



Milwaukee  
Bonsai  
Society

# BONSAI NEWS

March, 2002

## President's Message

*Brian Palevac, President*

Although the sun has chased the groundhogs back into their comfy holes to await spring, we know that sunshine means growth and soon time to begin our annual cycle of loving Bonsai rituals. In an effort of support, may I suggest that you share your spring Bonsai tips with others because we all want to nurture our plants, each other, and ourselves the best we can.

### *We look forward to:*

Home Show and Novice Class activity positions are available. Your outstanding participation in these quality Milwaukee Bonsai Society events have always made them fun.

Remember, we have the distinct privilege to host the American Bonsai Symposium (ABS) in Milwaukee on June 27-30. I've learned that ABS workshops are filling fast, so please consider getting your registration in soon.

Karl Bethke is our honored presenter on Tuesday, March 5th. Karl is a Madison, Wisconsin "boy" and Bonsai pot selection is one of his areas of expertise. I hope you will come to this meeting to learn together. (Psst...just between you and I - given what I've learned - I know Karl is going

to be very informative, and entertaining. We're going to have a good time!) Thank you for being here.

[*Editor's Note:* The following article has been printed in the newsletter before. However, Joe Nemeč is always mindful of the newest members and wishes to help them whenever possible. This fertilizing program and soil recipe have worked very well for him for many years. Not bad advice to follow for those of you who don't already have your own formulas.]

## Suggested Fertilizing Program

*Joe Nemeč*

### Deciduous

One application on the 1st of May, July and September of Milorganite spread liberally on surface of the soil. Apply no other fertilizer during these months.

April, June and August - Use Peters 20-20-20 at 1/2 tablespoon per gallon on the 1st, 10th and 20th of these months. Apply no other fertilizer during this time.

### Evergreens

One application on the 1st of May, July and September of a mix of bloodmeal, bonemeal and cottonseed meal. One third of each. Spread liberally on surface of the soil. No other fertilizer during these months.

April, June and August - same as deciduous.

### Joe's Suggested Soil Mix

2 parts Turface - available at Reinders in Elm Grove

1 part topsoil or preferably mushroom compost. This compost is available at the Prospect Hill Nursery in New Berlin.

1 part vermiculite

1 part coca bean shells - available at Stein's.

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## Repotting

Most trees need to be repotted every 3 to 4 years. If however, you find roots growing out of the drain holes, the tree should be repotted that year.

Deciduous trees should be repotted when the first new buds appear in Spring.

Evergreen trees should be repotted in May.

## Mycorrhizae – a Short Lesson

*Pam Woythal*

Mycorrhizae is fungi that has a symbiotic relationship with tree roots. They are important to moisture and nutrient gathering for our trees. There are two basic kinds of mycorrhizae (mike-o-rise-ee): ectotrophic and endotrophic. *Trophic* relates to nourishment. *Ecto* relates to outside or external. *Endo* means inside or internal.

Ectotrophic mycorrhizai serve the tree without actually penetrating into the cells of feeding roots. The fine fungi threads (*hyphae*) form a sheath around the lateral feeding roots.

Endotrophic mycorrhizai hyphae actually penetrate into the cortical cells of the feeding roots. The hyphae do not form a sheath but extend into the soil like a web.

Many times you can find and collect the fungi in soil of established trees. Pine trees are the obvious choice. It can be spotted by its white color in the soil. To inoculate your soil, dig core samples from the root area of the established tree and mix it in with your soil.

## March

*poem submitted by Cindy Dires*

*First a howling blizzard woke us  
Then rain came down to soak us,  
And now before the eye can focus  
– Crocus.*



That's the description of March that Jean Hersey offers in her book, "The Shape of a Year."

