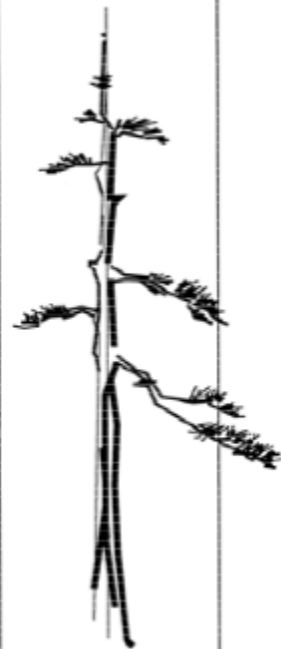


BONSAI NEWS

February, 2020



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society
PO Box 240822
Milwaukee Wi
53224*

*Information Line
414-299-9229*

February meeting

Join us at the first meeting of 2020 on February 22nd at 9am to learn from fellow member, Leo S, about using orchids as kusomono.

Leo is a renowned orchid Expert.

Before Leo dazzles us with his orchid knowledge we will have a repotting demo from Steve C and Brain S.

Repotting a tree can be a scary task the first time or two. Brian and Steve will share their experience and offer tips to make the task less daunting.

Be sure to join us at 9am so you don't miss a minute of the fun!



February

Feb 15—Novice Class #1*

Feb 22 — **MBS meeting**

Orchids as kusomono

Feb 23 — Silhouette Show
Milw. County Domes

Feb 29—Novice Class #2*

March

March 3 — **MBS meeting**

Chris Baker-Saikei demo

March 14 —Novice Class #3*

March 27-30 — Advance Class
w/Peter Tea*

March 29-Intermediate Class #1*

April

April 4 —Novice Class #4*

April 7 — **MBS meeting**

Fertilizing: Chemical vs
Organic

April 26-Intermediate Class #2*

May

May 2 —Novice Class #5*

May 5 — **MBS meeting**

BYO Repotting Workshop

May 9-10 Chicago Exhibit

May 24-Intermediate Class #3*

*Open to MBS members only

**Next Meeting
Feb 22, 2020
9:00 am**

**Boerner Botanical
Gardens**

President's Message February 2020

MBS Changes for 2020 Meetings

Welcome back to Milwaukee Bonsai Society. Please read this monthly newsletter to see the changes that your Executive Committee has made. We think that these changes will make the meetings more fun and educational at the same time.

First of all, we have attempted to set aside a little more time for making new friends and talking to old friends. Come to the meeting at 6:30 p.m., do some shopping and share your plans for your trees with friends. Some mini workshops will start at 6pm. Watch for those.

Our main mission at MBS is to educate and spread the word about bonsai. With education in mind, we are handing out 20 binders at the February 22nd 9 a.m. meeting to the first members who would use them. These binders are designed to organize the meeting handouts, your meeting notes, and any other bonsai information that you come across.

The binder will have this year's meeting schedule in it. You can also put in the schedule of classes that you are taking. I like pictures, so mine will have pictures of some of my trees so I can ask someone's opinion or show a tree that I've been working on. I'm also going to put some tabs in mine to organize it a little better. If you would like to use one of these binders, please take one. Put your name on it and bring the binder and your name badge to all meetings and workshops.

Our bonsai group has a wonderful variety of member and a great difference in their years of experience. We want to thank those long-term members for staying active in our group, and we want to use their experiences to help educate the newer members. Many of the meetings will have those long-term members passing on their knowledge to all of us. We thank them for that.

Next at the meetings, we have a mix of things going on to encourage you to come. Like a three-ring circus, we hope there will always be something at the meetings that will be enjoyable and benefit you.

See you on February 22nd at 9 a.m. and then our regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. or earlier if there is a mini workshop.

P.S.: Don't forget to renew your membership. Check the date on your name tag. If it says 2019 or earlier, you are not current. To renew, complete the following form:

www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/YC/MembershipApplication.pdf. You can do it right on line.

The straight tree becomes lumber. Bryan L



MABA/MILWAUKEE 2020

WE COME TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES STRONGER THROUGH BONSAI

INTRODUCTION

On June 25-28, 2020, Bonsai artists and MABA members are heading to MABA/Milwaukee Convention!

[Read more.](#)

BEGINNER FRIENDLY

Beginner friendly artist will help you get started. [Read More.](#)

WORKSHOPS

One of the most enticing events of any bonsai convention should be the workshop and material opportunities. [Read More.](#)

REASONS TO ATTEND

Learn from the best is the first of 10 reasons to attend MABA Milwaukee regional convention. [Read More.](#)

PLANNING

Book your accommodations, purchase registration and Plan your daily activities. [Read More.](#)

ADDING TO YOUR COLLECTION

Ready to expand not only your knowledge of bonsai but your collection? We are pleased to announce that we have many exceptional bonsai vendors ready to display and sell their work.



