

Bonsai News

MAY MEETING – BYOT

The MBS May meeting will be a Bring Your Own Tree night. Many members have requested the opportunity to work on their trees and get help from our resident “experts”. This time we will even have a special guest – Ted Matson. (For new members, Ted is a nationally acclaimed bonsai teacher from California who has been teaching our club’s master classes for the past few years). Ted won’t have time to work with everyone, so some of the more experienced club members will also be available to help.

Please bring a tree to work on, and bring along tools if you have them.

Monthly Display

This month’s special display will feature accent plants. The purpose of this display is to heighten the awareness of the other aspects of bonsai besides the trees, although less common tree styles may be used. This is not a judged show, but a “peoples’ choice” award may be given out. Space will be very limited, but we will try to accommodate all objects. Usually the display will coordinate with the topic of the evening.

Here is the Display Calendar for 2007:

2007 Display Schedule

May - Accent plants

June - Raft style bonsai

July - Bunjin (literati) style bonsai

August - Ficus bonsai, any species

September - no display, club show

October - no display- masterclass “finale” display

November - Suiseki

December - no display, Christmas party

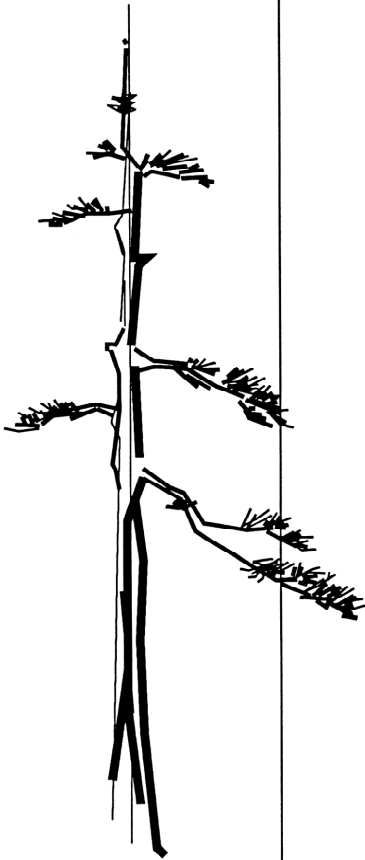
Joe Herbert is responsible for this great idea and will be coordinating and setting up the display. Please contact him with your offerings for the display, or if the time is short, bring what you wish to the meeting. You can reach Joe at cell: 414.520.0753 or by e-mail at club_jose@yahoo.com.

Bonsai Video Site

Kris Ziemann has recommended a site for bonsai videos.

www.bonsaichannel.com

They have all sorts of videos about bonsai, showing you how to do some of the basic tasks such as tool maintenance and pot cleaning, as well as repotting and maintenance of your bonsai. It is worth checking out!



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

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

Information Line
414-299-9229

NEXT MEETING

May 1, 7 PM
Grace Lutheran
Church

President's Message

By Jean Sher

April showers bring May flowers... but snow?

We watched snow cover the daffodils, then we watched them emerge and recover their bloom. They are tenacious bloomers even in 8" of snow. These winter-to-spring transitions in Wisconsin can be so abrupt that we need to remember to acclimate our bonsai trees carefully as we move them from winter storage to the outdoors. Consider the shade patterns and sun exposure times when deciding where to place your trees and when to expose them to the elements.

Our May meeting will feature a BYOT (Bring Your Own Trees) meeting. This is a chance to get opinions and help on your trees. Join us on May 1 while we take time to work, snack, chat and appreciate the art of bonsai. Remember to mark your tools so you will get them all back at the end of the meeting.

This also is the time to mark your calendar for the Jim Doyle and Marty Schmalenberg workshops during July and August. Sign up sheets and information will be available at the meeting. Volunteers are also needed to help at the Novice Nursery crawl and styling class on May 12 and a public workshop on May 19.

Being a volunteer is a great way to meet new bonsai enthusiasts.

See you at the meeting!

Jean

Mahone Benefit Raffle

By Michelle Zimmer

Milwaukee Bonsai Society will host a club night raffle fundraiser on June 5th in the convention style (with coffee cans and continuous ticket sales followed by a drawing) with all proceeds going to benefit the Mahone Bonsai Club. So, mark your calendars and sort through your "stuff" for donations to this worthy cause. MBS is a 501(c)3 organization, and all raffle donations are fully tax deductible. Cash donations will be accepted.

As many of you know, Milwaukee Bonsai Society is an official sponsor of the Mahone Middle School Bonsai Club in Kenosha, WI. This group of 25 students aged 11-14 are very enthusiastic about their hobby. They have had workshops with Ted Matson and will have a special summer workshop with Jim Doyle this coming summer as part of Jim's visit to Milwaukee. They very much want to travel to a regional or national convention and are working hard to fundraise toward this goal. MABA 2006 convention attendees will recall how helpful they were supporting our artists and participants and making new bonsai connections, including our headliner, Luis Vallejo who was impressed with their commitment and resourcefulness.

