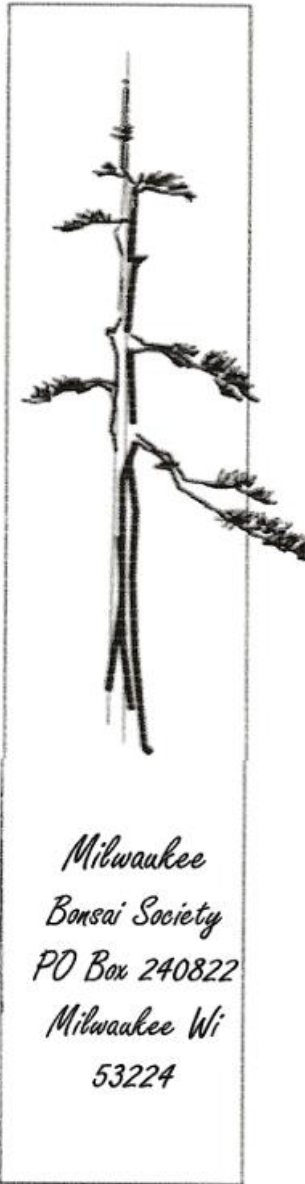


BONSAI NEWS

August 2023



Upcoming Meeting

Preparing your trees for a show will be presented by Steve C and Brian S at this month's meeting.

Learn what it takes to prepare a tree for presenting it in a show. Last month we learned about planning the display and now we will find out about getting our tree looking its best.

The focus topic this month will be about mid-summer cutbacks.



Next Meeting

August 5, 2023

9 am

Boerner

Botanical

August

August 5 – Show Display/Mid-Summer Cutback on hardy trees

August 3-13 – State Fair Exhibit

August 19 – Skill Builder 101*

August 20 – Skill Builder 201*

August 26-27 – Annual Exhibit
Lynden Sculpture Gardens

September

September 2 – Structural wiring/
late summer cutbacks

September 16 – Public Workshop

October

October 7 – Pines/Getting trees
ready for winter

November

November 4 – Winter prep of your
trees/Winter storage

November 11 – Skill Builder 101*

November 12 – Skill Builder 201*

November 17 – Holiday Folk Fair

*Open to MBS members only

President's Message

Holy cow! August is upon us already and that means our State Fair exhibit is coming up fast. See what I did there, cow, state fair.....never mind. If you haven't signed up to be a tree sitter and/or signed up to enter a tree or trees in the exhibit it's not too late. There are still many spots available for both. The links for both are on the club website.

August also means that our annual exhibit at Lynden Sculpture Garden is coming up the weekend of the 25-27. The link to sign up to enter trees will be available by the next club meeting on August 5th. We will also need volunteers to help set Friday morning starting at 9am and to tear down Sunday at 4pm, to man the beer tent, docents to man the exhibit, and a few other positions. All the annual exhibit positions will be posted soon. To sweeten the pot, if you volunteer any entire day, you will get a free lunch from the food trucks that will be there. Saturday is BBQ and Sunday is tacos.

Please consider volunteering for our events. This is what brings the art of bonsai to the masses and new members to the club. Without you we wouldn't be able to do what we do.

As usual, looking forward to seeing all of you bonsai nuts at the next meeting.

Erich

MBS Member's Corner

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

September 8-10 is the weekend set for the 8th US National Bonsai Exhibition held again in Rochester, NY, and this year Milwaukee Bonsai Society will be well represented.

MBS members Pam W, Ron F, and Steve C have entered 6 trees to be considered for inclusion in this national Exhibit of fine bonsai.

We are happy to announce that all three of our members have received notification that 4 of the trees entered have been accepted.

Pam W will be exhibiting her White Bark Birch, *Betula papyrifera*, collected in Upper MI, estimated to be 45 years old, in a Sara Rayner pot, in Pam's care since 1995.

Ron F will be proud to show his Little Leaf Linden, *Tilia cordata* that he has been working on for many years. Ron is lucky he has a utility truck to carry this one there... it is a beauty!

And Steve C will be showing his Coast Redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, collected in CA, and developed since 2014, in a Tom Benda pot, and his Climbing Hydrangea, *Hydrangea anomala*, purchased in a nursery pot in Chicago, developed since 2012, in a Me & Raimondi pot.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PAM, RON, AND STEVE!!