The 2020 convention will feature a Thursday evening reception dedicated to the vendors that made the trip to Milwaukee. Full registration attendees will have an opportunity to view the vendor area before anyone else. This is a unique opportunity for attendees to make their purchases early and add to their collection.

If you have attended past MABA conventions, you know that a great way to get material at a fraction of the actual cost is to participate in raffles.

Like the opportunity for registrants to purchase material before others, we are offering an opportunity to purchase your raffle tickets at a special discount with your full registration and receive 80 free tickets.

As in years past, we want to encourage everyone to bring trees, pots or tools for these fundraising activities.

And purchase T shirts!



It Doesn't Have to Cost a Fortune

By Rick W

When a person new to the world of bonsai first starts to get their feet wet, it can be a pretty intimidating world indeed. There is so much knowledge to acquire, and a vast assortment of types of trees, pots to put them in, tools, and so on. Like any hobby or pursuit, it is possible to invest an almost limitless amount of money if a person is so inclined (and has the money to spend). It is also true, however, that a person can start out in bonsai, and have wonderful experiences and great enjoyment on a very limited budget.

Let's begin with knowledge. The single best resource, for which you have already paid, is your membership in MBS. Each meeting includes an educational presentation, but just as importantly, a host of people who have faced just about any problem or question you can come up with. The more experienced members are always happy to offer guidance or assistance—they genuinely want you to be successful and to have a good time.

MBS classes are a tremendous value. The series of beginner classes is a great learning experience, and includes a choice of tree to work on. It also concludes with a field trip to a nursery to learn how to look for potential bonsai material.

The internet offers a wealth of information, much of which is actually correct. YouTube has dozens, if not hundreds, of how-to videos, which offer an opportunity to learn whenever you happen to have time to spare. One particularly good resource is the legendary Peter Chan, owner of Herons Bonsai in England. This is a man who was decorated by the Queen for his extraordinary contribution to British horticulture. He is especially interested in addressing beginners, and has numerous videos about making bonsai from inexpensive garden store stock.

When it comes to choosing and purchasing trees, MBS is again a good place to start. Some of our members are in the bonsai business, and periodically bring trees and other supplies to sell at meetings. They are always willing to tell you about a particular tree, what sort of care it needs, what diseases it might be prone to, and so on.

Then, of course, we turn again to the internet. There are dozens of online bonsai suppliers, catering to everyone from the complete novice to the very expert enthusiast, and there is also the ever-present eBay. One strong word to the wise: if you are buying a tree online, make certain that you are seeing a picture of the actual tree you are going to get. You should also stick with sellers who accept returns. If you are contemplating a purchase, don't hesitate to run it past one of our teachers, or a more experienced club member.

Many, many beautiful bonsai start out in a plastic bucket from a garden center. Flowering trees and shrubs frequently go on the clearance rack as soon as they finish blooming, and can be real bargains. The end of summer, into fall, can be a great time to shop, as the garden stores reduce prices to move the last of their seasonal inventory. Just be mindful that something purchased late in the year may need you to wait patiently for the following spring before you do any work on it.

When you do go looking for possible material, keep in mind that old saying about trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Don't buy a tree just because it's cheap, if it will never be a tree you want to keep five years from now. First and foremost. Look for healthy trees with good trunks. If they have that, you can make something out of them with time and patient effort, but if they don't, they will never make pleasing bonsai.

When we do take that new tree out of that plastic bucket, we look to put it in a nice new home, and we come to the subject of bonsai pots. Here, again, the sky is the limit for what you might spend, and there are some enthusiasts who collect pots in and of themselves, some costing hundreds of dollars. For someone starting out, though, there are lots of inexpensive options. Once again, our MBS vendors are a great place to start. Not only can they offer a good assortment of ceramic pots at accessible prices, they also offer plastic pots that are very inexpensive. Plastic pots have come a long way in the last few years, and many have a nice matte finish that looks very much like unglazed clay. Often referred to as "grow pots", they can be a place for your tree to occupy for years.

Last, but not least, is the subject of tools. Website photos of deluxe sets of shiny tools in leather tool rolls are very seductive. The plain fact, though, is that you probably already own ordinary tools that will suffice very nicely, at least until you're really sure that this is something you're going to stay with and want to make the necessary investment. Bonsai wire cutters are rounded at the nose because that makes it easier to cut wire off of a tree without nicking the bark. Any blunt-nosed wire pliers or side cutter will do just as well. Fine branches can be pruned with an ordinary pair of scissors, and an ordinary pair of by-pass pruning shears will handle the rest. Pound for pound, the most essential, valuable tool in all of bonsai is the humble wooden chopstick for use in repotting, and an ordinary bamboo skewer poked into the soil makes an infallible indicator of whether your tree needs water. An old, rimmed baking sheet is a handy work surface if your bonsai "studio" is a kitchen counter—it does a great job of containing the mess when pruning, rewiring, or repotting.

In conclusion, the essential ingredients for a successful experience in bonsai are patience, curiosity, attentiveness, and time, rather than money. Throw in a touch of imagination and creativity, and you're on your way.

