

DECEMBER 2012

# Bonsai News

## EXCITING NEWS

*Internationally known bonsai artist, Colin Lewis, will be coming to Milwaukee for an intenseive Bonsai weekend March 1-3. See the flyer on page 3 for more information about the weekend. This course will be limited to only 10 people. It is VERY important to get your reservation in as soon as possible.*

### 2012 Events

#### DECEMBER

*For those members who have sent in your reservations, we'll see you at the*

**Dec 4 - Awards Banquet /**

**Holiday Celebration**

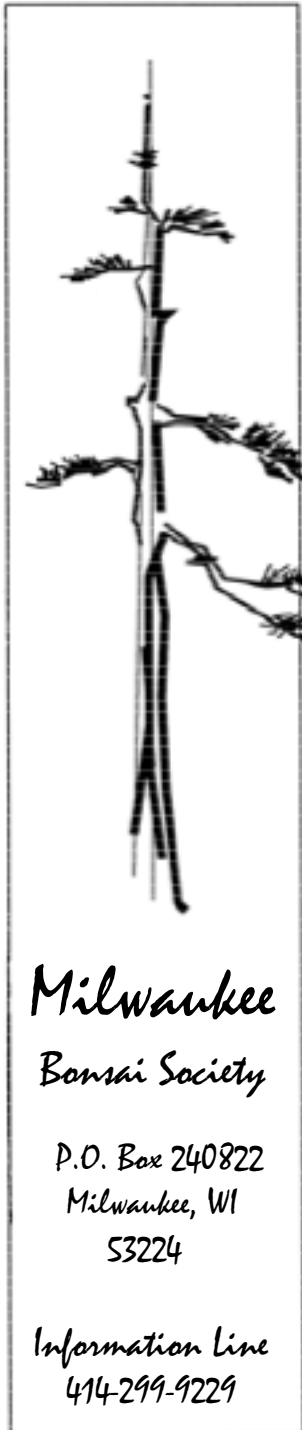
at Meyer's Restaurant

75th and Forest Home

*(Deadline for reservations was Nov 26)*

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

**NO TUESDAY EVENING CLUB MEETINGS IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY**



*Milwaukee*

*Bonsai Society*

*P.O. Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI  
53224*

*Information line  
414-299-9229*

*First come, first served.*

*We will check postmarks.*

*Send to the MBS mailbox:*

*P.O. Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI  
53224*

*Or bring to the Holiday banquet on December 4.*

*Reservation form is on page 4.*



**HO YOKU**  
*School of Bonsai*

#### NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday March 5 - 6:30**

Boerner Botanical Gardens

## President's Message

Holiday greetings to all members and families,

Reflecting briefly about this past year, I must say our society had a pretty good year. We had successful displays, shows, exhibits, workshops and classes. We have quite a few new members who will now have the opportunity to become more involved. With all the successes of 2012 MBS will continue to improve during 2013.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our display at the Holiday Folk Fair this year. Interest in bonsai was the highest it's ever been at HFF. I had two conversations with Al D concerning MBS involvement with HFF. They really like having the bonsai display and have asked us to return again next year. Al and I discussed the possibility of "ramping up" our display to include demonstrations and maybe more. One improvement for next year would be to have more members display at this event, only seven did so this year.

I am very enthusiastic about our schedule for 2013. The guest artist lineup at this time includes: Colin Lewis, Ted Matson and Kathy Shaner with Shaner being the headliner for MBS43AE in September. We will have

several open workshops, discussions about fertilizers, study groups, bonsai insurance/estate planning and possibly dai making. It will be a great year!

Over the next couple of months the MBS website will be updated to include more about our schedule, workshops and classes. If you have any suggestions for improving the MBS website, please send an email to [mbsweb@hotmail.com](mailto:mbsweb@hotmail.com) or leave a voice mail at 414-299-9229.

See you at the Holiday Party/Awards Dinner and enjoy the Holidays.

- *Steve*





# HO YOKU *School of Bonsai*

## INTENSIVE WEEKEND COURSES

*With Colin Lewis*

DESIGNED specifically for serious bonsai students in groups of no more than ten, sessions cover in depth the practical, horticultural and aesthetic principles of the Ho Yoku School of Bonsai and take place on Friday evening, all day Saturday, Saturday evening optional, and all day Sunday at the host's venue.

### **Friday evening**

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#### **Brief introduction.**

#### **Techniques: Wiring!**

The single most important technique in bonsai training, yet nobody's wiring technique is beyond improvement. A simple yet ingenious method of getting it right. Hands-on session.

