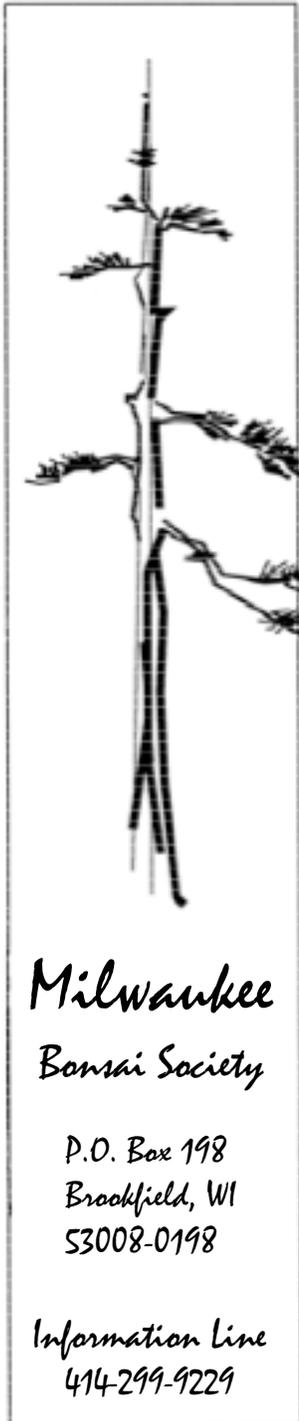


# Bonsai News



## President's Message

Welcome everyone to a new bonsai season. There is a year of change so we thought we would jump on board and change some things up as well.

This year we have on our schedule some of the top bonsai artists available. Including Masters like Warren Hill, Suthin Sukosolvisit, and Ted Matson. They will all be putting on a demo for our meeting and offer some workshops so you can have the personal experience of working with them. Plan on signing up early for the workshops, these will definitely sell out very fast.

**FEBRUARY**  
Feb 3 - CLUB MEETING  
Silhouette concept  
Pacific rim pruning review

**MARCH**  
Mar 3 - CLUB MEETING  
Silhouette workshop  
Pot cleaning  
Tool Sharpening  
March 7 - Silhouette Show  
at the Domes  
March 28 - Workshop for  
MBS members

**APRIL**  
Apr 7 - CLUB MEETING  
Kusamono/Accent plants  
Dressing/cleaning  
wounds & cuts  
Exhibit preparation

**NEXT MEETING**  
February 3 - 7 pm  
Grace Lutheran Church



- continued on page 2

## President's Message (cont)

Pat Cohen is one of the top suiseki speakers in the country and he is honoring us with a talk about these viewing stones, and then he will judge some of our stones at our club suiseki show.

Local artists will also be doing demos on topics like root over rock, Kusamono, tool sharpening, pruning wound cleaning as well as many other interesting things.

There will also be many other things you can get involved in this year. Try running or helping in a committee, join a class, enjoy a workshop, or represent our club at one of our public displays like the State Fair, the Mitchell Domes, Folk Fair and others.

Attend a summer cookout held by Don Gumieny, trade cuttings at the cutting swap and prepare your best dish for the pot luck holiday party this December.

Well that's then, this is now. Right now my trees are hibernating and so am I, but should we be? Is there any reason I should even be thinking about digging them out soon? Unfortunately there are some reasons not to wait until spring to start working on your trees. Once spring comes and your tree leafs out the leafs of your tree can hide a lot of imperfections. Pruning and wiring to shape early prevents that problem. Late

winter is the best time to correct these types of flaws. Some of the

advantages at this time are a much better view of your tree, the quick healing of the pruning scars in spring. Also any wiring done at this time will happen before the new growth rings develop, then once that happens your branches will hold their positions better.

February's meeting will cover this topic with a great Power point presentation by Michelle Z. You will also be amazed by the slide show put together by Jeff M of the freshly groomed trees growing at the Pacific Rim.

I'll see you all there!



- Joe H.

## New for 2009—Winter Silhouette Show

In addition to the joys of snow during the winter and early spring months, we in the Midwest have an opportunity to view our landscape in the ‘raw’, that is, without the dressing of buds, leaves and flowers. Several things happen in this season: the evergreen conifers become more noticeable since they retain their greenery, and the skeletons of the deciduous trees and shrubs are revealed. When viewed at a distance, these skeletons appear as a rather uniform brown-gray cloud of brush and twigs, but when examined closely, each individual tree has its characteristic shape, bark, twigging character and dormant bud detail that allow its identity to be known. It is these leafless features that we will be celebrating in the upcoming “silhouette” bonsai show which MBS will present to the public on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at Mitchell Park (a.k.a. “The Domes”).