August '23 Main Presentation

Prep Your Tree for an Exhibit

Presenters: Brian S, Ron F, & Steve C

Last month we all heard MBS members Pam W, Scott D, and Kevin S lead a superb discussion on all the things that go into planning a great bonsai display. They covered display tables, tree placement, a bit on direction, companion plants and sculptural pieces... all items that combine together to tell a story about the tree we are planning to show at an exhibit.

Now let's discuss what preparation goes into taking a tree off our bench and making it ready to present to the public at a show.

Brian will talk about how he pulls all those weeds he has let grow on his soil surface all summer and temporarily replace them with moss he has secretly collected from his neighbor's yard. But if he finds a mushroom growing there, I'd bet he won't remove that.

We all know how over-the-top picky Steve is, so he will demonstrate how he does pre-show leaf pruning and how it differs from normal bonsai pruning techniques.

And Ron will show us all how he meticulously cleans leaves and needles so they sparkle and attract the judge to stop and take a second look at his tree.

We all know how busy life can be and how we can hardly find the time to get in all the needed bonsai tasks while we handle our regular, never ending household responsibilities. But remember... showing a tree is fun. Seeing it up there on that stand, surrounded by all our friends' trees brings a lot of joy to us bonsai hobbyists.

Come to the August MBS meeting and get some tips on making our Annual Exhibit a beautiful expression of our hobby.

There's a First Time for Everything

Many MBS members (and bonsai enthusiasts generally) are intimidated by the idea of showing their tree in a public setting. It's understandable: thoughts like "I don't really know what I'm doing", "I haven't been doing this long enough", "What if people think my tree is crappy", "There are so many trees nicer than mine"all can keep us from having the really great experience of showing our tree.

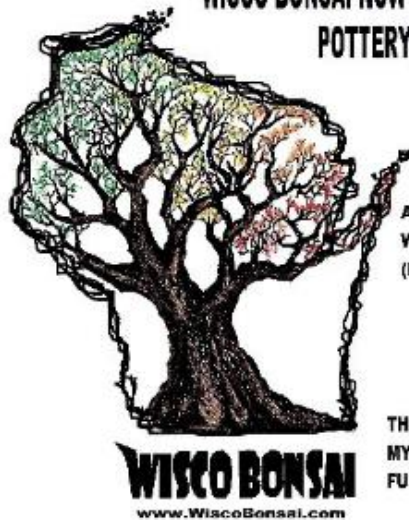
The state fair exhibition presents a wonderful opportunity to take the plunge and display one or more of your beloved trees for the first time. It's a no-pressure, low key way to share your creation with the public, and to get constructive feedback from the judges on what you're doing right, and what you might do differently or better to bring the most out of your tree's potential. If you wish, you can even enter your tree 'for display only', meaning it won't be considered for a ribbon, but can still get comments and feedback from the judge.

The only requirement is that the tree is in an actual pot, as opposed to the plastic nursery container. You can do whatever you wish as to stands, accent plants, etc. If you're not sure about how to display it, just ask any of the more experienced members for guidance. And remember, this is about having fun, not feeling anxious or apprehensive. Every other member of MBS wants you to be successful and enjoy the hobby.

To provide some additional encouragement, MBS is offering a special incentive. The names of any MBS members who show a tree for the first time will be put into a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate to Ancient Arts Bonsai, that can be used for tools, supplies, or another tree. So...dive right in. The water's fine!!

******To support Rick in his effort to encourage new exhibitors, Steve C has offered to answer questions or loan a stand (if he has one that fits) to anyone who is showing a tree for the first time. See Steve C at the next meeting or text @ 414-617-9162.





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 OCCAISIONALLY HAVE OTHER RAW SUBSTRATE COMPONANTS AVAILABLE (PUMICE, LAVA, ETC).

SEVERAL SIZES OF KANUMA NOW AVAILABLE !!!

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

WiscoBonsai@gmail.com

414-248-3827

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

August '23 Focus Presentation

Final Summer Cutback for Hardy Deciduous Trees Presenters: Brian S & Steve C

Yes... the **FINAL** summer cutback!

