



MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY

Membership Booklet

© Milwaukee Bonsai Society

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PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals in their efforts to increase their knowledge and skills in the art of bonsai. MBS also seeks to foster an increased awareness of the art of bonsai and of the Society's activities among the general public of Southeastern Wisconsin.

HISTORY OF MBS

The origins of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society go back to the summer of 1969. Two individuals, one a seasoned bonsai grower from Chicago, the other a young horticulturist, played the key roles. For that year's summer show at the Mitchell Park Domes, a Japanese theme was chosen, and a garden designed and built. It was recognized that bonsai would give that extra touch of authenticity, but the Conservatory possessed only one specimen, an old Atlas cedar purchased for a Japanese show a few years before. Enter Harold Lenz. A landscape architect by trade, Harold was associated with the Midwest Bonsai Society, and graciously agreed to loan several of his trees for a few weeks that summer. The trees were magnificent, certainly the best ever displayed in Milwaukee up to that time.

Richard Risch started with the County Park System only three years earlier. At one time he had dabbled in bonsai, but his interest then lay dormant while he finished school and settled into his new job at the Domes. Since the Conservatory needed someone to care for Harold's trees while they were on loan, Richard welcomed the chance to renew his interest in this fascinating art.

The summer show was a great success. Richard fielded numerous questions about the "little trees", and it soon became apparent that there was considerable interest in bonsai in Milwaukee.

Harold Lenz can in many ways be considered the "godfather" of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society. In addition to loaning his collection of trees, he also volunteered to give a free demonstration in the hope that enough people could be found to form

the nucleus of a new bonsai society. Over 200 people showed up that August evening to learn more about this horticultural art form. Harold's demonstration was informative and entertaining, and Richard asked for the names of those interested in forming a bonsai club. Thus, it was in late September that about 50 people gathered in the Mitchell Park Pavilion, and the Milwaukee Bonsai Society was founded.

The group had no blueprints or rules on how to go about setting up a club, and at times things were a little disorganized, but they never wavered. It was decided that dues would be \$3.00 annually Richard was elected the first president of MBS, and Harold continued to help by giving lectures and demonstrations. The small band of enthusiasts were soon joined by a number of new members, several of whom had been doing bonsai on their own for years. Vic Heinemeyer had been creating bonsai for some time and was associated with the Japanese community, reflecting his interest in that culture. Other "charter" members included Charlie Schneck and Gloria Roisler.

A real boost came to the club when Hayden and June Kelly joined. They had been doing bonsai for years and June put a distinctive touch to her designs. She had amassed quite a collection and with that base, the new Society was able to mount a show in 1970, only one year after its founding. That same year MBS engaged its first "master," Toshio Subumaru. At the request of his personal friend, Harold Lenz, Tosh agreed to give the fledgling group a demonstration. More artists came in the following years - John Naka, Frank Okamura, Keith Scott and others. MBS exhibited yearly at the State Fair. The club was now firmly established, but the Society and its members received a blow when June Kelly passed away unexpectedly, shortly after agreeing to take on the presidency. In her memory, MBS established the June Kelly Award of Merit, honoring those individuals who have generously shared their time and talent with members of the Society.

In 1989, MBS became a member of MABA, the Mid-America Bonsai Alliance. As a member of MABA, MBS is able to coordinate activities and share newsletters with other clubs in the Midwest. With Pam Woythal as the Convention Chairman MBS became the proud host of the first successful MABA symposium in 1995. The MABA show was a three-day event planned and executed primarily by members of MBS.

The show featured workshops taught by nationally known artists, a large vendor area with vendors from across the country and demonstrations by nationally and internationally known artists, including Hotsumi Terakawa from the Netherlands. This event set the standard for other bonsai conventions.

Since then, MBS has hosted two additional conventions. In 2002 we hosted the American Bonsai Society. We also hosted a profitable return engagement with MABA in 2006. It is with these funds in mind that the Program Advisory Board was founded by Jack Douthitt to investigate suggestions from the general membership of MBS as to how the money earned during conventions can best be spent for the welfare of all club members.

2009 marked 40 years of existence for the Society and 40 years of service to and activities for its members. 2010 was no exception, for this was the year that MBS formed a new relationship with Friends of Boerner. Spearheaded by Steve Carini we now have a new home for all meetings, exhibits and events with aspirations of a permanent collection.

