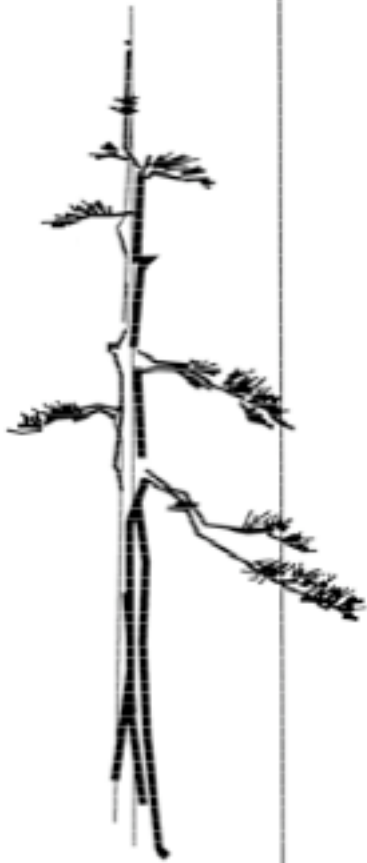


June 2009

Bonsai News



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, WI
53008-0198

Information Line
414-299-9229

June Club Meeting

The results of the **Akadama Challenge** will be revealed at the club meeting. Check the June and November 2008 newsletters for the background of the "experiment".

The highlight of the June meeting is a presentation on **Root over Rock** with Houston S. There will be 2 sections, the **first**, putting the tree on the rock. The **second**, unwrapping a tree which was done much earlier.

You need to see this presentation if root over rock is on your horizon.

Also at the June meeting there will be an exchange of cuttings. Members are reminded to bring what cuttings that you may have to the meeting for exchange.

JUNE

June 2 - CLUB MEETING
Acadama Challenge Reveal
Root Over Rock Phase 1
placing a tree on a rock
Root Over Rock Phase 2
uncover roots & transplant
Cutting Swap

JULY

July 7 - CLUB MEETING
Kusamono/Accent plants
Dressing /
cleaning wounds & cuts /
Pot swap
Exhibit preparation
Sunday July 26th
Cookout

AUGUST

August 4 - CLUB MEETING
Guest Artist:
Suthin Sukosolvisit
Exhibit Shohin trees -
Workshops - TBD
Suthin Sukosolvisit
August 6-16 - STATE FAIR

The **TREE DOCTOR** will be available before the June meeting, starting at 6:30. If you have questions about one of your trees, or anything bonsai, this is a time to ask.

NEXT MEETING

June 2 - 7 pm
Grace Lutheran Church

President's Message

Wow, what a great talk by Warren Hill on black pines. Although he was suppose to do a demo, due to the health of the tree he decided to do a talk instead. I appreciate that he spent as much time as everyone needed to explain candle pruning. I'm sure we are all clear on that topic, right?

I've also managed to get all my spring bonsai chores done, pruning, wiring and repotting. Now I'm watching for wires cutting and removing buds from where I don't want them.

All this hard work has got me thinking why I got into this hobby in the beginning. I just thought a cool tree out on the deck would look great. Then you see what other people do and have, like beautiful bonsai gardens full of assorted trees and large collections. So you begin collecting trees of all varieties to build up your own garden. Eventually you end up with a few good trees and lots of lesser things. If all your efforts go in to those good trees instead of the others, your good trees could become great trees. What are the correct amount of trees you can successfully take care of? Maybe it's only one or two, it doesn't have to be dozens or like me, hundreds. The trick is to find which varieties work for you. Some take too much maintenance, or attract too many bugs, others take special care. Finding the right types and the right amount you can handle makes bonsai less of a chore and more enjoyable.

- Joe H.

Cuttings, cuttings everywhere.

Now is the time to sort out all your cuttings, keeping those you need and sharing those you don't want. June's meeting also includes a cutting swap. Please bring your extra cuttings to the meeting to give away, or trade for other cuttings. This swap will allow other members to expand their collections and hopefully you will also come home with a new variety as well. Please no sales, This swap should be done with a giving spirit and not as a money making event.

OPEN WORKSHOP

to be held on June 20th



In March of this year, our club sponsored the first in a series of FREE member workshops. Many of those who have been working with Ted Matson, volunteered their time on a Saturday morning to help fellow members with repotting. I for one had a great time. As many of you know, repotting can be a little scary until you have done it 10 or 20 times. Well I'll bet that 40 trees got repotted that day!

