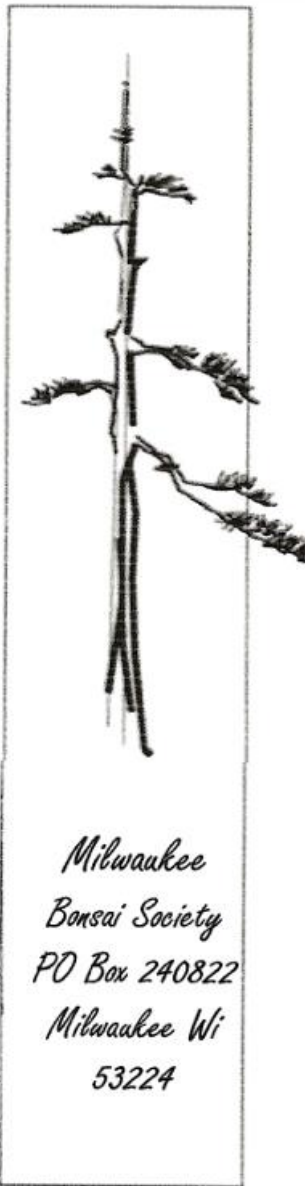


BONSAI NEWS

August 2024



Upcoming Meeting

The August meeting will feature David Cutchin as our guest artist. David will discuss tropicals with us and have a Brazilian Raintree to demonstrate with. David has an extensive education and experience with these types of trees and the morning promises to be full of good information.

There are also plenty of spots left for the Saturday afternoon discussion and Sunday all day hands-on workshop. Look for the registration links further in the newsletter or on Eventbrite.



Next Meeting
August 3, 2024
9 am
Boerner
Botanical

August

- August 1-11 – State Fair Shows
- August 3 – Guest Artist: David Cutchin
- August 4 – Tropical Workshop w/ David Cutchin*
- August 10 – Bonsai Skills 101*
- August 11 - Bonsai Skills 201*

September

- September 7 – Ryan’s Style Descriptions/Common Conifers-Deciduous
- September 21 – Public Workshop Boerner Botanical

October

- October 5 – Fall cutback of trees in Development/Root over Rock revisited
- October 12 – Bonsai Skills 101*
- October 13 – Bonsai Skills 201*

November

- November 2 – Viewing Stones/Winter Storage problems to watch for
- November 9 – Bonsai Skills 101*
- November 10 – Bonsai Skills 201*

*Open to MBS members only

President's Message

As I write this, it's eleven days until the beginning of the Wisconsin State Fair. The fair is arguably our single most important exposure to the general public, and our best opportunity to show people our trees and tell them our story. Over the course of the eleven days, literally hundreds of people will walk past our booth, many of them stopping to get a closer look and ask questions. And as many of you reading this can attest, the fair is also our best opportunity to recruit new members.

That being said, we are once again facing the two recurring challenges: we need trees, and we need volunteers. As you've heard me say time and time again, there is no down side to displaying a tree. I've heard people say, "my tree isn't that special, it's not that well-developed, I haven't been working on bonsai very long" and so on. Those aren't barriers to displaying a tree, and in fact they're good reasons to do so. The novice bonsai enthusiast is precisely the person who can get the most good out of displaying a tree and having it evaluated by one of the judges.

My personal experience has always been that a judge starts out from the point of looking for what's good in the tree, and then providing constructive suggestions about what could be better. I know that several of my trees are much nicer today because of input I received from a judge about styling, training, tree health, or the finer points of a display. You can read all the bonsai books you want, or spend hours on YouTube, but nothing else compares with having an experienced judge look at your individual tree. Reading about branch development is one thing; having an informed judge tell you "you might think about cutting THIS branch back to HERE" is so much more valuable.

On the subject of volunteers, there is a small number of people who work to bring the exhibits together, and the one thing that drives them collectively crazy is getting close to the start date and having a lot of unfilled time slots for tree sitters. I know we all have a lot going on in our lives, especially folks with kids at home, and sometimes our schedules are uncertain. Please look at your calendar, go to Eventbrite, and see if there isn't some time slot that you can fit in.

