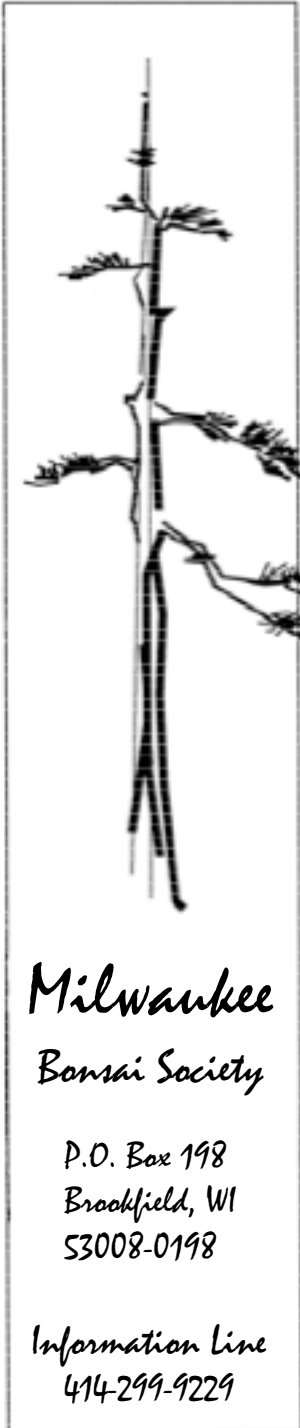


JUNE 2008

# Bonsai News



*Milwaukee  
Bonsai Society*

*P.O. Box 198  
Brookfield, WI  
53008-0198*

*Information Line  
414-299-9229*

## And now, what you asked for...

Our **June meeting** will be an opportunity to bring your own trees to work on (please limit it to 2 trees or 3 very small ones). Members of the Intermediate and Advanced classes will be there working on their own trees and offering aid to those who would like a different perspective on their bonsai.

It will also be a time to bring any item(s) you would like to SWAP. Maybe a pot, or some cuttings, or a tree, tool, etc.

Please bring your calendar and check the dates from July 31 to August 10. We are looking for volunteers to tree-sit at State Fair. It's not a hard job, and even if you don't know too much about bonsai yet, we can pair you with someone who does. It's lots of fun and you get a free admission ticket to the Fair! (Check elsewhere in the newsletter to see information about bringing your trees to State Fair.)

**NEXT MEETING**  
June 3 - 7 pm  
Grace Lutheran Church

## JUNE

June 3 - CLUB MEETING\*  
Bring trees to work on  
June 14 - Novice Class #4  
Jun 27-July 2 - Ted Matson

## JULY

July 1 - CLUB MEETING\*  
Guest Artist: Ted Matson  
Refinement - bring your trees  
July 31-Aug 10 - State Fair

## AUGUST

thru Aug 10 - State Fair  
Aug 5 - CLUB MEETING\*  
Guest Artist: Marty  
Schmalenberg  
Literati and Suiseki

## SEPTEMBER

Sept 2 - CLUB MEETING\*  
Club Show and critique  
Sept 20 - Public Workshop\*  
Pre-registration required

## OCTOBER

Oct 7 - CLUB MEETING\*  
Dead Tree contest and  
fall clean up

\* Only meetings with an \*  
are open to the public.

## President's Message

Hello to everyone,

This summer's bonsai scene seems so amazingly busy. At our June meeting we will have an evening of working on trees. Bring something you want to wire, something you need other opinions about to shape or style, or just plain bring something to show off to the group. This meeting is designed as a work night for all bonsai enthusiasts. There will be informal groups for all kinds of work to be discussed and /or carried out. Bring your trees, tools and creative talents. What an exciting evening it will be! We will also have a chance to sign up for volunteer opportunities and find out more about the MBS club picnic.

July is the meeting for refinement and Ted Matson will be with us to show us a few tricks guaranteed to make our displays look their best for State Fair and MBS Club show. We will also have maps available for the picnic venue and sign up sheets for State Fair tree sitters and volunteer opportunities for workers at the "Wauwatosa Garden Tour" MBS booth. State Fair teams are needed to help transport trees, stands and accent plants to and from the three shows.

