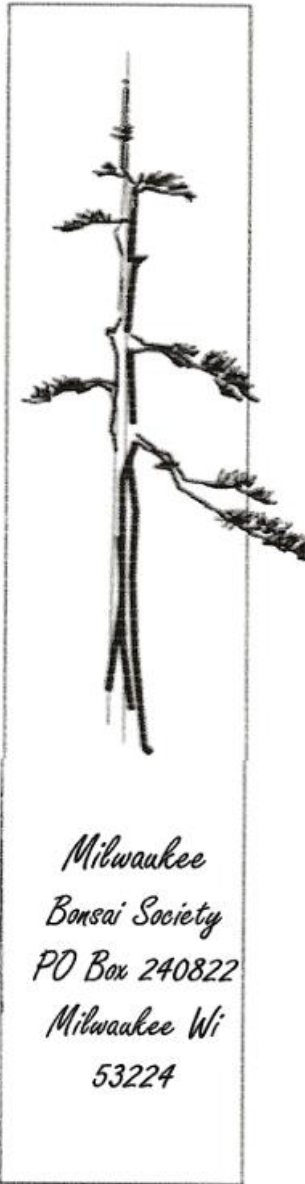


BONSAI NEWS

May 2023



Upcoming Meeting

The Main Topic of May's meeting is Air Layering.

Steve C will show us what to do as well as what not to do in order to achieve a successful air layering project.

The Focus Topic of the meeting will be reserved for discussing repotting tropicals.

Bring your curiosity or questions about either topic. This should be an informative morning!

Read more about the main topic of the meeting further in the newsletter.

Next Meeting

May 6, 2023

9 am

Boerner

Botanical

May

May 6 – Air Layering/Repotting
Tropicals

May 13 – World Bonsai Day
Lynden Sculpture Gardens

May 20 – Tropical workshop-
Previous beginner
Participants*

May 27 – Novice Class #5*

June

June 3 – Summer Juniper Work/
Pruning Tropicals

June 4 – Make a Bonsai Pot
workshop*

June 10 – Air Layering workshop
Night Owl Bonsai

June 24 – Skill Builder 101*

June 25 – Skill Builder 201*

July

July 1 – Show prep/Summer
Watering

July 29 – Skill Builder 101*

July 30 – Skill Builder 201*

*Open to MBS members only

President's Message

Hello again my fellow bonsai addicts. The warm weather us finally upon us...wait, no it isn't. Yes, it is. Now it isn't. Such is spring in Wisconsin. I call this time of year the Wisconsin bonsai hokey pokey time of year. You put trees out, you put your trees in, you do the hokey pokey and have a drink then sit down. Don't get too discouraged. Soon we'll be figuring out how to shade our trees from the hot summer sun.

If you haven't already looked over the schedule for this year, we still a lot of classes, workshops and fun events coming up. The next event is World Bonsai Day on Saturday, May 13th. The Milwaukee Bonsai Foundation and MBS will be celebrating locally at Lynden Sculpture Gardens in River Hills. Admission is free. Midwest Bonsai will also be holding their annual spring show at Chicago Botanical Gardens. You can go to their website for details.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next club meeting.

Erich



Frustrated Yet???

Member's Corner

When I saw Rob S.'s azaleas I had to ask.... Where are you keeping them? They look so much better than mine! His response (below) indicates the fun-loving guy we have as our 2nd Vice President

"I take them on a daily walk. Give them treats when they push out new leaves. I read them a bedtime story. Tuck them in at night. You know, like we all do with all our trees! Don't you?"

*"Seriously now, I have them down in my basement (65*ish @ 34%ish humidity) with a pretty decent grow light over them. I mist them twice a day (before I leave for work and when I come home) making sure to keep the surface moss pretty saturated."*

Pam W.



Ancient Arts Bonsai

Bonsai Supplier Established
in 2005

Bonsai a Growing Hobby
Wisconsin's Leading Full Line Bonsai Supplier

Tools, Wire – Aluminum & Copper, Pots, Fertilizers
Soils – Akadama, Lava, Pumice, Kanuma, Blends
Trees – Tropical, Deciduous, Conifers, Evergreens
Services – Lessons, Consults, Repotting, Wiring, Boarding

See our updated Website: aabonsai.com

Email – aabonsai@charter.net

Phone – 262-490-8733

New Videos for April are now available!