The year 2013 we can clearly see progress for a Milwaukee Bonsai Society to realize a dream of having a bonsai collection on public display. At the 43rd Annual Exhibit reception in September on Friday evening Jack Douthitt announced a challenge grant that would match funds up to \$50,000 donated by MBS members by the end of the year to help achieve our shared vision of a bonsai collection in the greater Milwaukee area. In the first 48 hours we collected a few dollars less than \$20,000 and by year end we had over \$53,000 to meet his challenge. On Father's Day 2017, with a collaboration between Lynden Sculpture Garden, Milwaukee Bonsai Foundation, and Milwaukee Bonsai Society the collection was open for the public. Jack continues his journey with the collection as its curator.

Today, MBS continues to provide the same services that Harold Lenz and Richard Risch brought to the founding members. Lectures, workshops, exhibits, and master artist visits are scheduled throughout the year to benefit members from beginner to advance. The Milwaukee Bonsai Society's commitment to its goals of greater public awareness and continued education for its members will ensure sustained service to bonsai enthusiasts for many years.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of MBS also known as the Board of Directors currently meets the second Tuesday of each month. Members are welcome to attend. If you have an item for discussion it must first be presented in writing to an Executive Committee member, who in turn will include it in the meeting agenda and present it to the Executive Committee. The elected officers of the Committee are the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, three Directors-at-large, and the immediate past President

Executive committee members are responsible for implementing the mission of MBS. They prepare a budget for the coming year and control the affairs and funds of the organization along the lines for which MBS has been formed. Executive committee members are expected to attend all Executive Committee meeting and as many general meetings as possible, participate in several events and activities and chair at least one committee and participate on others.

PRESIDENT

The President shall preside at all meetings and appoint chairperson(s) of such committees as are deemed necessary for the good of MBS. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the nominating committee. The President working with the First and Second Vice-Presidents will appoint committee chairpersons subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

President shall appoint the Nominating Committee by the end of July subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The First Vice-President shall assume the duties of President in his/her absence and be chair of the Program committee. The first Vice-President drives activities for member services and is responsible for programs at the general meetings, workshops and classes appointing sub-committee chairs as needed.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

The Second Vice-President's duties will be arranging public outreach and community sponsored activities including State Fair and other exhibits, public workshops, and special events appointing sub-committee chairs as needed

SECRETARY

The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Executive Committee meetings in a suitable, format, electronic or paper, and shall have the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all members included in the permanent record. All records shall be passed on to the successor secretary.

TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the assets and finances of MBS and its comptroller and disbursing officer. He/She shall keep an accurate account of all monies received and dispersed. He/She shall be authorized to pay bills over his/her own signature up to the amount of \$200. The Treasurer shall be further authorized in conjunction with the President to close checks upon the funds of MBS for the payment of any financial obligation that exceeds \$200. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual financial report to be approved by the Executive Committee and placed with the Secretary to be kept in the permanent record.

DIRECTORS

The directors provide continuity for the organization, represent and advocate the membership's point of view. They support the president, ensure effective planning, review and monitor MBS programs and performance. They promote MBS in their club interactions and serve as chair or co-chair for member or community service events.

PAST PRESIDENT

The Immediate Past President is a voting member of the Executive Committee and serves as the senior advisor to the Executive Committee and mentor to the newest director.

STANDING COMMITTEES

MEMBERSHIP

The role of the membership committee is to develop and implement an action plan for membership development. Developing MBS's membership requires both recruitment and retention efforts. This committee is responsible for recruiting new members including membership drives, sending renewal requests, composing and distributing membership applications and welcome packages. As part of retention efforts the committee ensures that members are informed, involved, and recognized for their contributions to the club. While continuing member education ensures that members remain challenged.

The Membership committee shall be chaired by an appointee who appoints sub-committee chairs as needed for Recruitment, Retention, and Special Projects as well as someone to respond to voice mails, when one is needed. The Secretary shall maintain records of current members as part of the MBS permanent record.

WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER

The Website/Newsletter committee is primarily responsible for writing or soliciting articles, preparing copy (often including program flyers or registration forms) for mailing and posting on the website. The Committee publishes By-laws changes which often constitute the "first reading" and publish news of changes within MBS.

The Website/Newsletter committee is chaired by an appointee who appoints a newsletter editor and/or webmaster when one is needed. The responsibilities of

webmaster include updates to the existing website content, develop new content for the MBS website and respond to emails. The editor's primary responsibility is to meet publication deadlines and publish the MBS newsletter 11 times per membership year.

PUBLICITY/MARKETING

The Publicity committee is responsible for publicizing all MBS activities. They announce activities, prepare promotional material, posters, flyers, and publish events in the newsletter. The committee oversees production and publishing of brochures, advertising, and works to ensure a positive image of MBS is presented to the general public.

The Publicity committee is chaired by an appointee who appoints a director to oversee all aspects of advertising, promotion and public relations.

