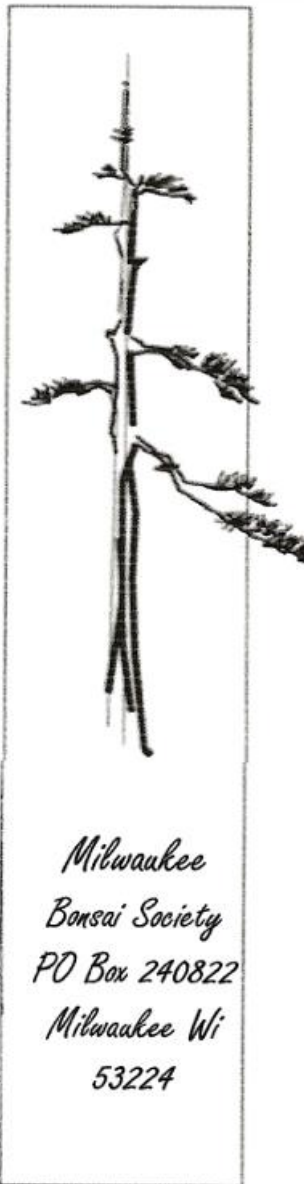


BONSAI NEWS

September 2024



Upcoming Meeting

This month's meeting will feature this year's State Fair trees and how to move our trees forward with critiques.

The Main topic of the meeting features having the 2024 State Fair tree exhibitors being invited to bring their trees to discuss topics such as the tree's progression, what's next for the tree, why they chose to exhibit that tree and how they wintered the tree.

The focus topic is how to critique. Pam W has written several articles on judging, criteria and critiquing. She will briefly answer questions on this topic.

September

September 7 – How to Critique/State Fair Tree Discussions

September 21 – Public Workshop
Boerner Botanical

October

October 5 – Suiseki Art/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*

November 15 – Folk Fair
State Fair Park

December

December 2 – Holiday Party

*Open to MBS members only

Next Meeting

September 7,
2024
9 am
Boerner
Botanical



President's Message

It's hard to believe, but the "official" onset of autumn is only about four weeks away. On the east side, we've already had a couple of nights with temperatures into the high 60's. That doesn't mean we're done with high heat and sweltering humidity—far from it—but it's an early sign that it's time to at least start thinking about the coming season. This is when we should be taking steps for the particular species that we own, getting them (and ourselves) ready for the transition into fall and then winter. It's when we should be developing a plan for fall cutback, and forming some ideas about late winter wiring and spring pruning to develop and advance our designs. Bonsai development really is all about the long view.

We are fresh off of the madness that comprises State Fair. Once again, it happened because of the dedication and effort of our stalwart volunteers. Two in particular deserve to be recognized for their really extraordinary contribution, those being Ben Herbert and John Rogers. We had a lot of time slots without adequate coverage for tree sitting, and Ben stepped up and took eleven three hour shifts, which has got to be some kind of record. John "only" did ten, but the poor fellow thought he signed up to help at a demo, only to discover that he was doing the demo himself. And so he did, including going out and sourcing a deciduous azalea for the presentation. Both of these members have my respect and gratitude for the way they just pitched in and made it happen.

The fair also serves to recruit new members, particularly via the public workshop coming up on September 21. This year it looks like we're a little short on trees, so the workshop has sold out at thirty participants. The smaller class size could make for a great new-member learning experience, especially if we get enough experienced volunteers to teach.

Finally, thanks and congratulations to everyone who exhibited a tree at the fair, whether you went home with a ribbon or not. You contributed to the success of our one event each year that gives us the greatest public exposure, allowing thousands of visitors to see up close just what it is that we're so passionate about. In so doing, you really made a difference.

Rick



Supportive Critiques

By Pam W

Kindness is the secret to our success

When you comment on a tree you are holding someone's dream in your hands. Please don't ever forget that.

Positive criticism draws attention to a good or positive aspect of the tree.

The basic aim of positive criticism is usually to provide a better orientation, or frame of reference. It provides ideas the receiver can act on to improve their tree. At the very least, it provides more choices for future consideration.

Critical criticism is "criticism for the sake of criticism."

People don't need talk about what is not possible, they want to know what is possible. What they can do to improve their technique and tree.

Criticism

The definition of criticism:

1. the expression of disapproval of someone or something based on perceived faults or mistakes.
2. the analysis and judgment of the merits and faults of artistic work

Can you give someone criticism without hurting their feelings or making them angry? Before you offer criticism, consider your reasons.

Why we give criticism

There are many reasons we give criticism to our fellow bonsai enthusiast. Here are two of the most supportive reasons.

- **To help someone improve their technique.** Sometimes criticism is actual honest feedback, meant to help the person we're criticizing. We want to help them get better.
- **To further the discussion.** Criticism can be a way to get a good, intelligent discussion about their tree to take it to a new level, to explore new areas, to impart new knowledge.