So, 6 1/2 weeks of our short Wisconsin summer is now history, and we have 6 1/2 weeks of summer sun and heat remaining before our trees begin to prepare for our seemingly long winter dormancy.

Come to this month's MBS August meeting for a short but important Focus on just **WHY** this is so. Learn about different tree's reaction to a summer cutback, what is your window of opportunity, and what could happen if you ignore this important seasonal timing.



**WISCONSIN
STATE FAIR**
AUGUST 3-13, 2023
Presented By  uscellular

Are you interested in entering a tree for state fair or volunteering to assist in the MBS booth? Even if you have not participated before consider doing so this year. Exhibit classes are: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Open. To participate sign up on Eventbrite under Milwaukee Bonsai Society. Sign up is free.

State Fair Exhibit Schedule:
Exhibit #1 August 3 – 6
Exhibit #2 August 7 – 9
Exhibit #3 August 10– 13

Trees are dropped off and picked up at the strip mall parking lot in front of Piggly Wiggly at 102nd and National Ave, just west of the old Bakers Square in the area nearest to National Ave.

Drop off/Pick up Schedule:

Exhibit #1 –
Drop off: Wed. Aug. 2 (6-6:30pm)
Pick up: Sunday Aug 6 (9-9:30am)
Exhibit #2 –
Drop off: Sat. Aug 5 (6-6:30pm)
Pick up: Thurs Aug 10 (9-9:30am)
Exhibit #3 –
Drop off: Wed. Aug 9 (6-6:30pm)
Pick up: Monday Aug 14 (9-9:30am)

If the drop off/pick up schedule does not work for you, please make arrangements with someone who will care for the trees. YOU should alert Erich B of these arrangements so trees are not lost, stolen or misdirected.

Any heavy, large trees will need to be delivered separately by the owners.

When checking in please bring:

- ~Scientific and Common names
- ~The approximate age of your tree
- ~Stand and accent
- ~Sketch or picture of how you would like the display set up

It is required to have your name on all components of your display including boxes/totes/watering bottles/towels.

Volunteers for the MBS booth work in scheduled shifts with at least one other club member. Volunteers talk to fair goers who stop by the booth to admire the trees. The most popular questions are: Which tree is yours? Which is the oldest tree? If you can answer those 2 questions you are qualified to volunteer.

State Fair allows MBS to get our name out to the public and recruit new members. Without new members we could not keep the club going. Plus, you get a free ticket for the fair, accrue volunteer hours and before/after your shift, you can enjoy all the fair has to offer.

We need you to make this a successful annual event!

Disclaimer: Although great care is taken with entry items, incidents may occur that are beyond our control.

Please call Erich - 262-989-0875 or Teri 262-822-7047 with any questions.

Wanted: Your Donations

The Annual Exhibit is quickly approaching, and the raffles need your donations. Have some pots, books, or bonsai supplies that you do not want? Consider donating them to the Annual Exhibit raffles. The raffles help to keep the cost of the workshops with the guest artist low.

Donations can be brought to the August meeting or picked up (call or text Melissa: 414-350-5924, email: missyuc2@yahoo.com). Arrangements can be made to gather the donation items!



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

Bjorn (B yourn) Bjorholm

by Pam W

Over the last two years, many of us have been lucky to work with several artist on our bonsai. But now we have a rock star coming to Milwaukee.

This year's Annual Exhibit artist is Bjorn Bjorholm. Those who know his work and him as a person agree that he is one of the greatest bonsai artists in America. He is in very high demand and we are extremely lucky to have him in Milwaukee in August.

Bjorn L Bjorholm, an American bonsai artist and professional and instructor, spent six years as an apprentice under Master Keiichi Fujikawa at Kouka-en bonsai nursery in Osaka, Japan. He received his certification as a bonsai professional by the Nippon Bonsai Association. Thereafter, he worked as an artist-in-residence at Kouka-en, making him Japan's first foreign-born working bonsai artist. During his time in Japan, Bjorn's works were featured in the Kokufu-ten, Sakufu-ten, and Taikan-ten exhibitions, among many others world exhibitions.



In addition to his work in Japan, Bjorn travels the world, from Europe to Asia to Latin America, teaching bonsai art and providing services to private clients and international organizations. He operates intensive bonsai schools with affiliate nurseries in Spain and the United States, while also working with international bonsai organizations.

