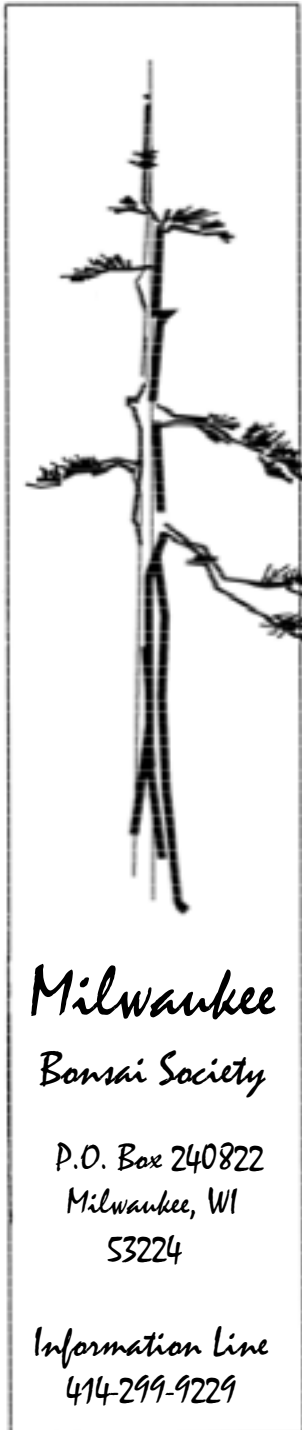


SEPTEMBER 2013

Bonsai News



SEPTEMBER MEETING

See the top award winning trees from State Fair "up-close and personal" with insights from their owners.

Here's a chance to see the award winners from State Fair and hear from their owners what went in to getting the trees ready for show. It just might inspire you to enter a tree in our Annual Exhibit this year!

2013 Events

SEPTEMBER

Sept 3- **Society Meeting**
Presentation by State Fair winners

Sept 20-22 - MBS Annual Exhibit and workshops

Sept 21 - Fall Public Workshop

OCTOBER

Oct 1 - **Society Meeting**
work night on Society's LARGE shimpaku

Oct 6 (Sun) - Open workshop
fall clean-up 10-2

NOVEMBER

Nov 5 - **Society Meeting**
work on quince

Nov 10 (Sun) - Open workshop
10-2

Nov 22-24 - Folk Fair Exhibit

DECEMBER

Dec 3 - **Society Holiday Party and Awards Banquet**

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday Sept 3 - 6:30 pm
Boerner Botanical Gardens

REMEMBER

Come to the society meetings at 6:00 for social time and to get advice on trees you bring.

www.milwaukeebonsai.org

President's Message

Whew, State Fair is finally done for the year. It was a lot of work for MBS but it does give us our most significant public exposure. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped out and a special thank you to Kris Z for all the long hours she put in chairing the event again this year. We have a list of things to improve on for next year that will make the exhibit even better.

Thanks also to the study group participants who discussed the pros and cons of study groups. I know of at least one new group and an addition to an existing group. Study on!

MBS43AE is almost upon us and there are still a few Kathy Shaner workshop openings, check the website for the specifics. And don't forget that there will be a banquet on Saturday evening September 21st this year. It will be a great time to socialize with Kathy and participate in the auction of a tree that she has styled with all the proceeds going to the Permanent Collection Fund. Registration information for the workshops and banquet are elsewhere in this issue.

If you will be exhibiting a tree at the Annual Exhibit, just a reminder that as with State Fair it is a requirement that all non-novice exhibitors winter the show tree for at least 2 years. I encourage all novices to exhibit this year. It is a great opportunity for the tree to be critiqued by one of the best bonsai artists in the country. This is how to get ideas to improve your tree, don't miss the opportunity!

Don't forget that we have a show during the Holiday Folk Fair again this year. I know it's not the best time of the year for a show but it has given us good exposure over the years. This year the Folk Fair would like us to have exhibitors working on trees and next year possibly run a workshop during the Fair.

Steve



43rd Annual Exhibit

September 20-22 2013

By Pam Woythal

Engage With help from all of you, we will continue our stellar Annual Exhibit for all our club members and surrounding community. First thing I want to implore you to do is attend! The bonsai exhibit starts the Friday and will be held at the Education and Visitor Center at Boerner Botanical Gardens, followed by our evening traditional reception, this year with Kathy Shaner.