MBS 2020 Meeting Schedule-details

February 22nd 9AM to noon Boerner Botanical Multi Media room

- Talk from Bryan about new binders, handouts and notes.
- Talk on Orchids as bonsai accent plants from Leo.
- Steve and Brian: How to repot your tree.

Repotting Demo at the February Club meeting!

Club members Brian S and Steve C will be at it again in February. This edition of the Steve and Brian Show will be devoted to a short demo on repotting. The demo will be aimed at newer members who have not repotted before or those who want to improve their repotting skills... but certainly everyone is welcome to come and hassle Brian and Steve. The demo will be a part of our regular club meeting held on February 22nd, at BBG at 9:00 am.

Steve remembers his first repot back in the 90's. He remembers how anxious he was, putting it off for 3 weeks and finally calling a more experienced club member and friend, Andy Graves, to come over and hold his hand while he did this scary thing. Brian S remembers no such fear or panic!

The intention of this demo is to show both a repot of a tree from a bonsai pot, to a bonsai pot, as well as a repot from a small nursery pot into a training pot. Come and watch the excitement and take some new bonsai techniques home with you. Hopefully you will have more confidence and joy when you go to repot your trees this year.]

March 3rd 6PM to 7PM Grandparents room

- Tie in Demo with Steve and Brian. How to tie trees in to a pot in different situations

March 3rd 7:00PM Multi Media room

- Chris Baker Making a Saikei. Mixed trees in a forest. It will be auctioned off.
- The Bonsai Experience Talk with newer member Erich and Jack-not so new of a member

April 7th 6:30 PM Multi Media room `

- Time for camaraderie until 7PM
- Group conversation. Artists with Different Styles
- Fertilizing, Chemical or Organic. Brian & Leo

May 5th 6:30 PM Multi Media room

- Camaraderie until 7PM
- Steve and Brian The Whole Group Wiring class and Q & A

June 2nd 6:30 PM Multi Media room

- Camaraderie until 7PM
- Deciduous Group Slash. 12 trees will be supplied. We will break into small groups to design the trees. No Charge. Trees judged and be auctioned off.

July 7th 5:00 PM Beer Garden Area H1 Whitnall Park. Bring your own chairs tables. Food will be grilled on site. Bring light side dishes. Space is limited. Chips and stuff would be best. Sign up for this free event on Eventbrite.

- Leo's trees (From the Blueberry Farm) & Yamadori Talk. By Bryan and the group. New trees will be brought in for distribution and bring in your tree from past digs from Leo's farm or your other Yamadori. (Yamadori is a tree from the Wild)
- Top Ten: How to pick out a Yamadori

August 4th 6:30PM Multi Media room

- Top Ten TBA
- Mike Lane Bonsai who works with tropical's at Wigerts Bonsai: The World of Bonsai presentation

September 1st 6-7PM Grandparents room

- Pruning and Wound Care Steve and Brian

September 1st 6:30PM Multi Media room

- Camaraderie until 7PM
- Workshop on How to Make a Kusomono with Michelle and Bryan. An accent pot for your bonsai. <https://www.bonsaiempire.com/origin/related-arts/accent-plants>
- For a small price of \$5.00 you will get approximately 10" square slab of clay to make into from 1 to 4 small pots. These are just funky small pinch pots. You will make them at the meeting, mark them with your initials and choose 1 of 3 colors of glazes. They are easy and fun to make. Google pictures of them to get ideas. Sign up for this event on Eventbrite and then pay at the door. Sign up by August 26th

October 6th 6:30PM Multi Media room

- Camaraderie until 7:PM
- Juniper Talk 7PM Steve and Brian

November 3rd 6:30PM Multi Media Room

- Camaraderie until 7:PM
- Kusamono pots returned
- Group work on the Rose Mary club tree
- Bring your own tree to show and tell



The Milwaukee Bonsai Society library continues to plug along. Member input on its usefulness, frequency of availability, and collection would be appreciated. How important is the library to the membership? The library has been open before each meeting (if the "librarian" has been able to make it). Should the library just be open a couple of times during the year? There has been no loan time limit and generally the books are returned within a reasonable time frame but we have lost a few books. Is there anyone who would be willing to fill the role of "librarian"? Any ideas on how to make it more meaningful to the group? Do we need a library? I have heard many members say they just buy books to keep for their personal collection. Any and all suggestions are welcome. Please give this some thought and let Melissa know if you have any suggestions.



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

Next MBS meeting will be
Feb 22, 2020 at 9 am
Boerner Botanical Gardens
9400 Boerner Dr
Hales Corners, WI 53130

2019 MBS OFFICERS

President	Bryan L
First VP	Randy W
Second VP	Erich B
Secretary	
Treasurer	Clif O
Director	Rick W
Director	Phil R
Director	Dave M
Past Pres.	Melissa J

Other Club Functions

Newsletter	Melissa J
Webmaster	Pam W

PAB Board—Ron F, Houston S & Judy S