Only deciduous trees will be featured in this event. Maples, hornbeams, elms, hawthorns, apples, crabapples, pomegranate, crape myrtle, ginkgos, larches and swamp cypress are some of the species which would be suitable. The show will be a maximum of 12 hours long, so there should be no danger of drying or breaking dormancy. We anticipate showing 8- 12 specimens, depending on size, and will set a formal display using our club backdrops, tablecovers and skirts. Each tree must have a stand. Accent plants or accessories or scrolls are optional.

We plan to dedicate the entire March 3 club meeting to preparing our trees for the show, and selecting the show specimens. A committee of club members is needed to lead this project. We will need people to collect and deliver and setup the club show

materials, collect and return the trees, prepare education and club handouts, prepare publicity, set up and take down the display and tree sit during the event. Michelle Z, club director, will be chairing this project, so if you are interesting in helping please contact her at 414.228.9628 or by e-mail at [jackbd@mindspring.com](mailto:jackbd@mindspring.com).

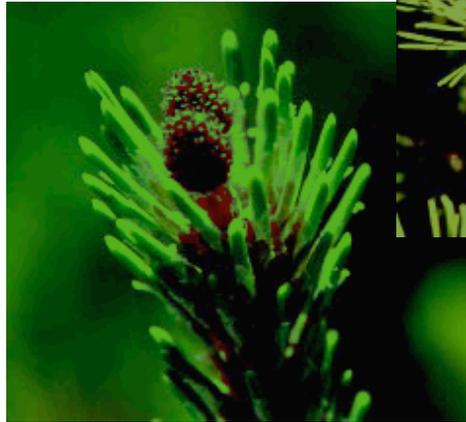
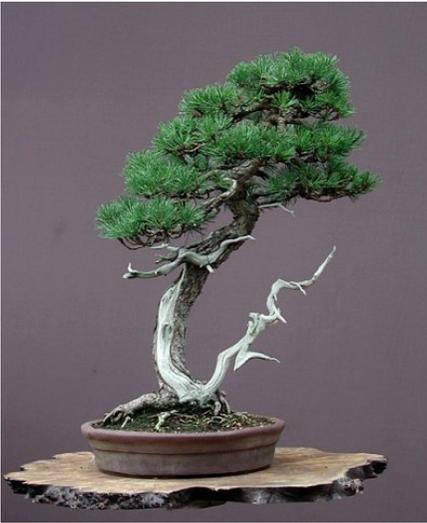
## 2008 BaiKoen Winter Silhouette Show



16 Golden Statements May/June 2008

Above is a page borrowed from Golden Statements, May/June 2008 showing some photos of trees displayed at the 2008 BaiKoen Winter Silhouette Show in California. These are reprinted with the permission of Hank Fawcett, the photographer. What a great way to get an early start on the 2009 bonsai season!

A Bonsai Close Up on *Pinus mugo* var. *pumilio*  
Swiss Mountain Pine  
By Pauline Muth



**Scientific classification**

<b>Kingdom:</b>	<i>Plantae</i>	Plants
<b>Subkingdom</b>	<i>Tracheobionta</i>	Vascular plants
<b>Super-division</b>	<i>Spermatophyta</i>	Seed plants
<b>Division:</b>	<i>Pinophyta</i> <i>Coniferphyta</i>	/ Conifers
<b>Class:</b>	<i>Pinopsida</i>	
<b>Order:</b>	<i>Pinales</i>	
<b>Family:</b>	<i>Pinaceae</i>	Pine family
<b>Genus:</b>	<i>Pinus</i>	Pine
<b>Subgenus:</b>	<i>Pinus</i>	
<b>Species:</b>	<i>P. mugo</i>	
<b>Variety</b>	<i>pumilio</i>	



**Origin/History :** This pine originated in the Alps, Pyrenees and other mountainous regions of Europe in high altitudes. It was first introduced in the USA in 1779.

**Description:** In its natural state, it is multi-trunked. The needle like leaves are dark green and grow in pairs two to 3 cm long. The needles can remain on the plant for 5 years or more. The cones are dark glossy brown .Buds develop in whorls and are covered



The bark is grey and develops a scaly texture with age.

When grown in a landscape, mugos develop a mound form spreading wide to 10 feet rather than height.

### **Soils**

Use a free flowing bonsai medium as mugo do not like wet roots. Soil pH - 4.0 to 7.5, but performs well at 7.8.

