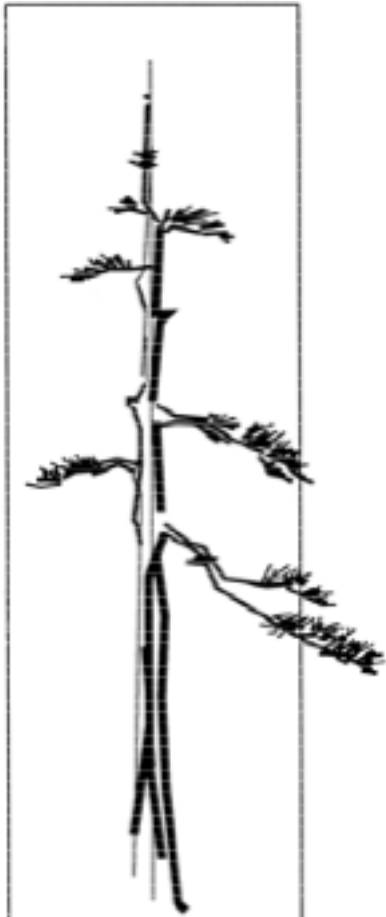


SEPTEMBER 2012

Bonsai News



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

P.O. Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI
53224

*Information line
414-299-9229*

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

Fall Maintenance Panel Discussion

This month..... We can look at a fairly straightforward panel discussion centered on fall maintenance of your trees. As a bonus, Bring Your Own Bonsai to the meeting. We will have a fun, low-fuss, gathering of a group of friends for a casual evening of bonsai techniques. I love working on my trees, and I particularly love working with friends, so any affair that allows me to share bonsai and conversation with people I like is a-okay by me.

So bring your trees, friends and let's have fun at the meeting.

2012 Events

SEPTEMBER

Sept 4 - Club Meeting
Fall maintenance discussion
Sept 15 - Public Workshop
Sept 14-16 MBS Annual Show

OCTOBER

Oct 2 - Club Meeting
Hemlocks & spruce

NOVEMBER

No Club Meeting
Sunday Winter Wrap-Up
meeting

DECEMBER

**Dec 4 - Awards Banquet /
Holiday Celebration**
at Meyer's Restaurant
75th and Forest Home

www.milwaukeebonsai.org

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday Sept 4 - 6:30 pm
Boerner Botanical Gardens

You be the Bonsai Judge

By Pam W

President's Message

State Fair you say! What a great exhibit. There seemed to be more interest than in previous years and many viewers said they would attend our Annual Exhibit next month. Tree sitting at the Fair is such a rewarding experience, I love to do it. Thank you to everyone who participated this year. Those of you who have never done it should consider it for next year.

Plans are moving forward on a timely basis for the 42nd Annual Exhibit. There are just a few workshop openings reaming to be filled. If you are interested in a Japanese Black Pine workshop do not delay your registration! I still have some volunteer positions to fill for the exhibit so, I may be contacting you. Please see other Annual Exhibit related articles in this newsletter.

MBS members did very well at the Midwest Bonsai Show in Chicago taking Best of Show and several other ribbons. Congratulations to all who participated.

I have appointed Rob P to the Program Activities Board. Rob has small business experience and will be a good addition to the PAB. I will introduce him at the September Society Meeting. Welcome aboard Rob.

The nominating committee this year will be Anna S and Rob P. Anyone interested in running for office should see them at the September meeting to be included on the slate.

- Steve

Judging bonsai is like judging any other art form: always controversial and highly subjective. And yet, we all agree that certain bonsai are better, or much better, than others. We all know what we are looking in a good bonsai: innovative design, harmony, visual balance, evocativeness, and quality craftsmanship. We all know that a bonsai needs good taper, proper branch development and refinement, good-looking root base (nebari), and a pot that matches and enhances the overall image.

Bonsai is difficult to judge. Even with precise criteria for each tree, judging is a subjective process. Bonsai is considered an art form, as the personal preference of each judge will always influence how the bonsai rates.

