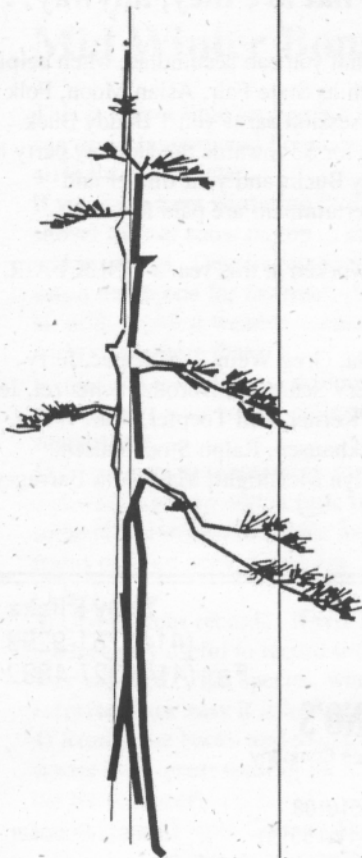


February, 2004

# BONSAI NEWS



*Milwaukee  
Bonsai Society*

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

*Information Line  
414-299-9229*

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## President's Message

Welcome to Milwaukee Bonsai Society 2004!

Your Board of Directors has an outstanding schedule of programs for you for the coming year. You will be receiving a copy of the schedule in your March newsletter. Make sure that your dues are paid up so you can participate in, and enjoy, all of the activities that are going to be happening in 2004.

In addition, there are going to be some exciting bonsai events happening within driving distance of Milwaukee this year. Probably the biggest will be the Bonsai Clubs International Convention in St. Louis on June 17th through the 20th. You can check it out by going to [www.bonsai-bci.com](http://www.bonsai-bci.com), click on "Main Menu" then on "BCI 2004 Convention Information." The American Bonsai Society is joining with them for this convention so it will also be the location of the 2004 Joshua Roth New Talent Bonsai Competition. So it will be a good time for all. And it is within a one-day drive of Milwaukee! Don't miss it!! They are also offering a discount for early registrations.

Later in the spring the Board will offer a one-day seminar to all interested members on how to produce a bonsai exhibit. The seminar will cover everything you always wanted to know about producing an exhibit and were afraid to ask. If you are interested please sign up at the February meeting.

Soon it will be time to start thinking about getting our trees out of their winter storage and ready for their spurt of growth in the spring. Make sure that you are ready for that big event. Right now, before time becomes critical, we can prepare our soil mixes, clean our pots and put screen in the bottom, and all of those other chores that must be done before we actually can begin repotting. Having all of our supplies ready will let us concentrate on getting our trees

repotted rather than spending critical time getting supplies ready!

## February Meeting

The February meeting will feature Wisconsin artist Andy Fletcher. Andy earned his undergraduate degree from Carroll College and graduated from the UWM with a Masters Degree in Fine Arts last year. He is well known, and respected, as an upcoming artist in Wisconsin. His paintings have been included in several exhibits and art festivals and have won numerous awards. He is also active as an Adjunct Instructor in the School of Fine Arts at UWM and at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design. His program will present the concepts of "Design and Composition." He is familiar with, but not experienced in, bonsai. However, we use the concepts of design and composition everyday when we are working on our bonsai, so his talk will be of benefit to all of us. Whether we prefer conifers or deciduous, mame or the giants, this is one meeting that you do not want to miss. Tuesday, February 4, 7PM at Grace Lutheran.

## New Librarian Needed

The club is looking for a volunteer to take over the Librarian responsibilities. This is a great opportunity for a club member who wishes to become more involved in the club meetings and get to know more people in the club. If you are interested in the position, please contact Houston Sanders, or any of the club officers.

## Bonsai Classes Offered

Study bonsai this summer with Jack Douthitt! He is offering a five-class course with each class being one-half day in length. Classes begin in April and finish in September. These are "hands-on" classes and are held at Jack's house. Cost is \$125 and space is limited. To enroll, or for more information, call Jack at 414/228-9628.

## March Meeting

Our March meeting will feature Dan Kosta, from Chicago who will help us in our constant fight against bugs, pests and fungus. Dan has a degree in Horticulture from Western Illinois University and is the Perennials Manager for a Garden Center, Nursery in Hinsdale, Illinois. He is also an experienced and talented bonsai artist. So he knows what works on our trees and what doesn't. He will share his knowledge and experience on this important subject with us.

