned a truly skill-based education that will be presented over the 2022 general meetings. My job as First VP is to help facilitate these lessons. My first introduction to this series was through the schedule. You can check it out on the [2022 MBS Brochure](#). But not until I saw the presentation, did I fully appreciate the magnitude of the offering.

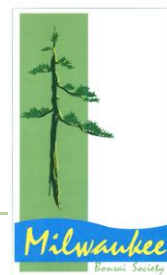
Each meeting will cover a basic skill needed at the exact time you need to acquire the information. The sessions will be taught by MBS members who are passionate about the art of bonsai and teaching it to others.

These sessions have hours of planning by members who have invested time and money in their own bonsai education either by taking the advanced master artist led classes at MBS, traveling across the country to various classes and workshops led by world known artist, or by taking an intensive class also offered by world class artist. The artist including Ryan Neil, Mauro Stemberger, Peter Tea, Ted Matson as well as others. Check out [Guest Artist](#) for details

The development of skills taught at these meetings will help you gain confidence to apply it and gain the experience needed to transform your ability and create quality bonsai.

Milwaukee Bonsai Society

2022 Membership Application



Contact Information

Please Print:

Name(s)	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Home Phone	
Cell/Work Phone	
E-Mail Address	

Membership Type

New or Renewal:

- Individual 1 year \$35 Individual 2 years \$62 Individual 3 years \$89
 Family 1 year \$47 Family 2 years \$86 Family 3 years \$125

Overpayment of dues will be considered a donation to the club. MBS is a non-profit organization under 501(3) (c)

Interests

Tell us in which areas you are interested in volunteering

- Events Administration Other (let us know your interest)
 Fundraising Newsletter production
 Tree Exhibiting/Sitting Volunteer coordination

Payment

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

Mail to:

Milwaukee Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI 53224

Our Policy

This information will not be published or otherwise distributed to the public and is for MBS Board members only. MBS membership applications are also accepted at monthly meetings, which the public is always invited.

Thank you for completing this application form and for your interest in joining and volunteering with us.

MBS EDUCATION PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In 2021 the Executive Board created an Education Committee to look at the offerings that Milwaukee Bonsai Society offers its membership. That committee now consists of three members, Judy Schmidt, a career educator, Steve Carini, who has been instrumental in creating and conducting classes for individuals beyond the initial Novice course offered by the club, and Ron Fortmann who has been the instructor for the Novice class for the past number of years.

The committee first looked at where MBS's education system is at and what improvements could we recommend.

First for newer members you must understand that MBS is and has been a leader and example that other clubs try to emulate in providing its membership with opportunities to expand their knowledge.

Our current findings were that MBS provides the following educational opportunities:

- 1) Holding "Beginners Workshops" is often the first interaction many of our members have experience with bonsai
- 2) Novice classes (5 sessions of establishing the foundation building blocks of bonsai)
- 3) Intermediate classes (sessions to continue building skills needed to create bonsai)
- 4) Ad hoc workshops offered randomly by visiting Masters or other club members
- 5) Providing educational programs at the monthly meetings

While these are worthy accomplishments, we decided to dig deeper and identify short comings of our current practices. To be honest with our review we critically looked at each of the offerings and identified the following harsh realities:

- 1) Once the Beginners Workshop is over there may have been a repotting session offered but little else is offered to assist the new bonsai members maintain their trees in a structured manner other than attending the Novice classes which may be months before the next session of those classes are offered.
- 2) Novice Classes offered usually once a year and class size is limited to 10-12 participants. So a typical year when we have 30-50 participants in Beginner Workshops there is only opportunities for 30% of those members to enroll in the Novice Class. After this class, there are no skill building classes offered.
- 3) Intermediate Classes again offered as a collection of classes spread out over the year. The number of students in these classes is also limited to about 8 students, once again a very small percentage of the clubs membership that may want to participate. And currently, the intermediate class is not teaching intermediate level skills.
- 4) Ad hoc workshops often limited to 6-10 participants which is often less than 10% of our general club membership.
- 5) Material presented at club meetings, in reality only gets to 32% of our membership, based on average membership of 125 and typical attendance at meetings of 40 members, and once it is presented if you were not in attendance you have no chance at receiving that information, at best you can question someone that was there on what they can recall and remember.

So there is room for improvements and technology provides us the opportunity to expand our educational offerings. The obvious choice is to capture these offerings in digital media and make it available to our membership. This is easy to say but will be challenging to accomplish, there are a number of tasks that will have to be completed to make this a reality.

So here are some of the things that the club is going to implement over the next few years and beyond:

- 1) Address the clubs website to ensure it is capable of providing access to the digital content that is created. Some content will be available to any person that enters MBS's website. Other content will only be available to members of MBS and possibly some content will only be available to members enrolled in the Novice classes; Intermediate classes
- 2) Record monthly meetings so that members that cannot attend in person can have access to what happened and those that were there can go back and review items that they saw. These will be available to members only
- 3) Create content from the lecture sessions of the Novice and Intermediate classes so that in future years these sessions can be watched by participants prior to class and reviewed with the instructor at a scheduled class creating more available time to do hands on items in class instead of listening to lectures. Also making that content available for review whenever those members want to use it.
- 4) Create a series of digital content we will call SKILL BUILDERS. These sessions will often focus on singular topics of specific techniques. Examples like how to partially defoliate deciduous trees, how to decandle pines, repotting a tree from nursery stock, mossing a tree for a show, and an unlimited number of other subjects
- 5) Record demonstrations of visiting Masters
- 6) Create digital content for the general public that may entice them to become a MBS Member
- 7) Plan an educational element for each monthly meeting to help build our members skills and knowledge
- 8) Establish criteria of what skills a student should possess to participate in the Intermediate classes

These are just a few of the ideas being investigated, but we hope this shows "You the membership" what our goals are for the future of this club.

With this said it does not mean you get to sit back and wait to be served, we will be looking for members help throughout the next few years to provide ideas of content you would like to see, and feedback on the content that is provided so that we can continuously improve. We will also be looking for your help, the skill sets of our members is often unknown. You may be skilled in video production or editing, web site content management, bonsai technique proficiency, maybe you want to learn these things as we will be needing individuals to be backups to our primary go to members.

There will be more discussion in future meetings and we hope that you are excited as we start this next part of MBS's education journey

Respectfully yours, Education Committee
Judy Schmidt, Steve Carini, Ron Fortmann



PO Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI 53224
www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Next MBS meeting will be
February 5, 2022 @ 9am
Boerner Botanical Gardens

2022 MBS OFFICERS

President [Erich B](#)
1st VP [Pam W](#)
2nd VP [Teri W](#)
Secretary [Rick W](#)
Treasurer [Clif O](#)
Director [John N](#)
Director [Greg R](#)
Director [Irene H](#)
Past Pres.

Other Club Functions

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

PAB Board—Ron F, Houston S & Judy S



Snowflakes in the winter
Fall down to the ground
Sparkle and glimmer