## Tony's Corner

*Tony Plicka*

### *Winter Tips for Yards*

- Protect rose bushes
- Mulch tender perennials
- Prune most trees and evergreens (NOT Pines)
- Heavy prune late flowering shrubs
- Apply winterizing fertilizer to lawn

### *For Bonsai*

- Make sure indoor and outdoor plants do not dry out
- Do not bring outdoor trees out of winter storage too early
- Pruning can be done on some trees
- Make a note of which of your trees need repotting
- Check wire on trees for swelling or "cutting in" and remove
- Figure out which trees need work for upcoming shows

Watch for Spring specials at future meetings. Also, remember if you need supplies in between meetings, delivery is available on a call-in basis weekly. Call your order in to me (see Nino's ad on p.3), and the the next week it will be at your door (limited to the city of Milwaukee).

**Reminder: Home & Garden Show coming soon!**  
**March 22-30 at State Fair Park in the Trend House.**

**Hours:** M – Thursday 4-9 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Sunday: 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

## Homemade Cut Paste

Here are two inexpensive alternatives (recently published in the ABS Journal) to buying cut paste made in Japan. Use a small container of Elmer's glue with brown food coloring in it. Or buy regular modeling clay from a hobby shop (preferably gray or brown) and mix in a little olive oil to keep it pliable.

## Reminder

Jack Douthitt, President of ABS Symposium Committee

Please bring empty coffee tins (with lids), and empty plastic ice cream buckets (again with lids) to the next club meeting. We need these containers for the raffles at the June Symposium.

Is there anyone in the club who is active in the "Internet Bonsai Club?" If so, we could use your help. Please contact Jack Douthitt at (414) 228-9628 or e-mail [jackbd@mindspring.com](mailto:jackbd@mindspring.com) as soon as possible. Thank you.

## Crabapples

Crabapples (*Malus* species) are the most popular fruit trees used for bonsai. Their rapid growth makes it possible to create a bonsai with showy spring flowers and attractive fruit in a fairly short time. The best varieties for bonsai are those that are small leaved, taper well, and tend to produce good branching. Though there are many cultivars to choose from, try to choose from varieties that are resistant to apple scab, because it is a chronic problem in our area.

Apple scab starts as dark spots on the leaves early in the season. In summer, the leaves yellow, sometimes resulting in total defoliation. Infected fruits have raised black spots. Excessive moisture tends to promote the problem. Two scab resistant trees to look for are *Malus Sargentii* 'Tina' and *Malus* 'Sugar Tyme.' 'Tina' has dark pink flower buds, white flowers, red fruit, small leaves and growth that spreads wide rather than upright. 'Sugar Tyme' has medium sized leaves, pinkish white flowers, and small red fruit set in clusters.

If you have junipers in your collection, take care not to place them too close to the crabapple. Junipers are an alternate host for Cedar Apple rust (another malady causing rusty freckles that can defoliate the tree). Despite this potential problem, crabapples can be a joy to own!

### MBS Meetings and Information Line:

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Wehr Nature Center, 9701 W. College Avenue, Franklin, WI 53232. The phone number there is (414) 425-8550; Fax (414) 425-6992. Call the MBS Voice Mail/Message System at (414) 299-9229 to learn about upcoming events and meeting times. To contact the club via email: [mbs@asapnet.net](mailto:mbs@asapnet.net) Look for us on the web at: <http://www.asapnet.net/milwaukee-bonsai/index.html>



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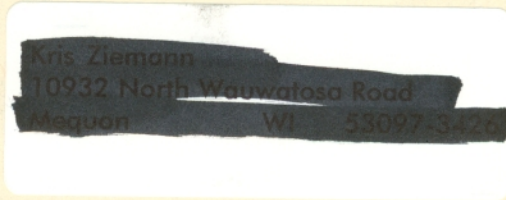
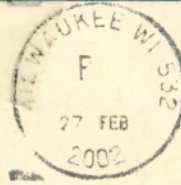


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*Next Meeting of MBS  
March 5, 2002  
7 p.m. at Wehr Nature Center*

**MBS Board - 2002**

Brain Palevac, *President*  
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Darlene Shaginaw, *Second VP*  
Russell Weiss, *Secretary*  
Kris Ziemann, *Treasurer*  
Scott Hurula, *Officer*  
Nicky Metza, *Officer*  
Ken Hahn, *Past President*

*Through brambled field winds  
the gray stone lichen splashed fence  
where field creatures hide.*

~ Joe Nemeč

