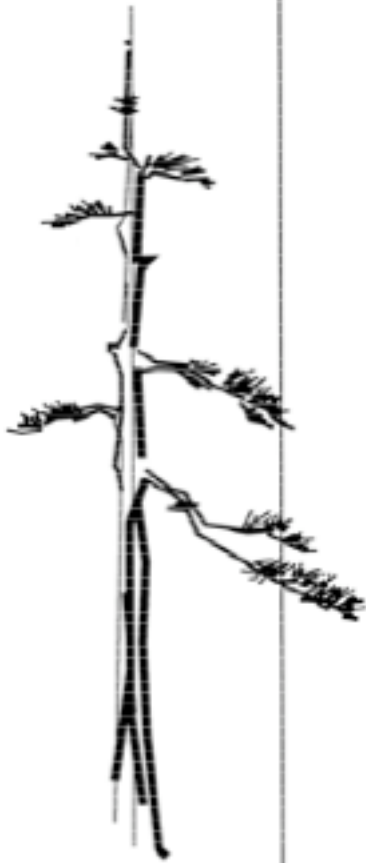


September 2009

Bonsai News



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

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

*Information Line
414-299-9229*

Annual Club Show

If each member who is actively doing bonsai would bring one tree, or more, to the September show, everyone will learn something. All of the trees shown will be eligible to be judged by Scott Clark, who is a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society. Scott has a record of collecting top awards at the annual show in August at the Chicago Botanic Gardens. Scott has judged for MBS in the past and we will ask him to comment on the progress of our members. It is not necessary to have your trees judged, but it is definitely worth the effort to obtain unbiased design critiques of your trees. You may enter your tree(s) for display only. Be prepared to fill out a card with your tree's

Botanical name

Common name

Time in training

Estimated age and
provide a stand, if available.

During the actual judging, we will discuss the general

SEPTEMBER

Sept 1 - CLUB MEETING
MBS Club Show
Sept 19 - Public Workshop
Sept 19 - Open Workshop

OCTOBER

Oct 6 - CLUB MEETING
Guest Artist: Ted Matson
Exhibit fall coloring trees

NOVEMBER

Nov 3 - CLUB MEETING
grafting techniques by
Mike Yanny of Johnson's
Nursery

DECEMBER

Dec 1 - CLUB MEETING
MBS Club Holiday Pot Luck

characteristics of judging a tree. We will use our standard judging criteria so that the information is directly related to the results of the show. In addition, we have
(continued on p2)

NEXT MEETING
September 1 - 7 pm
Grace Lutheran Church

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for the Public Workshop
Saturday September 19..... 9 - noon at the church.
Please bring tools.
Sign up at the September Club meeting.

President's Message

This is really a fun time of year, when all our efforts in wiring, pruning, styling, and fertilizing are put to the test. The payoff from our classes, workshops and demo's was really apparent when I seen the quality of our trees displayed at the Wisconsin State Fair. The level of even our novice trees could compete against most other clubs intermediate trees. Congratulations to all who entered, especially to the many ribbon winners. I can already tell next year's show will be a knock-out! Now consider the Judges comments and suggestions. Maybe there are things you can do to tweak your tree to be a winner at our September club show. I would also like to thank our State Fair committee for all their hard work, and all those who spent time greeting the visitors at our display.

Many people were very impressed by our visit from Suthin Sukosolvisit. His demo at the August meeting was excellent, but his workshop was even more impressive. He and Ted Matson will both be coming back a few times next year to teach classes. All of our classes are limited to 8 people per session, so you must sign-up early to get a spot. If you're not in one of these classes you should seriously consider taking one. We offer them for as low a cost as possible, these classes are a steal for the amount of instruction you receive.

The upcoming public workshop is another way to show off your skills as you dazzle the participants with your ability to quickly transform their trees into future masterpieces. This is also a great time to meet the next class of new members. Your volunteering to help is a great way to "pay back" the club for subsidizing some of the cost of classes you may have taken. Good luck at the club show!

- Joe H

Thank you to Susan L, Scott H and Mary T who served on the nominating committee. Following is a list of candidates for the 2010 Executive Board. If you wish to add you name to the following slate, please contact Susan at 414-744-2808 or ashwini1890@sbcglobal.net or you may nominate someone from the floor at a Club meeting.

