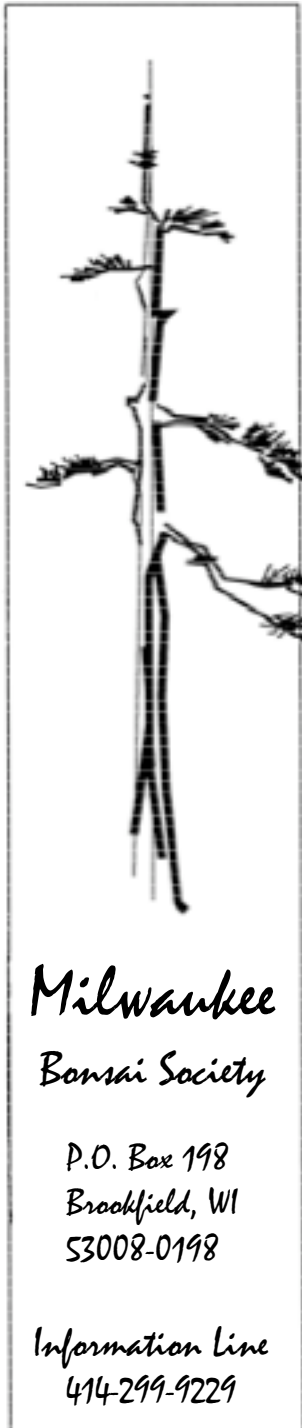


July 2009

Bonsai News



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

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

*Information line
414-299-9229*

July Meeting

Kusamono are potted arrangements of wild grasses and flowers in unique pots or trays. Originally, this name referred to the small, potted grasses displayed next to bonsai as accent plants. *Kusamono* has developed into an art form of its own. A well-chosen kusamono reflects the season in which it is displayed. Some compositions are designed to include plants that will look good in several seasons. Besides the season, a kusamono should suggest a specific natural habitat—such as a wetland, meadow or woodland.

Michelle Z will present a hands-on workshop / demo for creating Kusamono plantings.

**The fee for the Kusamono workshop is limited to the plant material, and if you need to, the price of a pot. There is no registration fee.

**Also, bring pots to swap!!
See the article later in the newsletter as to how this swap will take place!!**

JULY

July 7 - CLUB MEETING
Kusamono/Accent plants
Pot swap

Get July 26th on your calendar for the fabulous cookout and model train display at Don and Karen G's home in Waukesha. Bring a dish to share - meat and beverages provided. Bring a lawn chair. More info at the July meeting.

AUGUST

August 4 - CLUB MEETING
Guest Artist:
Suthin Sukosolvisit
Exhibit Shohin trees -
Workshops with Suthin
Wednesday 8-4 and 6-9
August 6-16 - STATE FAIR

SEPTEMBER

Sept 1 - CLUB MEETING
MBS Club Show
Sept 19 - Public Workshop
Best trees from 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

July 7 - 7 pm
Grace Lutheran Church

President's Message

ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING ASPECTS OF BONSAI IS THE DIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS HOBBY. THEY COME FROM PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUNDS TO LABORERS, POOR TO WEALTHY, YOUNG TO OLD, WITH ALL CULTURES IN ATTENDANCE. WE LIVE DIFFERENTLY, WE EAT DIFFERENT THINGS, WE HAVE DIFFERENT VIEW POINTS AND THOUGHTS, BUT ONE THING THAT WE HAVE IN COMMON IS WE ALL PUT OUR WIRE ON THE SAME WAY. THAT TWISTED WIRE ALSO BINDS US AND BRINGS US ALL TOGETHER AS EQUALS. I'VE NEVER MET A BONSAI ARTIST WHO WASN'T INTERESTED IN HELPING ANOTHER ARTIST WITH HIS TREE OR ADVICE, WHO WOULDN'T OFFER TO LET SOMEONE BORROW A STAND OR TOOL. BONSAI IS A TRULY MAGICAL ART THAT BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN PEOPLE. IF EVERYBODY PRACTICED BONSAI THE WORLD WOULD BE A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

- Joe H

Need Wire?

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society is holding a club wire buy. There will be a sign up sheet at the July meeting. You can order copper or aluminum in any size. We are hoping for a nice discount by buying quantity. Wire costs are yet to be determined. - Joe H

Pot Swap - July Meeting

If you have any bonsai pots lying around that you don't use and would like to trade for a pot that you can use, bring it to the July Meeting. A pot trader will display his pot in front of the room. All those interested in swapping theirs for it will hold up their pot and the trader will quickly choose one then the next trader will present theirs and so on. This should move along fairly quickly so be ready to act. - Joe H

The August meeting of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society will feature the visiting artist Suthin Sukosolvisit. 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.

