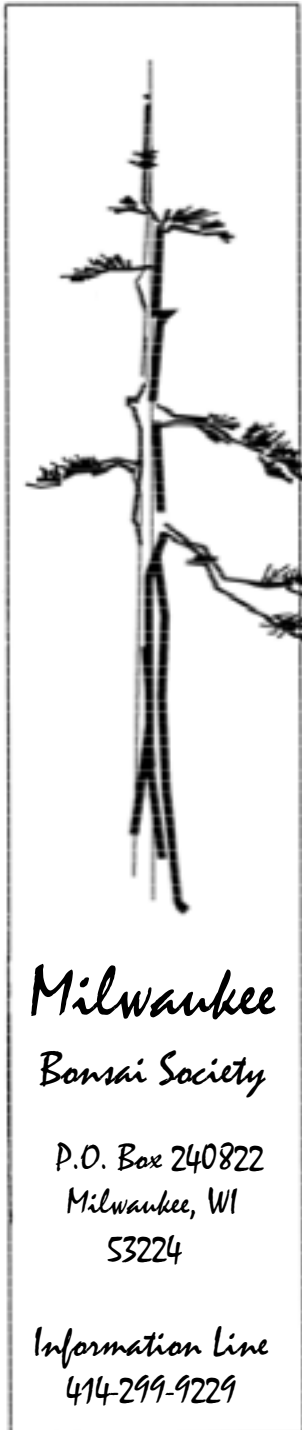


JANUARY 2013

Bonsai News



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

P.O. Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI
53224

*Information Line
414-299-9229*

Happy New Year!

President's Message

I hope you have been able to recharge your bonsai batteries recently, I have. For 2013 MBS again has an awesome schedule which includes: (1) the four major exhibits: silhouette, State Fair, Folk Fair and our Annual Exhibit. (2) displays at National Gardens Day, Wauwatosa Garden Tour and possibly others. (3) guest artists Colin Lewis, Ted Matson and Kathy Shaner. (4) open workshops on weekends several times during the year dealing with various themes. (5) spring and fall public workshops. (6) novice and intermediate level classes for members. (7) a picnic in July. (8) We have been asked by BBG to have a bonsai display in the Gardens on Father's Day. This event is still on the planning stages at this time.

MBS will kick off 2013 with an open workshop Sunday

2013 Events

FEBRUARY

**NO TUESDAY FEBRUARY 9
CLUB MEETING**

**February 17 - Winter
Silhouette Exhibit at the Domes
9:00-4:00**

**February 24 - Kick Off
Meeting and Open Workshop
10:00 - 2:00**

MARCH

**March 1-3 - Colin Lewis
Intensive Weekend**

**March 5 - Club Meeting
Guest Artist Colin Lewis -
Juniper styling Demo**

March 23 - Novice Class #1

APRIL

**April 2 - Club Meeting
Guest Artist Ted Matson -
Black Pine styling Demo**

**April 5-7 - Ted Matson
workshops**

**April 14 - Novice Class #2
and repotting workshop**

www.milwaukeebonsai.org

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!!

NEXT MEETING

**Sunday Feb 24 - 10:00 am
Boerner Botanical Gardens**

President's Message (cont)

February 24th in the Grandparents room from 10-2 in lieu of a monthly meeting in February. Bring a tree or two to work on, help out the newer members, socialize or maybe enjoy brunch at Bartolota's. We will have several open workshops on weekends this year.

The Society will have an updated website that will make it easier to see the schedule of upcoming events including links to registration pages. We will try to keep this schedule up to date if any changes need to be made, so keep an eye on it. We will also have a section that lists all the books in our library collection. More on the Library next month.

Since MBS did not have a monthly meeting in November last year attendance at the Holiday/Awards dinner was down a bit. Please put Tuesday December 3rd, 2013 on your calendar for this year's gathering.

Just a quick reminder that if you have not renewed your MBS membership for 2013, please do so.

What's in the future for MBS? 1). Our first concern is working to keep Boerner Botanical Gardens as our "home". The challenges of dealing with three different organizations is a tall order, but we are trying our best and learning as we go. 2). There will be an organizational meeting in the near future to determine if there is interest in a Master's class. See related article in this issue. 3). Plans for a banquet the Saturday evening of the Annual Exhibit are in the planning stages at this time. Keep tuned for updates. 4) A permanent collection for MBS is still one of my goals. Some headway has been made, although very small steps, toward that goal this past year and we will continue on this journey this coming year. Our goal will take some time to attain.

The new year should bring a new enthusiasm for bonsai, it certainly has in my case and I hope in yours also.

"If a tree falls in the woods and no one is there to hear it, does it just lie there and rot"?

Keep all your cutters sharp, my friends

- *Steve*

Advanced/Master's class

The possibility of a Master's Class has been discussed by members of the Board. We need to find out who craves this kind of training. This was done several years ago and those involved know how valuable this has been for them.

You do not need to have advanced skills for this class. It is meant to take students with intermediate and above skill levels and improve upon them. A training session of this kind is intensive study with a master for two to three years. The classes would be for a weekend four times a year. A master's class must have total commitment.

We need to know who would be interested. A meeting of the interested persons will meet to discuss the details to set up your classes. Those interested can contact Barbara S at 2b2sweet@sbcglobal.net or 414-462-0938.

**FOCUS ON SKILLS:
2013 - the year of wiring**

TED MATSON WORKSHOPS

We will have 3 days of workshops with Ted, Friday April 5, Saturday April 6 and Sunday April 7 at Boerner downstairs.

This may be your only chance to work with a guest artist until our Annual Club Show in September.

