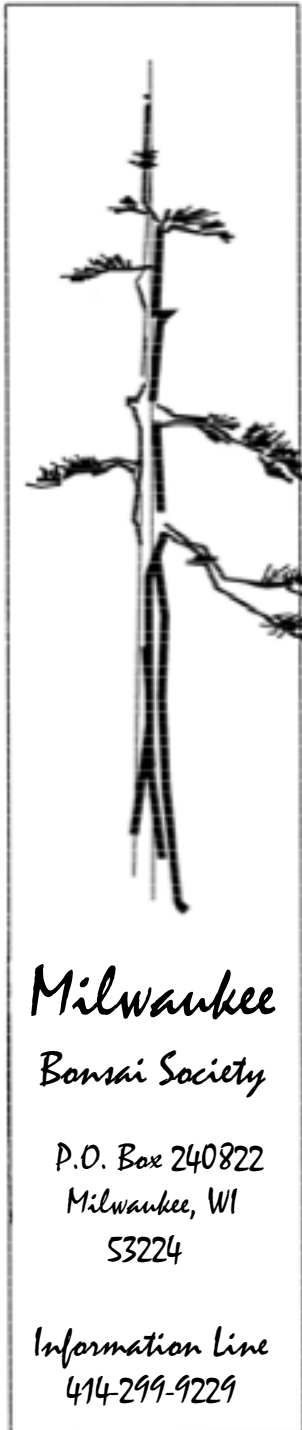


MARCH 2012

# Bonsai News



## April 3 Club meeting

The focus of our April meeting will be about the springtime ritual of repotting our trees. This year being far from normal our usual repotting season is just about starting as we normally are shaking off winter's hold on us and our trees.

In a typical Southeastern Wisconsin spring we start our repotting on trees that bud out earlier like larch, in mid to late March. And work our way through to those trees that are a little slower to come out of winter's rest through most of the month of April. If spring is a little cooler that can easily stretch into May.

But as I am writing this article that window has been shoved wide open and those early budding trees have broke bud and are well on their way to hardening off their first set of leaves.

(continued on page 3)

## 2012 Events

### APRIL

**April 3 - Club Meeting**

Repotting Demo

**April 14 - Novice Class #2**

8:00 - 12:00

Open workshop - repotting

12:00 - 4:30

### MAY

**May 1 - Club Meeting**

Group Slash / Tree Styling

**May 5 am PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

pm - Novice Class #3

**May 19-20 Bonsai Spring Show**

Chicago Botanical Garden

### JUNE

**May 1 - Club Meeting**

Guest Artist - Tom Longfellow

**Mark Sunday July 15 on your  
calendar for the MBS picnic.**

[www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday Apr 3 - 6:30 pm  
Boerner Botanical Gardens

## President's Message

Greetings,

Again this month I begin with a building access update. A more powerful wireless door chime has been purchased and successfully tested. The button will be temporarily affixed to the front door of BBG at each meeting with the bell unit plugged into the hallway near the multi media center. So if you arrive at BBG late and the door is locked, please push the chime button and someone will come to let you in.

Since Ron Fortmann has joined the Executive Committee we have been one member short on the Program Activities Board. I have appointed Anna Stadnicka, PhD to fill that position. Anna is a basic science researcher at the Medical College of Wisconsin with a lot of experience in writing proposals. She will be a good addition to the PAB.

Our Society was invited by the Domes to exhibit trees in silhouette this year and it was a resounding success. 1222 paying customers visited the Domes on March 4<sup>th</sup> and took in our show. There was a steady stream of people admiring the trees all day, similar to State Fair. We are working hard to secure an invitation to hold our Silhouette Show there again next year.

Shirley Dommer Walczak, the director of Boerner Botanical Gardens, has invited MBS to participate in celebrating the fourth annual **National Public Gardens Day** on Friday May 11, 2012 from 9am to 3pm. I have responded that MBS will participate. I will talk more about this at the next meeting.

