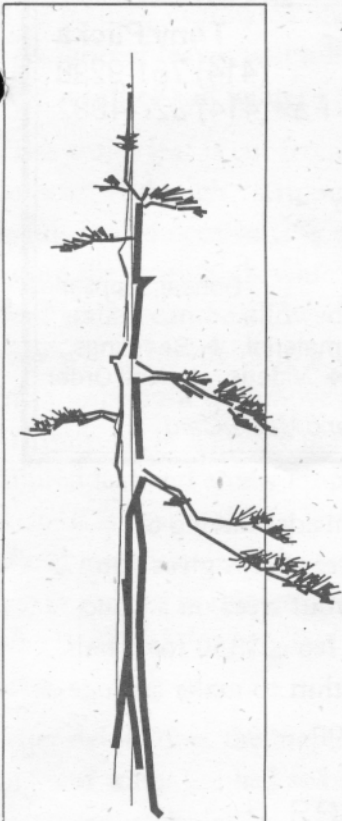


BONSAI NEWS



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

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

Information Line
414-299-9229

April Meeting

Bonsai is a very individual art form. You do not work on someone else's bonsai... except during "Group Slash." Group Slash is a fun program that MBS has been doing for several years. It is a lot of fun and everybody can get into the act. What is it? You could call it "Bonsai by Committee." The people that attend the meeting will be divided into small groups. Each group will be given a tree to work on. Everyone participates, as the team decides how to style the bonsai within a certain time limit. Which team has created the best bonsai? We will have a surprise Judge who will decide. The Judge's decision is final. All the members of the winning team will get a prize. Then the trees will be raffled off - this is a good way for beginners to acquire some trees styled by many of the club's most eminent experts! All in all a good time. Come and show everyone that bonsai CAN be created by a Committee!

Reminder: We have a lot of trees for this year's Slash, but tools will be needed for this to work. The club will provide wire, but we need you to bring your tools if possible.

President's Message

At the March meeting we had an excellent turnout in spite of the annual spring blizzard. Our Speaker, Larry Michael was not able to make it to the meeting and Jack's Powerpoint

program was lost somewhere in Cyberspace, so we used the time to talk about some of the opportunities that are available to the club. As you will remember from the last newsletter, MBS has been invited to stage a bonsai exhibit for the full eleven days of the Wisconsin State Fair. We have been promised more space and better display equipment. We invited other bonsai enthusiasts around the area to participate so that it would truly be a Wisconsin State Fair. The response to this request was excellent. So good in fact, that the MBS Board of Directors voted at the March Board Meeting to proceed with the full-length event. It will take a strong effort from our club members to actually make it work but the Board knew that you would volunteer and participate. So it is now official. There will be a Bonsai Exhibit at the Wisconsin State Fair for the full length of the Fair. We will keep you informed of our progress. In addition, the Board decided not to participate in the Realtors Spring Show this year. There are several reasons for this. First, the fact that the location of the show has been changed makes the parking situation more difficult and expensive. Secondly, there appeared to be a lot of confusion as to where our exhibit would be located and how much space we would be given. The Board also believed that the State Fair would target a more receptive audience than the Realtors Show. Therefore the Board decided to concentrate on the State Fair this year. It

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is very exciting to be able to expose one million people to the wondrous art of bonsai during the State Fair! We have several outstanding bonsai artists coming this summer to give demonstrations and workshops. In all of the workshops, the material will be furnished. The workshop spaces will go fast, so if you are interested sign-up now and reserve your spot.

Coming in May

Our May meeting will feature Warren Hill demonstrating the Forest Style. This presentation is very special because not only are we bringing in one of the best bonsai artists in America, but the demonstration material is outstanding as well.

Mr. Hill, former Curator of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum, is recognized internationally as an outstanding bonsai artist and teacher. He has been practicing bonsai for over 40 years and is the featured demonstrator at many national and international bonsai conventions including the Bonsai Clubs International Convention in Hawaii in 2000 and American Bonsai Symposium in Tucson.

His primary Sensei was Mr. John Naka. Mr. Hill became a teacher and taught bonsai at his alma mater Moorpark College and Descanso Gardens in California. He has authored numerous articles and published many photographs of bonsai, as well as produced several videos on bonsai design, most notable on Forest Plantings. Mr. Hill was the recipient of the *John Naka Award* in 1982.

Bonsai from Mr. Hill's private collection have been photographed for major bonsai publications and he was selected as an exhibitor in the "Masterworks of Bonsai Exhibition" at the Japanese-American Cultural Center. His interests in bonsai are wide and varied but his specialty is forest plantings.

Warren will also lead a forest workshop for club members. You do not have to be an expert to participate in this workshop. Trees, wire, soil and container will be provided. Cost is \$50 plus the cost of the material, which we estimate to be approximately \$75.



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Some of you may want to consider having a personal workshop with Warren. This gives you the opportunity to work on your trees on a "one-on-one" basis with him. The fee is \$350 for a half day. Please contact Jack Douthitt to make arrangements for a personal workshop.

Defoliating Maples

by William N. Valavanis

Defoliating maples is a simple technique commonly used by bonsai growers to reduce foliage size, increase branch ramification and intensify autumn colors. The new crop of leaves produced in summer will emerge in the normal springtime colors. Thus, the vivid intense spring foliage can be enjoyed twice in one year, spring and in summer.