Spending some time at the display is, for me at least, genuinely fun. It's often a chance to spend some time with another club member or two getting better acquainted, and it's a great opportunity to share your enthusiasm for bonsai with members of the public. You'll be asked a pretty predictable series of questions—how old is it, how do you keep it so small, can any tree be a bonsai or is it a certain species, and so on. You will also hear an amazing number of people say, "somebody gave me a bonsai once but it died". That's a perfect opening to say, "let's talk about our public workshop, where you actually go home with a tree, and we teach you how to keep your tree healthy and alive."

Finally, thanks in advance to the members who are doing the organizing and volunteering. The fair, and all our other events, wouldn't happen without you, and your contribution of time and effort is what makes MBS the very special group that it is.

Rick

WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

AUGUST 1-11, 2024 Presented by  uscellular

It's that time of the year again! Time for State Fair. MBS has a golden opportunity to show the whole state and beyond what we are all about. Do you want to be part of the fun? We need tree sitters and trees to show. Exhibit classes are: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Open. Sign up on Eventbrite under Milwaukee Bonsai society.

State Fair Exhibit Schedule:

Exhibit #1 August 1 – 4

Exhibit #2 August 5 – 7

Exhibit #3 August 8– 11

Entering a tree is easy. Trees are dropped off and picked up at the strip mall parking lot in front of Piggly Wiggly at 102nd and National Ave, in the area nearest to National Ave.

Drop off/Pick up Schedule:

Exhibit #1 – Drop off: Wed. July. 31 (6-6:30pm)

Pick up: Monday Aug 5 (9-9:30am)

Exhibit #2 – Drop off: Sunday. Aug 4 (6-6:30pm)

Pick up: Wednesday Aug 7 (9-9:30am)

Exhibit #3 –Drop off: Wednesday Aug 7 (6-6:30pm) Pick up: Sunday Aug 11 (9-9:30am)

If the drop off/pick up schedule does not work for you, please make arrangements with someone who will care for your trees. Any heavy, large trees will need to be delivered separately by the owners. **YOU** should alert Rob S. of these arrangements so trees are not lost, stolen or misdirected.

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 and anything else you want returned.

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

If you have never shown a tree before this is a great opportunity to gain insight and feedback from the judges about your trees, and who knows, you may win an award and forever be able to call yourself an award winning bonsai artist. For the more experienced it's a great time to debut new styling from some of your well known trees or show some creativity and try out some new display elements. Either way the public LOVES IT so don't be shy.

Volunteers for the MBS booth work in scheduled shifts with at least one other club member. Our main focus is to talk to the public as they walk through the trees marveling at the beauty in miniature. Tell them about your experiences. They will ask you how old a tree is, they will ask you which tree is yours, and hopefully you can tell them the story of your tree and really make that personal connection.

If you feel you are too inexperienced or too shy to engage the public, I would encourage you to try it out. As a member of MBS your bonsai education is second to none. Even if you have only been to a few meetings your knowledge is significantly greater than an average person. Once you start talking about trees people will see your passion for the subject and be really easy to talk to. Plus, you get a free ticket to the fair so you can enjoy yourself before and after your shift. MBS is one of the best clubs in the country, but we can only maintain this level if we recruit and retain new members. Let's all work together to make this State Fair the best event of the season. And with you involved I know we can do it.

Please call Rob S – 920-917-0050 with any questions



[Tree sitter sign up](#)

[Tree Exhibit Sign up](#)

Temperate, sub-tropical, and tropical bonsai

by Pam W

Tropical, subtropical, and temperate climates are three broad categories used to classify climate zones based on temperature and precipitation patterns. These climate classifications are broad categories and can vary depending on factors such as altitude, proximity to bodies of water, and local topography. Here's a brief overview of each:

Tropical climates are typically found near the equator, between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. These regions are characterized by high temperatures throughout the year and generally receive abundant rainfall. Tropical climates are often divided into wet and dry seasons, with consistent warmth and high humidity. Rainforests are a common feature of this climate zone, with lush vegetation and high biodiversity.