For those of you that want to participate in the organization and planning of the Annual Exhibit this year, the first meeting will be held on Saturday April 7th at 9:00AM. The Annual Exhibit page on our website will have the location for the meeting as soon as it is determined ([milwaukeebonsai.org/42ae](http://milwaukeebonsai.org/42ae)).

I have noticed a disheartening trend over the last couple of years - the fact that monthly meeting attendance has been dwindling. Are we doing something wrong? Does the price of gasoline affect attendance or is BBG too out of the way? I would appreciate ideas from the membership on how to increase the meeting attendance.

The Milwaukee Art Museum will host Art in Bloom from March 29 to April 1 this year. Steve Carini will be giving a presentation titled "Introduction to the Art of Bonsai" at 4pm on Friday afternoon. His presentation is sold out so if you wanted to go I hope you have a spot reserved.

**-Steve**



(continued from front page) Normally I would explain how you review your trees and repot those where the buds have started to swell and show the faintest hint of color from the leaf that is about to emerge. But sadly out here in western Waukesha County that train has long left the station. I was fortunate to get some of my trees repotted the first week of March, and a few during the next week. But at this point the second day of spring most of my deciduous trees are leafed out and that means that it is not the best time to repot those trees.

So I turn my attention to my conifers in my collection. Once again the best time to repot is when that tree is just starting to wake up from its winter dormancy. On most evergreens their color during the winter takes on a darker often rusty color. So in the spring when you see that color starting to return this is your sign that the sap is beginning to flow throughout the tree, this is a prime time to repot. The other sign you should look for is white tips in the roots, this too is a sign of the tree taking some action to shake off the winter dormancy.

Those newer in the hobby ask why do I need to repot my trees. Here are a few reasons:

- Too replenish the soil because after a year or more the soils that we use start to break down and become compacted
- This compaction often results in holding more water in and around the root ball
- Once the roots reach the outer edges of the pot they start to turn back into the root ball or start circling the pot's shape
- The roots continue to build volume and start pushing your tree up in its pot
- The continual building of roots eliminates the small air spaces within the pot and this prevents the free oxygen exchange that our trees need
- The continued building of root mass eventually makes it very hard for water and fertilizers to reach all the root tips and this will lead to some roots dying off and possibly starting some root rot →
- The pruning of roots on our trees is what helps us keep our trees the sizes that they are
- The constant refining of our root mass helps us build finer twiggling and reduced foliage on our trees which helps make them look more like a large tree in nature.



At our April meeting I will be repotting a tree and I will provide you with some guidelines and hints on how and when and what you should do to have a successful repotting session.

Who knows, the way this spring is progressing I may have to repot a tropical tree which is normally reserved for the heat of summer, which may be in April for all we know.

See you at the meeting,

Ron F

## **2012 NOVICE CLASSES**

by Ron F

If you are in the early stages of learning about the bonsai hobby, these classes will help expand your knowledge of understanding of bonsai styles, practices and techniques and set the foundation on which your future bonsai experiences and lessons will build.

Novice classes this year will be lead by Steve Carini and Ron Fortmann. This series of four classes will review a number of topics in each session and you will also work on a provided tree in the forth session. We will work from a text that will be provided as part of the classes. A general outline of what we will cover is as follows:

- Session One March 24 at Boerner Botanical Gardens – Grandparents Room
  - Introductions and expectations from students and leaders
  - Bonsai History
  - Bonsai Tools
  - Bonsai Terms
  - Bonsai Styles
  - Bonsai Horticulture
  - Declaration of tree selection for the forth session
- Session Two April 14<sup>th</sup> at Boerner Botanical Gardens – Grandparents Room
  - Review Styles and their application
  - Bonsai Rules
  - Bonsai Development
  - Pot Selection
  - Discussion about Taper
  - Wire and Wiring
- Session Three May 5<sup>th</sup> at Boerner botanical Gardens – Grandparents Room
  - Bonsai Soils
  - Bonsai Fertilization
  - Potting/Repotting practices
  - Repotting Workshop
- Session Four - Date and Location To Be Determined
  - Review previous sessions
  - Work on your class tree

The cost of these four classes is \$100.00 which must be paid by the first session to reserve your space. Class participation will be based on first paid first included basis. Class size will be limited but if there is enough interest there may be a second session planned to accommodate all those who are interested.