Judging can be looked at as a grading system to separate the qualitative attributes of bonsai. Most art has a grading based on two major groups: Beauty and Skill. For bonsai this equates to Subject and Technique. When creating a bonsai, we will have some kind of image in our minds, and then we will use our technical knowledge to create that image. So, the subject incorporates all the artistic (beauty) aspects, as well as the character of the material, and ultimately, the overall image. The skill, on the other hand, includes the technical details, such as branch placement, branch refinement, taper, nebari, pot selection, and so on.

Subject

Character and Design are the two categories that make up the Subject. Character has to do with the quality of the stock we are starting with. Think about an old collected yamadori: it has a trunk that suggests great age; it has mature bark; it also has unique features, such as jagged curves, bumps, cavities, and possibly deadwood. The quality of the material is of major importance, thus it deserves its own category. Design is another defining factor. Design needs to bring the best out of the stock. It needs to fit the material and not to go against it. A good design is imaginative, consistent in every detail, and evocative.

Technique

Technical excellence refers to how well the artist has employed the elements of bonsai. For example, trunk taper, root-base, branch development (placement, refinement, maturity) and pot selection with placement. By recognizing technical excellence as an aspect of bonsai, we can say that while we do not agree with the artist's design, he is nonetheless a great artist.

Trunk taper is very important. It is an important factor in creating the impression of age and the impression of grandeur. The root-base (nebari) adds to these qualities, and also provides the feeling of balance. It is important to remember that bigger is not necessarily better. A stronger taper or a larger nebari is not necessarily better than a smaller one. It has to be appropriate to the subject. So, when grading taper or nebari, we should not give a higher grade to a nebari just because it is larger. The key word is harmony: it has to be in harmony with the rest of the tree. We can give a high grade to trunk taper of a literati tree, even though it has very little taper. That 's because the taper in this case would be in perfect harmony with the literati subject.

Branch development is a large category, and includes several aspects. The proper placement of branches is one of them. The development of a fine network of secondary and tertiary branches is another one. And finally, the branches need to be thick enough and tapered, in other word, in good proportion with the trunk, in order to appear as mature as the trunk itself. All these branch-related aspects can be graded under the "branch development (placement, refinement, maturity)" category.

The last one on the craftsmanship side is the pot selection & placement.

Rank the Beauty

The problem starts when comparing a bonsai. Bonsai One has perfect wiring, good branch placement, and a nice and a fitting pot. But the overall image is extremely boring, uninspiring, and the tree is very young. It has very little character. Overall, it is nothing but a well trained young stick in a pot. Bonsai Two suggests a superb overall image, and has great character. But the technique used is sub par: poor wiring,

unrefined branches, and has some branches that seem to be superfluous. The pot selection is also far from being good.

The disturbing thing about the above classification is that both the young stick in a pot, and the old and wonderful, but poorly trained yamadori received an equal average grade. This is simply wrong. The two trees could never be regarded as equals. The yamadori could be a priceless and rare treasure, a world-class material, while the young sapling can be purchased for a few dollars and trained to the current stage in a few years.

So, obviously the fault of the judging system is that it gives equal importance to the quality of the material and the technical aspects of bonsai. Similar to the degree of difficulty used when judging sports such as diving, gymnastic, a system must be used to weight the difficulty or in the case of art, rank beauty of the subject. This can be an easy to fix by giving the Subject category twice as much weight as to the Technique category.

Conclusion

Good bonsai should appeal to you. It will be skillfully made, most likely by an artist who has created other bonsai. The best art has meaning beyond just an image; perhaps it will bring you to tears, make you laugh, or remind you of something you'd almost forgotten. It also stands out in a crowd, and dares to be different.

Judging the level of skill in bonsai is probably the most difficult thing for beginners. Over time and with more exposure to bonsai you will eventually come to a greater understanding of different techniques. Plus, if you're lucky enough, you'll probably find out that you instinctively have a better grasp of some skills already.