President	Pam W
1st Vice President	John M
2nd Vice President	Greg P
Secretary	Jorge R
Treasurer	Kris Z
Director - 3 year position	Judy H

Those with terms to finish:
Director - 2 year position Steve C
Director - 1 year position Jerry N

Annual Club Show (cont)

asked our Best of Show, Wisconsin State Fair 2009 to tell us what the value of judging played in the success of their efforts.

Please bring your trees to the September 1 meeting prior to 6:30 to allow time to set up the judging display. The judging will begin at 7:15 and will be as detailed as the number of trees shown for judging allows. Also bring your questions regarding your bonsai or anything related and we will find answers from other club members.

A special Thank You from Jean S to John M, Kris Z, Tony P and Bill G for putting in much time and effort at State Fair to make the three shows a success.

Public Workshop

Saturday, September 19.

9:00 - 12:00

Grace Lutheran Church

Please consider helping someone new to create a bonsai during a morning workshop.

SIGN UP SHEETS will be available at the September meeting.

This is a great way to meet new people trying the art of bonsai!

And after the Public Workshop...

Saturday Sept 19, 1:00 - 5:00

There will be an
"OPEN WORKSHOP".

All members are invited and encouraged to bring in trees that they would like some advice on.

Do you... ?

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

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

...did you enter a tree in the State Fair and get some feedback from the judge?

...want to discuss the judge's comments with someone?

Bring it in to the Workshop.

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

Auction! Auction!

WOW! In about an hour and a half, without any appearance of rushing, Suthin Sukosolvisit created 3 exquisite shohin bonsai from rather average looking small shimpaku that had been worked on previously.



Everyone in the audience was amazed by the transformation—Suthin makes it look easy, but then, he's been doing it for years and is one of the best designers and teachers in the country.

In the process, we learned everything that we need to know about caring for shimpaku. (Please see the summary on the next page).

Your MBS board of directors has decided to auction two of these trees



at the September meeting. So, bring your cash, your checkbook (NO credit cards) and your courage and be prepared to become the proud owner of one of these fine specimens.



Word has it that our own Don Gumeiny has agreed to serve as the auctioneer- we all

know how convincing he can be!

The third tree will remain in the club's collection, and will be available for Suthin to work on when he returns to the club in 2010. It will need a foster-parent, so if you are interested in foster parenting a shohin shimpaku, please contact Michelle Z.

Care of Shimpaku according to Suthin Sukosollvisit August 4, 2009

- submitted by Michelle Z

We worked on two varieties of shimpaku, Itoigawa and Kishu.

-Itoigawa grows higher in the mountains, has more compact, slightly yellower foliage.

-Kishu has more loosely arranged bluer foliage.

Horticultural requirements:

- needs well draining soil at alkaline pH. Add charcoal to soil to remove the acids and soil impurities.

-fertilize with fish emulsion, other organics, 20-20-20 or fertilizer of choice. Start feeding as soon as the roots have awakened in the spring and new growth appears. Stop fertilizing when the temperatures are about 90 degrees as the plant stops growing.

-after major styling or transplanting, place the tree in the shade for several weeks.

- trees prefer full sun. However, place in the shade if the temperature is about 90 degrees and mist the foliage frequently. This cools the plant and slows evaporation from the leaves while the roots are no longer taking up water.

-in the fall keep outdoors until the first 1 or 2 frosts. Put the tree into winter protection at about the time that all of the leaves have dropped from your deciduous trees.

-in the spring, keep the roots warm once the new growth has started, plan to protect the roots from late freezes, snowfalls, etc.

-water enough to keep the soil evenly moist

Shimpaku bonsai requirements:

-styling can occur any time when the tree is actively growing (sap is moving). The tree must be vigorous and healthy.

- a weak tree has more yellow foliage and lack of vigorous new shoot formation. If your tree looks weak, check first for pests such as insects, fungi and borer. Spider mites are common during the hotter,

drier months. Treat. If it is not weak due to pests, it is likely that the problem is in the roots.