Subtropical climates are found at latitudes slightly farther away from the equator compared to tropical climates. These regions typically experience warm to hot temperatures, especially in the summer months, and mild winters. Subtropical climates can vary in terms of precipitation patterns, with some areas experiencing wet summers and dry winters. Mediterranean climates, characterized by hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters, are a type of subtropical climate.

Temperate climates are found at mid-latitudes, between the tropics and the polar regions. These regions generally have distinct seasons, including warm to hot summers and cool to cold winters. Precipitation in temperate climates can vary widely, with some areas experiencing consistent rainfall throughout the year while others have distinct wet and dry seasons. Deciduous forests are common in temperate climates, with trees that shed their leaves in the fall and regrow them in the spring.

With review of the above differences, you can see why education with a focus on the nuances of propagation and material development within the climate bonsai model is needed. Areas do not freeze in winter, the soil biome is active all-year-round, meaning that organic matter is constantly being consumed. Light, Fertilizing, location, water and winter care are just some of the considerations needed.

David Cutchin

David Cutchin at the August 2024 Meeting will provide understanding how species evolve and their relationship to bonsai can only lead to a greater appreciation of the art form at our August 3 general meeting at 9:00 AM. He will be refining a good size Brazilian Raintree purchased from Brussels' for this his demonstration.

Take advantage of more discussion after the meeting. Registered members can bring up to two bonsai. David will critique and set a clear design objective for your tree. [Register](#)

On Sunday take a 6-hour workshop where David will, with a clear design objective mapping your actions, help you employ pruning techniques to stimulate new growth. Registered members can bring up to two bonsai- [Register for workshop](#)



David Cutchin

In this episode of Asymmetry, we are elated to announce Mirai Live's new educator David Cutchin, a long-term student of Mirai with an extensive background in ecology and Southeastern American environments. As an expert in topicals, propagation, and material cultivation and development for bonsai, David ushers us into a new era of Mirai Live instruction.

[New Mirai Live Educator: David Cutchin.](#)



WISCO BONSAI
www.WiscoBonsai.com

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 !!!

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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

Save the Date

Wisco Bonsai Open House & 10-year Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, September 14th

Music, Food, Demo, Beginner Styling Contest,
Conifer Workshop, etc., etc.

Details to follow in the September newsletter and via the Wisco
Bonsai email list: wiscobonsai@gmail.com



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

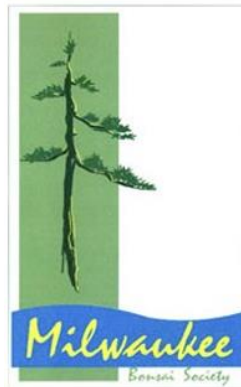
See our updated Website: aabonsai.com
Email – aabonsai@charter.net
Phone – 262-490-8733

Logo Contest

The MBS logo has been a tried-and-true part of the club for quite a few years now, but it's time to freshen the look.

This is your chance to be a part of club history and submit an idea for the next MBS logo.

Below is what we have now:



If you are creative or just have a great idea and want to offer a suggestion, send an email before September 1st to the executive committee at:

MBS.EXEC.MBS@gmail.com

Grant Park Show

By Bryan L and Melissa J

On Sunday, June 22nd MBS coordinated a bonsai show at Grant Park. The event was put on with the help of the Friends of Grant Park and the South Milwaukee Historical Society. The local South Milwaukee residents call the venue the Brown Pavilion. The covered site offered shelter from the intermittent rain during parts of the day and was a large location for members who helped and brought trees. The rain did not keep people away with over approximately 200 visitors to the exhibit.

The exhibit had a nice mix of trees for the public to view. There were elms of different varieties, yews, junipers, burning bushes and tropicals such as portulacaira and poinseanna. Visitors were very interested in the trees and the art of bonsai; they asked many engaging questions. Members seemed to enjoy the interactions and sharing their love of bonsai.