Ted is a wonderful teacher (talk with members who have taken classes with him), so bring a notebook or tape recorder so you're sure to get down great information about your trees and others.

The workshops:

Full day workshops - 8:30 - 4:30 with a lunch break \$115

Half day workshops - 8:30 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 4:30 \$65

Please fill out the following form and bring it to the February 24 workshop or the March meeting with your check or send to our P.O. Box 240822 Milwaukee, WI 53224

Silent observers:

\$5 - 1/2 day, \$10 full day

Pay at the door

REMEMBER - YOUR MEMBERSHIP MUST BE CURRENT TO PARTICIPATE

Ted Matson Workshops - April 5-7, 2013

Name _____

Home phone _____

Cell _____

Choice of workshop day(s) (1st, 2nd, 3rd choice)

Friday ____ Saturday ____ Sunday ____

Full Day \$115 - check # _____ or cash ____

1/2 day \$65 - check # _____ or cash ____

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!!

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

SILHOUETTE EXHIBIT AT THE MITCHELL PARK DOMES

In addition to the joys of snow during the winter and early spring months, we in the Midwest have an opportunity to view our landscape in the 'raw', that is, without the dressing of buds, leaves and flowers. Several things happen in this season: the evergreen conifers become more noticeable since they retain their greenery, and the skeletons of the deciduous trees and shrubs are revealed. When viewed at a distance, these skeletons appear as a rather uniform brown-gray cloud of brush and twigs, but when examined closely, each individual tree has its characteristic shape, bark, twigging character and dormant bud detail that allow its identity to be known. It is these leafless features that we will be celebrating in the upcoming "silhouette" bonsai show which MBS will present to the public on Sunday, February 17, 2013 at the Mitchell Park Domes.

Maple



Only deciduous trees will be featured in this event. Maples, hornbeams, elms, hawthorns, apples, crabapples, pomegranate, crape myrtle, ginkgos, larches and swamp cypress are some of the species which would be suitable. We anticipate showing 8- 10 specimens, depending on size, and will set a formal display using our club backdrops, tablecovers and skirts. Each tree must have a stand. Accent plants or accessories or scrolls are optional.



Chinese Quince

We will need 3 or 4 people to collect, deliver and setup the trees, tree sit from 9:00 to 4:00, then breakdown the exhibit. If you are interested in participating, please call Kris at 262-512-1228, email hagr8d@mac.com or talk with Kris at the February meeting.

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!!

The Bonsai Society of Greater St. Louis

Presents

A Shohin Workshop Weekend

with

Ted Matson & Suthin Sukosolvisit

May 4-5, 2013

at

Cass Bonsai, Edwardsville IL.

Limited to 40 people Price is all inclusive

4 workshops, material, lunch, exhibit critique

Sat. dinner and open shopping in the Cass showroom

Two Day Registration - \$350.00

(Early Registration before Dec 31st 2012 -\$325.00)

One Day Registration - \$200.00

Two day schedule includes:

Ted Matson Boxwood Workshop

Suthin Sukosolvisit Shimpaku Workshop

Brian Ciscowski Tropical Workshop

Exhibit Critique

(One day registration will vary by day)

For more information contact Ted Piekutowski, circustaz2@sbcglobal.net or 314 952-1317

Shohin Workshop Weekend

Winter Wiring

Dave Bogan

Why can't I grow Moss ??

Dave Bogan

Over the years, I have experimented with and tried many varieties and installation techniques for adding moss to my bonsai . Some of which grew well on my bonsai while others struggled. After some trial and error, I was lucky in that I seemed to be able to grow beautifully lush green moss. Soon I was the go to person to obtain moss from. I had started a moss bed and I had moss to spare. I gave away moss to my fellow bonsai enthusiast but was soon to find that my moss died on others trees. Why? We tried everything. A few critical issues in growing moss are: Use soft textured moss, leave a thin layer of the original soil on the moss, very importantly, all moss must either touch other moss or the edges must be buried to keep it from drying out. Moss can be installed in patches or by small plugs (1/4" buried flush with soil) all over the surface and allowed to grow naturally. With all this, many of my fellow enthusiast simply could not grow moss that seemed to grow easily for me. As with many things in bonsai, we must ultimately turn to nature to find a solution. The main outstanding solution was —water, more specifically rain water. Look at your moss after a good rain. It turns so green it may look blue. What's the secret? Rain water is naturally acidic, about pH 5.7. With this in mind, I checked my local city water and was shocked to find it also was acidic. Finally the solution. Use water that is around pH 5.7 and you will see great results (if in addition it was installed properly) in your moss growing efforts.

For more information on Moss, check out Moss Gardening: Including Lichens, Liverworts, and Other Miniatures by [George Schenk](#)

If wiring during winter or while a tree is dormant always remember that the sap and moisture usually contained in branches (making them more flexible) is less now. When the tree went dormant, it withdrew a lot of the sap contained within the branches thus, they will be stiffer and slightly easier to break. Bend them carefully.



Benders and strains placed on branches should always be done with care and understanding. We've probably all seen articles where the author used a bending tool and a point as the fulcrum. Always remember if you're placing a lot of pressure on a single point, it can cause internal injury. Especially the three point benders advertised in many bonsai stores. With these, they push in the middle while hooks on either end pull thus creating a bend in the middle area. Both of these points should be cushioned. If left in place long, it can cause the underlying tissues to die and create a dead spot on the branch or trunk your attempting to bend.

Milwaukee Bonsai Society

2013 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
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS
Sunday February 24, 2013
Boerner Botanical Gardens
9400 Boerner Dr
Hales Corners, WI 53130

**February 17 - Winter Silhouette Exhibit at the Domes
9:00-4:00**

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



Beauty is in the eye of the beholder...