-do not remove large branches in winter (there is no sap flow to heal the wound).

-this species looks best with jin and shari to add to the feeling of age.

-allow jin and shari to dry up to 6 months so that the lime sulfur will soak more deeply into the dried deadwood.

-when creating a continuous spiraling shari, be sure to carefully identify the live vein and start with a narrow shari which you can enlarge in subsequent seasons. Removing the superficial bark with a dulled brass brush allows easier identification of the live vein.

-wire carefully, avoid compressing foliage under the wire which damages the foliage and slows recovery from the wiring process.

-do only one major event per year. If there is a major restyling, do not pinch the foliage for the rest of the growing season and do not transplant until next year. If you have transplanted the tree this year, do not pinch the foliage and do not do a major restyling until next year when the tree has recovered its health.

-pinch only the growing tips that have lateral buds which will continue to pull water and nutrients to the terminal parts of the foliage. Pinch different areas of the tree. Pinch a little bit more frequently, rather than a lot all at one time.

Congratulations to the ribbon winners at State Fair 2009.

And a big thank you to those who volunteered their time as greeters in the MBS exhibit at State Fair 2009.

State Fair Results

O=Open, A=Advanced, I=Intermediate, N=Novice, Y=Youth

Show #1 - August 6 - August 8 - Judge: Ivan Watters

Fox Valley Bonsai & MBS

Best of Show

Juniper (A) - Kris Z (MBS) →

Awards of Merit

Mugho Pine (A) - Houston S (MBS)
Bald Cypress (O) - Ron F (MBS)
Potentilla (A) - Dennis C (FV)

Blue Ribbons

Juniper (A) - Kris Z (MBS)
Mugho Pine (A) - Houston (MBS)
Bald Cypress (O) - Ron F (MBS)
Potentilla (A) - Dennis C (FV)
Narrow Leaf Ficus - Dennis D (FV)
Larch - Dennis D (FV)
African Fig - Ralph M (FV)
Barberry - Dennis C (FV)
Narrow Leaf Ficus - Dennis C (FV)
Boxwood (N) - Barb S (MBS)
Larch (O) - Ron F (MBS)
Boulevard Cypress (I) - Tony P (MBS)

Red Ribbons

Tiger Bark Ficus (A) - Houston (MBS)
Korean Hornbeam (A) - Pam W (MBS)
Dwarf Alberta Spruce (N) - Bill G (MBS)
Golden Gate Ficus (I) - Tony P (MBS)
Elephant Bush - Dennis D (FV)
Boxwood - John B (FV)



Red Ribbons (continued)

Euonymous - John B
Narrow Leaf Ficus (A) - Dennis C (FV)
Larch (A) - Dennis C (FV)
Narrow Leaf Ficus (A) - Dennis C (FV)

White Ribbons

Crassula - Ralph M (FV)
Winter Honeysuckle (N) - Laura L (MBS)