Maples selected for defoliating should be strong and vigorous. The cut-leaf variants of Japanese maples generally should not be defoliated due to their weak growth habit. They may not leaf out again if defoliated. Also, only maples which have a well developed shape should be defoliated. It is better not to defoliate Maples which do not have a suitable trunk diameter and branch structure since defoliating retards the growth and inhibits this type of development.

Maples should be well fertilized at least two weeks prior to defoliation. The correct time to perform this technique is when the new crop of leaves have opened and matured. In the New York area early June or possibly late May is the ideal time to defo-

liate maples. Defoliated after the middle of July, the new crop of leaves will not mature sufficiently before cold weather and winter kill may occur.

Each entire leaf is cut from the plant with a sharp scissors. Although "stripping" the leaves with bare hands is also occasionally done, this technique may injure the small buds which are tender. Leaf petioles (leaf stalks) can be allowed to remain on the plant, as they will naturally drop a week or two later. It is most important to remove the ENTIRE leaf. If leaves are only cut in half, the plant may try to maintain the injured leaf and a new crop of leaves will not develop. Also, it is best if all the leaves are removed from the plant, most importantly, from the top area. If a few leaves remain in this area, they will form an auxin which will inhibit new leaf development on the lower levels of the plant.

After defoliating, the maple should be kept in the full sun and water applied sparingly. Shade and excess water will stimulate large leaves and long internodes. These techniques can also be used when transplanting bonsai in full leaf in summer and can be applied to other deciduous species such as Elm and Zelkova.

Wiring Workshop Connects!

Jean Sher

On a snowy, cold, miserable Saturday, March morning, the nine participants of the Wiring Workshop arrived at Grace Lutheran to practice wiring techniques. Jack Douthitt was in charge and brought a terrific video about wiring. The video provided interesting and applicable tips for the students to practice on live material. Most participants brought personal trees to wire and some also worked on the dowel practice trees provided by the club. This was a great workshop and all of us enjoyed the chance to learn, laugh and wire. This is one of the

many connections so necessary to keep us all interested in Bonsai.

Many thanks to our "experts" for this class. People donating time to help train others were: Jack Douthitt, Allen Koszarek, Milt Mandelin, Jim Toepfer, Pam Woythal, and Michelle Zimmer.

"Workshops are a great way to learn on a personal level," said one of the participants. Another commented that, "this one was worth getting up early for." Still another said, "we need more of these short, one focus mornings."

What's Next?

Get ready for Spring!

- Novice Classes – 3/29, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26
- April Club Meeting "Group Slash" – 4/1
(*This is no April Fool!*)
- Warren Hill "GROVE workshop" – 5/3
- Nursery Crawl – 5/17

Bonsai Tour of China

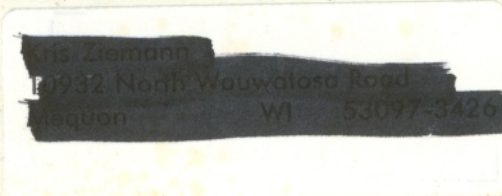
The Indianapolis Bonsai Club is sponsoring a Bonsai Tour of China. They will visit the largest and best bonsai exhibits in the country as well as meet with several bonsai clubs in China. There will also be ample opportunity to shop for pots and tools and trees. They will visit the Great Wall, The Forbidden City, The Temple of Heaven, The Summer Palace of Ci Xi, the Terra Cotta Army, the garden of Suzhou, the limestone mountains of Guilin and the Li River. The tour begins on June 10 and will come to a conclusion in Hong Kong on June 22. The cost is \$2750 per person based upon double occupancy. Contact Jack Douthitt at 414/228-9628 for more details.

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>



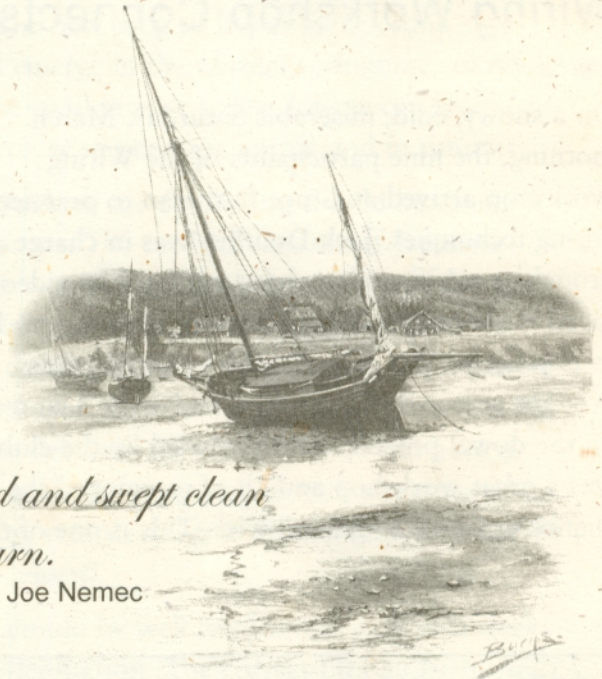
P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, WI 53008-0198
Return Service Requested



*Next Meeting of MBS
April 1, 2003
7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church*

MBS Board - 2003

- Jack Douthitt, *President*
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- Jean Sher, *Second Vice President*
- Russell Weiss, *Secretary*
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- Sharon Schmidt, *Director*
- Dr. Erskine Tucker, *Director*
- Pam Woythal, *Director*
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- Ron Fortmann, *MABA Representative*
- Yvonne Szatkowski, *Newsletter Editor*



*The tides flow and ebb
Beaches sun bleached and swept clean
Wait the sea's return.*

~ Joe Nemec

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