Shohin Classification

By Pam W

Suthin Sukosolvisit will be sharing his knowledge of bonsai at the August meeting and workshops. I thought I would prepare by writing a brief article on Shohin bonsai which is one of his specialties. What I found was all very confusing.

The Japanese have a passion for tabulation. In all areas, from science to art, things are divided into categories and subcategories and sub-sub categories. That's why the classification of bonsai sizes can be so confusing - there are many names within each named category. One person's Mame is another person's Shohin. Additionally the Japanese use ambiguous size descriptions to articulate size, such as design displays based on the size of tatami mats vs. the size of the trees (how big a room was needed for a tasteful display).

(continued on next page)

Shohin Classification (continued)

Shohin is the Japanese word for “a-tiny-thing”. So what defines the measure or visual weight of “tiny thing”? There are some standard rules set up in order to better understand the measures, and to standardize rules when it comes to shows and competitions. The basic rules are demanding that the Shohin-bonsai may not be higher than 25cm (10 inches). Some articles say when measured from rim of the pot to the top of the tree, others include the pot in the total height of the tree and if you measure from the top of the rim the tree cannot exceed 21 cm.

As you can see, these measures are not sharply outlined. The main “rule” is that you must be able to hold the Shohin-bonsai in one hand, and it has to express the beauty of a “tiny thing”.

One of the most convenient and memorable ways to measure the size of bonsai is by hands - that is how many hands it takes to carry one. There are three main sizes. Dai, Chiu and Shohin. Dai bonsai is a four or more handed bonsai - that is it takes two or more people to move it. Chiu is a two handed bonsai and Shohin is a one handed bonsai. Shohin, to hold in hand bonsai, is further divided into sub categories; Keishi Tsubo (smaller than 2.5 cm) Shitou (2.5 to 8 cm.), Mame (8 to 15 cm) and Katade (15 to 25 cm).

Next month I'll have more on the aesthetic qualities of Shohin.

The board of MBS would like to make this note of appreciation to all of the club members who have contributed their time and effort to make our club meetings meaningful to all. Thank you. We sincerely thank our visiting artists, Pat Coen and Warren Hill, our own Houston S, Michelle Z, and all of the support and helpers for all of the presentations to date. Please let them know that their efforts are appreciated. - Jeff M

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. Total cost for all day is \$110 . Maximum of 8 students

The **evening workshop***, also on Wednesday, is from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Total cost for the evening is \$70. Maximum of 8 students

Please make payments at the July meeting. If you have any questions, please call Michelle Z, at 414-228-9628. 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.**

Sign up with Treasurer Laura, or make special arrangements with Michelle Z. The signup will close July 14 (July board meeting). Registration fee is required at signup.

Membership Badges

By Pam W

Many of you are aware that the Membership Committee Chairperson has resigned and I have taken on this responsibility along with being the webmaster, Secretary, sponsoring the Open Workshops, Classes and raffles. So now that I have laid out my excuse for not having the badges, I want to give you all an update. Joe H has challenged the MBS board to build a sense of community in our club. Membership badges are used not only to identify members, but to help us get to know each other. The 2009 badges are in the making and should be available for pick up at the July meeting.

Thank you for your patience!

STATE FAIR 2009

- By Jean S and Kris Z

Are you interested in entering a tree at State Fair? If you have never exhibited before, please consider doing so this year. Classes are: Youth, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Open.

Our space is smaller than in previous years, so it will be necessary to limit the number of trees to about 20 per show, 1-2 trees per individual. You must sign up at Club meetings or call Jean S 414-979-0281 or John M 262-560-0418 to participate.

Fox Valley Bonsai Society - Exhibit #1
(August 6 - August 8) - We will fill in if there is space.

Milwaukee Bonsai Society - Exhibit #2
(August 9 - August 12)

Milwaukee Bonsai Society - Exhibit #2
(August 13 - August 16)

STATE FAIR EXHIBIT SCHEDULE

Exhibit #1

Deliver trees to **

Wednesday, August 5 from 6pm - 7pm

Pick up trees from **

Sunday, Aug 9 from 9am - 10am

Exhibit #2

Deliver trees to **

Saturday, Aug 8 from 6pm - 7pm

Pick up trees from **

Thursday, Aug 13 from 9am - 10am

Exhibit #3

Deliver trees to **

Wednesday, Aug 12 from 6pm - 7pm

Pick up trees from **

Monday Aug, 17 from 9am - 10am

** Strip mall parking lot approx. 102nd and National, just west of Baker's Square. Turn in by the Sentry/Fashion Bug sign. Meet in the area nearest the street (National)

When checking in please bring:

+ your list of scientific names and common names,

+ the approximate age of the tree,

+ stand, accent, sketch of display, and the proposed style of tree.

