Upcoming Meeting

Bonsai Tools - Things to consider for your bonsai toolbox

This month’s Novice topic revolves around tools.

We will discuss those tools that one should consider when filling your toolbox and why they are important.

Like all other topics there are many opinions of what are the essential tools. I will refer to my 28 years of experience and explain what I feel are the 10 most important tools you should consider adding to your toolbox.

Meeting Schedule

February

February 4 – Root-over-Rock

February 11 - Workshop-How Do I start to show my trees?

February 18 – Novice Class #1*

February 26 – Winter Silhouette Show (Milw Domes)

March

March 4 – Guest Artist-Rick Garcia/Repot basics

March 4 – Workshop-Azalea Critique & Discussion*

March 5 – Workshop-Azalea Spring Maintenance*

March 11 – Novice Class #2*

March 18 – Workshop-Root-over-Rock*

March 25 – Novice Class #3*

April

April 1 – Watering, fertilization & pest mngt/bringing trees out of winter

April 1 – Workshop – Yamadori Dig

May

May 6 – Air Layering/Repotting Tropicals

*Open to MBS members only
President's Message

Happy February!

Only one month or so to go before we can get back to working on our trees! Woo hoo!
I try to use these winter months to plan for what I need to do with each tree in spring. If you’re not sure what to do on a tree or many trees, bring them to our club meetings to get some feedback. Better yet, sign up for the How do I Start to Show My Trees class on Sat February 11th. Not only will there be discussion on how to prep your trees for showing, there will also be feedback on what pot would be best, styling your tree, what type of stand to use, and much more. Lunch is also included. What a deal! Speaking of classes, we have a ton of classes that would make a great gift for Valentine’s Day, birthdays, Easter basket stuffers, or any special occasion gift.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next club meeting.

Erich

Member’s Corner

By Steve C

This is a new highlight of the monthly MBS Newsletter.

The editor, Melissa J, has agreed to run a monthly article that will highlight our members events, projects, or classes. If you are attending an event or convention to further your bonsai interest, tell the rest of us about it. Maybe you are sponsoring a bonsai dig or putting on a class that members might like to attend, talk about it here. Or maybe you just finished a repot into that sweet pot you picked up from Bryan L or in Chicago, send in a picture of it and we will post it here.

If you have something you want to post, write a paragraph or take a pic and send it to Melissa at missyucz2@yahoo.com.

So I’ll start it off...

In late January, I attended the first Shohin School weekend offered by Jonas Dupuich of Bonsai Tonight, Andrew Robson of Rakuyo Bonsai in Portland, OR and Daisaku Nomoto from Miyazaki, Japan. The lecture/workshop will be held in Milwaukie, Oregon... yes you read that right! I have met Daisaku before when I attended classes with Boon out in CA. He communicates well in English and has many years of experience with Shohin Bonsai, which have a max height of 7-8”. It was a interesting and informative workshop.
HOW DO I BEGIN TO SHOW MY TREES?

When we go to a bonsai exhibit it’s hard not to marvel on how beautiful the displays are. But how do they get that way? That information is what our upcoming workshop on Saturday February 11 will provide. This is not a workshop for you to design your tree. We will help you take your tree and get you started on the appropriate display for that tree.

To be covered:

- How do I choose the correct pot for my tree?
  - Feminine / masculine trees and pots
- What are accents for?
  - Types of accents and placement in the display
- What stand is right for my tree/pot?
  - Size / color / type
- Why is moss used?
  - Actual mossing of the tree/pot will be covered in a future workshop
- What do the items on the evaluation sheet mean?

THE WORKSHOP

Saturday February 11 - 9:00 - 3:00-ish
Lower level at Boerner - Multipurpose room
Bring one or two trees with which to work
Cost - $25 (includes lunch) / $10 SILENT observers (no lunch included)
Participants - limited to 12 (more possible if we have enough volunteers to assist).

Go to Eventbrite to register.

Happy 2023!!
Upcoming Workshops

The club is offering many workshops and classes in the next few months that the Executive Committee would like to make sure you are able to take advantage of. None of these events are quite full yet; there is plenty of room for more participants. Below is a list of the events and the current number of students along with the capacity of the workshop or class. Each event can be found on Eventbrite or by clicking on the below links:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop/Class</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>Number signed up</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How do I start to show my trees?</td>
<td>2/11/22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novice Class</td>
<td>2/18/22</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Root-over-Rock</td>
<td>3/18/22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonsai Skills 101</td>
<td>3/25/22</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonsai Skills 201</td>
<td>3/26/22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
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Root Over Rock Bonsai

by PAM W

Traditionally, practitioners of bonsai incorporated rocks into their designs to symbolize craggy mountains and to help create an entire mountain scene in miniature. Contemporary root-over-rock bonsai emphasizes the dramatic look of the roots themselves. A more balanced approach gives equal emphasis to both the dramatic rock and the draping roots so as to create a unified composition.