In the month of April, five new videos have been posted to the MBS Membership Video Site. You will find new recordings of the main topics from two of our monthly meetings, as well as a presentation from last year's MABA convention. Also, the Techniques section of the site has been renamed Focus Topics, and here two new videos have been added.

Here's what's new:

Monthly Meetings

February Meeting Main Topic - Root over Rock – by Houston S

March Meeting Main Topic - Azaleas – by Rick Garcia

MABA

Bonsai Insects – by Phil Nixon, Ph.D. Entomologist

Techniques – Change to Focus Topics

Bringing Your Trees Out of Winter Storage - by Steve C

Preparing for Tree Repotting – by Judy S

Remember, the site is password protected and we ask that you do not share the login information with anyone outside of our organization. If you have lost or did not receive your login information, send us an email.

Additional videos will be added next month.

What do I do next with my Ficus Tree?

A workshop for anyone who has attended the MBS Public Workshop in the past few years.

Date: Saturday, May 20th

Location: Night Owl Bonsai Studio, 3728 North Fratney Street in Riverwest

Every Fall and some years in Spring, MBS offers new bonsai enthusiasts an opportunity to attend "The Public Workshop." Many had previously attended an MBS event like State Fair or The Silhouette Show at the Domes, gotten excited about this cool art and, like you, signed up for this Workshop. There, you received your first bonsai tree, usually a Ficus or Fig tree, and began to style it with the help of a current club member. Hopefully, you enjoyed yourself and were able to carry home your new bonsai tree in a cool pot.

NOW... WHAT DO YOU DO??

You make plans right now to come to the **What do I do next with my ficus tree workshop!!** It's your chance to take the next step.

This workshop will be offered on May 20th, the perfect time to assess the growth and health of your tropical tree as well as get answers to questions you may have including:

- * Is my tree healthy?
- * Does it need to be pruned?
- * Should it be fertilized?
- * How do I do that?
- * What kind of fertilizer do I use?
- * Why are these tiny flying things circling my tree?
- * What is that sticky, shiny stuff that is all over my windowsill?
- * What is repotting and when does it need to be done?

These and other questions will all be answered at this upcoming workshop. You will even have an opportunity to watch one of the instructors coach you on doing some of this work on your tree.

Having this continuing support will help keep your tree alive, THRIVING, and giving you years of joy!

This Workshop is for Novice members, but will be open to any current MBS member. There will be **NO COST** for members to attend, but attendance will be limited and preference will be given to members who have taken the public workshop in recent years.

Past Public Workshop participants please check your email for a link to the Eventbrite sign up.

If space is still available, registration will be opened to the rest of the membership after May 3, 2023,

You may register for the **morning** session from 9-12, or the **afternoon** session from 1-4. The scope of work will be decided based on what trees are presented at each session and what the needs of these trees are. Trees will be worked on one at a time, in front of the entire group, so everyone learns from each tree presented. We may be able to do 1 or 2 repots per session and we will make this decision based on the state of the tree. It is unlikely that we will be able to do more than 2 repots per session.

Soil for any repot will be available for purchase based on the size of the container. Bring any tools you think you will need and bring wire. Some wire is available for purchase as well.

Instructors will be Brian S and Steve C

Brian and Steve look forward to helping you grow in your bonsai knowledge while having fun learning.

Sign up today!



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## May 2023 Club Meeting

Air Layer or Ground Layer - A slide show

Come to the MBS May Meeting and learn about how to remove the horror from doing an AIR LAYER on one of your trees.

An air layer is a procedure that is oftentimes used by bonsai propagators and professionals to create cool trees but usually feared by most bonsai hobbyists. Steve C has prepared a slide lecture on how he has refined this technique and plans to talk about his successes and failures. Things like what supplies you will need, what material works best, what is the proper time of the year to do this procedure, what soil to use and of course... what not to do will all be covered in this talk.

And you will see the entire process done on 2 trees through a slide show presentation. He will also bring along trees that have been created by an air layer.

Don't miss this meeting if you would like to learn about this technique.

# Let's make Another Bonsai Pot

Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>



- This pot can be any shape. Round, Square, Rectangle or whatever up to 15" across.
- Along with this one pot you would be able to make one small accent pot to match or complement it.
- Same low, low, price of \$50.00. Maximum of 15 people. We had 13 last time and it worked well.
- Set up is 8am. All are welcome to help. Boerner Botanical Grandparents room.
- Class goes for 9-12:00
- You will get a series of videos from me showing you how we will make the pots.
- You will learn how to handle the pots at different stages of drying.
- You will make the two pots and take them home. There they will dry, get feet, get detailed more, dry, and get finishing details.
- You will showily dry these pots under plastic.
- Then get them to me for firing, glazing and firing them again.
- It is a great way to make your bonsai your own. And it's cheaper than buying pottery.

