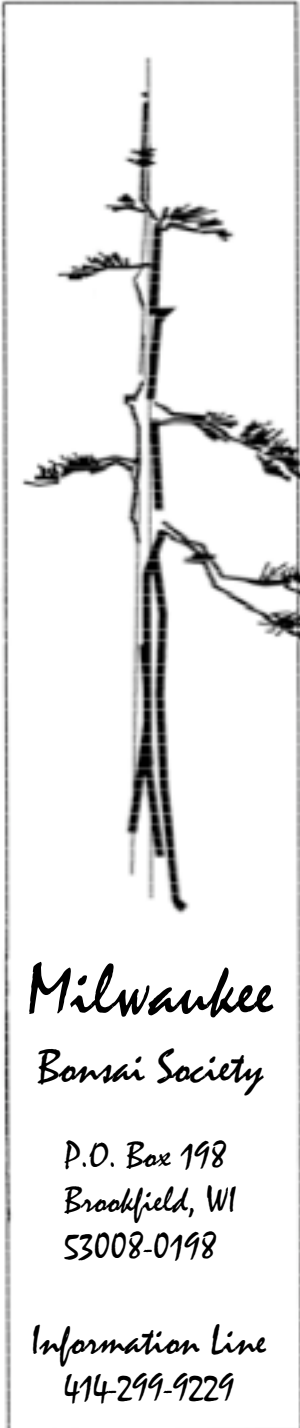


# Bonsai News



## **Why Would You Want to Graft?**

*By Pam W*

Grafting, is a way to change your bonsai for faster development and better appearance. Threadgrafting is the easiest way of attaching new branches where they are missing on a bonsai. Improve your nebari with an approach graft. With experience you can change the foliage of a needle juniper to the more desirable shimpaku which develop small and compact foliage which are proportionately better suited for shohin bonsai. And don't forget grafting also allows a better flowering variety to be placed onto an already developed understock.

Meet Michael Yanny; a well-known expert in horticulture and plant propagator at Johnson's Nursery in Menomonee Falls at our next meeting as he discusses grafting techniques.

\*Michael has been the plant propagator at Johnson's Nursery, Inc. in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin since 1980. He graduated in 1979 from the University of Wisconsin with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Horticulture.

He learned many of his propagation skills while working with Herbert F. Trautman of Trautman Nurseries in Franksville, Wisconsin in the late 1970's.

Michael has been responsible for developing numerous tree and shrub cultivars, including: Firebird® Crabapple, Leprechaun™ Green Ash, Redwing® Viburnum, Red Feather® Arrowwood Viburnum, Spiced Bouquet™ Viburnum, Spice Island™ Viburnum, Sugar n' Spice™ Viburnum, Sunset™ Buckeye, Technito® Arborvitae, Irish Setter™ Dogwood, Ball O' Fire™ Musclewood and Firespire™ Musclewood.

Michael also has been instrumental in developing an extensive line of local ecotype native plants at Johnson's Nursery.

*\*by Steve C*

### **NOVEMBER**

Nov 3 - CLUB MEETING  
grafting techniques by  
Mike Yanny of Johnson's  
Nursery  
Nov 7 - Open Workshop  
Nov 20-22 - FOLK FAIR

### **DECEMBER**

Dec 1 - CLUB MEETING  
MBS Club Holiday Pot Luck

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

## President's Message

Preparing for winter is something we normally don't have to do around here until next month. With a cool spring that lasted till mid summer, followed by a drought, and now a wet and early fall, this year's bonsai growing conditions were far from perfect. One of the good things that came from this year's colder temps. was no leaf burn on any of my maple trees. Hopefully the summer that didn't happen translates into the winter that didn't happen. Trees at this time are storing up energy for next years spring push, so feeding them at this time is very important, ( use a fertilizer with no nitrogen for trees that drop their leaves). Time should be taken to clear away any weeds and dead leaf matter from the soil of your trees before putting them away, this is where bugs like to overwinter. Wiring is also best done in fall. Besides getting the outside trees ready, my indoor trees are also needing attention. My tropicals like to have their room a certain way, the growing tables need to be clean, the lights hung and on timers, plenty of heat, and fresh rain water to drink. With all this going on who has time to worry about the weather!