MBS42AE

by Steve Carini

Congratulations to all the ribbon winners at State Fair. It is always a lot of fun for me to volunteer at our display booth and talk with all the interested visitors. Now September is finally here and it is time to enter, display, volunteer, and enjoy your club's 42nd Annual Exhibit on September 14-16, 2012, at Boerner Botanical Garden's Visitor and Education Center. In this monthly installment, I will review the registration process and the new and improved tree drop off arrangements. First the story.

I know how difficult it can be to manage my time and prepare my tree for a show. Each year I get stressed before show time and I seem to poorly plan... therefore running out of time to properly prepare my tree in time to deliver it ALL SET to display. My purpose here in this article is to think through the pre-entry process "out loud", and hopefully, it will help each of you develop a plan for yourselves.

First, I want to find a source for moss to cover the soil surface. When I go for a walk or bike past green places, I will keep my eye open for fine moss on the ground. The spaces between the sidewalk are good spots to look. Or I will visit my favorite garden center and look in tree pots and ask the attendant if I could collect some moss for my tree. I bring along an old pancake spatula to easily lift it from the pot or ground.

Second, I'll make any necessary pruning cuts on the tree I plan to enter in the formal Exhibit. I will have a lot less to do on the tree that I enter in the "Tree in Training" section of the Exhibit. Once the trees are set, I can relax until it is time to properly soak the trees before I take them to the Exhibit.

Third, I will attend the September club meeting so I can get a copy of the registration form, one for each tree I enter. I can enter ONE tree in the formal Exhibit and ONE tree in the Tree in Training part of the Exhibit. I'm starting to get excited!

In a nutshell - see the rest of the article for detailed information

- find moss
- final pruning
- At September club meeting get registration form to be filled out accurately at home
- Monday Sept 10 - soak tree overnight
- Tuesday Sept 11 - drain tree, prepare pot and apply surface treatment
- Wed Sept 12 - drop off tree at Boerner 3:00pm - 7:45pm
- Sunday Sept 16 - Pick up tree between 5:00pm - 5:45pm

Once home I will fill out the forms and try to find both the common and scientific names for the trees I plan to enter. If I have a problem finding these names, don't worry... there will be help. This year, the club will have a table station to finalize my application, and there will be books for both hardy and tropical trees provided, to look up the correct scientific names.

On Monday evening, September 10th, just before I turn in for the night, I will set my trees in a pan of good, clean water, being sure not to let the water go up over the rim of the pot. I might even add a drop or two of Super Thrive or Dyna Grow Pro-Tek to the water. All the soil particles will thoroughly hydrate by soaking overnight.

Then on Tuesday, September 11th, sometime mid day, I will take the tree and pot out of the water bath and let it drain very well. I think I will wedge a small piece of wood under one edge of the pot so the pot is tipped to one side. This will allow for better drainage from the drain holes under the pot. When I get home from work that evening, I will wipe off the pot well, **ESPECIALLY THE BOTTOM** of the pot, removing any dirt and grime that might soil or scratch my display table, and set it on a towel or some other absorbent fabric. A white towel or rag works best because then I can see if the bottom of the pot is clean.

I will then add the moss I collected to the soil surface. I find that if I take off some of the old soil, the final moss level works out better and will show off the tree's nebari.

Now I am set to bring the tree to Boerner.

Tree drop off begins on Wednesday, September 12th, at 3:00PM, at Boerner, and runs until 7:45PM. This year there will be lawn signs clearly posted, to better direct members to the drop off site. There is a driveway to the right of the Visitor Center leading around back of the building, to where the recycling dumpsters are kept. If the weather is good, tables will be set up out doors for any necessary final tree prep. Any final prep **MUST** be completed outside, **BEFORE** you bring your trees into the building. There is a service elevator just inside the loading dock and we will be able to use this elevator to bring our trees downstairs to the Exhibit level. (If it is raining, this prep area will be set up inside... still entering through this rear door, just to the right of the loading dock.)