Many small trees were given away; two burning bushes were part of a free raffle and many members of the public asked about joining the club. These people eagerly received a club flyer and information about the Public Workshop.

The below link has some pictures of the event:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/AWJnZHWSBz7KJaVn7>





Legendary Artist

By Pam W



Naka's masterpiece Goshin is on display at the United States National Arboretum.



A gorgeous 4-inch Rockspray Cotoneaster by Morten Albek. This tree is often featured on the internet



Kunio Kobayashi at work (at play!) with a massive Japanese black pine.



Kimura's bonsai forest, entitled Hinoki Forest; is his most famous composition, as it literally changed the ancient art form.

12 Legendary Bonsai Artist You Should Know

Ever since bonsai became part of our lives, a horde of legendary bonsai artist have showered our consciousness, with standout imagery that has since become part of the history of art. Any bonsai enthusiasts can write down a long list of bonsai artist who deserves the "legendary" label. From the ones who have commanded the most expensive trees to those who have created the most endearing bonsai. Our current generation of bonsai artist are blessed to look up to such revolutionary group of heroes and influences. I will try to boiled down a list of the 12 legendary bonsai artist you should know (in no particular order

1. John Naka of Los Angeles, Ca. was a driving force in the spread of Bonsai appreciation and the practice of Bonsai art in the West and elsewhere. Naka traveled and taught extensively around the world, at conventions and clubs, Naka published two books, entitled *Bonsai Techniques* and *Bonsai Techniques II*, texts that are revered as being the bibles of western Bonsai to many artists. In 1985, Emperor Hirohito of Japan bestowed upon Naka the most prestigious award for a non-Japanese citizen, The Fifth Class of the Order of the Rising Sun.

2. Morten Albek a Danish artist revered as a shohin master, has for 30 years been dedicated to bonsai teaching and travels all over the world to teach at large venues and smaller events. Albek is a worldwide recognized bonsai artists and has won many prizes. He is also featured in the Jubilee book of Daizo Iwasaki and is on the Bonsai Club International artists list. In 2008 he published his book 'Majesty in Miniature, Shohin Bonsai, unlocking the secrets of small trees'

3. Kunio Kobayashi is one of the leading bonsai artists today. Kobayashi runs his school and museum in Tokyo's Edogawa ward. He has more than 200 apprentices and international students studying and following his advice. He lectures in over 20 countries around the world and has won 10 awards at the Kokufu-ten exhibition, including 4 Prime Minister Awards (the highest honor)

4. Masahiko Kimura is regarded as a genius and innovator in the bonsai world often referred to as "the magician. His new and radical approach to how he styled Bonsai was first seen as breaking with (too) many traditions, but soon he was widely recognized and respected. He also has 4 Prime Minister Awards. He has had a number of students and apprentices from Japan, Europe, and America, several of which have gone on to become masters in their own right. These include Marco Invernizzi, Salvatore Liporace, Ernie Kuo, Marc Noelanders, Kawabe Takeo, and Ryan Neil.

5. Walter Pall of Munich, Germany is one of the most popular Bonsai artists who has performed on most international stages. He has visited the vast majority of European countries and also South Africa, Australia, Canada and the United States; he even appeared in Israel and in Argentina and Brazil. He has several dozen national and international awards including the Crespi Cup Award (1st place and always in the top 6) and Ginkgo Bonsai Award. Pall is known for his naturalistic style, which deviates from traditional practices of bonsai development. Pall has written over 100 articles in various bonsai magazines and has long been active in the online bonsai community.

6. Kathy Shaner is internationally known as a Master Bonsai professional, who was the first non-Japanese citizen to have completed a full bonsai apprenticeship under a master in Japan. Shaner studied in Japan for six years with contemporary Bonsai Master Yasuo Mitsuya. She became the first non-Japanese citizen and the first woman to be certified as a professional Bonsai artist and instructor by the Nippon Bonsai Association of Japan. She also served as the curator for the Golden State Bonsai Federation Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt in Oakland, California. In addition, Kathy performed demonstrations and advanced workshops for many clubs around the United States and is an extremely good instructor.