Our featured artist, Kathy Shaner, comes to Milwaukee to share her knowledge and deep commitment and we are extremely fortunate to welcome her. Our featured event will include a true educational experience with lecture and a demonstration on a Hinoki Cypress. **This lecture/demonstration starts at 1:00 on Saturday and is available to everyone.**

Call for Attendance We want to have the exhibit well attended so help us by bringing your address book to the September meeting. We will ask you to address 5 postcards and we will send them to invite your friends. We will have poster and post cards at the September meeting. Pick some up and help get the word out.

Big Thank You Many vendors are participating this year including Ancient Arts, BC Bonsai, potter Karen Schuman, watercolor artist Charlotte Fung Miller, potter John Menzel. Many vendors have provided sponsorship or items for our raffles including Brussels's, Cass Bonsai Gardens, Golden Arrow Bonsai, Meehan's Miniatures, Nature's Way Nursery, Sara Rayner Pottery, International Bonsai Arboretum and Wildwood Gardens. Our members are providing donations too. You all deserve shout outs as well. Please continue showing your support, bring any items of value that could be donated to the meeting! Email or call and I will arrange pick up (mbsweb@hotmail.com).

Call for Exhibit Trees Everyone enjoys viewing these trees and the only way to have a successful exhibit is to have everyone display their art. Please plan on displaying one tree in the Formal Exhibit and one tree in the Tree in Training part of the Exhibit. Complete the form provided (see website or pick up one at the meeting) beforehand to make it easy. Or simply try to find and bring the information like the common and scientific names, possibly how old it is. **REMEMBER - YOU MUST HAVE HAD YOUR TREE OVER 2 WINTERS (except for novices).**

Tree drop off begins on Thursday, September 19th, at 4:00PM, at Boerner, and runs until 7:45PM. The drop off site is the 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 and cleaning. Like last year, we will have people outside to help you organize and clean you pots so they do not mark the linen when they are placed on the display tables. Use the elevator to bring your trees downstairs to the Exhibit level. Once downstairs, there will be help for tree registration, books for common and scientific name research, tree tag, printing and final check in.

The Exhibit will run through Sunday, September 22nd, at 5:00PM. Tree pick up will begin promptly at 5:30 and must be completed by 6:15PM.

Enjoy a Workshop or Banquet Complete the form: <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/Newsletters/AnnualExhibitRegistration.pdf>

Bring your completed registration form to the September meeting or mail to:
Pam Woythal, 8670 N Point Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53217

Stay current with the Annual Exhibit at: <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/ae>

OUR GUEST ARTIST - KATHY SHANER

by Jack Douthitt

Kathy Shaner started her bonsai career in 1983 after she took a bonsai class at a community center. Later, she had the opportunity to study with Yasuo Mitsuya in Japan. He recognized that her talent and passion for bonsai went far deeper than that of most people, and encouraged her to enroll in a full 5-year apprenticeship. Which she did.

During her apprenticeship, she published a series of articles in Golden Statements magazine chronicling her training and adventures in Japan. Upon completion of her apprenticeship in 1994, Kathy was the first non-Japanese citizen, and the first woman, to be certified by the Nippon Bonsai Kyodo Kumiai, the professional bonsai grower's branch of the Japan Bonsai Association.

Since then, Kathy has worked in bonsai on a full time basis. She has lectured and conducted seminars and workshops, at many National and International Conventions, while also working on many private collections throughout the United States.

She uses her knowledge and ability to find the "soul of the tree." Then, using creative and specialized techniques, she teaches her students the art and culture of bonsai in a clear and understandable way. Her critiques are filled with positive ideas about how to improve each tree.

In addition to her teaching and private collection work, Kathy is the curator of the Golden State Bonsai Collection-North at Lake Merritt in Oakland, California, which opened in the fall of 1999.



Kathy Shaner - an up-close and personal experience

by Michelle Zimmer

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to meet again and work with Kathy Shaner, one of my favorite bonsai experts. I want to let everyone know what a unique and wonderful opportunity we have ahead of us in September when she makes one of her **very rare** visits to a Club outside of her local California neighborhood.

She is a skillful artist, much in demand because of her expertise, her wisdom, her teaching skills and her passion-- in fact she often wears herself out making the best of every possible tree and experience.

Here is a reprint of an interview I participated in after a visit to the North California Collection in January 2009, at Lake Merritt, Oakland, CA where Kathy is the curator. I am reprinting it in the hope that you will be inspired, as I was, to meet and learn from this remarkable woman.