LIBRARY

The Library committee supervises and manages the club library and purchases books and magazines. The committee also sponsors newly organized study groups and serves as a mentor while assisting the study group leader in planning and organizing the administrative processes. While all aspects of bonsai education for novice, intermediate and advanced classes are arranged and implemented through the Executive Committee, the Library committee ensures continuing education so that members remain challenged.

The Library committee is chaired by an appointee who appoints a librarian when one is needed and help with education and study groups.

SUPPORTING COMMITTEES

PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD

The purpose of Program Advisory Board (PAB) is to accept and investigate suggestions from the general membership of MBS as to how the money earned during conventions can best be spent for the welfare of all club members. Any club member can make a recommendation to the PAB for a program that would benefit the entire club, but is beyond the financial constraints that exist within the clubs normal funds. The PAB is responsible to take suggestions and make recommendations to the Executive Committee of MBS as to whether or not the program should be implemented. The MBS Executive Committee shall then accept or reject the recommendations of the PAB

The President of MBS, with the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee, appoints the members of the PAB.

MILWAUKEE BONSAI FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Milwaukee Bonsai Committee, formed by Jack Douthitt, includes the current MBS President and other members the committee chooses to include with strong MBS representation. The intent is to promote, present, and organize fundraising campaigns for the MBS Public Bonsai Collection Funds and to assure proper care of the Collection.

EXCELLENCE IN BONSAI PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Excellence in Bonsai Program was established to provide all members of MBS with world class opportunities for excellence in bonsai. The Excellence In Bonsai Program Committee will be made up of Steve Plichta as the chairperson, Ted Matson and Jerry Niemiec, all having a special relationship with Anna Stadnicka and Steve Contney. The intent is to promote, present, and organize world class opportunities for excellence in bonsai including fundraising campaigns for this purpose.

CONVENTION/SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE

The purpose of this committee is to plan and execute on proposed convention/symposium events. The President of MBS, with the approval of a majority of the Executive Committee, appoints the chairman/co-chair and Registrar of any Convention/Symposium committee. The Convention/Symposium chairman appoints sub-committee chairs as needed.

HELPING INDIVIDUALS - MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society, Inc. sponsors a number of services for its members, including meetings, workshops, classes and a newsletter.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Milwaukee Bonsai Society holds monthly meetings for its members and the interested general public from February through November. These meetings are designed to provide helpful information and hands-on experience with bonsai in an informal social setting. Our December meeting, for members and their guests, is an annual Awards Dinner. It is at this dinner that annual awards are presented, new officers are introduced and gifts are exchanged

Meetings begin with a brief address from the President to inform members of upcoming shows, conventions, workshops, classes, and other pertinent events or information. Members with notes of interest are encouraged to contribute information at this time also.

The main body of an MBS meeting may be a presentation or demonstration on a particular aspect of bonsai culture or a group activity. Often MBS will schedule a visiting artist for this segment. Members are invited to bring their own trees for assistance from visiting artists or from other members. Members are also invited to bring in a tree to display so that others may enjoy their work.

At the completion of the main activity, there will be time to socialize, visit with a guest artist, view trees on display, or purchase items from vendors in attendance. Meetings will occasionally include a benefit drawing for primarily bonsai-related items, with proceeds helping to cover the MBS's operating costs. Drawings are held at or near the end of the scheduled meeting activities.

WORKSHOPS

A traditional bonsai workshop is one in which the artist and participant work together to design a bonsai. Sometimes material is provided while at other

workshops you bring your own material for styling. The basic advantage of the workshops is in a single event of few hours, we get to complete a single 'cycle' of design or refinement of a bonsai.

MBS sponsored workshops are learning experiences for your benefit. The instructor will work with each participant individually, giving suggestions on style and care for your particular tree. Depending on the type of workshop, it may be beneficial to bring an additional tree if you need styling or care insights.

ARTIST WORKSHOPS

In order to expose its members to a variety of styling approaches and perspectives, MBS strives to bring in established bonsai talent from around and outside of the Milwaukee area to conduct workshops and demonstrations. Artist workshops are among the highlights of the Society's calendar.

Workshop enrollment is limited and will be filled on a first come first served basis. Each participant provides his/her own tools, wire, potting materials and, unless it is a material-provided workshop, a plant or tree to work on. Workshops will vary in subject, level of skill, and cost which is set by the Executive Committee. Time with the artist is at the artist discretion which is typically divided equally among participants.

Silent observers are welcome and fees vary by workshop. Rules for participating as an observer include silence, no questions/comments directed to artist or participant. Silent Observers are asked to respect the paying participants time with an artist by following the rules for participating.

OPEN WORKSHOPS

MBS sponsored open workshops are a collaborative learning experience. Sometimes these workshops have a designated theme such as transplanting or wiring. In all cases novice and experienced members work and share ideas on trees.

