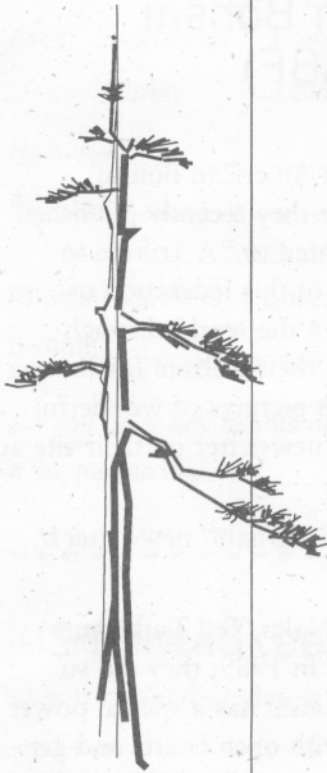


BONSAI NEWS

February 2003



**Milwaukee
Bonsai Society**

P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, Wisconsin
53208-0198

Information Line
414-299-9229

February 2003 Program

Our February meeting will feature Michael D. Yanny, who has been the plant propagator at Johnson's Nursery in Menomonee Falls, WI since 1980. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin with a degree in Horticulture and also worked with Herbert F. Trautman in Franksville for some time. You will remember that Mike gave us a talk last fall about propagating with seeds. In February, Mike will continue his presentation, including slides and poetry, by presenting a program on "Plant Propagation of Woody Plants by Cuttings and Bud Grafting." Those of you who were there last time already know that Mike is an entertaining and educational speaker. You will learn about propagating your favorite plants by cuttings and also he will talk about bud grafting, which is a subject that you will find interesting and useful. He will read some of his poetry to us during his presentation, as well. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about propagation and to be entertained at the same time.

Presidents Message

Welcome to the 2003 edition of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society. The Executive Committee has been hard at work on a program

schedule for 2003. The questionnaires that you completed before the December meeting have been a big help to us. Although everything is yet to be finalized, we can tell you that there will be lots of exciting events for club members in 2003. Guest artists, collecting trips and workshops, will be held at various times and for various purposes. As soon as everything is finalized, we will publish a schedule of the year's events, so you can put them on your personal schedule. But in order to participate in all of these exciting programs you need to renew your membership. If you have not already done so, please complete the membership renewal form (see p. 5) and mail it to the club P.O. box!

In addition, the year is starting with the club holding its meetings in a new location. The meetings will be held at Grace Lutheran Church at 3030 West Oklahoma (see star on map). Those of you that have attended workshops there, know that it has a large space for us to hold our meetings. The parking lot is well lit and there

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is easy access. The club storage unit has already been moved to the new location, and we are hopeful that we can also keep the library there so it does not have to be transported from the librarian's home for every meeting. See you in February at our new meeting location.

A Glimpse Ahead

The March meeting will be a presentation on photographing your bonsai by Larry Michaels. March 8th will be the wiring workshop and March 29 will be the start of the 2003 Novice Class. Also in March we will be doing the Home Show and a workshop for the Northwestern Mutual Garden Club.

[The following article is from Fort Wayne Bonsai Club Newsletter reprinted with permission.]

Shipping Pre-Bonsai

Set the trees together and measure the height, width and depth – you can purchase boxes from lots of different places – the P.W., a truck rental place or a Mailbox, Etc. We like the truck rental boxes, (for example, Ryder) because they are marked 'this end up'. Buy a bag of packing peanuts. We place each tree in a plastic grocery bag and tie the bag handles tightly around the pot and rootball to hold the roots and dirt in the pot. Make sure the trees are watered well, but not dripping. You might water thoroughly the day before; then they should be just right. The plastic bag will help hold the moisture in also. (Don't wrap any plastic around the top of the tree – in fact, you want the leaves to be dry when you pack.)

