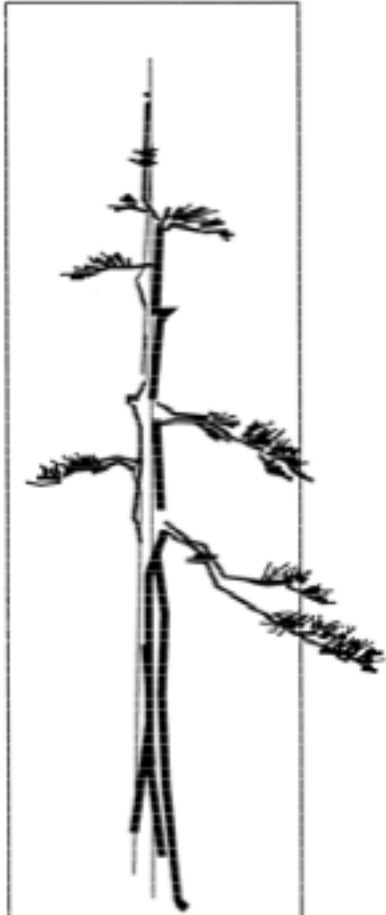


FEBRUARY 2010

Bonsai News



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

*P.O. Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI
53224*

*Information line
414-299-9229*

HAPPY 2010!

The 2010 Milwaukee Bonsai Society Board welcomes all of our members to a wonderful lineup of events and activities during 2010.

At our February meeting, we'll first have a few announcements and then introduce a great panel discussing things you can do right now in mid-winter.

***Join us at our
February club
meeting.***

FEBRUARY

Feb 2 - CLUB MEETING
Short programs
Feb 6 - Open Workshop

MARCH

Mar 2 - CLUB MEETING
Wear you Hawaiian garb!
Tropicals/exotics, bonsai on a budget, collecting trees
Mar 20 - Silhouette show
Mar 27- Novice Class #1 am
Repotting workshop - pm

APRIL

Apr 7 - CLUB MEETING
Group slash - trees by group design
Apr 10 - Novice class #2
Apr 24 - Novice class #3
Apr ? - Club dig

MAY

May 4 - CLUB MEETING
Guest artist Warren Hill
May 8 - Novice class #4
May 15-16 - Chicago Show
May ? - Public Workshop

JUNE

June 1 - CLUB MEETING
Round Robin info sessions
June 25-27 - MABA convention

NEXT MEETING

February 2 - 7 pm
Grace Lutheran Church

President's Message

It is with pleasure that I write this first column. As president it is my responsibility to both inform and hopefully inspire our membership concerning the achievements of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society. In the last newsletter I wrote an article that listed several of our 2009 board's achievements. It is my goal this year to maintain this level of commitment to service and continue to ask our members "Are you willing to get involved?"

I have been involved with bonsai for many years. I have served and chaired various committees and have held offices on the MBS board as well as on the American Bonsai Society. My commitment to serve is very personal. I feel serving on the MBS board is a good way to give back to the art that has inspired me.

Over the next year, the MBS board plans to host planning sessions to better assess how we can serve and reach each member. We will explore new connections with gardens in our community and focus on the areas of our club in which we need to improve.

I recognize that some people do not see the relevance of belonging to a Club/group on their bonsai journey. I challenge our members to take time to honestly assess what MBS has to offer in terms of education, services, social activities and community involvement. If the classes and services are not meeting your expectations, I hope you will come forward with your ideas! If we are meeting your expectations, I hope you will be inspired to join in further advancing our successes.

I want to thank Joe H. for his efforts on our behalf over the past year. Joe stepped up

and committed to putting together a succession plan for new leadership. He was active in ensuring the board stayed engaged and reminded us of our commitment to MBS. I'd also like to thank our outgoing past president, Jean S. She has done more for our club this past year than most of you realize. She has lent her hand to run the State Fair Show, tirelessly organized the public workshop, Folk Fair and Holiday Party and, of course, she spearheads the youth outreach in our area. Her dedication will be missed.

On with the thanks: to our outgoing vice president Jeff M, who made certain programs were planned and prepared; treasurer, Laura L, who closely watched the books; and to our outgoing director, Michelle Z, who just as closely watched special events and ensured we all stayed on point. And welcome to our new director and officers: 2nd Vice President, Greg P; Treasurer, Kris Z; Secretary Jorge R, and Director, Steve Co. I look forward to working with you. We have many of our past and present members to thank for their outstanding service to MBS. Please join me in honoring our MBS legacy of over forty years by continuing this level of excellence. And ask yourself "Are you willing to get involved?"

- Pam W



CLASSES FORMING

Are you itching to get "bonsai-ing"? Joining a class is a great way to work on your bonsai, get great instruction and enjoy the experience with other members. Coming up are the following classes:

INTERMEDIATE CLASS FORMING:

4 eight hour classes are open to all MBS members who have taken the novice class or have some Bonsai experience.