In August Martin Schmalenberg will be with us for an interesting meeting. Martin was so entertaining last year that we invited him to be with us again. He will be in town for an Advanced Study weekend and will remain to join us at the MBS August meeting. This will be an evening of thrills, trees and thoroughly thought provoking bonsai.

See you at the June meeting,

*Jean*

Please send in articles to the newsletter editor. Something that you found on the internet, in a book, or an idea for an article, etc. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!  
[hagr8d@mac.com](mailto:hagr8d@mac.com)

From our librarian...

There is an excellent article with photos on how to construct a fiberglass slab for a large forest planting in the 6/2007 November/December issue of the Bonsai Focus magazine which is in our library. Remember: You must be a member to check out books or magazines.

## SECOND ANNUAL MBS PICNIC SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2008

Hosted by: Don and Karen G.  
Time: 2:00 PM - ?? (Dinner about 5PM)  
Bring a dish to share- the meat and beverages will be provided  
- Come to view bonsai techniques used in the garden train layout  
- Collect some moss for your bonsai trees  
- Tag a buckthorn to bonsai  
**BRING LAWN CHAIRS!!!**  
Rsvp:  
-262-548-0480 office  
-262-513-8395 home  
Call for directions to the picnic.  
We had a great time last year and hope you'll join us again this year.

# Bonsai from your backyard

## Grape - Vitis

**General information:** They grow very quickly, even in bonsai pots so styling is a bit of problem, but they are quite striking with clusters of edible berries on them. Trunks can be most interesting and very gnarly. Most grape vines have big leaves and their leaves do not dwarf well. To have a reasonable proportion for a bonsai there needs to be a relatively large and old massive trunk.

**Lighting:** Full sun.

**Temperature:** Early frost is the big grape-killer. Grapes can handle very cold temperatures but they need to go dormant first. They have to be cooled down gently, never going below freezing, and allowed to yellow all their leaves. Leaf petioles should become swollen at the base and fall off easily. After another week or two more they should be able to handle subzero temperatures.

**Watering:** Plenty of water

**Feeding:** Grape bonsai should be heavily fertilized, especially in the fall. Then in spring there should be clusters of flowers coming out with the leaves. Fertilize grapes in bonsai pots alternately with one tablespoon of Miracle-grow in a gallon of water and one tablespoon of Miracid in a gallon of water per week. Continue to fertilize with Miracle-Gro once a week when the plant has flowers and fruit.

**Pruning and wiring:** Both wiring and pruning should be done in midwinter. Prune back all existing canes to 2 or 3 buds and make the final cuts in early spring just before budding starts to guard against any die back. Try not to prune it during spring. Use pinching to control growth during the growing season.

**Branches/leaves** want to grow like vines - elongated stems. One way to control overall branch and inter nodal length is by pinching to remove most new leaves.

**Defoliation** usually results in more and smaller leaves. However, the old petioles often do not fall off the plant as (or after) the new leaves appear and mature.

**Blooms** appear between the 3rd and 6th leaf. The main attraction of a grape bonsai may be the grapes. Grapes are produced on the new shoots, so the vine needs to be pruned back when it is dormant. To get grapes, fertilize very heavily and protect the flowers from rain. If grapes form, the style will automatically be that of a weeping tree, unless it is staked upright.

To get grapes prune during a plant's dormant time to have two to three inter nodes on a branch. Leave about a thumb-length stick after the last node. Following spring it should back-bud on these nodes and make lots of grapes. If too few inter nodes are left the result is "growing" branch that will not flower and bear grapes. If too many inter nodes are left, it will not have enough growing power to develop nice healthy looking grapes.

### Some species suitable for bonsai:

The following botanical names were obtained from the Time-Life Plant Encyclopedia accessible on the Internet from the Virtual Garden at: <http://www.virtualgarden.com/>

Vitis (Vitis labrusca) American bunch grape, also called fox grape (Vitis labrusca); European grape (V. vinifera); Muscatine grape (V. rotundifolia) The grape is one of the oldest fruits known to man, and one variety or another can be grown in almost every part of the country.