It is also wise to mark all components of your display with your name.

(an address sticker is usually adequate)

Note: If the drop off/pick up schedule is not good for you, please make personal arrangements for your trees with someone who will care for them. YOU must alert the crew about these arrangements so trees will not be misdirected, lost or stolen.

Call or email

Jean S at 414-979-0281

jsher46@wi.rr.com or

John M at 262-560-0418

Good luck and thanks for supporting the MBS 2009 State Fair committee.

For specific information as to whether your tree will qualify to be entered at State Fair, please read the following STATE FAIR RULES (taken from their online catalog):

BONSAI EXHIBIT-DISPLAY ONLY - DIVISION 480

August 6-16, 2009

Sponsored by the Milwaukee Bonsai Society and the Wisconsin State Fair

Milwaukee Bonsai Society

PO Box 198

Brookfield Wisconsin 53008-0198

RULES GOVERNING SHOW

1) There will be three separate Bonsai Exhibits during the length of the Fair.

2) The schedule for the different exhibits is as follows:

First Exhibit

The first exhibit will be on display Thursday August 6 through Saturday August 8.

Second Exhibit

The second exhibit will be on display Sunday August 9 through Wednesday August 12.

Third Exhibit

The third exhibit will be on display Thursday August 13 through Sunday August 16.

3) The Milwaukee Bonsai Society will coordinate the setup, maintenance, display and supervision of these Exhibits.

4) The Milwaukee Bonsai Society will select the Show Coordinator and the Judges for the Wisconsin State Fair Bonsai Exhibits.

5) The Milwaukee Bonsai Society and the Wisconsin State Fair will exercise all reasonable care during the Exhibits. However, neither the Milwaukee Bonsai Society nor the Wisconsin State Fair assumes any liability for damage or loss to any exhibit or exhibitor.

6) Any active member of a Bonsai Society or 4-H club is eligible to exhibit a bonsai.

7) Each exhibit will be judged separately according to the judging criteria listed in Article 17.

Judging will be done on the first day of each exhibit.

8) The decision to award any prize is solely at the discretion of the Judges and all decisions made by the Judges are final.

9) More than one award may be given in any Class at the discretion of the Judges.

10) If no specimen in a Class meets the criteria necessary for an award, an award may not be made in the class.

11) Additional awards may be given by other bonsai-oriented organizations.

12) There shall be six classes of entries:

Class#

101. Youth Class - Exhibitors 18 years of age or younger

102. Novice Class - Exhibitors with less than five year 's experience in bonsai

103. Intermediate Class - Exhibitors with more than five years experience in bonsai

104. Advanced Class - Exhibitors that have previously won an Award of Merit in the Intermediate Class or Best of Show in any Class at the

Wisconsin State Fair

105. Open Class - Open to all exhibitors

106. For Exhibit Only - Not eligible for any award

13) A tree may be entered in only one class. Each class will be judged separately and the "Best in Show" and Awards of Merit may be selected.

14) All trees submitted for exhibition must be healthy and free of disease and infestation and must be exhibited in a bonsai container.

15) Any tree submitted for judging must have been in the direct care of the exhibitor over two winters. Youth and Novice Class entries are exempt from this requirement.

16) Exhibitor 's names will NOT be displayed on any exhibited tree. As matter of security, the bonsai identification cards will identify only the club affiliation of the tree's owner.

17) Specimens exhibited for judging may be awarded prizes according to the guidelines below.

White Ribbon - A very good example of the art of bonsai

Red Ribbon - An exceptional example of the art of bonsai

Blue Ribbon - A highly exceptional example of the art of bonsai

Award of Merit - A superior example of the art of bonsai, which exhibits unique characteristics or design

Best of Show - The specimen which best exhibits the highest quality of the art of bonsai

18) These are the complete rules governing the Wisconsin State Fair Bonsai Exhibit.

Tips for getting your bonsai ready for State Fair 2009:

-By Kris Z and Jean S

This is your chance to enter trees for critique by a certified judge. While the ribbons are nice, the information and perspective gained from comments about our trees from knowledgeable judges is priceless. If you are considering entering a bonsai or two, here are several tips about displaying a tree.