Open workshop enrollment is not limited and typically there is no cost to members who participate. Each participant provides his/her own tools, wire, potting materials and tree to work on.

CLASSES

A bonsai class is a series of educational and work sessions. Small groups of people meet together with an instructor over a short period of time to concentrate on a defined area of study. Classes typically use interactive and immersive technique to take the student through a developmental progression of study from initial styling through refinement work and technical progression of techniques from wiring through ramification work.

NOVICE CLASSES

Novice classes are held on an as-needed basis to introduce members with little or no previous experience to the basics of bonsai. This is a wonderful follow-up to the public workshop. If you have never participated in a novice class, it offers wonderful instruction, information and hands-on experiences

Classes are taught by experienced volunteers and include a copy of "Introduction to Bonsai", (a course workbook by Tom Zane.) The first two sessions are classroom style with extensive information about styles of trees, pots, tools, pruning, soils, fertilizing to continue your bonsai training. Trees will be brought in for the third session which provides for hands-on experience with styling and proper technique of wiring your own tree. Session 4 finds us at a local nursery searching for potential bonsai in the morning. After lunch, we get together to work on the "treasures" we found during our "nursery crawl".

The classes are open to any MBS member. A fee is charged for these classes to cover cost of materials and supplies and there is no refund.

INTERMEDIATE CLASSES

MBS offers continuing educational opportunities in Intermediate Classes. Building upon what is learned in Novice Classes, we progress using David De Groot's "Basic Bonsai Design" book which explains the art of bonsai and concepts. This book helps you discover "how to" by understanding the "why". These classes are usually structured as four all day hands-on classes held at instructor's locations.

Classes are taught by experienced MBS instructors and are open to all MBS members who have taken the novice class or have some Bonsai experience. Attendance at all meetings and class sessions should be considered as mandatory. There are no "silent observers or selling or giving your spot to someone outside of the class participants. A fee is charged for these classes to cover cost of instructor and supplies. Students must pay for the entire year in advance with no refunds.

ADVANCED CLASSES

The advanced classes offer continuation of the opportunity for members of MBS to study under the guidance of an experienced/advanced bonsai teacher to learn and apply bonsai design and horticultural principles to their bonsai. The class fosters each student's advancement and contributes to her/his future work as a bonsai leader in MBS. In this course, class discussions, bonsai activities and hands on assignments will challenge students to think critically about their bonsai. All sessions will be directed toward the development of better bonsai

These classes have a defined time commitment typically one to three years. Attendance at all meetings and class sessions should be considered as mandatory. There are no "silent observers or selling or giving your spot to someone outside of the class participants. Students must pay for the entire year in advance.

Members of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society are eligible to enroll in the advanced classes. Applicants should have participated in the previous intermediate or advanced class or have adequate experience from other sources to benefit from the class sessions. Students should also have access to quality material to work with at sessions.

WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

We maintain a website at www.MilwaukeeBonsai.org. The site is open to the public and includes information about upcoming programs, workshops, classes and events.

The monthly newsletter is available online (www.milwaukeebonsai.org) typically on the 25th of the month except December. It includes information about upcoming programs, workshops, events, official business and announcements. It also contains MBS contact information, along with stories and pictures from past events and articles about various bonsai topics. Members may place "want ads" for items they are in search of or wish to sell or trade, at no charge. Vendors wishing to advertise may purchase ad space.

If you would like to submit articles or pictures to either the newsletter or website, please contact the webmaster or newsletter editor (contact information listed on the website).

LIBRARY AND BOOK SALES

In addition to the group education experiences available, MBS maintains an extensive lending library so that your learning can continue on an individual basis. It is one of the largest bonsai related libraries in the country. This resource is available to all MBS members. Here you will find not only English but Japanese, German, French, Italian, and Spanish language publications and periodicals. MBS also has a DVD library. A list of these assets can be found online (www.milwaukeebonsai.org). Any member who is up to date on dues and has his/her MBS badge to present may check out materials. Materials may be checked out at the monthly meetings, and should be returned to the librarian at the next monthly meeting.

Selected bonsai books are also available for sale through MBS. Because MBS is an affiliated member of the American Bonsai Society and Bonsai Clubs International we can purchase books through their book service.

SOCIETY EXTRAS

Not only are we an instructional group, we also are a social group, as such we include refreshment breaks at our meetings. In addition, we have an Awards Dinner usually during the Annual Exhibit in Fall, and on occasion a picnic in summer. These are events that should not be missed because they are fun and relaxing.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY -SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society, Inc. fosters an increased awareness of the art of bonsai and of the Society's activities among the general public of Southeastern Wisconsin.