#### **- Techniques: Heavy bending.**

Descriptions and demonstrations of how to make big bends in big branches with minimal risk to the tree.

### **Saturday morning**

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#### **Discussion: Bonsai soils.**

What's good, what's bad, what's available

#### **Techniques: Root pruning.**

(Hold on, you might not know as much as you think...) Root pruning can serve many more purposes than rejuvenation: nebari improvement, angle adjustment, restructuring, initial design step.... But it must be done right.

#### **Brief examination of students trees**

for the practical afternoon workshop.

### **Saturday afternoon**

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#### **Practical workshop:**

Root pruning and repotting.

### **Saturday evening**

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An evening of design critiques and discussions on students projects, during which students may also work on preparing their trees for Sunday's practical workshop.

### **Sunday morning**

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#### **Developing and pruning deciduous trees:**

If the initial branch structure has been properly built, very little wiring will be necessary to complete the design. A good understanding of pruning theory and practice is essential. Students will be asked to bring deciduous trees for possible demonstrations of specifics.

#### **Discussions on students trees**

for practical afternoon workshop.

### **Sunday afternoon**

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#### **Practical design workshop: 'One tree at a time'.**

Too many workshops are wasted when students bring along several trees "just for ideas" and fail to implement any of them at home. So I have one rule: Choose the tree you want to work, and stick with it until it is finished - and it isn't finished until I say so! Only then can you begin another.

Students will leave with a sketch of the future form of their workshop trees.

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Throughout the weekend students will be presented with a series of brief design exercises on paper. These are intended to stretch the imagination and to encourage students to look beyond the obvious.

A week or two before the Intensive Course participants will be notified of what to bring along each day and how to prepare their trees for the practical sessions.

***In order to attend the Colin Lewis class, you must be a member in good standing (you must have paid your 2013 dues).***

***The fee for the weekend is \$300.***

***Make check payable to: MBS  
and send to:***

***No silent observers....***

***MBS***

***P.O. Box 240822***

***Milwaukee, WI 53224***

***If you can't make it to the Colin Lewis class,  
you will be able to see him at our March 5 club meeting.***

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**Reservation form for Colin Lewis Intensive Weekend March 1-3**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ for \$300.

Please make a copy of this form or tear off and send to the address above ASAP.

***Or bring to the Holiday Banquet on Tuesday December 4 at Meyer's Restaurant.***

## OVERWINTERING 101

- by Pauline Muth

We just had a heat wave, BUT cooler, then colder weather is on the way. At this point we are making sure our tropicals are indoors in a greenhouse (heated), under lights or in a well lit window.

Our tender trees like tridents are still outside and will remain there until November when we put them in a well protected storage area for winter. Many of us grow species that are on the edge of hardiness for Zones 4 or 5, so they need special storage that will not dip into the extremely cold temperatures that can occur in our region. We have had several warmer than normal winters and as a result we are not suffering winter kill. It is impossible to know what this winter will bring so plan for the worst and be safe.

The hardy stuff usually can wait until mid December for storage. An unheated garage, shed, barn or dark cold frame does the job. Be sure to prepare your trees for storage by removing fruit, leaves of the deciduous material, thick layers of moss and other debris. I wash my trees in a solution of an agricultural soap like Safer or Concern before storage. In storage I add many packets of DeCon to feed the critters that may find their way into the storage area. The main idea is to protect your hardy material from the harsh sun and winds of winter. In the case of the super hardy material like larch, they can be stored under evergreen trees that protect them from large snow falls that can break branches. If you do store them in your cold storage area be sure that area stays cold and does not drastically fluctuate in temperature during the winter.

If you store in a garage on shelves or have one or two and store them in a cooler in the garage, remember to check for moisture during the winter. Putting handfuls of snow on the soil helps as it will "water" the soil if a thaw occurs.

I personally do not store the hardy material until we have experienced some snow fall. And for our newer members...YES hardy bonsai can freeze. A word of warning: Exposed root styles need extra protection in the winter. Try to keep

them in a place that the temperatures stay below 40 but above 30. If you have a cool greenhouse, you can take them from outside in December and into the cool greenhouse for the rest of winter.



## OVERWINTERING 102

- This is a "tricky" time of year for outdoor bonsai. Watch the weather forecasts regularly. If the actual temperatures dip to 27° F or below, your trees will need protection.

- Pick up fallen leaves and move your bonsai around on the benches to prevent algae forming under the pots.

- Water only as needed. Deciduous trees that are going into dormancy need much less water than evergreen conifers, which may still be actively growing. Water these two types differently. Did you know that intentional limitation of water on deciduous trees will improve their fall colors?

