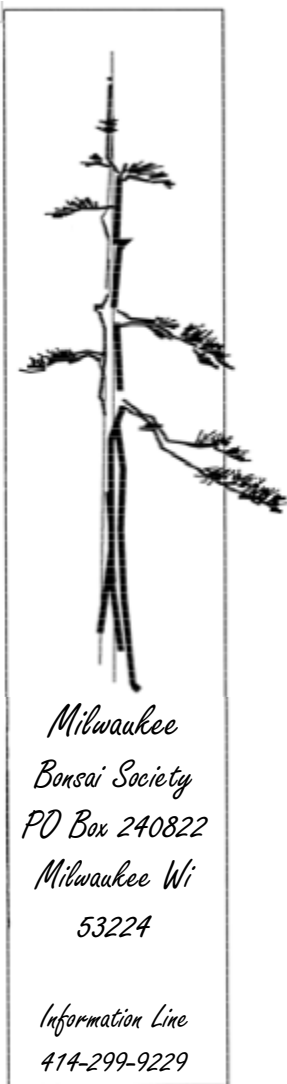


# BONSAI NEWS

October 2016



## October Meeting

**PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE IN THE GRAND-PARENT'S ROOM** (across from the Multimedia room) for our October meeting. Our vendors will be set up in the hallway.

1-Dead tree contest: We will have a few tables set up for folks to bring in their dearly departed trees. Awards will be given.

2-A vote will be taken for next year's Executive Committee

3-We will have a few members of Peter Tea's Study Group share tidbits that they have picked up over the three years working with Peter. Some of you got a taste of Peter's teaching style during the Annual Exhibit. Do come to hear the words of wisdom from Ron F, Pam W, Judy S and Rob P.

**Next Meeting**  
**October 4, 2016**  
**6:45pm**  
**Boerner Botanical Gardens**

## October

- Oct 1— Intermediate Class\*\*
- Oct 4— *MBS meeting*-advanced class reflections
- Oct 8— Fall Cleanup workshop
- Oct 15—Bonsai Basics #3
- Oct 29—Bonsai Basics #4

## November

- Nov 4— *MBS meeting*-White Elephant/ Swap Meet (more info in the newsletter)
- Nov 4-7— Peter Tea Classes #3
- Nov 18-20—Folk Fair

## December

Nothing Scheduled

## January

Nothing Scheduled

\*\* Members only

There are only two spots left in next year's Saturday Study Group (new participants only) with Peter Tea. If you are interested, please bring a non-refundable deposit of \$50 to the October meeting

## President's Message September 2016

Once again we have a very large newsletter. I hope that everyone was able to take the opportunity to enjoy the Annual Exhibit and partake of the wonderful banquet. Make sure that you take a look at the award winning trees appearing in this newsletter.

October is a transition month for owners of bonsai. For those of you with tropicals that are outside, a daily look at the weather is necessary because, as the temperatures drop below 50 degrees, you will need to give them more protection by bringing them inside. Make sure that you have a plan for overwintering all of your trees. The fact that the trees are in pots makes the roots more susceptible to damage from the cold. Hardy trees need to go dormant and have a cold treatment. Protect them from desiccation by the wind. Once the trees have gone dormant, don't allow them to come out of dormancy for at least 6 weeks. If they come out of dormancy, they will not re-enter without problems. You will have to keep them warmer after this happens.

These are just some of the challenges that we face trying to do bonsai in Wisconsin. Most of the trees that I have lost died coming out of dormancy during our crazy springs. Keep them sleeping until you are certain that you can keep them safe. Those sunny spring days can lull one into a false sense of security.

Thanks! Judy



### Intermediate Bonsai Class 2016

Learn more about bonsai and make friends—Bryan L

When I said that I was ready for more education on bonsai, I really meant "I'm tired of killing and screwing up decent plants and am frustrated with the progress of my trees." Who isn't? I decided to take Steve C's class. I hoped the five other people who were attending the class were as lost as me.