EXHIBITS AND SHOWS

Milwaukee Bonsai Society promotes its activities locally at several exhibits and shows each year. MBS has exhibitions of members' trees at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Whitnall Park each year. It sponsors booths during the Wisconsin State Fair in August and Folk Fair International in November. The State Fair Exhibit is in the Horticulture Building which is home to a variety of displays by local garden clubs and flower growers. MBS provides an extensive collection of bonsai trees which become the most popular of these displays.

STATE FAIR

The State Fair show is the club's major judged show of the year. Trees can be entered in a variety of categories by anyone who is a member in good standing of a Wisconsin bonsai club. The tree must have been in their possession for at least two years prior to the show. A bonsai expert from outside MBS is brought in to do the Judging. Complete entry rules will be provided at previous meetings or via the newsletter.

FOLK FAIR INTERNATIONAL

Another popular exhibit on the MBS schedule is the Folk Fair International at State Fair Exhibition Center in November. With its focus on many cultures, our exhibit of bonsai trees is quite at home.

ANNUAL CLUB SHOW

Fall color is one of the highlights of this show held at Whitnall Park Boerner Botanical Gardens in Greendale, Wisconsin. Because of space restrictions, the number of

bonsai that can be displayed at this weekend event is limited. Therefore, this show is an invitational event and boasts some of the more spectacular trees owned by club members.

It is hoped that the Friends of Boerner building, at Boerner Gardens, will provide a permanent home for MBS, its activities and its permanent collection

SILHOUETTE

Late winter allows us a unique opportunity for the popular silhouette bonsai show. This show features deciduous trees in their dormant phase, which highlights their branch structure. We try to host this exhibit yearly as it helps enrollment for the public workshop and exposes gardener to bonsai at the best time to join MBS.

GARDEN SHOWS

Several times during a year members may be invited to bring their trees for display, tree-sit or demonstrate bonsai techniques to interested gardeners or festival-goers. In the past this has included Wauwatosa Garden Tour in July. Volunteer members field questions about bonsai and distribute literature on MBS activities.

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

MBS offers introductory bonsai workshops for the general public. These workshops introduce the art of bonsai to those with no previous experience.

The public workshop fee includes a one-year individual MBS membership, a tropical pre-bonsai plant, and container, potting mix and training wire. Experienced members of the club volunteer to work individually with each student, taking them through the process of styling a tree. This involves choosing an appropriate style, determining the front of the tree, pruning and wiring. Students may then be shown how to prune roots and transplant the tree into a bonsai pot.

Although the workshops are designed for the general public, new club members with no previous bonsai experience will find them quite helpful as a starting point into their new hobby.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

The membership of MBS is made up of amateur bonsai growers who pursue their interest solely as a hobby. The success of such a group depends upon the degree of involvement and level of commitment that the individual members are willing to make. Those who hold positions on the Executive Committee are not compensated for their efforts, other than receiving the satisfaction of knowing that they have helped the club achieve its goals.

Members are strongly encouraged to help MBS when needed by volunteering to help set up, take down and tree-sit for shows, by serving on various committees when needed, teaching or by helping at the public and open workshops. One need not be a bonsai expert, or even a very experienced member, to assist the club. The amount of time and energy required is small, but the dividends are large in building a Society that can meet the needs of its entire membership.

GUIDING STANDARDS

The Executive Committee has considered and written a series of guidelines for the day to day functioning of MBS. These are not part of the By-laws and can be changed at any time by a simple majority of Executive Committee member voting. They are included in this handbook so that all members of MBS can have an understanding of the basis for Executive Committee decisions. Additionally your compliance with these policies and standards will be appreciated.

POLICIES

PRIVACY

Membership information will not be published or otherwise distributed to the public and is for MBS Executive Committee members only.

To protect member's privacy and tree collection, we do use last names on the website, newsletter or entry information.

SALES

MBS may allow sale of bonsai related items at society events. Such sales do not imply endorsement by MBS. MBS will not assume liability of any sort arising from these sales.

From time to time at monthly meetings, MBS holds a "white elephant" sale, at which members may sell excess or unwanted plants, pots and other items to interested buyers without the suggested donation to MBS.

USE OF NAME OR LOGO

The use of MBS's name or logo will be restricted to functions sanctioned by MBS such as exhibits, workshops, meetings, etc. MBS shall not allow its name to be used to endorse private or commercial venture without substantial benefit to MBS. MBS's name or logo cannot be used by anyone for their private profit, recognition or gain.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The dues are payable on or before January 1 for the coming year. Membership will be dropped if dues are not paid by January 31. New members joining after June 30 will pay one-half of the regular dues amount for the remainder of that year. New members joining after September 30 will pay current dues and their membership will be extended through the next year. Overpayment of dues will be considered a donation to the club. MBS is a non-profit organization under 501(3) (c)

VENDOR DUES

There are two classes of vendors for MBS. Regular Vendors, which may be present at all club functions during the year, and Term Vendors, which are limited to 2 club functions per year.