- Watch out for those autumn pests. Industrious squirrels and other "critters" can seriously damage roots with their constant digging. Slugs and snails may also be more prevalent during autumn rains.

- By now, all tropical and semi-indoor varieties should be in their winter quarters.

- Check wiring on branches. At this time of year the plants are storing sugars and starches causing tissues to swell and branch diameters to increase.

## OVERWINTERING 103

What do you do with your tropicals?

- Kris Z

Perhaps this section will be particularly helpful for our new members from the Public Workshop. By now, your trees should be indoors. Once inside, don't be concerned if leaves drop. Tropicals don't much like to change their environments and they express their displeasure this way. Just put them in one place in your home and keep them there for the winter. That being said, here are some tips that might also help you out.

**Humidity** is a challenge during the winter months.



A well sun-lit bathroom would be nice. If you are not able to mist them a few times a day, you might consider using a smallish type "greenhouse". If you have only a few trees, a zipper-type might be

helpful (you can get different varieties at Stein's, etc.)

You might decide to make a portable hoop-house using PVC pipe and plastic. A rigid door isn't necessary... you can hang strips of plastic as in a walk-in freezer.



Or you might like to convert a room in the basement, as I did, to suit your trees. It already



had paneling on the walls. I put plastic on the ceiling and hung overlapping strips of plastic in the doorway. The racks are made

with 2X4's and 2x8 sheets of plywood. I

use plastic sleds with gravel in the bottom to help with the humidity.

**Lighting** - Your tropicals need good light, whether sitting near a window or under artificial light - 8 hours/day for 2 months then gradually working up to 14 to 16 hours just before you put them out in the summer. I use 1 cool and 1 warm fluorescent tube. One halogen light is hung in the center of the room, more for heat than lighting. (I have timers set to control lighting.)

**Watering** - If the soil feels dry, water it thoroughly. I use de-humidifier water on my trees. I had my tap water and outside water tested, and the dehumidifier water had the lowest % of metals in it. I have 'de-h' water all winter due to the humidity that leaks out of the basement "greenhouse". I also have the clothes drier hose venting to the inside, so as to collect the humidity from that. The trees like to keep their feet warm, so I allow the collected water to sit in the greenhouse until it warms up.

**Feeding** - Let your trees snooze for 2 months without fertilizer. Then, as you increase the length of light given, gradually increase fertilizer from low doses to regular outdoor regime (feeding and lighting correspond).

**Odds and Ends** - Before the trees go into the indoor greenhouse, they are blasted with a spray of water to get rid of as many pests as possible. Then they are sprayed with dormant oil. But, flying critters do appear during the winter. I use a house-type bug spray and spray over the tops of the trees. **Use caution** - I am confident in the spray I use... this may not work for you. Otherwise a Safer Soap spray can work.

Sometimes it gets a little stagnant in the greenhouse, so I put on an oscillating fan for about 8 hours a day. That's also on a timer.

• This is certainly not the definitive word for all tropicals. It's just what works for me here around Milwaukee in zone 4/5. If you have any questions, feel free to email: [hagr8d@mac.com](mailto:hagr8d@mac.com)

# Milwaukee Bonsai Society

## 2012 Membership Application



### Contact Information

Please Print:

Name(s)	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Home Phone	
Cell/Work Phone	
E-Mail Address	

### Membership Type

New or Renewal:

- Individual 1 year \$25       Individual 2 years \$48       Individual 3 years \$70  
 Family 1 year \$35       Family 2 years \$68       Family 3 years \$100

*Overpayment of dues will be considered a donation to the club. MBS is a non-profit organization under 501(3) (c)*

### Interests

Tell us in which areas you are interested in volunteering

- Events       Administration       Other (let us know your interest)  
 Fundraising       Newsletter production  
 Tree Exhibiting/Sitting       Volunteer coordination

### Payment

Please make your check or money order payable to: **Milwaukee Bonsai Society**

Mail to:

Milwaukee Bonsai Society  
P.O. Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI 53224

### Our Policy

This information will not be published or otherwise distributed to the public and is for MBS Board members only. MBS membership applications are also accepted at monthly meetings, which the public is always invited.

Thank you for completing this application form and for your interest in joining and volunteering with us.



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

Next Meeting of MBS  
Tuesday, March 5, 2013  
Boerner Botanical Gardens  
9400 Boerner Dr  
Hales Corners, WI 53130

## 2013 MBS OFFICERS

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

### Other Club Functions:

Newsletter - Kris Z  
Webmaster - Pam W  
PAB Board - Rob P, Anna S & Houston S



**JUST FOR FUN!!**