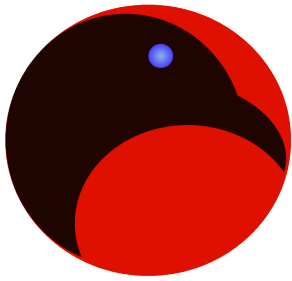
He lectures all around the world, and has been the headliner at some of the biggest bonsai conventions in the United States. He is one of the most highly regarded speakers in the country and we are privileged to have him as a workshop artist this August. You won't want to miss this chance to work with one of the foremost bonsai artists on your trees.

To learn with the best MBS has a few offerings:

Workshops are Sunday August 27 Sign up online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bjorn-bjorholm-sunday-workshops-tickets-645369937857?aff=oddtcreator>

MBS is also offering very special FREE Critiques with Bjorn on Saturday Mornings. Pick one of three timeslots at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bjorn-bjorholm-critique-tickets-645360971037?aff=oddtcreator>

The **demonstration Saturday afternoon is also free** and starts at 1:00. MBS purchased an sizable pre-bonsai from Bjorn for this event. Everyone is welcome to watch this amazing transformation.



Displaying Bonsai

Quiet Crow Bonsai is a collection of articles, essays, and views for bonsai artist, devotees and supporters. www.QuietCrowBonsai.com.

Selecting Basic Items

Displaying your bonsai is a celebration of nature, all your selections of elements and placement should be based in what shows nature at its finest.

The Tree

Careful selection of the bonsai plant, which should itself display some particular aspect of its beauty for the current show. It is important to consider its age, size, and overall appearance.

- The size of the bonsai tree should match the scale of the display stand and accent plants. A large bonsai tree may need a large stand to properly showcase it, while a smaller tree may look more balanced on a smaller stand.
- Look for a tree that is healthy and has a strong aesthetic. Consider the shape of the trunk, the arrangement of the branches, and the overall balance of the tree. A well-proportioned tree will make a stronger visual impact and be more aesthetically pleasing in the display.

The Pot

Once you've selected your bonsai, you can start thinking about the pot. The color of the pot must be harmonious with the state of the bonsai.

- Traditionally unglazed pots are used for conifers and glazed containers for deciduous bonsai. Additionally, a masculine robust bonsai has a heavy, solid container while a more feminine bonsai would be placed in a more delicate container.
- The ideal width for the pot is the width of the spread of the bonsai's branches. The pot should look as if it's evolved naturally from the width of the bonsai.

- The ideal depth of the pot depends on whether the bonsai cascades. For a non-cascading bonsai, the pot's depth should be roughly the size of the bonsai's root, just above its flare. For cascading or semi-cascading bonsai, the pot should be no deeper than half the cascade

The Stand

Bonsai are best viewed at eye level, which means the average table will be too low. A bonsai stand, or "shoku", can either be a floor stand or a table stand. The stand itself shouldn't be so ornamental that it distracts from the bonsai. As with the pot, the color of the stand should be in harmony with the state of the bonsai. Dark woods are quite attractive with most bonsai, but a lighter wood might be more attractive for a flowering bonsai. The size and stability of a bonsai display stand should be carefully considered to ensure a successful and visually appealing bonsai display.

- The stand acts as a foundation for the bonsai tree, elevating it and providing a stable platform for display.
- The size of the stand should be appropriate for the size of the bonsai tree. A stand that is too small can make the tree look disproportionate, while a stand that is too large can make the tree look dwarfed.
- The stand should also have a height that is appropriate for viewing, allowing the viewer to see the tree from a comfortable angle without having the viewer see the underside of the top most branches
- In addition to its visual impact, the stand should also be stable and secure, preventing the bonsai tree from tipping over or becoming damaged during the show.

Companion Objects

The companion objects should be selected for their ability to contribute and enhance this scene. Nature should be your guide. If you're going to display your bonsai with a smaller flowering plant or small statue, it should be one that you'd see naturally occurring with your bonsai.

The Scroll

Scrolls are lovely elements to add and have the additional advantage of bringing an extra layer of depth to your display. A subtle scroll with an ink painting depicting a natural element that is in harmony with the scene you're creating is a good choice. However, they also present the risk of competing with your bonsai, which is always the focal point of your display.