Place the trees in the box, then pour in the peanuts, working them down snugly around the pots and through the tops of the branches. Gently shake the box to make sure you get out large air spaces and pockets. With the sides of the top open, mound the peanuts about an inch above the level of the top, then close the top, pushing down while you tape it. They settle in shipping and if they aren't packed tightly, the trees can be damaged by rough handling.

We ship FedEx or UPS – but for just one box of 3 trees, I would use the Post Office. Priority Mail will get them there in good shape. They won't ask what is in the box and I wouldn't tell. You shouldn't have any problems. Good luck."

North American Bonsai Federation (NABF)

submitted by Ken Hahn

I just discovered the North American Bonsai Federation website because they recently published their first newsletter dedicated to "A Tribute to John Naka." The purpose of this federation of clubs is to promote peace in the world through bonsai. Personally, I found their website fascinating and their gallery filled with pictures of wonderful bonsai. You can find their newsletter on their site at the following web address:

<http://www.bonsai-wbff.org/nabf/newsletter1/newsletter1index.htm>

When Saburo Kato, John Naka, Ted Tsukiyama and others founded WBFF in 1989, they did so with the firm belief that bonsai has a special power to bring together people with open hearts and generous spirits. As Saburo Kato said in his famous "Candle of Peace" essay:

"From bonsai we receive peace of mind, health and a life's pursuit. We can also learn generosity, patience and even philosophy about life. We can also have the good fortune to make friends of all nationalities and races with whom we share a mutual trust and respect. This is all thanks to bonsai."

Why does bonsai have this special power? As John Naka has often said, bonsai is the only living art form. As a living art, bonsai requires our devotion as well as our artistic skill. Such devotion, much more than artistic talent, opens up our hearts and bestows on the bonsai practitioner an awareness of our responsibilities to other human beings and to Mother Nature herself. The wonder we felt when first introduced to bonsai is replaced with a deeper and more constant reverence for our natural world.

We do not bring life to bonsai – it brings life to us. The painter can bring "life" to a blank canvas; the sculptor can bring "life" to a block of marble. But we do not bring life to bonsai – it is already present. By cultivating this life to the best of our abilities, we discover, in Saburo Kato's words, "the essence and dignity of life" and thus feel more a part of our natural environment. We tread more

lightly on this earth and become more gentle with all living things.

For bonsai teaches us to understand a new language - the language of nature itself. We learn to listen and to hear what nature can tell us. We begin to feel the rays of the morning sun as would a leaf on a branch; we can taste an afternoon shower as would a tree in the forest. As we share our love of bonsai with others who also wish to understand what nature is telling us, the bonds of friendship expand. As Ted Tsukiyama has observed: "Those who love bonsai find themselves drawn and bound together in a great mutual understanding, tolerance and friendship."

NABF's mission is to support and strengthen the North American bonsai community. On this website, we will offer tributes to those masters who built the foundation of the bonsai world we enjoy today, we will highlight friendships stimulated by a love of bonsai, and we will address the education of the next generation of bonsai enthusiasts.

I hope that you will take a moment to familiarize yourself with our officers and advisors <[admin.htm](#)>, and editorial team <[editorial.htm](#)>.

On behalf of NABF, I invite you to visit our website, e-mail us with your comments and suggestions, and help us to fulfill the ideals on which WBFF and NABF were founded.

Felix Laughlin, President

ABS Forum

submitted by Ken Hahn

The ABS Forum is a great way to learn more about the art of bonsai. It is a format where you can ask any bonsai questions that you have ever needed answered. There are many experts who are members of the ABS Forum such as Jerry Meislik from Montana, Mollie Hollar from Michigan, Dale Cochoy of Ohio, Pauline Muth of New York state, Jim Lewis of Florida, Andy Smith of South Dakota and Reiner Goebel of Toronto. If you send out a question on the subject of bonsai you can have several answers in less than 24 hours. Some subjects such as winter storage and fall color begin a

conversation that lasts for days. To become a member of the Forum you must first be a member of ABS (which you are if you receive the ABS magazine). Then you must go to the following site to register and wait about 24 hours for them to confirm your membership in ABS.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ABSForum/>

A big discussion recently was what to do with your bonsai when you are going to be gone for a month and do not know anyone you can get to take care of them while you are gone. This came from a member in Michigan going on a one-month honeymoon. He received at least 30 answers to his question that included setting them up in a bathtub with lights, using wicking, and even an offer from another member to take care of his 4 tropical trees while he was gone (if he drove them the 50 miles to get them to her).