Interview for Jerry Carpenter for the Collection
Connection @ BGLM

1. *How long have you been interested in Bonsai and working in the art?*

I have been interested about 20 years. Like many people, I was given a juniper bonsai as a gift and about a year later I learned that there was a local club. I signed up for the novice class that was

just forming. I bought the best Masakuni tools right away—I was ‘hooked’ and I knew that this art would be part of my life forever.

2. How do you participate in your local clubs or organizations?

I am not very interested or active in the politics of bonsai although currently I serve as a Director of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society. I have taught beginners and intermediate students, presented programs and recently acted as chairman of the committee that just produced our first “Silhouette Show” which we staged for over 1000 visitors on March 7, 2009.

3. Tell us a little bit about yourself

I am a certified “tree hugger”, a nature lover, an amateur naturalist (mostly plants) and landscaper. I’ve just started birdwatching. Although my formal educational background is in science (chemistry), I grew up surrounded by fine artists: my mother was a fine ceramicist, my sister is a respected watercolor artist, and my husband is an architect and a passionate bonsai hobbyist and author. Although I don’t know the language, I’ve always appreciated the fine arts and have lived in an environment surrounded by the principles of design. I adore the Japanese aesthetic, especially as manifested in Japanese gardens. Our bonsai hobby has allowed us to travel and make friends throughout the world. I am a lifetime learner and currently am studying the French language which I hope to master some day. Since I retired from practicing internal medicine 2 years ago, I’ve been practicing the fine art of being where I am—it’s an under-appreciated skill that is not admired in a world that celebrates the illusion of multi-tasking.

4. What brought you to the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt to work for the week?

Serendipity and Kathy Shaner. I sat next to Andrea B. at a lunch when we were at the GSBF Convention in 2007. We were discussing a presentation by Kathy Shaner, and I was remarking how lucky California bonsaiists are to have such a fine resource. Then, Andrea told us about the volunteer program at Lake Merritt. Pam W. and I looked at each other and we knew we were going to find a way to come out here to have the experience of working on fine trees with a great artist and teacher.

5. Had you worked with Kathy Shaner before?

No, but I had followed her career ever since she wrote the series of articles published in the Golden Statement in the early 90’s describing her apprenticeship in Japan. She is a treasure—she’s passionate about her work and she wants very much to pass on all that she knows—and she has the skills and temperament to do it! For me, it was a dream—to just be around her and soak up these little dribbles of wisdom about every aspect of the art.

6. What trees did you work on while at the Garden?

Well, we were here at transplanting time and also right before the mammoth fund raiser, so there were lots of people and lots of activities. We worked on transplanting some pines that had just been donated as well as trees that had been in the collection for a while. We also helped out with some garden cleaning and maintenance chores. I felt a little timid since there were many skillful volunteers and much work to do. I was happy to help out whenever an extra pair of hands was needed.

7. Have you taken with you any gems of wisdom about the art of bonsai?

I learned more about transplanting in 4 days at Lake Merritt than I have in the last 4 years! When you think about it, this is the most unnatural thing that we do to our trees. In nature, a tree grows where it sprouts and that’s where it spends its life be it long or short. Our task is to understand what each individual tree needs from the point of view of health (first) and then design. I noticed that the transplanting process is customized for each tree depending on where it is in its history. It’s not important to be fast, but to be meticulous and thorough. Kathy has a reason for everything that she does based on science, study, observation and experience. This approach appeals to my scientific nature, so I was ready to hear these lessons. Then, if one superimposes her wonderful eye for design, her ability to create that dynamic asymmetrical balance that we are all looking for and to bring out the best that each tree has to offer, well—it’s rare to have that combination in one person—and she is willing and able to teach it, too!!!! What a privilege! -- My head is still spinning!

State Fair Results

O=Open, A=Advanced, I=Intermediate, N=Novice
Show #1 - August 1 - August 3 - Judge: Tom Longfellow
Milwaukee Bonsai Society



Best of Show

Larch (O) - Ron F

Awards of Merit

Cedar (O) - Ron F

Ficus (I) - Susan L

Firethorn (O) - Ron F



Ficus (I) - Susan L

Blue Ribbons

Larch (O) - Ron F

Cedar (O) - Ron F

Ficus (I) - Susan L

Firethorn (O) - Ron F

Brazilian Rain Tree (N) - Liza W

Parrot's Beak (N) - Liza W

Grape (I) - Rocío S

Red Ribbons

Cedar (A) - Kris Z

Alberta Spruce (I) - Bill G

White Ribbons

Jade (I) - Susan L

Green Island Ficus (A) - Kris Z



Firethorn (O) - Ron F



Cedar (O) - Ron F

State Fair Results

O=Open, A=Advanced, I=Intermediate, N=Novice,
Show #2 - August 4 - August 7 - Judge: Ron Fortmann
Milwaukee Bonsai Society

