



Milwaukee
Bonsai
Society

BONSAI NEWS

April, 2002

April Meeting - Group Slash

Yvonne Szatkowski, Editor

In April we plan to have a "group slash." Here's what to expect. Following the business portion of the meeting, we will break out into small groups or teams. Each team will get a nursery stock tree to style for the remainder of the night. Older, more experienced members will help the beginners among us learn how to start pruning to find the "hidden" bonsai buried under all those branches! We encourage everyone to have fun with it, really get hands on, and actively participate creating your own group's bonsai. Anyone wishing to bring a tree from home to work on at this time should do so. Also, please remember to bring your tools, wire, turntables, etc. (I suggest marking your tools with your name, so they don't get lost, or accidentally picked up by someone else.)

Novice Classes

Kris Ziemann, Treasurer

Welcome newcomers to the MBS. MBS has an interesting series of classes designed especially for you! The novice classes start the first Saturday in April and continue each Saturday morning through April (6, 13, 20, and 27). We will then have a nursery crawl (checking out local garden centers for interesting 'bonsai-able' plants or trees) on Saturday May 11.

So what's involved? You will receive a copy of the "Introduction to Bonsai, A Course Syllabus," a tree, pot, soil, wire and help in styling your creation. The first class is usually a discussion of the different styles of bonsai, what it's all about, etc. The rest of the classes are divided up to cover soil, potting, wiring (we have wooden 'trees' made of dowels to practice wiring), and tools. The last two classes are actual hands on with trees.

- The first of these will have you setting up your pots (with screening and tie down wire), possibly root pruning, some top pruning, and potting. (If there is enough time, wiring will be included in this session.)
- The last class completes the styling. All this for just \$60! So be prepared to bring your check to the April 2 meeting or send it in to the MBS mailbox before the first class on April 6.

Classes will be held at Manchester Oaks Club House - located in Franklin at 6801 Parkedge Circle (the corner of Parkedge and Whitnall Edge). Classes are from 9 a.m.- 12 noon.

See you there!

Directions to Manchester Oaks: From Highway 894/45. Take highway south to highway 43/Beloit, exit 108th street (Highway 100), approximately 3 miles to Whitnall Edge Road. Turn left, the office is located at the corner of Whitnall Edge and Parkedge Circle.

Buddy Bucks...

What are they and why would I want them?

Kris Ziemann, Treasurer

Buddy Bucks are a way for MBS to say thank you for volunteering your time and efforts to the club. When you work a "shift" at the Home Show, Asian Moon Festival, etc. or help out with Novice Classes or a Public Workshop, you will receive one Buddy Buck.

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Accumulate 5 Buddy Bucks and you receive a complimentary dinner at our Holiday Party in December. (Each Buddy Buck has a \$3 value to put towards the Holiday Banquet). Sounds great, doesn't it? Your next opportunity to get a Buddy Buck will be to assist at the April 27 Public Workshop at the Wehr Nature Center from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Or you can help with the Novice classes Saturday mornings in April. Sign up at our next meeting on April 2. Thanks so much!

Symposium Update

Jack Douthitt

President of Symposium Committee

We still need your coffee tins and ice cream buckets (both with lids) for the raffle at the Symposium.

These are very important for the raffle. *Every item in the raffle has a tin.* You put your ticket in the tin and the winning ticket for that item is drawn from that tin. We need almost 60 more! Please bring as many as you can find to the April meeting.

The Bonsai Exhibit at the Symposium will contain some outstanding bonsai. An observant viewer can learn a lot just by walking through the exhibit. However the Symposium offers you a truly exceptional opportunity to increase your knowledge of bonsai by having each of our Headliners (Harold Sasaki, Larry Ragle, Gary Marchal, Cheryl Manning, David Rowe and John Biel) take a small group through the exhibit and informally discuss each bonsai in the exhibit. In these Critiques the Headliners will tell you what they like about the bonsai and what, in their opinion, could be done to make it even better. The Critiques are an informal discussion between the participants and the Headliner about what makes a bonsai "good." It is not just listening to the Headliner; if you have a question they will be happy to answer it. A Critique is an extremely valuable way to learn more about bonsai. And the cost is only \$10. Where else can you find a bargain like that? If you have not yet signed up for a critique, contact Mary Turner and make arrangements to participate in one. It is a fantastic opportunity to gain a remarkable amount of knowledge at a very reasonable cost. If you have any questions ask one of the Symposium Chairpersons.



Call for Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help during the Symposium. We want everyone to have a good time, but we also need your assistance during the actual Symposium. You could be tree sitting in the Exhibit area, or helping one of our Headliners during the demonstration. Help is needed on Wednesday evening to help set-up, to stuff "goodie bags," and to help with registration. One of the fun duties is selling raffle tickets! Cindy Binkowski will have sign up sheets at the meeting. Sign up now and double your fun at the Symposium.

Except for set up and tear down, we are requiring all volunteers to be registrants as well. (One-day registrant is okay). Ideally, we would like people to commit to morning or afternoon shifts. If you have questions and can't be at the next meeting to sign up, call Cindy Binkowski, Chair of the Volunteer Committee at (414) 321-5546.

Editor's Note:

There has been some confusion about MBS membership and ABS membership (which is required to get a discount on Symposium fees). Being a member of MBS DOES NOT automatically make you a member of ABS. You must join ABS on a separate, individual basis, in order to qualify for the \$25 discount on registration.

Public Workshop

Saturday - April 27

Ken Hahn

Our Public Workshop will be held at the Wehr Nature Center on Saturday, April 27 from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Experienced MBS members lead the workshop, sharing the practical knowledge they have gained over the years. Public workshops are an introduction to the art of bonsai. No prior experience is needed, just a fascination for this living sculpture and a willingness to learn. All materials are provided. When you leave, you'll take with you a beautiful bonsai tree, and the knowledge to care for it. Classes are open to the public and MBS members alike.