[Eventbrite link to sign up](#)

Bryan



# Air Layer Workshop

Sponsored by Night Owl Bonsai

**Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**

## **Night Owl Bonsai**

3728 North Fratney Street

Riverwest Area

Milwaukee

Here is your chance to do an Air Layer or Ground Layer on one of your own trees.

This workshop will provide you with guidance while you perform your first, soon to be successful, air layer. All the supplies, including soil, will be provided for you by Night Owl.

You will locate the best site and cut angle, learn how to remove the cambial layers of the trunk or branch, prepare the pot to hold the soil in place, engineer and attach the pot to the tree, apply root hormone, plug the bottom of the pot and fill it with soil. You will learn proper after care and together, we will all discuss how to assess the progress of the air layer through the summer and fall, when to remove the layer, and how to pot it up. You will also be advised on how to properly fertilize the tree for the success of this procedure. **Begin to fertilize your host tree NOW !**

You will need to bring your tree, some tools including a very sharp knife and lots of creativity. Junipers, pines, spruce and fir will not be accepted for this class. Study your tree beforehand and begin to develop a plan for the location of your layer. If there is enough interest, there may be a session planned to cut and pot the layer in late fall. A sign-up sheet will be available on the day of the workshop to assess interest and collect tuition for this.

Workshop fee is \$50.00/tree. Workshop is limited to 8 trees in the morning, 9-12, and 8 in the afternoon, 1-4. The morning session must fill before we open the afternoon session.

**Sign up by e-mail at [nightowlbonsai@gmail.com](mailto:nightowlbonsai@gmail.com)**

**Payment in advance is by cash, check, Venmo or PayPal**



**WISCO BONSAI NOW HAS THE AREA'S LARGEST SELECTION OF ARTISIAN, HANDMADE BONSAI POTTERY, MUCH OF WHICH CONSISTS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL ARTISTS.**

**WE ALSO NOW CARRY A LINE OF TOOLS GEARED TOWARD THE BEGINNER AND NOVICE AMONG US, ALONG WITH ALL MANNER OF BONSAI SUNDRIES, SUCH AS, COPPER & ALUMINUM WIRE, JIN SEAL, WOUND PUTTY, ETC.**

**AND OF COURSE THERES THE SUBSTRATE, WISCO GOLD... THE BEST NON-JAPANESE MIX AROUND WE ALSO OCCASIONALLY HAVE OTHER RAW SUBSTRATE COMPONENTS AVAILABLE (PUMICE, LAVA, ETC).**

**SEVERAL SIZES OF KANUMA NOW AVAILABLE !!!**

**GOT ORCHIDS ? WE HAVE A SUBSTRATE FOR THOSE TOO !!!**

[WiscoBonsai@gmail.com](mailto:WiscoBonsai@gmail.com)    **414-248-3827**    [www.WiscoBonsai.com](http://www.WiscoBonsai.com)

INSTAGRAM @wisco.bonsai

**THE SHOP NOW HAS REGULAR HOURS IN THE SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL. HOURS ARE UPDATED WEEKLY ON MY GOOGLE INFO SITE. OR, TO BE THE AMONG FIRST TO KNOW ABOUT ALL THE WORKSHOPS AND OTHER FUN GOING DOWN AT WISCO BONSAI, JUST SHOOT AN EMAIL AND I WILL ADD YOU TO THE EMAIL LIST.**

**"BONSAI IS THE ART OF NATURE, GUIDED AND NURTURED BY HUMAN HANDS" - KMS**



For sale: White pine in Sara Rayner pot & Florist shop movable shelving for winter storage of tropical trees.

Email [hagr8d@mac.com](mailto:hagr8d@mac.com) for pix and prices

**FOR  
SALE**



## 2023 Burning Bush Yamadori Dig

I'm just guessing, but there may have been 30 people there. People had fun digging up new babies. Isn't that where babies come from?



### Jack and his new baby burning bush

There were member from MBS who had been there before but “Just can't get enough of that sweet stuff”. Then there were people from Prairie State bonsai on the way west side of Chicago and maybe some from Midwest. I got a little confused with all the new faces.