## THE ACADAMA CHALLENGE

When Colin Lewis was here, he asked why not many people were using Acadama as bonsai soil. The Japanese have been using it for years. Their trees seem to be doing well!!

It was pointed out that we in the Midwest seem to be very FRUGAL and Acadama is not cheap. But, you only need to repot every 3 to 6 years depending on the tree, according to Colin.

That brings us to the Acadama challenge. 5 similar cuttings from the Powder Puff (Caliandra) tree were purchased in 2 inch square pots.

See photo



1/4 sheet of Viva paper toweling was put in the bottom of 5 plastic pots approximately 6" in diameter to cover the drainage holes. About 1/4 of the soil that the cuttings were in was left. They were put in approximately 3 cups of potting soil with varying amounts of Dry Stall (\$12 per bag) and Acadama (\$28 per bag). 1 tsp of Root Blast was added to each pot.



On the far left - 100% Dry Stall  
To it's right 2/3 Dry Stall, 1/3 Acadama.  
In the middle 1/2 Dry Stall, 1/2 Acadama.  
2nd from the right 1/3 Dry Stall, 2/3 acadama  
On the far right - 100% Acadama

\*The Acadama used was the small granules.

The pots are in the same location, receive the same amount of water and fertilizer.

**We'll wait a year and see what the roots look like.**

Photos from the Colin Lewis Intensive Weekend:



Monday at Mahone Middle School:



The Monday evening Mugho pine workshop:



Our Tuesday 5/6 club meeting:



**STATE FAIR** - Are you interested in entering a tree at State Fair? If you have never exhibited before, please consider doing so this year. Ted Matson will be with us at our July Club meeting to focus on preparing your tree for show. Classes are: Youth, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Open.

Our space is smaller than in previous years, so it will be necessary to limit the number of trees to about 20 per show, 1-2 trees per individual. You must sign up at Club meetings or call 414-979-0281 to participate.

Fox Valley Bonsai Society - Exhibit #1 (July 31 - August 2) - We will fill in if there is space.  
Milwaukee Bonsai Society - Exhibit #2 (August 3 - August 6)  
Milwaukee Bonsai Society - Exhibit #2 (August 7 - August 10)

Check your trees and check your schedule. More information about how to get your trees to State Fair will follow.....

**BUDDY BUCKS** - What are they, anyway??

Buddy Bucks are points that you can accumulate when helping out at a function such as State Fair, Public workshops, Folk Fair etc. Each 3-4 hour session earns you 1 Buddy Buck. Each Buddy Buck counts for \$3 towards the **Post Holidays Party in January**. Earn 5 Buddy Bucks and your dinner and delightful evening of entertainment are paid for.

Many thanks to all who worked at November's **FOLK FAIR 2007**.

Unfortunately, we do not have the list of volunteers at last year's Folk Fair. Please email: [hagr8d@mac.com](mailto:hagr8d@mac.com) and let us know how many shifts you worked!

**NOVICE CLASSES #1:**

1 Buddy Buck  
Jean S, Kris Z

**NOVICE CLASSES #2:**

1 Buddy Buck  
Jean S, Kris Z, Delores D, Tony P, Norb B

**MAHONE WORKSHOP W/ COLIN LEWIS:**

2 Buddy Bucks  
Houston S, John M, Jean S, Steve C, Leo S



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

Next Meeting of MBS  
7PM, Tuesday, June 3  
Grace Lutheran Church  
3030 W. Oklahoma

## 2008 MBS OFFICERS

The MBS Officers are:

President	Jean S
First VP	Joe H
Second VP	Allen K
Secretary	Susan C
Treasurer	Laura L
Director	Jerry N
Director	John M
Director	Michelle Z
Past Pres.	Kris Z

### Other Club Functions:

Kris Z - Newsletter Editor/Distribution  
Pam W - Webmaster  
Joe N - Librarian  
Jean S - Telephone response  
Mary T - Membership Chairperson