Be prepared to spend from three to 10 years on your root-over-rock bonsai. The roots of the bonsai must be grown in such a way that they grip the rock or stone securely for both the stability of the tree and the integrity of the piece.

A suitable rock needs to be found to provide the tree with space to grow roots. You have to start with material that has young flexible roots, usually 1–2-year-old cuttings or seedlings. The selected trees should be healthy and have long roots, therefore plant them in a large container at least a year before using them to create a rock planting.

To ensure that the roots remain in the desired position, you will secure the roots well against the rock surface and then place something to set the roots in place. Houston S., this month’s speaker has the secret to this technique.

Why Houston? Not only does he know the secrets to success, he has the success! In 2009, Houston’s Juniper over Rock took Best of Show AND People’s Choice. This feat has not been repeated since. Below is a picture of his award-winning bonsai from the 2007 Master Class.
MBS Oval Pot Making Class

Thirteen members came to make a pot for their future burning bush forest. Thirteen of them were happy and successful. Talk to the members and find out how much they liked the activity and meeting new friends. Most of the pots were about 15” by 13” with walls in whatever height they wanted. They detailed the outside in many different ways and made the pots formal and organic. Zoom into the pictures to see the details. They took their pots with them to slowly dry them over the next month and will flip them to put feet on. Then they will give them back for firing glazing and a second firing.

See additional pictures in this link.  https://photos.app.goo.gl/6iEkwExR4rVD4ZDF9

Bryan
A few pictures from the Oval Pot Making Class:
Winter Silhouettes Bonsai Display
by Pam W and Michelle Z

In addition to the joys of snow during the winter and early spring months, we in the Midwest have an opportunity to view our landscape in the ‘raw’, that is, without the dressing of buds, leaves and flowers.

Several things happen in this season: the evergreen conifers become more noticeable since they retain their greenery, and the skeletons of the deciduous trees and shrubs are revealed. When viewed at a distance, these skeletons appear as a rather uniform brown-gray cloud of brush and twigs, but when examined closely, each individual tree has its characteristic shape, bark, twigging character and dormant bud detail that allow its identity to be known.

It is these leafless features that we will be celebrating in the upcoming “silhouette” bonsai show which MBS will present to the public on Sunday February 26 at Mitchell Park (a.k.a. “The Domes”).

Only deciduous trees will be featured in this event. Maples, hornbeams, elms, hawthorns, apples, crabapples, pomegranate, crape myrtle, ginkgos, larches and swamp cypress are some of the species which would be suitable.

This one-day show starts at 9:00 AM till 4:00 PM. We hope to show 15 – 20 specimens, depending on size, and will set a formal display using our club backdrops, table covers and skirts.

A committee of club members is needed to help with this exhibit. We will need people to setup set up and take down the display and tree sit during the event. But more importantly, we need trees to display! (You can just drop your tree off with Rob.)

Rob S, MBS 2nd VP club director, will be chairing this project, so if you are interested in helping, please contact him at robert_sunderlage@yahoo.com
Or Sign up at Eventbrite On-Line.
MBS is excited to announce a new logo item that will be available for purchase. We have logo travel tumblers available for $20 each. The tumbler, pictured below, holds 16 oz of fluid (hot or cold) and features the snazzy MBS logo. Melissa J. will have a sample at the March meeting if you would like to see one. We will be ordering them later in March; don’t delay….make sure to place your order with Melissa J. or an Executive Committee member today!

![Tumbler Image]

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Bryan’s Bonsai Pots

Will be for sale at the next meeting

I will be bringing my inventory of more than 25 pots to the February 4th meeting.

Please bring cash or checks because I don’t know if my square will work in the basement.

Reasonably priced earthy bonsai pots.

![Bonsai Pots Image]
January 7th Meeting

The January 7th meeting started with Ron Fortmann talking about Bonsai Terminology. This might sound as if it would be a boring topic, but it was not. The talk was very informative with a lot of good information that we will be able to use in the future.

The second part of the meeting brought Steve and Brian to the front to talk to us about why we tie our trees into the pots. They did not demonstrate how to do that but stressed the importance of the task. The actual demonstration will take place at a future meeting.
PO Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI  53224
www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Next MBS meeting will be
February 4, 2023 @ 9am
Boerner Botanical Gardens

**2023 MBS OFFICERS**

President  Erich B
1st VP  Pam W
2nd VP  Rob S
Secretary  Rick W
Treasurer  Clif O
Director  John N
Director  Irene H
Director  Mike B

**Other Club Functions**

Newsletter  Melissa J
Webmaster  Pam W
Librarian  Greg R
PAB Board-Ron F, Houston S & Judy S

Glittering flakes:
The wind is breaking
Frozen moonlight

~Horiuchi Toshimi