The Tenpai

Props or ornaments, known as tenpai are used to show the scene depicted with a more tangible quality. Perhaps positioned next to the bonsai to reinforce the image of a tall and very large tree. Or it indicates a specific location, or add a seasonal touch. The single ornament can supply an entire narrative. Typical examples are birds such as cranes, small creatures such as frogs or crabs.

The Viewing Stone

Suiseki (water or viewing stone) are often used as accents to a bonsai on display in a formal setting and usually used to represent mountains or waterfalls. One particularly popular is a stone that resembles a thatched house in a mountain village. Suiseki are traditionally exhibited on a carved wooden base called "daiza" or in shallow trays called suiban or doban.

The Accent Plant

Accent plants (shitakusa or kusamono) play an important role in bonsai displays, as they provide context for the bonsai tree. Accent plants help create a visual story and establishing a sense of place for the tree such as urban, forest, prairie or ornamental setting. They can be used to balance the overall composition of the display, helping to create a harmonious and visually appealing arrangement establishing a sense of depth and scale.

- **Color:** Consider the color of the bonsai tree and choose accent plants with complementary colors. For example, a green bonsai tree might be complemented by accent plants with red or purple leaves, while a brown or grey bonsai tree might be complemented by accent plants with green or yellow leaves.
- **Texture:** Consider the texture of the bonsai tree and choose accent plants with complementary textures. For example, a bonsai tree with fine, delicate foliage might be complemented by accent plants with bold, textured leaves, while a bonsai tree with rough or rugged bark might be complemented by accent plants with smooth leaves.

- **Height:** Consider the height of the bonsai stand and choose accent plants that are shorter, but not the same height or too tall.
- **Season:** Consider the time of year and choose accent plants that are in season. For example, if the bonsai display is in the spring, choose accent plants that are in bloom or have fresh new growth. If the display is in the winter, choose accent plants that have attractive winter foliage or bark.

The Jita

Jitas or the companion object stands, complement the accent plants or ornaments in a bonsai display. Selecting and using jitas that match the style and color of the accent plants, are the appropriate size, have the right shape, and are made of a complementary material can help to create a visually appealing and successful bonsai display.

- **Matching the Jita with the Accent Plants:** Select a jita that complements the style and color of the accent plants. For example, if the accent plants are vibrant and colorful, select a jita with a neutral color to create contrast. If the accent plants are light and airy, select a jita with delicate lines and a light finish. You will also need to consider the pot of the jita in this as well, but the pot should complement the accent plant and the jita should tie this all together
- **Size of the Jita:** Consider the size of the jita in relation to the size of the accent plants. A jita that is too small can make the accent plants look cramped and cluttered, while a jita that is too large can overwhelm the accent plants. A jita that is too thin with a larger accent plant can look understated while a jita that is too thick with a smaller accent plant can look overpowering.
- **Shape of the Jita:** Consider the shape of the jita and how it will complement the accent plants but also how it contrasts the display stand for the bonsai tree. For example, a round jita can create a soft and flowing look, while a square jita can create a more structured look. But if you have a square bonsai display stand, you'll want maybe a rectangle jita so it doesn't match the stand but it still has that structured appearance. Free form jitas and burls can be some of the best choices for jitas as they perfectly contrast the bonsai display stand and can often give directionality to your display.

Presentation

Now that you've selected your basic and companion elements, it's time to put the entire display together. Remember the scene or sense of nature you're trying to evoke. You want to place your elements in a way that has harmonious dimension and perspective.

The Placement

The typical shape of the display is an asymmetrical triangle. The bonsai should be placed on the side that is opposite to its pull. If its branches lean predominantly to the right, you'll place the bonsai on the left side of the area. A companion object should be on the opposite side of the area, away from the bonsai. Typically, it should be as far away from its nearest side wall as the bonsai is from its nearest side wall. However, it shouldn't be on the same horizontal axis as the bonsai. By placing the companion object either behind or in front of this axis, you bring dimension to the triangle.

Since stones are usually used to represent mountains, they'll be placed closer to the back wall than the bonsai to give a sense of distance. In contrast, small flowering plants or statues are usually placed farther away from the back wall than the bonsai.

