



**MINNESOTA STATE FAIR BONSAI EXHIBIT
SEPTEMBER 1 AND 2
HORTICULTURE BUILDING, MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS**

SHOW RULES:

Entries are welcome from MBS members and the bonsai community at large who are not members but wish to exhibit their trees.

1) Entries are divided into four classes:

Deciduous – Exhibitor must have maintained the tree for one full year themselves for it to be eligible for entry into this judged class.

Coniferous – Exhibitor must have maintained the tree for one full year themselves for it be eligible for entry into this judged class.

Novice – Special class for entrants that have 3 years or less bonsai experience. Trees are judged separately from the more seasoned members. If an exhibitor prefers the Deciduous or Coniferous class, they have the option to show in these categories even when meeting the Novice criteria.

Exhibit Only – For trees that may have already won awards or for those not wishing to have their trees judged. Trees in this category can receive a critique from the judge if they wish. No scores will be given.

2) Entries will be received at the show location in the Horticulture building on **Thursday, August 31st between 10pm and 11:30pm.** Late entries are not accepted. Have the trees ready to go into the exhibit. A few minor adjustments are necessary after the trip in but cutting and wiring and cleaning are beyond that scope.

3) Shoji displays are being refurbished to a darker fabric rather than paper so the structural elements won't be so obvious. Scroll hooks are being added to make installing scrolls less cumbersome. We have three different sizes. The larger ones will accommodate a medium sized tree, the middle size a shohin tree, and the small ones can be used for stone displays. We have two of each size.

4) Stones are welcome but will not be judged.

5) Each exhibitor may display a maximum of 5 trees

6) Trees need to be displayed at their optimum, preferably with a moss surface, pest free, limited amount of wire, accent plant or figurine or stone that is sized appropriately, and with a stand.

7) Complete one entry form per tree.

8) Plaques and ribbons are awarded based on the judge's point totals. The highest point total in a category receives the plaque, next highest the blue, and so on. The tree with the highest point totals overall receives "best of show". Small trees tend to get lost in the judging so there is a "best of shohin" category to honor the shohin with the most points. The novice category is judged separately and receives a "best of novice" plaque for the tree with the most points in this category. In 2023 we have added "Best Young Bonaist" restricted to our under 20 years of age members who tend to have less developed trees. The show case species (Ponderosa Pine and Fruiting trees for 2023) receive a special "best of" plaque. Categories with a lot of entries are expected to be highly competitive. Award of Merit (2) are given by the judge and not based on points. The President's award is at the discretion of the President and not based on points. This year we are also adding a "Best Display" which will be at the judge's discretion to honor a well put together display. So eight (8) plaques in total will be given out.

9) Judging is at the sole discretion of the judge. If there are ties in the point totals, the judge will re-assess trees to break the tie. The decision of the judge is final.

10) No entries can be removed prior to the close of the show on Saturday, September 2nd at 9:00pm. Please make arrangements with someone to collect your tree and display elements if you cannot pick it up yourself.

11) MBS assumes no responsibility for lost or stolen items or damage to the tree or display elements.

White – Deciduous **yellow** – Coniferous **Pink** – novice **Green** – exhibit only **Blue** – exhibitor under 20