State Fair Results

O=Open, A=Advanced, I=Intermediate, N=Novice, Y=Youth

Show #2 - August 9 - August 12 - Judge: Phil Malhiot

Milwaukee Bonsai Society

Best of Show

Ponderosa Pine (A) - Steve C



Awards of Merit

Bougainvillea (I) - Susan L

Trident Maple (A) - Ron F

Shimpaku (A) - Pam W

Blue Ribbons

Ponderosa Pine (A) - Steve C

Bougainvillea (I) - Susan L

Trident Maple (A) - Ron F

Shimpaku (A) - Pam W

Ficus (A) - Steve C

Chinese Elm (A) - Kris Z

Shimpaku (A) - Jean S

Dwarf Firethorn (A) - Ron F

Phoenix Graft Juniper (A) - Kris Z

Red Ribbons

Ficus (N) - Jim A

Sonoma Valley Grape (I) - Jerry N

Trident Maple (I) - Jerry N

Ficus Retusa (A) - Joe N

Ficus Nerifolia (A) - Joe N

Boulevard Cypress Forest - Tony P



White Ribbons

European Beech Forest - Jean S

Winter Schefflera (A) - Joe N

State Fair Results

O=Open, A=Advanced, I=Intermediate, N=Novice, Y=Youth

Show #3 - August 13 - August 16 - Judge: Ron Fortmann

Milwaukee Bonsai Society

Best of Show

Shimpaku (A) - Joe H



Awards of Merit

Chinese Elm (A) - Steve C

Juniper Cascade (A) - Pam W

Blue Ribbons

Shimpaku (A) - Joe H

Chinese Elm (A) - Steve C

Juniper Cascade (A) - Pam W

Boulevard Cypress (O) - Scott H

Boxwood (N) - Dennis G

Boxwood (I) - Pat B

Brazilian Raintree (A) - Jean S

Juniper (I) - Mike N



Red Ribbons

Red Cedar (A) - Jim T

Ficus Retusa (N) - Barb S

Ficus Retusa (N) - Jorge R

Boxwood (N) - Jorge R

Fukien Tea (N) - Dennis G

Bougainvillea (A) - Jean S

Burning Bush (A) - Kris Z

Larch (I) - Susan L

Ficus Benjamina (I) - Tony P

Announcing Ted Matson Study Groups - 2010

All members (novice, intermediate, advanced) are welcomed to sign up. Check out the next newsletter for detailed information. All interested club members can contact:
Steve C (414-837-5953 / stefanoo@att.net or
Kris Z (2662-512-1228 / hagr8d@mac.com).



Classified Ads - If you have something bonsai / plant related, let us know by placing a short ad in the newsletter. Please include your phone # or email so members can contact you! Or, if you are looking for something, let us know.

FREE Perennials. Come dig them up. Violets and Ligularia (purplish green leaves and large yellow/orange flowers). Kris 262-512-1228 or hagr8d@mac.com. I can send pics if you'd like.

Suthin workshops in 2010!

MBS members, we have a great opportunity to learn to do better BONSAI!! The talented artist Suthin Sukosolvisit has agreed to return to our club in 2010. Full day workshops are planned for the weekends of July 31, August 1 and again September 25, 26, 2010. ALL members at ALL levels are welcome to participate. The details of the costs and location are being worked out now, but costs will likely be \$80-\$100 per day. There will be a planning meeting for all interested students soon.

We know that many members are interested in material being provided, and we have asked Suthin if he will have material for us from his nursery.

Get on board early with your preferred dates by calling Judy H. @ 262.245.6465 or Michelle Z. @ 414.228.99628.

Needle Cast in Ponderosa Pines by Houston S

This year has been a tough one for weather. Lots of cold and lots of rain, and little warm weather. My oldest ponderosa pine (100+ years) has weakened severely and some low branches died. The needles from previous

years turned brown and fell off, leaving only this year's new growth. The new growth displays yellow bands in the green needles.

Although I was informed that this problem was "needle cast" and should be treated with fungicide, none of the fungicide and insecticide sprays seemed to help. Several club members have reported similar problems with their ponderosa pines this year.

This is one of those cases where it helps to actually look for detailed information. (Like when you buy one of those combination computer/television/microwave/telephone / printer/fax/barbecue/hairdryer/footmassagers and try to assemble the stupid thing. Read the damn directions!) Finally I found the right diagnosis and treatment, and I hope it isn't too late for my tree! Even if it is, at least I can protect my other pines to prevent this happening to more trees next year.

The problem is needle cast fungus infection (*Lophodermium* spp.). This problem is hard to cure, with only a few products approved for treatment. One of these, Maneb, is a product that I have on hand and often use as a preventive soak for root rot. It is a yellow powder that is primarily sulfur. To use this as a spray, it is necessary to mix the powder in water and add a drop or two of dishwashing soap. This is the product that I have used, although there are two other products called chlorothalonil, and benomyl that are also recommended for this fungus.

It is recommended to spray weekly with one of these fungicides throughout August and early September. After one spraying, my infected pine showed new vigor. I thought I should pass along this timely tip, as many of our club members own expensive and irreplaceable old collected ponderosa pines, and now is the time to spray them!



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

Next Meeting of MBS
7PM, Tuesday, September 1
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



I saw in a store at the mall
A bonsai, with man on a wall
But shellac on the rocks
Made a real paradox...
'Cause the tree got no water at all!
-Tom Pillichody