Best of Show

Pyracantha (A) - Pam W



Awards of Merit

Juniper (I) - Susan L

Bougainvillea (A) - Kris Z

Shimpaku juniper raft (I) - Teri W

Golden Cedar (I) - Jim T

Blue Ribbons

Pyracantha (A) - Pam W

Juniper (I) - Susan L

Bougainvillea (A) - Kris Z

Shimpaku juniper raft (I) - Teri W

Golden Cedar (I) - Jim T

Dawn redwood forest (I) - Steve Co

Larch (I) - Susan L

Juniper cascade (I) - Susan L



Juniper (I) - Susan L



Bougainvillea (A) - Kris

Red Ribbons

Bougainvillea (I) - Teri W

Tiger Bark Ficus (A) - Kris Z

White Ribbons

Pomegranate (I) - Teri W

Shimpaku (I) - Steve Co

Boulevard Cypress (A) - Tony P

Black pine (I) - Steve Co

Tiger bark ficus (I) - Steve Co



Golden Cedar (I) - Jim T



Shimpaku juniper raft (I) - Teri W

State Fair Results

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



Best of Show

Ponderosa Pine (I) - Teri W

Awards of Merit

Juniper (A) - Mike N

Chinese Elm (A) - Pam W

Juniper (I) - Rob P

Chinese Elm (I) - Susan L



Juniper (A) - Mike N



Juniper (I) - Rob P

Blue Ribbons

Ponderosa Pine (I) - Teri W

Juniper (A) - Mike N

Chinese Elm (A) - Pam W

Juniper (I) - Rob P

Willow Leaf Fig (N) - Lanny H



Chinese Elm (I) - Susan L

Red Ribbons

Shimpaku Juniper (I) - Barb S

Shimpaku on rock (I) - Jim T

Tiger bark ficus (I) - Dennis G

Purple Star Flower (I) - Susan L



Chinese Elm (A) - Pam W

White Ribbons

Tiger bark ficus (I) - Dennis G

Maple (I) - Teri W

Fukien Tea (I) - Dennis G

Jade (I) - Dennis G

Juniper (I) - Jim T

FALL DEALS !!??

It's just about time for the garden centers to be having their fall sales on trees, etc. Many of us eagerly await this time of year to stock up on bonsai possibilities. So the question arises, ¿Are these really deals?

I look at my bonsai benches and realize that the majority of the trees I got on sale are no longer here. So did I waste my money? Not really. They offered me great practice in pruning, styling, wiring and trying to keep them alive. Better to experiment on something inexpensive than a real Pre-Bonsai specimen. A number of my deals died. so I learned something about how not to take care of them. The majority I just lost the vision and passed them on to other club members, some of whom did wonderful jobs re-creating them.

So, what are some things to remember as you hunt for deals:

1. Don't just buy because it's cheap. Really look at the trunk and the roots to see if there is a bonsai in there somewhere. (Remember, the trunk will not grow much once it's in a pot and a root bound tree will be hard to work on).
2. Make sure the tree is healthy.
3. If you just have to get a couple of trees, take note as to how you keep them though the winter. Did they survive?

All in all, purchasing sale trees can offer you an inexpensive way to increase your bonsai skills and who knows? Maybe you'll end up with a show-stopper!!



State Fair Bonsai Bucks - If you worked at State Fair, please find your name below and check that we have the correct number of bonsai bucks awarded to you. If not, please email hagr8d@mac.com. Thanks

Pat B-2, Steve Ca-1, Steve Co-5,
Ron F-1, Bill G 3, Dennis G-1, Don G-3,
Judy H-1, Chris H-1, Ken J-2,
Pauline J-2, Allen K-3, Susan L-3,
Nick L-2, Nancy M-1, Julie Mc-2,
John Men-1, Jen M-1, John Mo-6,
Jerry N-1, Mike N-2, Tony P-8, Rob P-3,
Greg P-2, Judy Sch-3, Anna S-5,
Kevin S-1, Barb S-2, Teri W-3,
Pam W-1 and Kris Z-7



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

Next Meeting of MBS
Tuesday August 6, 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



*Bonsai on display
Admiring crowds passing by
Beauty shared with all*

- Joe N