The requirements for Regular Vendors are:

1. Filing with the MBS Treasurer a current Wisconsin Department of Revenue Sellers Permit, AND:
2. Donation of \$35.00 to the Treasurer for the current club year.

The requirement for Term Vendors is:

1. Donation, to the Treasurer, of \$5.00 at close of each club activity (maximum of 2).

WORKSHOP PAYMENT

While attendance at workshops is optional, participants must pay for the workshop in advance. In the event someone cannot attend the participant can sell/give their spot to another club member. They cannot however, split the participation with another member. Every effort is made to find a replacement, however if a replacement is not found there is no refund. No exceptions.

SILENT OBSERVERS

Silent observers are welcome at workshops and fees vary by workshop. Rules for participating as an observer include silence, no questions/comment directed to artist or participant in order to respect the time participants are paying an artist.

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PAYMENT

Attendance at all class sessions should be considered as mandatory. There are no “silent observers” or selling/giving your spot to someone outside of the class participants. Students must pay for the entire year in advance with no refunds. No exceptions.

COMPENSATED SERVICES

If a member extends services at the request of MBS and for MBS’s benefit any compensation for those services are passed to that member. For example, a garden club requests a speaker. In return for promoting MBS and spending the time to do so, the speaker retains the compensation.

For MBS members who serve as instructors for novice, intermediate or advance classes the Executive Committee may vote and budget for compensation of \$50 per 4 hour event. For example the intermediate class may be 8 hours and may be compensated for 2 four hour sessions or \$100. A half day novice class may be compensated for a single four hour sessions or \$50.

For MBS members who serve as coordinators of artist workshops no compensation should be expected.

For MBS members who serve as workshop artist compensation should be negotiated before the annual budget is set or as the budget is being set.

MBS CONVENTION/SYMPOSIUM FUNDS

The funds earned during the MBS hosted Symposiums will be placed in an interest bearing account entitled “Milwaukee Bonsai Society Symposium Funds.” The funds in this account shall be used for financing the programs recommended by the

Program Advisory Board and for no other purpose. Once these funds are reduced to \$6000.00 no further programs will be initiated. The remainder of the fund could then be used as “seed money” for another convention or symposium. If it is determined that MBS will not host another convention or symposium, then the funds will be placed in the general fund of MBS and the PAB will be disbanded.

The President of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society and the Chairperson of the Program Advisory Board shall be the co-signers on the account and all withdrawals shall be signed by both parties. The reporting duties for this account are the responsibility of the MBS President and Chairman of the Program Advisory Board. These reports will be filed as part of the Treasury Report on a quarterly cycle and on December 31 for the year end Treasury Report

MBS PUBLIC BONSAI COLLECTION FUNDS

All funds donated in response to Jack Douthitt's Challenge Grant, and any other funds raised by the Milwaukee Bonsai Committee shall be deposited into an interest bearing account entitled Milwaukee Bonsai Society Public Bonsai Collection Funds.

The President of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society and the Chairperson of the Milwaukee Bonsai Committee shall be the co-signers on the account and all withdrawals shall be signed by both parties. The reporting duties for this account are the responsibility of the MBS President and Treasurer of the Milwaukee Bonsai Committee. These reports will be filed as part of the Treasury Report on a quarterly cycle and on December 31 for the year end Treasury Report

Funds in this account shall only be used for the purpose of establishing a public bonsai collection in the Milwaukee area under the joint guidance of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society and the Milwaukee Bonsai Committee.

MBS EXCELLENCE IN BONSAI PROGRAM FUNDS

All funds donated to this program fund shall be deposited into an interest bearing account entitled Milwaukee Bonsai Society Excellence in Bonsai Program.

The President of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society and the Chairperson of the Excellence in Bonsai Program shall be the co-signers on the account and all withdrawals shall be signed by both parties. The reporting duties for this account are the responsibilities of the MBS President and Chairman of the Excellence in Bonsai Program Committee. These reports will be filed as part of the Treasury Report on a quarterly cycle and on December 31 for the year end Treasury Report.

Funds in this account shall only be used for the purpose of providing all members of MBS with world class opportunities for excellence in bonsai under the joint guidance of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society and the Excellence in Bonsai Program.

GUIDELINES

STUDY GROUPS

MBS promotes the concept of study groups with open enrollment for society members. MBS may actively support such groups with funding, manpower, publicity, etc.