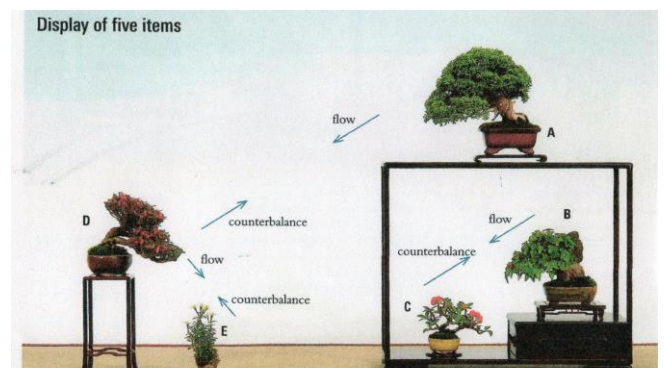
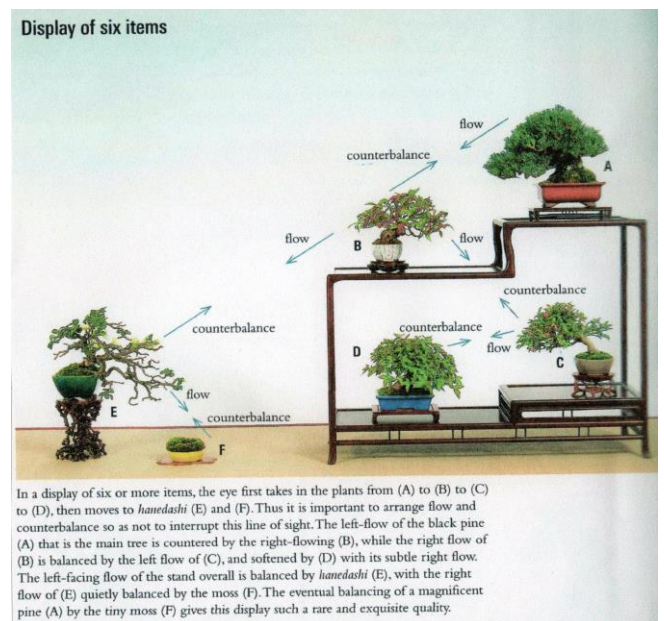
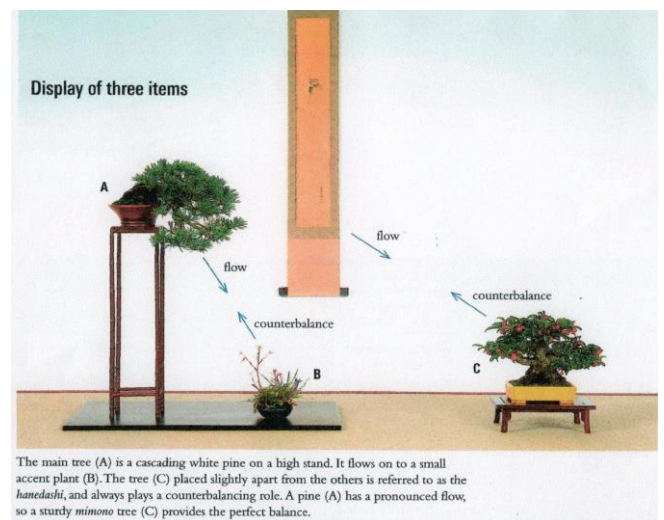
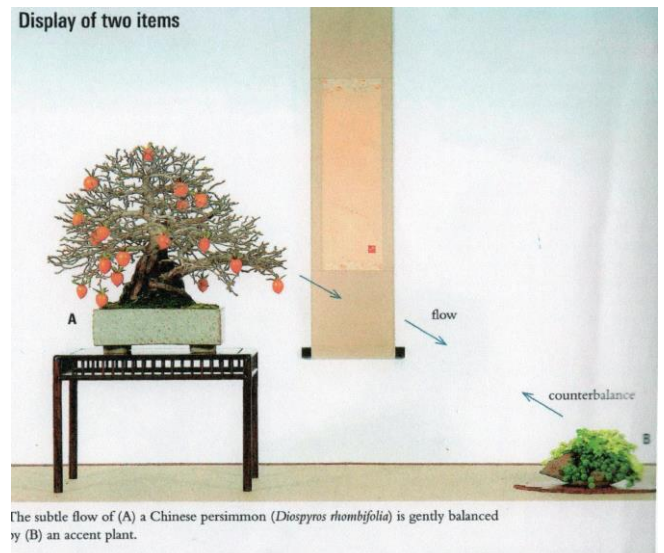
Viewing Height