Once downstairs, there will be stations set up for registration completion, books for common and scientific name research, registration check, tree tag printing and then the very important **FINAL CHECK** for clean pots, tables and all completed paperwork. **THEN, AND ONLY THEN,** will you be escorted into the Exhibit hall to assemble your display in one of four areas; Novice, Intermediate, Advanced or Tree in Training.

This system is a new process and will assure that none of our fine linens on the display tables will get soiled... as they did last year.

The Exhibit will run through Sunday, September 16th, at 5:00PM. Tree pick up will begin promptly at 5:00 and must be completed by 5:45PM.

Please remember to check out the website at www.milwaukeebonsai.org/42ae and attend all of the **FREE** evening workshops during the week of MBS42AE. The first one is Thursday evening with Peter Tea, where he will review the entire Exhibit and help us arrange the trees in the most esthetic manner, presenting the Very Best Exhibit we have ever had... and there may even be a raffle! **BE THERE!**



42 annual exhibit milwaukee bonsai society

EXHIBIT TREES
TREES IN TRAINING
VENDORS
RAFFLES
BEGINNER WORKSHOP *
ARTIST WORKSHOP *
* PREREGISTRATION AND FEE
Friday 6-10 pm Reception & Critique
Saturday & Sunday 10-5 pm

www.milwaukeebonsai.org/42ae

special guest
Peter TEA

2012 september 14-16

Boerner Botanical Garden Education & Visitor Center 9400 Boerner Drive Hales Corners WI

State Fair Results

O=Open, A=Advanced, I=Intermediate, N=Novice, Y=Youth
Show #1 - August 2 - August 4 - Judge: Jack Douthitt
Fox Valley Bonsai & MBS



Best of Show

← Narrow Leaf Ficus (A) - Dennis C (FV)

Awards of Merit

Ficus Burt Davii (O) - Gerald K (FV)
Ficus Burt Davii (O) - Gerald K (FV)
Ficus Retusa (I) - Dennis D (FV)



Ficus Burt Davii (O) -
Gerald K (FV)

Blue Ribbons

Narrow Leaf Ficus (A) - Dennis C (FV)
Ficus Burt Davii (O) - Gerald K (FV)
Ficus Burt Davii (O) - Gerald K (FV)
Ficus (I) - Dennis D (FV)
Weeping hemlock (N) - Julie E

Ficus Retusa (I)
Dennis D (FV)



Red Ribbons

Ficus Nerifolia (N) - Julie E (FV)
Ficus Nerifolia (N) - Colleen V (FV)
Ficus Nerifolia (A) - Dennis D (FV)
Ficus Burt Davii (O) - Gerald K (FV)
Jade (I) - Susan L (MBS)
Erodium (A) - Houston S (MBS)
Natal Plum (A) - Houston S (MBS)



Ficus Burt Davii (O)
Gerald K (FV)

White Ribbons

Kei Apple (A) - Houston S (MBS)
Ficus Benjamina (N) - John B (FV)

State Fair Results

O=Open, A=Advanced, I=Intermediate, N=Novice, Y=Youth
Show #2 - August 5 - August 8 - Judge: Houston Sanders
Milwaukee Bonsai Society

ONLY WISCONSIN TREES WERE EXHIBITED IN THIS SHOW

Best of Show

Beech Forest (A) - Jean Sher



Awards of Merit

Larch (I) - Susan L
Birch (A) - Pam W
Basswood (O) - Ron F

Blue Ribbons

Juniper (N) - Teri W
Larch (I) - Susan L
Beech forest (A) - Jean Sher
Birch (A) - Pam W
Basswood (O) - Ron F



Larch (I) - Susan L

Red Ribbons

Yew (I) - Jerry N
*White Cedar (A) - Kris Z
Eastern White Cedar (O) - Ron F
Larch (I) - Jim T

Birch (A) - Pam W



White Ribbons

*Yew (I) - Rob P
*Chokecherry (A) - Kris Z
Elm (I) - Barb S

*Only one year of training



Basswood (O) - Ron F

State Fair Results

O=Open, A=Advanced, I=Intermediate, N=Novice, Y=Youth
 Show #3 - August 8 - August 11 - Judge: Pam Woythal
 Milwaukee Bonsai Society