Some seemed to be interested in the bigger trees with 3 inch or larger trunk and other people were so happy with the fingerlings that would make great trees for forests. I counted rings on one 30-year-old tree. There were so many tools and tool comparisons. “Oh, that saw is so cool” Or “Where did you get a shovel like that?” Digging and cleaning off the root ball techniques are always interesting too. We all had fun and worked hard there and when we got home to replant them. More pictures on this link. Watch the videos too.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/ByvEdra6G3Uu1Vss7>

Bryan,

See you next year.

# Who Doesn't Want a Yew for a Bonsai?

## Yamadori Yew!!!! And Juniper



These 8-10 yews are at member Rob P's house. Maybe planted in the 50's. He wants them all out. These will make great trees in time. I already have some interested members from our Yamadori group. Contact me, Bryan, at [bryan11lor@gmail.com](mailto:bryan11lor@gmail.com). We will be digging on May 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30am. Bring your shovels, saws, loppers and a big bag to put them into. Have soil and a container to put them in to at home. When you contact me, I will get you the Wauwatosa address for the dig.

Here are words of wisdom from Bruce Baker from Michigan. He is big into yew bonsai.

1. Only dig yews that already have green growth where you need it. They will never bud back on old wood no matter what you do. (I have had some budding but only if you leave green on the stem)
2. Make sure you have proper digging and cutting tools. Yew wood and roots are incredibly dense and hard.
3. Take all old soil off the roots. Don't do this as a multi-year process. That will just slow you down.
4. If you have white feeder roots the tree will survive and should be planted immediately in a small pot. If there are no white feeder roots the tree is dead.
5. Run the new soil slightly drier than normal until you see evidence of life; new growth, etc.
6. Do not use sphagnum in your soil mixture unless you like weak yellow foliage.
7. Place the newly collected yews where they will get about the same amount of light they received in the ground. Do not put them inside to recover as that can kill them.
8. Make sure to tie them into their new pots like you really mean it. You should be able to pick up the trees by their trunks without disturbing the soil.
9. Use solid organic fertilizer immediately as it takes time to permeate the soil. Delay liquid fertilizer until you have strong evidence of survival.
10. For a substantial yew it may take five years or more before the cambium adjusts to new conditions and develops a distinct lifeline. Never try to reroute the vascular flow by carving until the cambium has settled. Having said that, if the lifeline is already obvious it's OK to carve sooner.

I sent him a message about the kind of soil. I know that he told me in the past to give them lots of water and fertilizer. I use the Aoki mix.

Please RSVP ASAP I will get you on the list. Bryan





## Milwaukee Bonsai Society in Grant Park South Milwaukee

**Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Area 5 at the Brown Pavilion**  
**9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

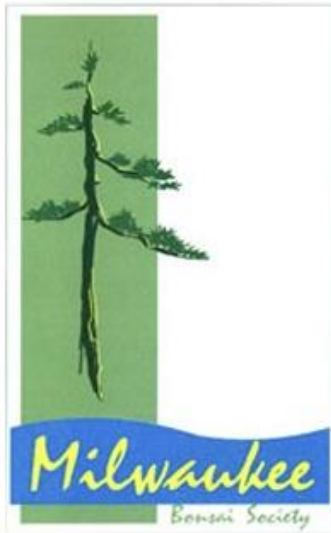
- Come to this **free** art, horticulture and educational event.
- Learn how almost all trees can be made into a bonsai, how to start one, care for it, and keep it for a lifetime or generations.
- See photos from our last annual event at the Lynden Sculpture Gardens: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/KPK1mSbte4Usa6aM6>

For more information about the Milwaukee Bonsai Society, visit:  
<https://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/>

Bonsai means “tray tree”

盆

Can you see the pot and the tree on top?



PO Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI 53224  
[www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

Next MBS meeting will be  
May 6, 2023 @ 9am  
Boerner Botanical Gardens

### 2023 MBS OFFICERS

President [Erich B](#)  
1<sup>st</sup> VP [Pam W](#)  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP [Rob S](#)  
Secretary [Rick W](#)  
Treasurer [Clif O](#)  
Director [John N](#)  
Director [Irene H](#)  
Director [Mike B](#)

### Other Club Functions

Newsletter [Melissa J](#)  
Webmaster [Pam W](#)  
Librarian [Greg R](#)

PAB Board-Ron F, Houston S & Judy S



Mellow, mild, May day,  
calling children out to play.  
Summer's on her way!

~ Patricia L. Cisco