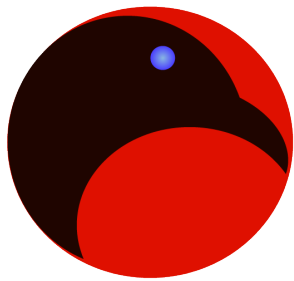
Consider the height of the bonsai tree in relation to the other elements in the display. The tree should be positioned at a height that allows the viewer to see it clearly, while also creating an attractive composition. The height and position of your other elements should be decided from this part of the display.

Flow and Counterbalance

Flow (nagare), refers to the direction in which the tree is aligned (to the right or to the left) when viewed from the front. Trees of cascade and slanting style have an obvious flow other style the flow may be very subtle.

When two or more bonsai are displayed together, a tree is placed in counterbalance (uke) to the main tree, accepting its flow, the display arranged so that the tree highlights each other's best qualities. Displays with good relationship with flow and counterbalance have an air of stability; those with poor relationship can seem unsettled, lacking calm. See side panel for are examples of this concept.





Evaluating Your Bonsai

Quiet Crow Bonsai is a collection of articles, essays, and views for bonsai artist, devotees and supporters. www.QuietCrowBonsai.com.

When we prepare our bonsai for exhibition, we consider how they will be perceived by the judging process. Look at your trees from a subjective point of view and begin to evaluate as the judge might. In the three categories, Horticulture, Styling, and Presentation, ask yourself the following questions which are arranged from novice through advanced considerations.

1) Horticulture

a) Health

1. Is your tree in apparent good health?
2. Is it free of disease, insect damage?
3. Is it free of blemishes, sunburn and windburn
4. Does it have fresh spring growth, elongates and matures evenly on all the branches)

b) Foliage

1. Is the color of the foliage dark green (or typical for the particular species and season).
2. Is the foliage shaggy or overgrown?
3. Is the size and density of the foliage consistent and firm?
4. Are juvenile, mis-formed, miscolored or dead foliage present?

2) Styling

a) Rootage

1. Is the shape of buttress at soil level?
2. Are surface roots well distributed and high quality?
3. Is the rootage appropriate to style and species of tree?

b) Trunk

1. Is the trunk clean and free of algae and moss?
2. Does it display well defined size, movement and taper?
3. Does the bark show maturity?
4. Are features highlighted and appropriate to style and tree?

c) Branching

1. Is there defined position and movement of branches?
2. Is there enough negative space?
3. Is the size of branches appropriate to position?
4. The extent of taper and ramification appropriate to style and tree?

d) Apex

1. Are there too many apexes?
2. Is the apex too heavy on top?
3. Does it show direction?
4. Is it well developed, clearly defined and properly shaped?

e) Form

1. Is the tree correctly positioned within pot?
2. Are the front of tree and style chosen for the tree?
3. Is the general shape well defined, clear and to the style of the tree?
4. Does it have pleasing artistic vision?

f) Age

1. Does the tree convey the impression of Age?
2. Does it have asymmetry in the structure?
3. Does the tree have dynamic quality or movement?
4. Is the tree's natural or abstract quality apparent?

g) Technique

1. Are wire scars present?
2. Is the wire well applied?
3. Does it show well defined deadwood with no excessive marks or evidence of tools?
4. Is movement believable?

3) Presentation

a) Surface

1. Is the surface clear of weeds and debris?
2. Is there conscience application of moss or appropriate topical treatment?
3. Does it convey naturalness and overall composition?

b) Pot

1. Is the pot cleaned and oiled?
2. Does it have good proportion to the tree(s) not over or under potted?
3. Does the pot color balance with tree?
4. Is the pot shape, texture and style right for tree?
5. Does the pot age and patina match the tree?

c) Stand

1. Does the stand size pair well with tree/pot combination?
2. Is it the correct height for viewing tree?
3. Is the quality of stand equivalent to quality of pot and tree?

d) Accent

1. Does the accent pair well with tree?
2. Is it appropriately potted?
3. Is it positioned and proportional to accompanying tree and display space?
4. Does it represent the season or tells a story of composition?

e) Display

1. Is the overall appearance clean?
2. Was it purposely and thoughtfully composed?
3. Does it convey abstract or an overall sense of balance and harmony?
4. Is the story evident and impressive?