I have been a member for over six months and have asked very few questions but learned a lot just from reading everyone else's questions and the myriad of answers. I encourage all ABS members to join the forum to get more out of your ABS membership.

Bonsai Websites

Ken Hahn

Here is a list of sites that I have recently found on the internet that those of you who are online may find interesting:

Pictures of the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection

<http://psba.8m.com/pic/rim/rim.html>

Pictures of the bonsais at the National Arboretum

<http://bonsaihunk.8m.com/pic/nat/nat.html>

National Bonsai Foundation links page

<http://www.bonsai-nbf.org/links/index.htm>

Bonsai magazine from England website

http://www.bonsaieurope.com/uk/index_uk.htm

Bonsai in Central Texas

<http://www.wimberley-tx.com/~bonsaijg/tree.html>

Dallas Bonsai Garden

<http://www.bonsaisite.com/index.html>

Bonsai Websites

(continued)

Bonsai Boy of New York
<http://www.bonsaiboy.com/>

Bougainvillea Info Page
http://shopping.webmarket.com/exitpage/exitpage_fy.html

Eve's Bonsai Garden near Tampa
<http://store.activec.com/root/evesgardenbonsai/index.html>

Heronwood Nursery Catalog
<http://www.heronwood.com/>

Forest Farm Nursery Catalog
<http://www.forestfarm.com/>

Mike Rogers Bonsai Studio
<http://www.mikerogersbonsaistudio.com/>

Gardina Nursery Rare Plants (Ed, you will like this.)
<http://www.rareflora.com/list5.htm>

Planet Bonsai
<http://www.planetbonsai.com/index.html>

Colin Lewis, Bonsai Artist
<http://www.btinternet.com/~colinlewis.bonsai/welcome.html>

Mid-America Bonsai Alliance and the Bonsai Society of Greater Cincinnati invite you to attend:

MABA 2003

When: **July 3 - 6**

Where: **Cincinnati Marriott Northeast**
 9664 Mason-Montgomery Road
 Mason, Ohio

How: To Register, go to www.cincinnatibonsai.com,
 or contact Dave Billing at
dbilling@compuserve.com

Seven Featured Artists:

Salvatore Liporace (Italy)

Colin Lewis (England)

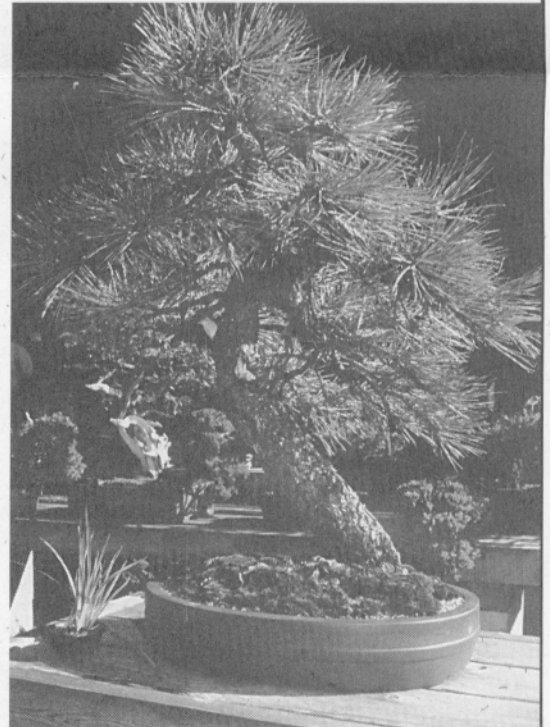
Mary Madison (Florida)

Boon Manakitivipart (California)

Dave Kreutz (Missouri)

Doug Hawley (Ohio)

Vance Hann (Michigan)



Mail registration and other inquiries to P.O. Box 451, Milford, Ohio 45150

Editor's Note: For those of you who may not be aware, Ron Fortmann is a member of our club as well as our MABA representative. If you have questions about the MABA Convention, he's the guy to ask!