Characteristics of supportive feedback

When reviewing a someone's bonsai tree, it's most effective to provide supportive feedback with the specific characteristics.

- **The feedback is timely and relevant** to the receiving artist - The artist is ready and wants to receive the feedback and there is time to improve the tree.
- **The review begins with specific praise** for parts of the work that are done well, using words such as "I really like . . ." or "I'm really impressed with . . .", followed by comments on areas for improvement with words like, "I wonder . . .", or "It might be helpful to
- **The feedback should be specific to concrete aspects** of the tree being reviewed, not a sweeping statement about the whole bonsai enthusiast's ongoing work quality. The advice given should be actionable that can be applied to the next activity for the tree.
- **The critique should be given with an encouraging tone** that offers a growth-oriented mindset message that the receiver can and will improve with a bit more effort.

How to deliver criticism kindly

Instead of criticizing, which is rarely taken well, offer a specific, positive suggestion. Let's take a look at the elements of this method, why it works, and how to do it:

- **Suggestion, not criticism.** As people sometimes will assume that you're attacking them personally, no matter how nice your criticism
- **Specific.** It's easy to give vague criticism. Anyone can do that. Being specific is more difficult.
- **Be kind.** It's important that you be gentle and kind in your suggestions. People have a hard time accepting any criticism, gentle or not.
- **Relate to actions.** Never criticize the person. Always criticize the actions.

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

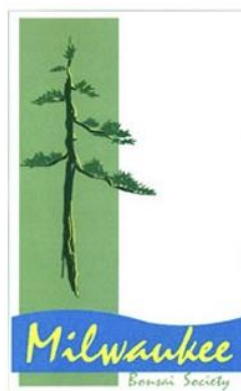
**** Last chance ****

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

Prepping trees for the September Public Workshop



Getting everything ready for the Public Workshop takes the work of many people. Repotting the trees so they are ready for participants to work on and take the masterpieces home is just one small part. Thank you to everyone who helps make this event successful!

HUGE bougainvillea for sale.

Valued at over \$1500. Hoping to sell it for \$950. We will take payments.

Purple flowers. The fence in the background is 6'.

Contact Kris at hagr8d@mac.com Let me know if you'd like to come and see it. I'm in Mequon.



WISCO BONSAI OPEN HOUSE AND 10 YEAR CELEBRATION SAT. SEPT 14 NOON-7PM

Wisco Bonsai turns 10 years old this year and we are celebrating that with a large, action-packed day at the garden on Saturday September 14th from noon until 7pm, closing the day with an intimate garden concert. This event is free & open to the public.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

11am - 4pm INTERMEDIATE - ADVANCED SKILL LEVEL CONIFER WORKSHOP WITH ROCK STAR ARTIST BRIAN SUSLER!!! (email wiscobonsai@gmail.com if interested in participating)

12pm - 4pm NOVICE SKILL LEVEL STYLING CONTEST!!! (SOLD OUT)

4pm, 5pm, 6pm, DRAWINGS FOR FREE WISCO BONSAI T-SHIRTS

ALL DAY - MANTIS HUNT!!!

ALL DAY - TREE DISPLAY!!!

ALL DAY - TREE ADVICE!!!

ALL DAY – YAMADORI WORK AND TALK BY ISAIH G. OF AKAGITSUNE FOREST BONSAI!!!

ALL DAY - Additional Bonsai and Bonsai Adjacent vendors will be invited to participate.

ALL DAY - 10% OFF ALL SHOP PURCHASES!!! AND THE REMAINING STOCK OF T-SHIRTS BEING BLOWN OUT AT \$12 PER (ltd sizes and not subject to an additional 10% off)

5pm - 7pm GARDEN CONCERT FEATURING CHICAGO RECORDING AND VISUAL ARTIST, CAPTAIN JACK FLYNN !!! (See his paintings at his art website jackflynnart.com and his music on <https://captainjack1.bandcamp.com/album/pure-electric>)

Note that we will be providing some light apps and limited beverages later in the day, so for the workshop and contest participants, feel free to bring a light lunch if needed. Everyone else is welcome to BYOB beverages and such for the day and the concert, but please leave all large coolers in your car. We will also have seating available, but it may not hurt to have a bag chair in your car, just in case.

Also, for those who want to "make a day of it" but might want to scoot out for a bit, there is a huge, wonderful park, 5 minutes from the garden, Menomonee Park (FKA Lannon Quarry) with miles of hiking trails and a good swimming hole with kayak rentals, beer garden, etc.) Also, restaurants, coffee shops, etc., all within 1 mile of the garden.