## 2003 June Kelly Award

Mary Turner has been awarded the June Kelly Award for 2003. The award is given in memory of June Kelly, who was an early President of the club, to honor those individuals who have generously shared their time and talent with members of MBS.

Mary attended her first meeting of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society in 1990 and joined the club and Bonsai Clubs International at that meeting. She then went through the Novice Class, and like many of us, her first club activities were tree sitting at some of the MBS exhibits. (Which she still does on a frequent basis!) In 1992 she was elected to the Board of Directors, and in 1993 & 1994 served as Treasurer. During that time she designed many of the brochures and forms that we still use, originated the concept of "Buddy Bucks", and began to collect and distribute the club mail. (Which she still does!)

For several years Mary served as the club representative to the Mid-America-Bonsai-Alliance. When Jack Douthitt was elected President of BCI in 1994, Mary agreed to serve on the BCI Board as his Corresponding Secretary. In 1996 she was named as the Business Manager for BCI and held that position for the next three years.

When people were being recruited for the Milwaukee/ABS 2002 Convention Committee, Mary accepted one of the most challenging positions, which is the Registrar. The Registrar is a very public position since the Registrar is the primary contact for all of the people coming to the convention. As Registrar, she was also responsible for all of the registration forms, keeping records of all of the registrants (who signed up for what?) and then she worked throughout the entire convention to keep all of the attendees happy. As our Registrar, she was the public face of our club during the convention, and she represented us very well.

In addition, Mary has, for a very long time, kept all of our membership records up-to-date. She originally converted a hand-written 3x5 card system to a computer database, which she continues to maintain. In addition to all of this, she, along with help from some other club members, plays an important role in our annual Christmas party by generating the name-tags and wrapping the many gifts.

Our congratulations to Mary for an award well deserved.

## Buddy Bucks - What are they, anyway??

Buddy Bucks are points that you can accumulate when helping out at a club function such as State Fair, Asian Moon, Folk Fair, etc. Each 3-4 hour session earns you 1 Buddy Buck. Each Buddy Buck counts for \$3 towards the Holiday party in December. Earn 5 Buddy Bucks and your dinner and delightful evening of entertainment are paid for.

Many thanks to all who worked at this year's FOLK FAIR.

1 Buddy Buck

Mary Turner, Dick Butula, Greg Wein, Joe Nemecek, Jerry Niemiec, Gen Molling, Erv Schenzel, Dorothy Schenzel, Jean Sher, Tom Kerner, Kate Kerner, Jim Toepfer, Russ Weiss, Delores Day, Melba Stockhausen, Ralph Stockhausen, Darlene Shaginaw, Marilyn McKnight, Mary Ann Barragry and Karen Kleineider



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## Mid Winter Bonsai Calendar:

This is a slow time for you outdoor growers. About all you can do in January and February is wait and keep your trees alive thru the winter.

If you have trees wintering in the ground, it doesn't hurt to shovel a bit of snow on top of the roots to keep them warm and insulated. Despite relatively mild temperatures, last year was a tough one for my trees. We never had much snow, and all of the coldest weather seemed to come without any snow cover. They hate that.

Winter is a good time to do some of the less exciting activities that support your bonsai collection. Here are some suggestions:

- 1) Clean pots in preparation for spring. I recommend dishwashing soap with a little bit of bleach. There are also some abrasive bars available for sanding away the hard water stains on used pots. These are most useful!
- 2) Mix soil.
- 3) Update your records. If you have a large number of trees, it is especially useful to record information on when each tree was acquired, what species, when repotted, etc. You would be surprised how easy it is to forget!
- 4) Read some books and magazines. You can't help but come across some great techniques that you've just gotta try. My list for this year:

- a) **Maple Clump:** Drill holes in a ceramic tile. Place small maple seedlings or cuttings in the holes and plant in the ground. Over a couple of years the trunks thicken, the tile chokes off the lower roots and forces the trees to develop a flat, interconnected, radial root system.
- b) **Shoot-Chop Stump:** Peter Adams suggests cutting a strongly growing maple to a 3-4 inch stump by making a cut at a 30° angle. Then feed it heavily and let all the shoots grow. In the following years, you cut the shoots back to stubs, seal the cuts, and repeat the process. By letting the shoots grow, you strengthen the lower trunk and roots. Eventually you develop a heavy, conical trunk with a spreading root system. This is recommended for trident maples, but we can't grow these outside around here. I've got some apples that I think would be suitable for the technique.