#1 Clean pots are more attractive for display. Wash the pot, dry it with a soft, non-fuzzy cloth. An application of light oil will allow the true color of the pot to shine through. Some people use mineral or baby oil to oil pots. Be sure to wipe off the excess oil with a soft cloth that will not leave fuzzies. This gives a nice sheen to the surface of the pot. Water marks and chemical build up need to be removed from the legs and bottom of the pot.

#2 Dress the soil surface with small particle gravel, grit or soil. The smaller particles in the soil surface make the roots and trunk look larger. Add some small areas of moss to add interest and dimension. Remove all weeds and debris from the moss and soil with tweezers or a small bonsai brush.

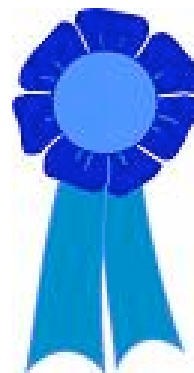
#3 Use the stand to "frame" the tree and pot. This means attention to details of the stand. Lower stands are usually used to display taller trees, saikei and forests. Taller stands are used to

display semi-cascades, full cascades and low trees. The color of foliage, pot and stand need to be considered as a unit and add interest, and color balance to the composition.

#4 Accents (plants, figurines or scrolls) need to harmonize with the display of the tree. Accent plants are put on very low stands usually so that they will form a complementary display. Choice of an object as an accent must be very carefully thought through. Accents can be used to depict a season, a geographic location, an elevation and an environment in which the tree might grow.

#5 Possibly the most important step in display preparation is the cleaning of the tree itself. Dead, brown and damaged needles or leaves must be removed. Leaves and needles that extend beyond the desired profile of the tree should be take off. A last minute check of the surface of the soil and moss, the pot and the profile of the tree will make a good tree look exceptional.

**Good luck at State Fair 2009!
Your tree may be this year's
BEST of SHOW!!**





Insect Trivia

A cockroach can live for up to a week without a head.

The largest cockroach on record is one measured at 3.81 inches in length.

Amazon ants (red ants found in the western U.S.) steal the larvae of other ants to keep as slaves. The slave ants build homes for and feed the Amazon ants, who cannot do anything but fight. They depend completely on their slaves for survival.

Ants are social insects and live in colonies which may have as many as 500,000 individuals.

Ants don't sleep.

Worker ants may live seven years and the queen may live as long as 15 years.

Aphids are born pregnant without the benefit of sex.

Aphids can give birth 10 days after being born themselves.

Australian termites have been known to build mounds twenty feet high and at least 100 feet wide.

Dragonflies are one of the fastest insects, flying 50 to 60 mph.

Each year, insects eat 1/3 of the Earth's food crop.

In its entire lifetime, the average worker bee produces 1/12th teaspoon of honey.

The buzz that you hear when a bee approaches is the sound of its four wings moving at 11,400 strokes per minute. Bees fly an average of 15 miles per hour.

The honeybee kills more people world-wide than all the poisonous snakes combined.

When a queen bee lays the fertilized eggs that will develop into new queens, only one of the newly laid queens actually survives. The first new queen that emerges from her cell destroys all other queens in their cells and, thereafter, reigns alone.

The tsetse fly kills about 66,000 people annually.

A typical bed usually houses over 6 billion dust mites.

An adult bedbug can survive up to one year without feeding.

Mosquitoes dislike citronella because it irritates their feet.

Mosquitoes prefer children to adults, and blondes to brunettes.

Only female mosquitoes bite. Females need the protein from blood to produce their eggs.

The animal responsible for the most human deaths worldwide is the mosquito.

The disease-carrying mosquito, delivering encephalitis, the West Nile virus, malaria, and Dengue fever, is by far the deadliest beast in the animal world. The World Health Organization says mosquitoes cause more than 2 million deaths a year worldwide.

There are more than 2,500 varieties of mosquito.

No two spider webs are the same.

Only full-grown male crickets can chirp.

The blood of mammals is red, the blood of insects is yellow, and the blood of lobsters is blue.

The leap of an average flea is equivalent to a 100 pound man leaping 1,000 pounds and enduring a g-force of 20,000 pounds with an acceleration greater than that of a space shuttle.

The venom of a female black widow spider is more potent than that of a rattlesnake.

The world's smallest winged insect, the Tanzanian parasitic wasp, is smaller than the eye of a housefly.

There are more insects in one square mile of rural land than there are human beings on the entire earth.

There are more than 900,000 known species of insects in the world.

-Thanks to Dave Bogan for this article.



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

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



Japanese maples
five finger leaves, red or green
delicate beauty