The class is held at Steve's home and I can't decide which is more impressive- the trees, the education or his home workshop. The set-up and class preparation starts with his impressive binder including his meticulous outline. It begins with his disclaimer "I am not a trained bonsai educator." That is the start of his modesty. The binder has a different picture on the front of each of them so you don't lose yours. Each binder has colorful tabs like "Winter, Summer, Fall and Miscellaneous." He carefully goes through all the tabs and tells us what should happen during each time of year. He is sharing with us what he has learned from his teachers in California, about their opinions and rationale on soils (substrata if you are being corrected by Walter Pall), pruning and branch structure, root pruning, wiring, fertilizing, wiring your tree down into a pot in a new way and what signs to look for before repotting.

His class takes place in his basement classroom, his workshop and his deck garden with his many trees. Most people, including my wife, would wonder what we could be doing in six hours of class time. But the time goes quickly with much information, many questions and demonstrations. At each of the sessions we are asked to bring our trees that would be appropriate for the time of year and work on them.

So far, I have learned much about bonsai and the best part is that I have made some new friends. When you join a group like MBS you have choices. You can come to the meetings and buy stuff from Ron or Tony and sit and listen to the presentation. But if you want to get more out of a group, you can jump in and get to know the people. At the meetings there isn't time for more than superficial conversation. But if you get involved with the classes like my intermediate class, tree workshops, take a diaza and root stand class or volunteering for state fair you get to know and like the people even more.

This is my experience so far with MBS. If you haven't already, get into the "substrata" of MBS and get to know the roots.

Steve left us very unexpectedly on August 28. He had a long and active history with the Milwaukee Bonsai Society. He had served as a President, First Vice President and coordinator and organizer for both State Fair and Holiday Folk Fair for multiple years. He traveled around the states to meet various bonsai artists and to arrange for them to visit Milwaukee to provide classes and education. After his friend and fellow MBS member Anna Stadnicka passed away, he was able to establish the Excellence in Bonsai program in her honor to bring well known artists to Milwaukee. Mauro Stemberger from Italy visited in 2015, Matt Reel possibly for 2017 and Marc Noelander may be scheduled for 2018. Additionally, Steve took many of the visiting artists under his wing, wined and dined them, hosted them toured the city and chauffeured them. He was always willing to house and care for the "club trees". We counted at least 50 trees that he personally owned. He was too busy taking care of club business to tend to his own stock! Hopefully they can all find a good home and be cared for appropriately.

He was also instrumental in the development of a permanent collection at Lynden Sculpture Gardens. He enjoyed working with that board. In addition to giving freely of his time and talent he also was extremely generous financially to the organization. His energy and interest will be dearly missed by everyone in MBS.

He did have other interests! He was an accomplished cook, and was an avid NASCAR race fan, especially the Daytona 500 which he attended for at least 25 years with Rob Plichta, his brother in law. He also managed 40 acres of "real" trees in western Wisconsin. He had 4 wonderful packed retirement years. He has left a hole in our hearts that will take a long time to fill.

Linda Oddan, Rob and Rena Plichta



**SORRY**



The September newsletter accidentally omitted this entry for the State Fair winners:

Award of Merit—Oriental Spruce

Michelle Z



There has been a change to the slate of candidates for the 2017 Executive Committee:

President—Judy S

1st VP— Bryan L

2nd VP—Kris Z

Tony P

Secretary—Leo S

Treasurer—Wally V

Director—Rob P

Director—Penny T

Director—??

A vote will be taken at the October meeting to elect your 2017 officers

### **November meeting**

You asked for it, you got it! It's our White Elephant/Swap meet evening. Bring bonsai items you want to sell or swap...trees, tools, pots, accessories, etc. It's loads of fun!!!

As you are watering your trees this fall, make notes on what you need to do with them as winter approaches. Do you know how to winter your trees? If not, talk with a member of MBS at the October meeting. Do they need to be repotted in spring? If so, get your pots ready and have bonsai soil on hand. Or do you need to wait until summer to repot your tropicals? Do you have the pot/s you need?

If you have any questions about your trees at this time of year, do bring questions to the October or November meeting!