- Joe H

### Planning for Suthin Workshops- 2010

There will be a planning meeting for all of those MBS members who have signed up or are interested in participating in the Suthin Sukosolvisit workshops in 2010-- at 6:15p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, just prior to the regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

We will be discussing meeting locations, costs, deposits, workshop size and other important business.

As many members know, Suthin is a talented artist, and a wonderful teacher, and we are a very lucky club to have his commitment to visit our club *twice* in 2010. He will be the guest speaker at our regularly scheduled August 2010 meeting and will be offering all day workshops from Saturday, July 31 thru Tuesday, August 3. He will visit us again the weekend of September 25,26.

These club sponsored workshops are open to all members at all levels of skill. This is a wonderful opportunity that is not to be missed. There are still openings available, but already 25 club members have signed up—so don't miss this chance!

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of  
Milwaukee Bonsai  
Society  
Celebration at  
December Club Meeting  
December 1, 2009  
Grace Lutheran Church  
7:00 P.M.  
Potluck dinner  
A sign-up sheet will be  
available at the  
November club meeting.  
This will also be the Holiday  
celebration party.**

## 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By Pam W

This past year has been a flurry of activities for your board of directors. Let's take a look at these activities so as members we can put it in perspective. First, let's look at entirely new ideas initiated and executed by the board.

- We have our first set of club owned trees so guest artist demonstrations can show a progression of the tree.
- The Foster Tree Program came about with a vision and hard work to nail down the work around it so the club members and foster parent both have winning experiences.
- We have had our first Silhouette show with over 1000 visitors. We reengaged with the Domes and now have an opportunity to showcase trees in winter glory not to mention the opportunity to gain new memberships by having an additional Public Workshop after this show.

Before we move on to other accomplishment let's note that every one of the previous ideas came from our third year director Michelle Z.

Innovation is when you take an idea and apply it in new ways. Let's look at board innovations.

- We could not fill a Novice Class this past year, so your board came up with the Open Workshops to help novice enthusiast report, wire, shape and style trees.
- Participatory demonstration, for a fee you could make your own Kusamono along with the presenter. This idea can spawn other ideas on how we might be able to get more people working on trees at meetings.
- And how about this year's Holiday party?

Day to day club operation activities were revised in 2009 first to make the club better, increase efficiencies, solicit your feedback and to ensure each member has transparency into your club.

- The secretary is now reporting the checking, saving and Convention Fund account balances in the meeting minutes. These are included on a "ribbon" which tracks these balances from month to

month so we can easily see and interpret the trend.

- The board meeting minutes and treasury report are available every general meeting at the back table along with a pocket for anonymous feedback.
- Membership report includes total membership, previous general meeting attendance with survey result and raffle income. This report helps us with donation checks and balances and feedback.
- Speaking of feedback, each event is followed-up with email solicitation for feedback so we can make the next event even better.
- We had a great schedule with world class speakers. Not only were we able to bring in the best, we are able to do that because of the reputation that has been built by this board and previous boards to ensure artist are treated as our guests with respect. Your board arranges, houses, entertains chauffeurs and ensures that the artist make a living during their visits to Milwaukee.
- We are also getting better at distributing timely information to members. The newsletter is available on-line in two formats, with an email notification. The website is updated at the same time. This information is available usually around the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Finally let's look at the stellar education programs and what it means to our club's continued success.

- In 2009 we had over thirty members participate in intermediate or advanced classes.
- We offered workshops and classes where all of us can engage with each other; learn and share our knowledge. The most amazing fact with our education programs is we teach each other.
- We have over eight qualified bonsai instructors with teaching experience right in our own membership. These instructors have started by participating in leading workshops, presenting demonstrations, and teaching organized classes with novice students and moving up to teaching intermediate and advanced students.