If you are interested please let me know by phone 262-490-8733 or email [aabonsai@charter.net](mailto:aabonsai@charter.net) and have your payment at the April meeting or send it to the Milwaukee Bonsai Society, PO Box 240822, Milwaukee WI 53224

## Milwaukeebonsai.org/42ae

Thanks to all of you who contacted either me or Steve Co and expressed interest in helping on the committee for our 42nd Annual Exhibit, to be held on the weekend of September 14th through 16th. Our first committee meeting is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, April 7th, at 9:00AM. So far there are 7 club members on the committee and we DO still need more involvement. Please do not hesitate to reach me at the e-mail or phone below and I will put you on the notification list for meeting info and location. Now for some more news about MBS42AE!

I had previously arranged for our headliner artist to be Kathy Shaner, Curator of the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt in Oakland, California. While I was out at the Garden this past month, Kathy spoke with me about her need to postpone her commitment to our Club for 2012 due to some personal medical needs. She expressed her apologies to the Club for having to cancel with such short notice.

So, with Kathy's help, and that of many other people I have met while studying in California, I contacted a young bonsai artist that I had previously met by the name of Peter Tea. Owner of Peter Tea Bonsai, Peter has presented at a number of conventions in the West and is currently beginning the second of five years, studying as a bonsai apprentice at Aichi-en Bonsai Nursery, and residing in Nagoya, Japan. Yes... I said Japan! Peter has agreed to join us for MBS42AE!

We are VERY fortunate to have this commitment from Peter to be a part of our Annual Exhibit, and, for our club's Executive Committee to have agreed to bring Peter in from Japan.

Peter was beginning a career as an automotive technician back in 2001, when he noticed two bonsai trees on the desk of his foreman. This foreman had the reputation for being tough on new techs, so Peter thought it would be to his advantage to ask questions about these trees.

Little did he know that this little ingenious act would not only help his career, but completely change it. I would encourage you all to go to Peter's website, [www.peterateabonsai.com](http://www.peterateabonsai.com) and read more about him and sign up to receive his blog. It is very interesting and educational to read about what a bonsai apprentice does with his days in training.

Peter will be a great headliner, judge, and workshop leader. He is as excited as I am that he is coming to Milwaukee this fall.

Keep watching our club website at the address above, and this newsletter, for more information about MBS42AE. And remember, contact me as soon as you have decided to become a part of the team planning this exciting event.

Steve Carini  
[wenrenbonsai@me.com](mailto:wenrenbonsai@me.com)

## State Fair 2012

The theme for 2012 in the Horticulture building is: "Rooted in Wisconsin".

What a great opportunity to show off trees native to Wisconsin. To that end, the 2nd show at State Fair 2012 will be dedicated **ONLY to trees grown in Wisconsin** (shows 1 and 3 will follow the usual rules). Also the requirement of owning a tree over 2 winters will be waived during the 2nd show so that members who found a specific tree at the end of last season in local garden centers and those who already have a tree on the following list may show in the 2nd show.

Please use this website to determine if you have a native tree...

[http://www.uwgb.edu/biodiversity/herbarium/trees/tree\\_list01.htm](http://www.uwgb.edu/biodiversity/herbarium/trees/tree_list01.htm)

Have fun and we'll see you at the 2012 Fair!!



P.O. Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI 53224  
[www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS  
Tuesday, April 3  
Boerner Botanical Gardens  
9400 Boerner Dr  
Hales Corners, WI 53130

## 2012 MBS OFFICERS

President	Steve Con.
First VP	Tony P
Second VP	Kris Z
Secretary	Ron F
Treasurer	Susan L
Director	John M
Director	Greg P
Director	Allen K
Past Pres.	Pam W

### Other Club Functions:

Newsletter - Kris Z  
Webmaster - Pam W  
PAB Board - Ron F, Don G & Houston S



*Misty marsh spirits  
Green leaves bejeweled with dew  
Sun dawns - spirits fade.*

- Joe Nemec