The board of directors had received so many Thank You's about it that they decided to offer a series of Workshops during this coming year. Pam W and Steve C have offered to be co-chairpersons and have announced the second in the series to be held on June 20th from 9AM to 12PM at Grace Lutheran Church. This will be an "OPEN WORKSHOP". You are free to bring in trees and work on it with other members.

Do you... ?

...have questions on the health of a tree?

...want some direction on wiring, design or selecting a pot?

...want to enter your first tree in the Wisconsin State Fair in August and have some questions on how to complete your presentation?

...want to show up and take funny pictures for the newsletter?

There is no fee for the workshop and vendors are welcome to be present for you to purchase any items you need. Many of you have asked for help with trees so this is your chance to get it... for FREE. Hope to see you there.

-Steve C

The August meeting of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society will feature the visiting artist Suthin Sukosolvisit. Suthin (pronounced Su Tin) is owner of the Royal Bonsai Garden, Inc. Suthin's nursery offers workshops, trees, containers, tools and other garden related products. It was started after coming here from Thailand. His work includes Japanese maples and black pines. He is a master of shohin bonsai. He is also noted for his work in tropical species. He has exhibited in a number of shows and has earned a number of prestigious awards.

Suthin has been involved in bonsai in Thailand 35 years ago, and moved to this country 17 years ago. His nursery is located in Stoughton MA and offers a fine collection of pre-bonsai, bonsai, and specimen trees. His work can be viewed at www.royalbonsaigarden.com

You won't want to miss this opportunity to see one of the best shohin bonsai artists around.



Workshops for Suthin's visit

The all day workshop will be on Wednesday August 5, 2009 at the Longacre Pavilion, from 8:00 – 4:00. Sign up at the June membership meeting. To sign up, you must make a registration payment of \$55 and the final payment of \$55 at the July meeting. Total cost for all day is \$110 . Maximum of 8 students

The evening workshop, also on Wednesday, will require a registration payment of \$35 with a final payment of \$35. The workshop is from

6:00 – 9:00 PM. Total cost for the evening is \$70. Maximum of 8 students

Payments are: ½ fee at sign up at the June meeting + the remainder at the July meeting.

You may also register by mail with a check to Michelle Z., same rules apply. You can contact her at e-mail: jackbd@mindspring.com or by phone :414.228.9628 and she will advise as to how to proceed. The registration payment is non-refundable, except in dire circumstances as approved by the MBS board.

Tools and wire are required and will not be provided. Participants must be club members in good standing. These are bring-your-own tree workshops, no materials are provided.

Get July 26th on your calendar for the fabulous cookout and model train display at Don and Karen G's home in Waukesha.

July meeting

Michelle Z will present a hands-on workshop / demo for creating Kusamono plantings. Please sign up at the June meeting and prepay for materials. A registration fee is required. Robert Seele has agreed to make some lovely kusumono pots for us for the very reasonable cost of about \$20 each. The soil, wire and plant material will probably run another \$10 each. You will also have the option to bring your own container for planting, if you wish.



State Fair is coming up soon!

Please check your calendar for the dates from August 6-16. Bring your calendars to the June or July meeting to sign up for your spot to tree sit at this great event! Also, even if you have never displayed a tree at the Fair, consider doing that this year. It's a great opportunity to get written feedback from the judges.

Japanese Black Pines

Notes from the May Meeting with Warren Hill

The tree

This tree is a native of Japan and grows in marine coastal areas. It prefers a soil with a pH of 5.5 which is acid and has good drainage. It requires good horticultural techniques. Because it is coastal, it tolerates some dissolved minerals (better than other, for example, mountain species) and requires full sun. It can be grown in pot culture in a wide variety of horticultural zones. The preferred soil in pot culture is 1 part builder's sand and 1 part akadama. No organics added to the soil.

The plan

It is important to strengthen the tree and build structure first. If you want a branch to lengthen, do not remove any candles until September. If you want the tree to grow stronger, do not remove any candles. Every 4th year, the tree should "rest" and just grow, without candle manipulation. Prefers repotting in spring, when the candles are elongating. Do not remove old needles at this time, since old needles provide the energy to grow new roots. There is a second window of opportunity for repotting in about October, if roots are not removed and the repot is for maintenance only. Fertilize from April through October with organics only, such as fish emulsion.

Managing the candles

Begin managing the candles when the tree is healthy and the basic structure is formed and YOU NEED TO REBALANCE the ENERGY. This tree is strongly apically dominant.