Public Workshop fee of \$65 includes:

- A narrow leaf Ficus, good beginner material which can come inside for the winter
- A ceramic pot, bonsai soil, wire, and other supplies
- Instruction and styling help from MBS members
- A care guide for your tree
- A Milwaukee Bonsai Society 2002 individual membership (if you are not already a member).


Registration forms will be available at the next meeting. Registration deadline is April 10 to give us time to order your tree.



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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 Look for us on the web at: www.asapnet.net/milwaukee-bonsai/index.html

Tony's Corner

Tony Plicka

On Wednesday, March 6, I had a very unusual start to my day. It actually began Tuesday evening during the club meeting, I received a message from the Museum's Garden Club, that before my 1 p.m. talk with them the next day, Channel 6 would like to see me at 7:45 a.m. So at 7 a.m. Wednesday morning, I set out for Channel 6. When I arrived, the producer informed me that I was to go on television live with Kim at 8:25 a.m. I grabbed my trees, a handful of brochures, and a poster for the Symposium, and waited for my moment of fame. It went very well. I briefly talked about the art of Bonsai, and what the word bonsai means. I was allowed to talk freely, so our club got a double plug! I mentioned our monthly meetings and the shows where we exhibit. The best part was the opportunity to promote the upcoming Symposium. It was great – Kim asked questions about it and I took a few minutes to explain "what, where, when" and who would be there. I was on for a total of 5-7 minutes.

From Channel 6, I went straight to the Museum for their program. I showed a half-hour tape of the National Exhibit, and some pictures of club trees exhibited at State Fair. I discussed basic bonsai practices and answered questions. It was a good day for bonsai in Milwaukee.

Post Script: Thanks to all club members who helped tree-sit at the Home Show in March. Remember, this will count for a Buddy Buck to apply to the Holiday Party at the end of the year!



Tony Plicka
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Fax (414) 327-4882

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2002 New Talent Bonsai Competition **Application**

The New Talent Bonsai Competition is an annual competition to recognize and promote new bonsai talent in North America. First prize is a round trip ticket to Japan on Japan Air Lines. The first stage of the competition is a preliminary judging of photographs of previously designed trees. The second stage will be the actual production of a bonsai from pre-bonsai material during the Milwaukee 2002 – ABS Symposium in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 27 – 30, 2002.

Eligibility requirements

Any person who lives in North America is eligible. He or she must have been involved with the art of bonsai for less than ten (10) years.

First stage submissions

Each contestant shall submit photographs of at least three bonsai that he or she has personally styled. More than one picture of each bonsai is preferred. The photographs do not have to be of publication quality, however they should show the talent of the artist to the best advantage.

All of the photographs submitted shall be enclosed in a single presentation folder with the photos enclosed in clear plastic sleeves. A brief description and history of each bonsai shall also be enclosed. Taped to the back inside cover of the folder shall be an envelope with the completed application form. There should be no identification on the photos or on the outside of the enclosed envelope. Mail all entries to:

Jack Douthitt
Competition Chairman
P. O. Box 170445
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
53217

First Stage Submissions must be received before May 15, 2002. Entries from artists whose photographs indicate the most promise will be selected to participate in the second stage of the competition. Contestants selected for Stage Two will be notified prior to June 1, 2002.

Stage Two

Each contestant selected for the second stage of the competition must come to the Milwaukee 2002 – ABS Symposium in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Each contestant must pay his or her own expenses to the Symposium, although a reduced registration fee of \$100 (US) has been negotiated with the Symposium. Each contestant shall:

- 1) Be provided with turntable, pre-bonsai material and wire by the Competition.
- 2) Furnish his or her personal tools.

- 3) Be given an eight (8) hour time period in which to style the material into a finished bonsai. The competition will begin at 8 AM and will close at 5 PM, on Saturday June 29, 2002. There will be a one-hour lunch break.

Repotting of the finished bonsai will not be done during the competition.

Judging

The six headliners of the Symposium – John Biel, Cheryl Manning, Gary Marchal, Larry Ragle, David Rowe and Harold Sasaki - will judge the completed bonsai. In addition, all full registrants at the Symposium will be able to vote for their personal choice. The “popular vote” is worth one vote. The artist whose bonsai receives the majority of the seven votes will be awarded the title of “**Best New Bonsai Talent of 2002**” at the Saturday evening Banquet.

Questions may be emailed to Jack Douthitt at jackbd@mindspring.com

Entrant's Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Country _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

I understand that upon submitting this application to the New Talent Bonsai Competition that the application and all accompanying documents and photographs become the property of the Competition and cannot be returned. I further understand and agree that if I am selected for stage two of the Competition, I will register and appear at the Milwaukee 2002-ABS Symposium to compete in the Competition. It is further understood and agreed to, that if I am selected to participate in stage two of the competition that the Competition has the exclusive right to photograph and publish photographs of any of the bonsai created in the competition. I hereby certify that I have been involved with the art of bonsai for less than ten years.

Signature date



Milwaukee
Bonsai
Society

P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, WI 53008-0198
Return Service Requested



Kris Ziemann
10932 North Wauwatosa Road
Mequon WI 53097-3426

*Next Meeting of MBS
April 2, 2002
7 p.m. at Wehr Nature Center*

MBS Board - 2002

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- Scott Hurula, *Officer*
- Nicky Metzka, *Officer*
- Ken Hahn, *Past President*



*Pruning my bonsai
which to keep, which to lop...
(sigh), can't decide*

~ Dave Burke, Warsaw Bonsai Club

QUEEN

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13.16