April Club Meeting

One of the most fascinating bonsai accents are suiseki stones. These are not your "Pet Rocks" these are natural stones shaped into objects and only carved by nature. Favorite shapes are mountain, island, water pool, shelter, cave, object, shore line, and waterfall stones. Another type are flower pattern stones, like chrysanthemum stones.

This month the MBS is proud to present a very special guest speaker, Pat Coen. Pat is a suiseki and viewing stone expert. He has traveled all around the United States collecting stones and minerals. Pat Coen has also gave presentations at many suiseki events. After Pat’s talk he will be assessing your stone at our club suiseki show.

Please bring one of your stones early for display. Stones should be displayed on a dai, or in a suiban, please.
President’s Message

Trying to take advantage of the recently warming weather, I’ve spent a few days outside working on pruning and cleaning old wounds. I like to work in stages with all my trees. First pruning everything, then I’ll began wiring the trees, after that it should be warm enough for transplanting. Emergency protection should be on stand-by in case of a sudden change in weather.

If you’re like me, (I’m not referring to being strange), you can’t throw away the branches you’ve just cut off during your spring pruning. I shorten these branches into 4 inch pieces with a bud on top and make them into cuttings. To throw away all those free trees seems so wasteful. You may need some cuttings for branch or root grafting, or for filling in areas in forest plantings. Of course there are only so many trees you can use, especially of the same variety. In JUNE bring your extra cuttings and swap them at the club meeting. This is a fun way to get rid of excess cuttings, and also obtain new varieties. Cuttings are to be traded or given away, no sales are allowed. Be sure to mark the variety of the tree so you and the new owner can identify them.

This month we have an exciting visiting speaker, Pat Coen, who will give a talk on viewing stones. He’s driving all the way up from Oklahoma to inform us on this topic. Afterwards he’ll judge our stones in our first club suiseki show. Hopefully he will bring some winged elms and stones to sell. This should be a fun and unusual meeting for us. See you all there!

- Joe H.

Refreshment Request

For many a year we have relied on Rita Luedke to keep us fed and watered at our monthly meetings. Because she is required to spend much of her time away, she is unavailable to man the concession stand during our meetings. If you, or someone you know (who agrees), please volunteer at the April meeting. Thank you, Rita, for all of your work. Details at the April meeting.

Transplanting Workshop March 28...

By Pam W

Are you ready to transplant your tree? A new workshop is planned that will bring experience members and new members together to repot trees. There are several important reasons why it is necessary to periodically transplant bonsai. Re-energize your tree, renew the soil, stimulate growth, correct the nebari or simply transplant to a more suitable container.

It’s free for all MBS members. To participate bring your tree, pot, soil, wire if needed, scissors, and something to work in to help keep the area clean (a black pan works great). You will also need a pail to take the old soil with you. If you do not have soil or wire some will be available for sale. If you are not a member, membership will also be available. Meet at the church Saturday, March 28th at 9:00 till 1:00.
IDEA BOX

Do you have suggestions for MBS programs? Workshops? Presenters?

Is there anything you would like the board to know about and feel the membership would benefit from?

If so, please contact Steve C at:

stefanoo@att.net
ph 414-837-5953
c 414-617-9162

Winter Silhouette Show a Hit!

Thanks to the work and contributions of about 10 club members, 1,019 visitors to the Mitchell Park Domes on March 7 viewed a dramatic 12 tree exhibition of trees in “silhouette”. The committee, led by Michelle Z, included Steve C, Laura L, Houston S, Judy and Chris H. All felt that the trees showed beautifully, the lighting was “the best ever” and the exposure to the public was unparalleled due to the venue. Jim H photographed the exhibit and will prepare a photo album to commemorate this event.

All agreed that the venue was ideal, situated just behind the entrance to the “Domes” with the trees showcased and shadowless with down lighting from a skylight. No one who visited the park could miss the exhibit. Comments varied from “are they alive?” to “I’d love to have that one!” with plenty of interest shown by the younger generation who were able to view the trees at eye level.

Thanks to all of the members who supported the Club by contributing time, trees and accents to make this a very successful show. There is unanimous agreement among the committee members that we “have to do this again”.

More trees on next page...
THE WONDERMENT OF CHILDREN..

Flowering Tree Display

In conjunction with the Warren Hill demonstration at the May meeting, we will be hoping to show a selection of flowering trees. If you have a tree or trees that you can coerce into flower around May 5th, please bring them to the meeting. If you have any trees that you would like to display at the May show, please let me know by May 1 so that I have a feel for the display space needed.

Jeff 414.962.5088

MBS LIBRARY

In order to prevent further losses of hard cover books from our library, all members will be required to show a current membership badge to the librarian.
Ted Matson Study Classes

Classes with Ted Matson took place Friday March 13 through Sunday March 15. All participants happily worked through the 8 hours of instruction each day. We found out an interesting use of Durham’s Water Putty when fixing unsightly holes in our trees.

The following are some shots of the Sunday class members. Please feel free to ask Houston S about his “grass mud horse”!
Next Meeting of MBS
7PM, Tuesday, April 7
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

Spring has come riding astride a frisky young colt over green meadows.
-Mary Turner