Spring (April/May)

Break the strong candles to the small candle heights.

Summer (or when the needles have opened to about ¾")

Do not touch any candles if they are less than 1 inch long. Trim the weak and medium candles completely off AND pluck the needles from the strong candles but leave the candle.

7-10 days later, trim the long (plucked) candles leaving a ¼-1/2 inch neck. When new buds form, remove all but the 2 weakest buds.

October- Remove all of the old needles after the new needles (on the new shoots) have opened. Do this only if you do NOT plan a fall repotting.

Late fall/winter (November)

Thin the needles on the little new shoots.

Leave 3-4 needles on the shoots near the top of the tree.

Leave 4-5 needles on the shoots in the middle of the tree.

Leave 5-6 needles on the shoots on the bottom of the tree.

Warren Hill's plan

for our new club-owned Black Pine- May, 2009

Our tree is a young adult, about 20-25 years old. It has a weak apex, and our first priority is to get strength back in the apex.

This tree underwent emergency repotting in March of this year when it arrived from California in a shattered pot.

For now, do a maintenance repot, not removing any roots, into a larger growing pot, just adding new soil around the edges. Use 1 part builder's sand to 1 part 5 mm akadama.

Do not remove any candles this year, since the tree needs to be strengthened.

After recovery from transplanting, keep in full sun.

Fertilize with organic fertilizer, such as fish emulsion.

*The WOODSTOCK, IL
NURSERY TRIP on Saturday May 23
was a great outing for those who made the trek!
The weather was a bit messy leaving the
Milwaukee area, but we quickly shed out rain
gear, sweatshirts, sweaters, etc while walking
around the lovely grounds of Rich's Foxwillow
Pines. A number of larger trees, smaller trees
and hostas were happily transported back to
Wisconsin!*

Call for Raffle Items

Donations to the raffle may be tax-deductible. If you want a receipt, turn in a note with your name, donated items, and the estimated value (be reasonable!), to the Raffle Manager (see below) or the Treasurer.

- Artwork such as scrolls or jewelry
- Tool roll with tools
- Sara Rayner or large pots
- Bonsai themed Baskets or Wine
- Memorabilia or Collectibles like autographed books or aprons
- Gift Certificates
- And of course Bonsai

We do need a RAFFLE MANAGER. That person's main responsibility would be to collect donated items and cull out diseased or undesirable items, see that raffle tickets get sold, and run the actual drawing. This could be a job for more than one person, rotating the meetings among two or three people would ease the work load. Any volunteers? Please call Pam W at 414-352-7799, or see me at the meeting. And remember, support the club raffle - donate plants, and buy raffle tickets.

Thank you for your support!

MBS Board Approves PAB Fund Expenditures

As you know, profits from our 2 most recent conventions are in a separate club fund which is used to benefit club members through programs whose cost is beyond that affordable by the general club treasury.

So far in 2009 three programs have been approved by the MBS Board of Directors.

The first program approves expenses for Ted Matson to continue the series of group classes for advanced and intermediate students for the 5th year. The maximum cost of this program for 2009 is \$1000.

The second program, new this year, is for the purchase of good quality demonstration trees which will be used by guest artists to teach specific techniques on a regular basis. These trees are owned by the club and are cared for by club members in a foster parent program. Details of this program are being worked out. We anticipate that the club will own 3 trees in 2009, one for each of the visiting artists: Warren Hill in May, Suthin Sukosolvisit in August and Ted Matson in October. The maximum cost of this program for 2009 is \$1050.

The third program underwrites 50% of the cost of a workshop with Suthin S. for MBS intermediate class members. This bring-your-own workshop will be held Wednesday, August 5, 2009, the day after his presentation at the club meeting at the Longacre Pavilion in Fox Point. This is the second year of this program to support and encourage intermediate level members. The maximum cost of this program is \$400.

Any MBS member may propose a program for the good of the membership by submitting it in writing to a member of the current Program Advisory Board. Programs should be open to all club members and include the idea, the logistics of setting up the program, an estimate of the costs, the likely benefits and the identity of the program director. The current PAB members are Leo S., Houston S. and Don G. (Please see the March, 2009 newsletter for further information on the PAB programs.)



P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, WI 53008-0198
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS
7PM, Tuesday, June 2
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
Tom A - Librarian
John M - Telephone response
Don G, Leo S, & Houston S - PAB Board

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