Private study groups with closed enrollment are encouraged to maintain contact with the MBS's Executive Committee with hopes to coordinate activities for mutual benefit. MBS cannot allow privileged access to MBS activities or assets by these groups. For example, an MBS sponsored artist's workshop could not be restricted to private study group members only.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER SOCIETIES

MBS will communicate and cooperate with other societies to promote the art of bonsai. Membership in international, national and regional societies is encouraged. MBS may use reasonable resources to promote these relationships.

YOUNG PEOPLES BONSAI WORKSHOPS AND CLUBS

The children's workshop opportunities at Boerner Botanical Garden and Lynden Sculpture Garden are the Milwaukee Bonsai Society's version of a young people's outreach program.

RULES

STATE FAIR RULES

- 1) There will be three separate Bonsai Exhibits during the length of the Fair.
- 2) The schedule for the different exhibits is as follows:
 - First Exhibit - The first exhibit starts the first Thursday through the first Saturday.
 - Second Exhibit – Starts the first Sunday through Wednesday.
 - Third Exhibit - The third exhibit starts the second Thursday through the following Sunday.
- 3) The Milwaukee Bonsai Society will coordinate the setup, maintenance, display and supervision of these Exhibits.
- 4) The Milwaukee Bonsai Society will select the Show Coordinator and the Judges for the Wisconsin State Fair Bonsai Exhibits.
- 5) The Milwaukee Bonsai Society and the Wisconsin State Fair will exercise all reasonable care during the Exhibits. However, neither the Milwaukee Bonsai Society nor the Wisconsin State Fair assumes any liability for damage or loss to any exhibit or exhibitor.
- 6) Any active member of a Wisconsin Bonsai Society is eligible to exhibit a bonsai.
- 7) Each exhibit will be judged separately according to the judging criteria listed in Article 17. Judging will be done on the first day of each exhibit.

8) The decision to award any prize is solely at the discretion of the Judges and all decisions made by the Judges are final.

9) More than one award may be given in any Class at the discretion of the Judges.

10) If no specimen in a Class meets the criteria necessary for an award, an award may not be made in the class.

11) Additional awards may be given by other bonsai oriented organizations.

12) There shall be six classes of entries: Class#:

101. Youth Class - Exhibitors 18 years of age or younger

102. Novice Class - Exhibitors with less than five years' experience in bonsai

103. Intermediate Class - Exhibitors with more than five years experience in bonsai

104. Advanced Class - Exhibitors that have previously won an Award of Merit in the Intermediate Class or Best of Show in any Class at the Wisconsin State Fair

105. Open Class - Open to all exhibitors

106. For Exhibit Only - Not eligible for any award

13) A tree may be entered in only one class. Each class will be judged separately and the "Best in Show" and Awards of Merit may be selected.

14) All trees submitted for exhibition must be healthy and free of disease and infestation and must be exhibited in a bonsai container.

15) Any tree submitted for judging must have been in the direct care of the exhibitor over two winters. Youth and Novice Class entries are exempt from this requirement.

16) Exhibitor's names will NOT be displayed on any exhibited tree. As matter of security, the bonsai identification cards will identify only the club affiliation of the tree's owner.

17) Specimens exhibited for judging may be awarded prizes according to the guidelines below.

White Ribbon - A very good example of the art of bonsai

Red Ribbon - An exceptional example of the art of bonsai

Blue Ribbon - A highly exceptional example of the art of bonsai

Award of Merit - A superior example of the art of bonsai, which exhibits unique characteristics or design

Best of Show - The specimen which best exhibits the highest quality of the art of bonsai

18) These are the complete rules governing the Wisconsin State Fair Bonsai Exhibit.

BYLAWS
OF
THE MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

(REV.1991, 1992, 2000, 2011, 2016)

ARTICLE I.

NAME

- Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY. INC. Hereafter called MBS.
- Section 2. The MBS shall be a nonprofit, educational organization under section 501 (c)(3) of the IRS code.
- Section 3. It shall be the firm rule of MBS that its members shall not use the prestige of membership for any advertising and/or promotion of their personal products and or services. The MBS name cannot be used to sell, promote or advertise the personal products or services of members.

ARTICLE II.

PURPOSE

The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes operating under 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. To the extent consistent with the above general purposes, the specific purposes of this corporation shall be as follows:

The purpose of MBS shall be the study and appreciation of bonsai and to help members develop horticultural skills, share knowledge and have a keener awareness of nature. MBS also seeks to foster an increased awareness of the art of bonsai and of the Society's activities among the general public of Southeastern Wisconsin.