Best of Show

Ginkgo (I) - Rob P



Awards of Merit

Tiger Bark Fig (N) - Judy S

Willow Leaf Fig (O) - Ron F

Crepe Myrtle (I) - Suan L

Blue Ribbons

Aralia Forest (Y) - Mahone Kids Club

Norfolk Island Pine (Y) - Mahone Kids

Ginkgo (I) - Rob P

Tiger Bark Fig (N) - Judy S

Willow Leaf Fig (I) - Barb S

Willow Leaf Fig (O) - Ron F

Crepe Myrtle (I) - Suan L

Red Ribbons

Black Pine (I) - Teri W

Brazilian Raintree (A) - Jean S

Shimpaku Juniper (I) - Barb S

Dawn Redwood Forest (I) - Steve Co

Fukien Tea (N) - Judy S

White Ribbons

Fig (A) - Dennis G

Tiger Bark Fig (N) - Alex H

Pomegranate (I) - Teri W

Tiger Bark Fig (I) - Teri W

Juniper (I) - Bill G

Boulevard Cypress (A) - Tony P

Shimpaku Juniper (I) - Jim T

Golden Cedar (I) - Jim T

Tiger Bark Fig (N)
 Judy S



Willow Leaf Fig
 (O) - Ron F



Crepe Myrtle (I) - Suan L



Rooted in Wisconsin

YEW - *Taxus*

Habit and Form

- evergreen
- medium-sized tree or large shrub
- depending on cultivar can also be dwarfed
- size varies from 2' to 20'; depending on cultivar
- growth characteristics vary widely between cultivars
- medium texture
- slow growth rate

Summer Foliage

- needle like leaves
- two-ranked
- blunt bud scales
- dark green color on upperside
- light to medium green on underside
- needles can be straight or curved
- leaf apex is pointed

Autumn Foliage

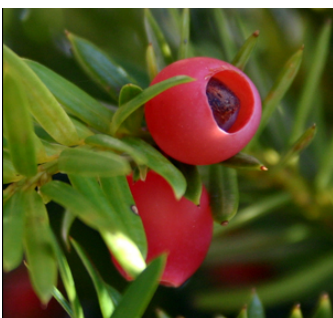
- none, evergreen
- some winter discoloration occurs

Flowers

- dioecious
- form on previous years wood
- blooms in March and April
- ornamentally unimportant

Fruit

- slightly compressed, olive-brown seed
- seed is covered by a red aril
- mildly attractive



Bark

- scaly, flaky brown bark
- usually covered by foliage

Culture

- easily transplanted from B&B or container
- prefers moist, sandy, slightly acidic soil
- prefers well-drained soil
- sun or shade

Liabilities

- needle or twig blight
- scale
- nematodes

ID Features

- two-ranked needles
- red aril covering seed
- scaly bark
- usually massively pruned
- blunt bud scales
- pointed leaf apex

Propagation by cuttings

Cultivars/Varieties include

'Bean Pole', 'Brownii', 'Chadwickii', 'Densiformis', 'Hatfieldii', 'Hicksii', 'Sentinalis' (also listed as 'Sentinal'), 'Tauntonii' (also listed as 'Taunton'), 'Viridis' and 'Wardii'





P.O. Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI 53224
www.milwaukeebonsai.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS
Tuesday, September 4
Boerner Botanical Gardens
9400 Boerner Dr
Hales Corners, WI 53130

ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THIS YEAR'S STATE FAIR EXHIBIT WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL RIBBON FROM THE HORTICULTURE BUILDING STATE FAIR STAFF. COME TO THE SEPTEMBER MEETING TO RECEIVE YOURS.

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 - Rob P, Anna S & Houston S



I saw in a store at the mall
A bonsai, with man on a wall
But shellac on the rocks
Made a real paradox...
Cuz the tree got no water at all!