5) Plan a spring project. Now is the time to decide how you want your display area to look. What can you add to your work area to make bonsai repotting or styling easier? A little thought and effort now may save you a lot of work and trouble later. My winter project is a pegboard for the tools and wire. I hate replanting a tree, then having to dig it up to retrieve the root cutting tool that was inadvertently added to the soil mix. And I'm not too proud to admit that this actually happened!

6) Prepare some wire. If you have the will to do a little work, then wire can be dirt cheap. Bare copper wire is available at Menard's in two sizes of braided strands. Just untangle the

strand (quite easy, as long as you keep the strand length down to 5 or 6 feet). Coil up the wire into a circle, and heat it on a gas stove or grill until it glows red. When cooled, the wire will be as flexible and easy to work with as aluminum, but it has an extra benefit of becoming stiffer when bent, which is called work-hardening. I read that Master Kimura allows only copper wire in his workshops. Maybe it's worth a try?

If you have indoor trees, you can satisfy your bonsai urges in a more active manner. Winter is a good time to wire many indoor trees, since the rate of growth for most trees is slower in winter, and you can leave the wire in place until mid-spring or later. Then there is also the constant chore of keeping the indoor trees watered! If you have a lot of trees, then this can take some time.



Pictures from Bunjae Artpia in Jeju Island, Korea

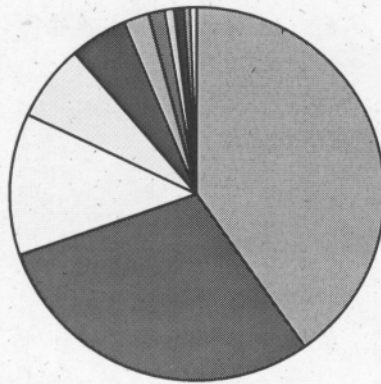


**NOTE:** This is supposed to be a guest column. It would be great to have some seasonal tips and advice from experienced members of the club. If you are interested in writing something, contact the Editor!

## 2003 Club Financial Summary

The attached charts were received from our 2003 Treasurer (and current 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), Kris Ziemann. They show a breakdown of the various sources of income for the club, as well as the expenses of the various club activities.

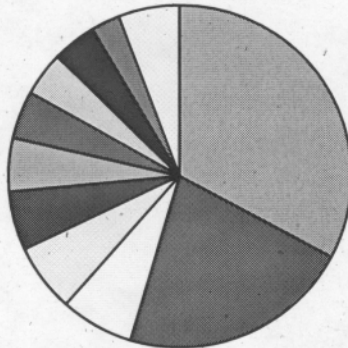
### Income Comparison as % Total Income



- Workshops or classes
- transfer
- membership
- raffle
- donation
- advertising
- holiday party - inc
- misc. income
- product
- vendor fees
- other

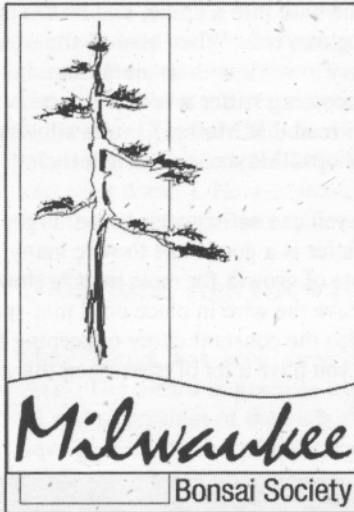
Total \$19,662.42

### Expense Comparison by Category as % of Total Expenses



- ProductX
- speaker fees or expenses
- newsletter
- postage - shipping
- facility
- miscellaneous
- printing
- reimbursement
- holiday party - exp
- office
- other

Total \$16,964.09



P.O. Box 198

Brookfield, WI 53008-0198

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS  
Tuesday, February 4  
7PM at Grace Lutheran Church

**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

*Bonsai tables stand  
Like horses hoof-deep in snow,  
Waiting for spring thaw.*

- Milt Mandelin