A quick note regarding children: Children are welcome, but parents are responsible for them. Many delicate, breakable items in the garden area. And sorry, but please leave your pets at home, no matter how well behaved.

**EVENT TO BE HELD AT:
WISCO BONSAI
N68W23890 DONNA DRIVE
SUSSEX WI. 53089**

FOR MORE DETAILED INFO ON ANY OF THE EVENTS, EMAIL wiscobonsai@gmail.com !!!

The time has come!

We need your help to introduce and bring more people into the Milwaukee Bonsai Society. You are probably thinking 'but how do I do this?' the answer is simple, fill out this form:

[Member Mondays form](#)

By filling out this form you are giving MBS's social media team permission to share your answers and pictures of your trees, but know this, we will not share your last name or location, and if you wish to remain anonymous, we will not mention your name on social media.

Do not feel as though your trees need to be show ready, we want to show that bonsai is a process that takes time, and MBS is here to help and guide people through that process.

Please fill out the form today and show the world how amazing MBS is!!

Jenna W



Member's Corner

This Month we have 2 members to highlight. State Fair needed tree sitters. Ben Herbert stepped up to take 11 shifts and John Rodgers stepped up to take 10 spots. That is how to show you appreciate MBS! Please thank them when you see them at meetings. (Did you notice they both have first names as their last names?)

Pam W.



Root Over Rock Bonsai

by PAM W

March of 2023, several members participated in a Root Over Rock workshop with Houston S. See the [Feb 2023 Newsletter](#) for the article.

At the October 2024 meeting we will be taking a quick health check of the workshop trees. As a reminder, we discussed that you be prepared to spend from 3 to ten years on your root-over-rock bonsai. The roots of the bonsai must be grown in such a way that they grip the rock or stone securely for both the stability of the tree and the integrity of the piece.

Houston (this year's Best of Show winner) will be available to review, suggest next steps on these trees, and what to watch for this coming year.

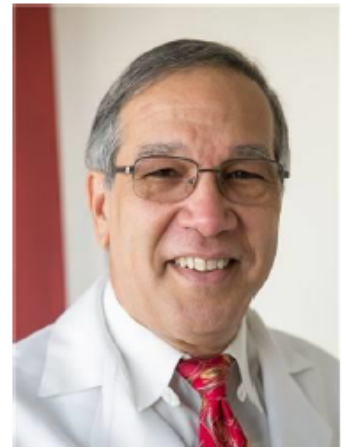
Suiseki Art with Rafael Perez Guerra October 2024 Meeting

by Pam W

Once again MBS is bringing a skill artist to help us on our bonsai journey. Rafael Perez Guerra became interest in Suiseki in 2004 while assisting at the International Stone Appreciation Symposium in Pennsylvania. In 2006 and 2007 he studied under Chiara Padrini an internationally respected Suiseki/Bonsai master in Italy.

Rafael has participated in stone hunting Drussaco, Lake Giacopiani, Sicily, China and the city of Lingbi where he has acquired dozens of Lingbi stones. His private collection nears 100.

An expert in the art of Suiseki, he likes to help Bonsai collectors select good Suiseki stones to be companion of their trees.



Dr. Rafael Perez Guerra

MBS at the Midwest Bonsai Exhibit in Chicago

MBS was well represented with four of our members entering trees and/or kusamono displays. They took home 4 ribbons, 2 first place, 1 Award of merit, and 1 second place.



Judy Schmidt, Novice category, Japanese silverberry



Greg Black, Open category, Japanese red pine



Greg Black, Open category, Shimpaku Juniper



Ron Fortman, Open category, Japanese elm



Ron Fortman, Open category, 1st Place, Trident maple



Ron Fortman, Open category, 1st Place, Trident maple root over rock

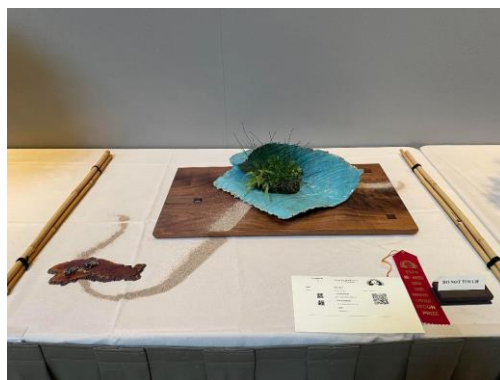
MBS in Chicago cont.



Steve Carini, Open category, Award of Merit, Climbing hydrangea



Steve Carini, Open category, kusamono #2



Steve Carini, Open Inovative category, 2nd Place, kusamono #1



Steve Carini, Open category, kusamono #3



Ben H needs some assistance carrying his purchases



PO Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI 53224
www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Next MBS meeting will be
September 7, 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



*Fall is upon us,
Splashing color all around;
Cool and refreshing*

~Leonard Sharp