# Annual Exhibit Results

September 16-18, 2016—Judge Peter Tea



**Best of Show**  
**Little Leaf Ficus**  
**Steve C**

**People's Choice**  
**Korean Hornbeam Saikei**  
**Michelle Z**



**Open Category**

**Blue-Willow Leaf Ficus**  
**Jorge R**



**Red-Hinoki Cypress**  
**Pam W**



**Yellow-Winged Elm**  
**Jack D**



# Annual Exhibit Results

## Intermediate Category



**Blue**—Elephant Jade  
Penny T

**Red**—Japanese White Pine  
Judy S



**Yellow**—Eastern White Pine  
Kathy K

## Novice Category

**Blue**—Shimpaku Juniper  
Brian S



**Red**—Brazilian Raintree  
Kevin S



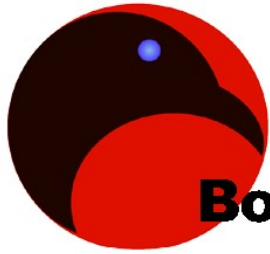
**Yellow**—Ming Aralia  
Melissa J





# Annual Exhibit 2016





# Bonsai Project: Using Rebar

*Quiet Crow Bonsai is a collection of articles, essays, and views for bonsai artist, devotees and supporters. [www.QuietCrowBonsai.com](http://www.QuietCrowBonsai.com).*

During my first 3 years with Peter Tea as my advanced instructor I was relearning all the basics, soil components, why it is necessary to repot and in my case did the repotting help. Fertilizing, foliage quality, watering, fungus and bugs, defoliation and de-candling Japanese Black Pine.

Since this is my project tree I am writing how we got to the point of using rebar.

De-candling is one of very few techniques we perform solely based on the time of year. Depending on how long our growing season is, the time to de-candle will shift. Also, the size of our tree and age will determine if we de-candle early in the month or later in the month. So in late June, starting at the top, trimmed needles to 7 pairs for each bud.

The following March it was repotted. As I mentioned above I needed to assess if repotting helps (ask me sometime why I need this lesson above other lessons).

- Did we continue the development of roots?
- Did we get the tree in the ideal position?
- Is the soil mix we're using going to cause the tree to grow too fast or too slow?
- Is there enough or too much room for the roots to grow?

Summer we reviewed and decided to refine the style in fall, by lowering all heavy branches.

**Using Rebar to lower branches.** First prepare the temporary guy wiring. Place a strong copper wire into the pot through the drainage hole under the pot. Protect the pot using a tube or rubber as you bend along the bottom and up the side of the pot. Having two bends actually works and will hold the guy wire. Attached an 18 inch piece of rebar to the 2nd branch (first one of the left). First prepare the rebar by attaching rubber to the tip so it does not damage the tree. Where you will attach to the branch add another piece of rubber again to protect the tree. We will use the rebar to add strength to the branch so it does not break during the lowering of the branch. We also ensure the branch movement is at the end of the rebar in this case the crotch of the branch and trunk not at a weak point of the branch. By using the rebar we not only add strength but a lever to bend the branch down.



04/20/2014



Notice the health has improved and it is in a larger pot.



Using Rebar to prevent breaking the branch during bending. Attach rubber so it does not damage the tree.



Bend and using 14 gauge wire attach to the previously prepared attached guy wire. Once the bend is secured using guy wire you can release slowly and check the branch placement. Lower more and tighten guy if needed.

At this point you can find a root, add a screw or another way of holding the branch. Attach the wire to the branch at the point of the rubber used for protecting the branch from the rebar and to the anchor point previously prepared in this case a root. Once it is secured to a new anchor and attached securely we can carefully remove the rebar.

Other methods to anchor heavy branches as I am lowering them.



After bending and securing with copper guy wires... the rebar is removed. Notice the degree of bend.



The guy wires are attached around roots.



10/26/2015



PO Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI 53224  
Www.milwaukeebonsai.org  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next MBS meeting will be  
October 4, 2016 at 6:45pm  
Boerner Botanical Gardens  
9400 Boerner Dr  
Hales Corners, WI 53130

#### 2016 MBS OFFICERS

President [Judy S](#)  
First VP [Kris Z](#)  
Second VP [Tony P](#)  
Secretary [Leo S](#)  
Treasurer [Wally V](#)  
Director [Rob P](#)  
Director [Penny T](#)  
Director [Bryan L](#)  
Past Pres. [Greg P](#)

#### Other Club Functions

Newsletter [Melissa J](#)  
Webmaster [Pam W](#)

Director of Children's Education—Jean S  
PAB Board—Ron F & Houston S



Photo: Jean S

Bellowing bullfrog  
Looms echoing lonely calls  
Nature's melodies  
~Joe N