Please contact Michelle Zimmer by phone at 414.228.9628, e-mail (jackbd@mindspring.com) or at the May meeting with your anticipated donations. Thanks, in advance—see you there!!!



NINO'S

Landscape Company

P.O. Box 510108
New Berlin WI 53151

Bonsai Supplier

- ❖ Specimen trees
- ❖ Stock material
- ❖ Seedlings
- ❖ Tools
- ❖ Pots
- ❖ Books
- ❖ Videos
- ❖ Mail Order

Now accepting VISA and MasterCard

Tony Plicka
(414) 761-9298
Fax (414) 327-4882

THE CITY GARDENER



-Specializing in-
Bonsai and Bonsai Accessories

Go to - www.citygardener.biz for more info

Alene Krieger
Owner

P.O. Box 341575
Milwaukee, WI 53234-1575

Guest Artist Series...

Jim Doyle Workshops

By Michelle Zimmer

Jim Doyle says that the top 3 tools to bring to a workshop are a turn-table, a drawing pad and a camera. Of course, something to cut with would be handy also. For a "bring your own tree" workshop he suggests that you study up on the culture requirements and prepare the plant. Weed, clean up dead needles and tree "crotches", remove the soil from the base of the tree to look for rootage and begin considering a possible design. But, be open to other suggestions.

A material-included workshop will be offered to **8 club members only** on Saturday morning, June 30 at 9 a.m. We will be shopping for material in May and hopefully can announce the material and the workshop cost by the June meeting.

We are also offering 3 bring your own tree workshops on Saturday afternoon, Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon which we will be opening to non club members. Classes will be limited to 8 students in each class and the cost will be about \$40 for club members.

All workshops are first come, first serve, so contact Scott Hurula by phone at 414.759.3274 or e-mail at hankengai2@aol.com or at the club meeting to sign up for any of the workshops. Don't miss this opportunity!

Marty Schmalenberg, August 7 Guest Artist

By Michelle Zimmer

In the throes of the two week long State Fair celebration, we will have the privilege of entertaining Marty Schmalenberg, the director of Asian studies at Blair Academy, New Jersey. Marty has been involved in bonsai and Suiseki for 30 years and has been designing Japanese and Chinese Gardens for the last 20 years.

He has been the featured artist at conventions and has received many awards for bonsai design. In addition, he is a world traveler and a musical playwright.

Marty will offer a Saturday morning workshop which includes material on August 4th and is available for individual private or group classes on the 5th, 6th, and 7th prior to his club presentation on the 7th. If you would like more information, or KNOW that you want to reserve some time, please contact Scott Hurula, phone 414.759.3274 or e-mail at hankengai2@aol.com to reserve your time. Sign us soon, this is a first come, first serve opportunity!

2007 MBS Schedule

MAY

May 1 - Club meeting- 'BRING YOUR OWN TREE'
May 5-6 Master's classes
May 12 - Novice Class nursery crawl AM/Class #4 PM
May 19 - Bonsai Workshop at Boerner 9-12

JUNE

June 5 - Club meeting - CREATING A RAFT PLANTING
June 23-24 Master's classes
June 30- JIM DOYLE WORKSHOP

JULY

July 3 - Club meeting-JIM DOYLE, GUEST BONSAI ARTIST

AUGUST

August 2 - 12 - Wisconsin State Fair Bonsai Shows
August 4- MARTY SCHMALENBERG WORKSHOP
August 7 - Club meeting-MARTY SCHMALENBERG, GUEST BONSAI ARTIST

SEPTEMBER

September 4 - Club meeting- MBS CLUB SHOW
September 15 - Public workshop 9AM-Noon
September 29-30 Master's classes

OCTOBER

October 2 - Club meeting - Master's CLASS FINALE

NOVEMBER

November 6 -Club Meeting- WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION

DECEMBER

December 4 - Holiday Party NO MEETING

Homemade Bug Spray

By Carl Rosner (From ABS Forum, submitted by Jean Sher)

Here is the soap alcohol solution I have used for years.... It works on scale, and most other pests. It has never bothered any of my trees including Fukien Tea and even my Buttonwoods:

SOAP Solution!

I pour a solution of 1 to 2 tablespoon DAWN Original dishwashing detergent, 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil into a plastic gallon and slowly add water to fill the gallon jug. I fill this solution from the gallon bottle into a spray bottle and just before using I add 1 to 2 two caps full (from the rubbing alcohol bottle) of rubbing alcohol and spray immediately. If you do not use the full bottle of spray, I suggest the next time you are going to use the soap/alcohol solution add the same amount of rubbing alcohol again, since the alcohol will evaporate. I store this soap/oil solution in the gallon jug for months on end. It does not seem to go bad.