Hopefully this article will give you some good ideas and questions about how to evaluate your bonsai for judging.

Bonsai Evaluation Form

Judge:

Date:

Tree:

1 (Needs Improvement) – 5 (Excellent)

Horticulture

Health Good health Disease Insect damage Blemishes Sunburn Windburn
1 2 3 4 5

Foliage Proper color Density appropriate Juvenile or malformed Discolored
1 2 3 4 5

Rootage Well distributed Buttress shape Quality Appropriate to style and species
1 2 3 4 5

Trunk Clean Mature Well defined Movement Taper Features
1 2 3 4 5

Branching Size/taper/ramification appropriate to position Movement
1 2 3 4 5

Styling

Apex Defined Balanced Well developed Shows direction
1 2 3 4 5

Form Well defined Front Style Positioned well in pot
1 2 3 4 5

Age Feels ancient Asymmetry Representational/Abstract Dynamic
1 2 3 4 5

Technique Wire good/scars Movement of carving Evidence of human hand
1 2 3 4 5

Presentation

Surface Rootage visible Mossed Dressed Weeds
1 2 3 4 5

Pot Patina Proportionate Size Color Shape Texture
1 2 3 4 5

Stand Pairs well Quality Height
1 2 3 4 5

Accent Interesting Pairs well Quality Season Size Stand
1 2 3 4 5

Display Overall Feel Story Purposeful Thoughtful Harmonious/Abstract
1 2 3 4 5

Comments

Milwaukee Milkmen baseball game



Tuesday, July 11th turned out to be a great day for a baseball game! The weather cooperated by not being too warm for a change. Unfortunately, the Milkmen lost in 10 innings 😞, but the MBS group had a great time at the game cheering on the home team. My grandson, Xavier, even got a game ball and the club raised a few dollars towards the Annual Exhibit. If you didn't make it this year next year's outing is already being planned.



MBS Picnic, July 15th

The MBS picnic/swap meet was well attended this year. Our guest chef did an excellent job whipping up a tasty lunch of burgers & brats with all the fixings. There was even a raffle in the afternoon. More pictures can be found at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/CeLsusTRXbPko2ji6>



An important new video for July is now available!

Preparing Your Bonsai Display

Just in time for our very important State Fair Exhibit, we held a great Monthly Meeting in July covering the finer points of displaying your trees. Our very own Pam W, Kevin S, and Scott D explored fundamental ideas of, and provided great ideas for creating a visually appealing and harmonious bonsai display for a show.

Ideas discussed at the meeting included choosing the right display stand, selection and placement of accent plants that complement the bonsai tree, and even positioning of the tree itself, to create a visually appealing and harmonious display.

If you are planning on showing your tree at the State Fair (and you should!) and if you were not able to attend the June meeting, or if you would like to review all the valuable information that was presented, head on over to the Member Video Section of the website and prepare your trees for a great show!



It is once again time for the annual MBS Executive elections. The slate of 2024 nominees are:

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President – Rick W	1 st VP – Pam W
2 nd VP – Rob S	Treasurer – John N
Secretary – Greg R	Director – Joe T
Director – Mike B	Director – Irene H
Past President – Erich B	

American Bonsai Society (ABS) – Denver, CO June 9-11, 2023



June 9-11 brought about a trip to Denver for the yearly ABS learning seminars for myself and my husband (not willingly). The seminars took place at the Denver botanic gardens which were very lovely. I took 3 workshops: one portulacaria hands-on workshop, a bonsai drawing workshop and a scroll creation workshop. Jennifer Price and Andy Smith together worked on a Spruce that Andy collected at a very interesting demo.





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Next MBS meeting will be
August 5, 2023 @ 9am
Boerner Botanical Gardens

2023 MBS OFFICERS

President [Erich B](#)
1st VP [Pam W](#)
2nd 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



*I learn, and know less
In knowing less, I learn more.
Truth is thus revealed.*

~Rick Walters