Operational Limitations: Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted (1) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding provision under of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), or (2) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (or the corresponding provision under of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Membership shall be open to anyone who expresses interest in bonsai and pays the annual dues.
- Section 2. The Executive Committee shall set the dues for the succeeding year. The dues are payable on or before January 1 for the coming year. Membership will be dropped if dues are not paid by January 31. Dues will be prorated. New members joining after June 30 will pay one-half of the regular dues amount for the remainder of that year. New

members joining after September 30 will pay current dues and their membership will be extended through the next year.

- Section 3. The Executive Committee shall determine the number and types of membership classification (single, family, etc.), as well as the dues for each classification.
- Section 4. Honorary membership may be conferred by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV.

OFFICERS

- Section 1. Elected officers shall be: President, first Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition three Directors-at-large shall be elected.
- Section 2. The President shall serve no more than two consecutive one-year terms. After the President's term expires, s/he will continue as Past President for an additional two consecutive one-year terms. Other officers shall serve no more than four consecutive one-year terms in the same office after which, may serve again in that same office after completing a one year hiatus. The three Directors-at-large shall be elected for three-year terms on a three-year rotating basis. A director may not be elected for a second consecutive three-year term.
- Section 3. The President shall preside at all meetings and appoint chairperson(s) of such committees as are deemed necessary for the good of MBS. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the nominating committee. The President shall appoint any MBS member in good standing to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee which occur between terms.

- Section 4. The First Vice-President shall assume the duties of President in his/her absence. Duties include driving activities for MEMBER SERVICES such as programs at the general meetings, workshops and classes.
- Section 5. The Second Vice-President duties will be to arrange PUBLIC OUTREACH activities including State Fair and other exhibits, public workshops and shows.
- Section 6. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Executive Committee Meetings in a suitable, format, electronic or paper, and shall have the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all members included in the permanent record. All records shall be passed on to the successor secretary.
- Section 7. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the assets and finances of MBS and its comptroller and disbursing officer. He/She shall keep an accurate account of all monies received and dispersed. He/She shall be authorized to pay bills over his/her own signature up to the amount of \$200. The Treasurer shall be further authorized in conjunction with the President to write checks upon the funds of MBS for the payment of any financial obligation that exceeds \$200. Funds of MBS shall be kept in a special MBS account(s) in a bank approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual financial report to be approved by the Executive Committee and placed with the Secretary to be kept in the permanent record.
- Section 8. The Past President shall assist the active President with the administration of the Executive Committee and the Milwaukee Bonsai Society.
- Section 9. a) Elections shall be held at the October meeting each year.

b) The Nominating Committee shall present to the membership of MBS a full slate of Officers and Director(s)-at-large at the September meeting

c) The slate shall also be sent to all members one month prior to the election.

d) Nominations may be made from the floor at the September meeting and these nominations shall be included in the slate presented at the October meeting.

e) The term of office shall begin on January 1

f) No individual shall run for more than one office.

g) Nominees for office must be members in good standing.

h) Only members in good standing may vote.

i) A candidate for office shall not serve on the Nominating Committee.

j) Election shall require a simple majority vote of those members present at the October Society meeting.

ARTICLE V.

MEETINGS

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers, three directors and the immediate past President and shall be empowered to transact any and all business of MBS. They shall control the affairs and finances of the organization.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly to determine policies and plan for the future of MBS. The newly elected Executive

Committee shall meet shortly after the election with the incumbent Committee.

Section 3. A quorum of five shall be necessary to conduct the business of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII.

COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing committees shall be: Membership, Website, Newsletter, Publicity/Marketing, and Library.

Section 2. Committee chairpersons shall be appointed by the President subject to approval by the Executive Committee. Each chairperson shall select the committee members.

Section 3. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President no later than the end of July and shall consist of two or three members subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to the by-laws shall be proposed in writing to the Executive Committee. The proposal requires the signatures of five or more members in good standing.

Section 2. There will be three readings.

Section 3. The proposed amendment will be read upon presentation to the Executive Committee for its first reading. The Executive Committee may make suggestions to the presenters of the proposed amendment in which case the proposal may be resubmitted at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Section 4. Printing the proposal in the newsletter shall constitute a second reading

Section 5. The third reading shall be at the next scheduled Society meeting after the second reading and a vote on the proposal shall be taken after a discussion, if needed. A two thirds vote of the members present shall be necessary for passage.

ARTICLE IX.

DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of MBS, the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities, transfer all its assets to Bonsai Clubs International, The American Bonsai Society or other bonsai organizations as at the time qualify under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or 1986, as amended (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), at the discretion of the Board of directors of MBS.

ARTICLE X.

PROCEDURE

Robert's Rules of Order (revised), where they are consistent with the purpose of MBS, shall govern all procedures not covered in these by-laws.