MBS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2003

Fees: Individual one year \$22 two years \$42 three years \$60
 Family one year \$30 two years \$58 three years \$84

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Numbers Home: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____

E-mail: _____ Check # _____

Do you have any talents or interests that you would be willing to share with our members?
 If so, please describe _____

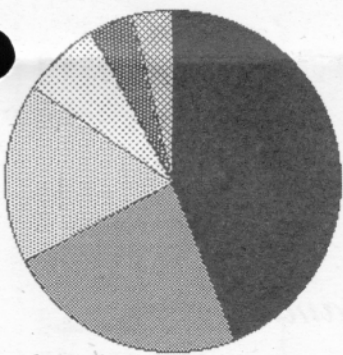
2002 Milwaukee Bonsai Society Income and Expenses

- Did you know that almost 44% of our income came from workshops and classes?
- ...and that a little over 23% came from membership dues?

Jean Sher shaping a bougainvillea in Martha Meehan's workshop last September.

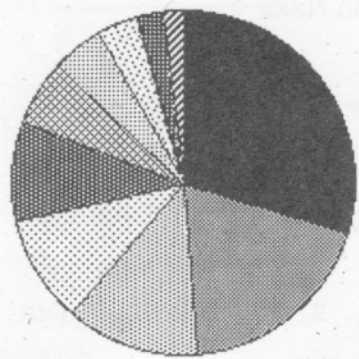


Jack Douthitt's Open House last September.



- workshops/classes
- membership
- Misc
- trees,pots,wedgies
- Advertising
- Holiday party

Club Income



- trees, pots, etc
- Transfer to savings
- office (stamps, labels, etc)
- facility charges
- speaker fees
- Other
- Holiday party
- Phone & Internet service
- Newsletter printing
- Subscriptions

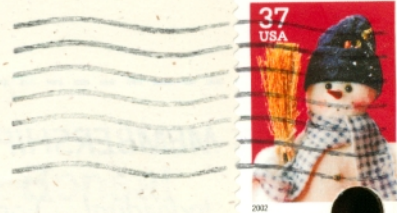
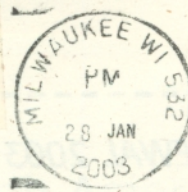
Club Expenses

MBS Meetings and Information Line:

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 3030 W. Oklahoma Avenue. 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: <http://www.asapnet.net/milwaukee-bonsai/index.html>



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



Individual Paid 2005
[Redacted Name]
[Redacted Address]
[Redacted City, WI 53097-3426]

Your membership status is printed at the top of your label. If you haven't renewed for 2003 yet, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

*Next Meeting: February 4, 2003
7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church
3030 W. Oklahoma Avenue*

- MBS Board - 2003**
- Jack Douthitt, *President*
 - Houston Sanders, *First Vice President*
 - Jean Sher, *Second Vice President*
 - Russell Weiss, *Secretary*
 - Kris Ziemann, *Treasurer*
 - Sharon Schmidt, *Director*
 - Dr. Erskine Tucker, *Director*
 - Pam Woythal, *Director*
 - Brian Palevac, *Past President*
 - Ron Fortmann, *MABA Representative*
 - Yvonne Szatkowski, *Newsletter Editor*

*"Last leaf has fallen.
Tree will sleep and I will dream:
Spring is tomorrow."*

- John Naka

*"Sleeping are my trees
Snug in their winter quarters
I am resting too."*

- Jack Douthitt

Members with questions or concerns for the Executive Committee should contact Russ Weiss, Club Secretary at cowbell@wi.rr.com

Editor's Note: The "haiku" above were appropriate to the season, and so charming, I felt compelled to include both.