## All Indoor Bonsai are NOT Tropicals

by Houston S

In the last newsletter, my bonsai care article instructed readers to bring their tropical bonsai inside at the end of September, while leaving subtropical bonsai outside through the month of October. In response to this article, one of our very knowledgeable club members asked what I meant by a "subtropical".

The question surprised me, and it made me realize that these terms are probably confusing to many bonsai growers. Bonsai are often described as either "indoor" or "outdoor", with the term "tropical" often used interchangeably with "indoor". So what's subtropical? I sensed a great teaching moment...

Wikipedia defines subtropical regions as areas immediately north and south of the tropical regions (bounded by the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn at latitudes 23.5° North and 23.5° S. Additionally, it is stated that a subtropical climate receives at least 8 months with average temperatures (day and night together) above 10°C (50°F). The handy little map highlights all of North Africa and the Middle East, Southern China, the southern half of Australia, the southern tip of Africa, Peru/Argentina, and (surprisingly) the entire American south from about North Carolina straight across to California.

Hmm. At least eight months above 50 degrees... That means up to 4 months with average temperatures BELOW 50 degrees. And that is your difference!

What does that mean for your bonsai care? Well, it is simple. Subtropical bonsai need a

period of cold; tropical bonsai don't. It usually works best to grow your bonsai in conditions that are as similar as possible to the conditions of its native areas. Very few of us have homes that average below 50 degrees (Even I am not that cheap!). So if you treat all "indoor" trees the same, and bring them inside at the end of September, your subtropical trees don't get the period of cold that they need. Most trees will survive that, but they will be weakened. But don't worry, the cure is easy. Just leave them outside at least through October (in SE Wisconsin), where they will get at least a month of cold nights. But watch the weather - you don't want subtropical bonsai to freeze! Bring them inside for the night if a low of less than about 35 degrees is forecast.

So which trees are tropical and which are subtropical? Well, one way to tell is to look at where they come from. Only the trees from real "jungle" areas are true tropicals, and you won't find many that can even survive in this climate. Think of the trees you see from Indonesia and Puerto Rico. There's a reason we never see those species here! Maybe Buttonwood, casuarina, water jasmine (wrightia), brazilian raintree and some ficus species. The only trees I own that I treat as tropicals are: ficus, guava, Surinam cherry (Eugenia), and malpighia (Barbados cherry).

Here is a list of subtropical species that I can guarantee from experience will benefit from a cold period:

Olive  
Pomegranate  
Luma apiculata  
Australian Brush Cherry  
Metrosideros  
Lavender Star(Grewia)





Natal Plum(Carissa)



Kei Apple (Dovyalis)  
Camellia  
Star Jasmine  
Podocarpus  
Serissa



Montezuma  
Cypress

Pyracantha



There are many more, but that's my list. If you have other species that you are unsure about, the information should be easily available on line, or you might ask others in the club.

Two helpful sites to check out...

The 2010 Executive Board

President	Pam W
1st Vice President	John M
2nd Vice President	Greg P
Secretary	Jorge R
Treasurer	Kris Z
Director	Judy H
Director	Steve C
Director	Jerry N

Miami Tropical Bonsai

<http://www.miamitropicalbonsai.com/bonsaicare.htm>

Bonsai Clubs International

<http://www.bonsai-bci.com/species/indexgen.html>

**VOLUNTEERS AND TREES NEEDED for  
FOLK FAIR 2009**

Friday November 20 - Sunday November 22  
Please sign up at the November Club meeting  
to volunteer your trees for display or to greet  
the throngs of people at the Folk Fair. Your  
entrance to the Fair is free as a volunteer!

**Open Workshop - November 7 at Grace Lutheran Church - 9:00 - noon.**  
Open to any MBS member. Bring a tree to work on. Bring a tree you have  
questions about. **Public Workshop attendees...** bundle up your tropical  
tree and bring it in so we can see how it is progressing.



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

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



TREE HOUSE, ANYONE??