**Cold Hardiness:** Zones 2 through 7. Will tolerate freezing but roots need to be protected.

**Lighting:** Full sun. Turn the tree from time to time so that all parts of the foliage receive adequate light.

**Watering:** May dry out between waterings. Use fast draining soil to avoid root rot. Spray the foliage with water daily during the summer.

**Feeding:** Simon and Schuster's recommends feeding once a month in spring and autumn using a slow-acting organic fertilizer. If you prefer to feed using chemical fertilizers, feed the tree once every two weeks with a half-strength solution of a fertilizer meant for acid-loving plants, such as Miracid. Slow feeding for two months during the hot part of summer (July and August in the northern hemisphere). Do not feed if the tree is ailing or has been repotted recently (2-4 weeks).

### **Pruning and wiring:**

Initial styling: Fall into winter.

Wiring: Fall into winter.

**Potting:** Spring....be careful to leave a healthy root system.

**Trimming:** Pinch two thirds of the lengths of the candles in the spring before the needles grow. This should be done in two stages. Cut the most vigorous ones one week before the weaker ones.

In the fall, reduce the number of buds on each branch to two to encourage ramification. Also in the fall, thin the needles by removing any needles that are too long or that are growing downward. Thin more needles at the apex of the tree and less as you work down the tree. This will allow light to reach the lower branches and will slow the growth of the apex.

With healthy trees, it is possible to remove all the new candles every other year, before they harden. The following fall, buds will appear where the candles were removed. This serves to shorten the internodes and encourage more dense foliage.

Repot in early spring every 2-3 years for young specimens and every 3-5 years for older ones. Pines need deep, well drained soil, so plant in a fairly deep container. Use a well draining mixture with more organics.

Pines and other conifers grow in association with a symbiotic fungus which grows in the root ball of the tree. If this fungus is not present, the tree may die. For this reason, pines and other conifers should never be bare-rooted, unless steps are taken to re-introduce the fungus to the repotted plant, such as making a slurry (thin mud) of the old soil and pouring it over the newly potted soil or by adding in spores when planting and during the growing season.



: By seeds.

: Mugo Pine is a favored host for Pine sawfly and Pine needle scale. Some adelgids will appear as white cottony growths on the bark. All types produce honeydew which may support sooty mold. European Pine shoot moth causes young shoots to fall over. Infested shoots may exude resin. The insects can be found in the shoots during May. Pesticides are only effective when caterpillars are moving from overwintering sites to new shoots. This occurs in mid to late April or when needle growth is about half developed.

Bark beetles bore into trunks making small holes scattered up and down the trunk. Stressed trees are more susceptible to attack. The holes look like shot holes. Keep trees healthy.

Sawfly larvae caterpillars are variously colored but generally feed in groups on the needles. Some sawfly larvae will flex or rear back in unison when disturbed. Sawflies can cause rapid defoliation of branches if left unchecked.

Pine needle miner larvae feed inside needles causing them to turn yellow and dry up.

Pine needle scale is a white, elongated scale found on the needles. Pine tortoise scale is brown and found on twigs. Depending on the scale, horticultural oil may control overwintering stages.

The pine spittle bug lives and hides in a foamy mass.

Spruce mites cause damage to older needles, and are usually active in the spring and fall. Mites cause older needles to become yellowed or stippled.

Zimmerman Pine moth larvae bore into the trunk. The only outward symptoms may be death of parts of the tree or masses of hardened pitch on the branches.

The larvae of Pine weevils feed on the sapwood of the leaders. The leader is killed and the shoots replacing it are distorted. First symptoms are pearl white drops of resin on the leaders. The leaders die when the shoot is girdled as adults emerge in August. Prune out and burn infested terminals before July 15.

Pine wilt nematode can kill trees.

**Diseases:** Diplodia tip blight is a common problem and Mugo Pine is very sensitive. This pine is susceptible to rusts. Canker diseases may rarely cause dieback of landscape Pines. Keep trees healthy and prune out the infected branches. Needle cast is common on small trees and plantation or forest trees. Infected needles yellow and fall off.



Article submitted by Houston H



Shohin



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS  
7PM, Tuesday, February 3  
Grace Lutheran Church  
3030 W Oklahoma

## 2009 MBS OFFICERS

President	Joe H
First VP	Jeff M
Second VP	John M
Secretary	Pam W
Treasurer	Laura L
Director	Jerry N
Director	Steve C
Director	Michelle Z
Past Pres.	Jean S

### Other Club Functions:

Kris Z - Newsletter Editor/Distribution  
Pam W - Webmaster  
Joe N - Librarian  
Pam W - Telephone response



Winter storm has passed  
Pagoda heavy-laden  
Wind chimes now quiet