7. Suthin Sukosolvisit Born in Thailand has won multiple National Bonsai Awards in Thailand and the United States. Currently lives in the Boston area, as he lectures all around the world and at some of the most important bonsai conventions in the United States. Suthin shares new information and techniques whenever he teaches. His Bonsai are known for their proportion, refinement and detail. He is mostly admired for his remarkable Shohin Bonsai designs. Suthin's bonsai have been awarded and featured in every National Exhibit.

8 Saburo Kato one of the most accomplished and most revered of the old Japanese bonsai masters made possible the 1976 Bicentennial bonsai gift that led to the birth of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. He was the third-generation owner of Mansei-en in Omiya Bonsai Village. He served as Chairman of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation, and initiated the first World Bonsai Convention. He created a number of masterpieces of Ezo Spruce bonsai exceptionally the forest style and the bonsai with stone. [For more information.](#)

9. Peter Warren of London, where he has created a studio and nursery. He apprenticed with Kunio Kobayashi for 6 years after studying at the Shunka-en Bonsai Museum. He has exhibited at the highest level in Japan, US and Europe. He works with bonsai collectors and enthusiasts across the globe on a mission to elevate the art of bonsai. He is a published author, works with easily attainable material and live streams every week. You can watch all his videos for free on his YouTube channel, Saruyama Bonsai.

10. Bjorn BJORHOLM founded the Knoxville Bonsai Society. In 2001. He left for Japan in 2008 to become a full-time bonsai apprentice at Fujikawa Kouka-en in Osaka. Returning to the US, Bjorn created a premier bonsai garden, nursery and school in the outskirts of Nashville. He is a strong promoter of classical Japanese bonsai design and returned to Kyoto Japan in 2024 to open a bonsai nursery. He also currently films, edits, and produces the online YouTube video series The Bonsai Art of Japan on YouTube.

11 Ryan Neil is another one of the younger bonsai masters in the US. He undertook his internship under Masahiko Kimura in Saitama, Japan. Since opening his own nursery, Bonsai Mirai located outside of Portland, his client list has become so exclusive that he often has to sign non-disclosure agreements. He too Live stream every week and much of his content can be viewed at his website Bonsai Mirai.

12 William Valavanis, has made over 50 trips to Japan and apprenticed with Kyuzo Murata and Kakutarō Komuro in Omiya Bonsai Village in Japan. Additionally, a 30-year study and association with Yuji Yoshimura. He is the proprietor of the International Bonsai Arboretum in Rochester, New York where he maintains a personal collection of classical bonsai and offers classes. He began publishing International BONSAI magazine 40 years ago, authored eight books and many articles in English, Japanese and other European languages. He has organized the first 8 successful U. S. National Bonsai Exhibitions where artists from around the country bring their finest specimens for display.



One of the most famous Bonsai trees in Europe belongs to Walter Pall. Kiohime variety was initially a third-rate tree from Japan a multi-trunk and went wrong.



Japanese Black Pine by Suthin Sukosolvisit. Winner of the Finest Bonsai at the 6th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition.



A most iconic and largest bonsai in the United States by Bjorn BJORHOLM. Tornado One Seed Juniper. An MBS member now has the honor and privilege to be this tree's next caretaker



Bill Valavanis' love affair with Bonsai in BCI

[A 50-year Journy of American Bonsai Pioneer](#)



PO Box 240822
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www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Next MBS meeting will be
August 3, 2024 @ 9am

2024 MBS OFFICERS

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

Other Club Functions

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

PAB Board-Ron F, Houston S & Judy S



*Knee pain from walking,
Sweat-drenched from oppressive heat;
Fun at the state fair.*

~from shortlibrarian blog (8/30/2013)