Spray on plants covering all leaf and stem surfaces. You may have to spray from three to four times with intervals of three days. I have eliminated almost any kind of pest that has attacked my trees, including scale. I do not wash off the spray and have seen no adverse reaction to the trees from this mixture.

NOTE FROM JEAN: I do not use this on conifers. This is the recipe that I have been using for several years with great success. Please change it to read Dawn Original dish soap for some strange reason that seems to work the best.

TREESTUMP's BONSAI ADVICE

By Joe Herbert

Do you need some advice on Bonsai?

Please be as specific as possible with your questions to increase the chances of getting a correct answer. All answers are researched either in text, from experienced artists and masters, or just plain guessed at. Names won't be printed unless asked to protect your privacy. Send your question to Tree.Stump@yahoo.com.

Q: I've got the trunk how I want it and have my main branches. Now how do I put the finishing touches on it?

A: The finishing touches are in the details. It sounds like your tree is coming along nicely but I noticed you didn't mention any thing about your surface roots, the most important part of any tree. A tree can never be great with roots that look like a fist, but a badly designed tree with good roots can be developed in to a winner. If this step hasn't been done yet, take the time when replanting to wash off all soil off the roots with a hose. Prune away all roots that grow downward underneath the tree base, also any roots not growing in your desired root zone. Equalize the strength of the roots by cutting back stronger roots at a closer branch point. Carefully spread the roots on the soil surface like the rays from the sun and cover with soil until they thicken up to your liking. Remember buried roots thicken, exposed roots age. Also check on your tree that there are not more that two branches or twigs at any intersection and remove all extras. Clean out all branch crotches of suckers and keep the amount of foliage in scale with the twig size holding it. This is especially on junipers that develop huge clouds on tiny twigs. There are many other things to consider but this will get you off to a great start.

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.milwaukeebonsai.org>

A Sad Day in Bonsai

By Mary Miller (Florida)

I'm sad as I write this. Not sure how many folks out there knew Joe Samuels, but please let them know that he passed away on Monday April 9.

The day before his massive stroke we had been the Everglades for a picnic among the dwarf Cypress. We had a very short time together as a couple but I knew him for 30 years. I miss him so much. Dave this is a little bit about Joe with a few changes from a bio I wrote some time ago:

Joseph J Samuels

Giuseppi di Samuele was born in Alaquippa, PA on June 21, 1919. As often happened in the early 1900s, the Italian family name was Americanized. Giuseppi became Joe Samuels.

In high school he was one of five students to study art (a program reserved for the talented and disciplined few.) This was Joe's only 'formal' training as an artist, from there he was self taught. However, he credits his teacher Mr. Joe Marquetti with his success, because Marquetti consistently told his students to 'think!' Many of us have heard that from Joe, more than once.

Joe's father and uncles were steel workers. After high school and sometimes before, sons were expected to follow in the hard work of this family tradition. With the soul of an artist, Joe's steel working career was short lived.

From the time he was a boy Samuels was drawn to the natural beauty and glamour of Florida. In 1946 he moved to Miami Beach. He became a bellhop in the hotels he had dreamed about. He worked evenings -- but at the first light of day he was off to explore the beauty of the Everglades and the Florida Keys. His fascination with nature led Samuels to become a distinguished orchid grower, as well as a world renown bonsai expert on tropical trees. He introduced *Ficus nerifolia* to the bonsai world. He discovered the "old looking" *Ficus* in a nursery, grew it into a magnificent bonsai (The Cloud), propagated it from small cuttings and shared it with everyone.

During his years of studying nature, Joe's talent of drawing and painting continued to evolve. Pencil, charcoal, murals, oil -- he tried them, but his true love was watercolor. His techniques were established by his years of practice and pounds of paper thrown away. While listening to classical music, Joe applied layers of color to paper manifesting his beautiful creations. Joe's talent, passion, wit and wisdom touched everyone who knew him. He was an intelligent, kind and gentle man. We will miss him.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JACK!!!



OOPs, wrong Jack ☹
Everyone knows what I meant...



P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, WI 53008-0198
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS
7PM, Tuesday, May 1
Grace Lutheran Church
3030 W. Oklahoma

MEET THE 2007 OFFICERS

The MBS Officers for 2007 are:

President	Jean Sher
First VP	Scott Hurula
Second VP	Gregg Wein
Secretary	Susan Coleman
Treasurer	Mary Turner
Director	Allen Koszarek
Director	John Moore
Director	Michelle Zimmer
Past Pres.	Kris Ziemann

Other Club Functions:

Houston Sanders – Newsletter Editor
Pam Woythal – Webmaster
Josh Rabeth – Librarian
Jean Sher - Distribution / Telephone
response
Mary Turner - Membership Chairperson

*Dew evaporates
And all our world
Is dew...
So dear,
So fresh,
So fleeting*

- Issa

(Stolen from
Clippings – newsletter of the
Potomac Bonsai Association)