If you are interested in taking these classes please call Susan L. 414-744-2808 or e-mail her at ashwini1890@sbcglobal.net

NOVICE CLASS:

This is a wonderful follow-up to the public workshop. And, if you have never participated in a novice class, it offers wonderful instruction, information and hands-on experiences. This year's Novice classes will be held:

Saturday March 27 at the church 9:00-12:00

Saturday April 10 at the church 9:00-12:00

Saturday April 24 at the church 9:00-12:00

Saturday May 8 at Minor's Garden Center

The first two classes are classroom style. You will be working out of a workbook - extensive information about styles of trees, pots, tools, pruning, soils, fertilizing and much, much more to continue your bonsai training! Trees will be brought in for Session 3 for you to style. Session 4 finds us at a local nursery searching for potential bonsai in the morning. After lunch, we get together to work on the "treasures" we found during our "nursery crawl". It's an exciting way to continue your bonsai experience, and all for \$80.

Please contact Kris Z (262-512-1228) or hagr8d@mac.com

Also, there is one opening in the Ted Matson study group - Sunday March 14 and Sunday October 24. If you are interested, please contact Kris Z (262-512-1228) or hagr8d@mac.com

GSBF Convention 2009 Wrap Up

by Jeff M

The Golden State Bonsai Federation 2009 Convention, XXX11, held in Riverside, California November 4-8, was a wonderful experience for all who attended. The site was the Riverside Conference Center and the adjoining Marriot Hotel right in downtown Riverside.

The Master list included Roy Nagatoshi, Tak Shimazu, Mas Ishi, Kathy Shaner, Kathy Benson, Jim Gremel, Peter Tea, and others. There were numerous others from the GSBF organization who presented additional materials during the convention, I took a workshop with Peter Tea, an artist involved in bonsai for about 6 years. Unbelievable! Peter also took first in the Joshua Roth New Talent Competition. All workshops required materials to be provided by the artists.

The exhibit was absolutely magnificent, both in the selection of trees and stones and in the outstanding presentation of the display. The exhibit, as well as the rest of the show was well done in all details, and the whole program had Ted Matson's hand all over it. The exhibit reminded me that there is such a thing as too many display items at one time. There were about 25 trees and 8 or so stones in an area that should easily have held twice as many, but would not allow for the viewing of each tree or stone all the way around.

Seminars included construction of daiza (stone stands), stone collection, bonsai design, among others. There also were exhibit critiques by various masters, including Roy. I was fortunate in participating in Roy's critique and found a little bit of how Roy sees various bonsai and how they can be improved, even when they might be considered "perfect".

There were interesting opportunities to go on stone collecting and grape digs. This also was a way to add a few room nights on Wednesday.

The GSBF is divided into regional areas which add board members, but also make a large, diverse area more effective. MABA might want to think about this. The benefit to the convention was an evening of competition by members of each district.

There were the prerequisite drawings and auctions, and I had my usual luck - NADA.

The final activity was a private collection tour Sunday afternoon in the area around the Riverside and San Bernardino area, definitely not Wisconsin. Convention, anyone?

REMEMBER YOUR TROPICALS NOW!

from Dave Bogan (Indianapolis)

Late January or early February, is a great time to clean out your tropicals and get them ready for spring. Tropicals sitting in the greenhouse and in your house will always need occasional cleaning. This time of year, it's good to again do a very thorough cleaning. During the winter, all tropicals (as well as some others) will of course have a lot of leaf drop. Generally not as much in the greenhouse but if maintained in your home, they may have dropped all their leaves. Many of these leaves will cling to the intersections of branches which is a great place to harbor disease and insects. Many of you who have reoccurring insect (scale / aphids) infestations may take heed as this may have been the reason.

A thorough spring cleaning of tropicals can start with a hair cut. Trim them back fairly hard removing about 60% of all existing foliage and trimming them back to where you want the spring growth to start. Next, go through the foliage and pluck out about 50% of the remaining leaves. This will of course leave your tree fairly thin on foliage. Once this is complete, run your fingers through every branch. You will be amazed how many very small branches have died back but still remain. By running your fingers through the tree, you will cause most all of these little dead branches to break off and fall out. Now, is also a good time to go through the entire tree and using concave cutters, trim off all those little short stubs which have resulted from previous pruning or from inner area die back. Some, will worry that their tree is slowly dying but it's not. Many of these stubs are from last year. As a trees foliage increases and becomes thicker, inner branches will normally die back if they are not receiving sufficient light. Once all the

thinning and pruning is completed, go back through and make sure all the debris from leaves and small branches is cleaned out of all the branch forks. Once all the upper areas are done, clean all the soil surface of debris and any small weeds that may have cropped up.

You should now have a very clean bonsai. The next step is to spray the entire tree. Maybe one could say drench the entire tree with your insecticide of choice. Some typically prefer a systemic type at this point. With everything clean and most of the leaves gone, you will be able to spray every area of the tree to insure you have killed off all your winter visitors. Now, you will need to again spray the tree in about 8 days to insure you have killed off any newly hatched next generation of insects.

Depending on the area in which you are maintaining them, they will start resprouting in about 3—4 weeks with a flush of spring growth. Now, don't expect a full flush of growth like you would in say June but it will be a good amount of growth. Later come June, we will again repeat this process and at that time, remove every leaf.

If, you are maintaining your trees in the house, the response will be a little slower and possibly weaker. If in the house, you can choose to possibly only remove about a third of the leaves after the pruning.

Always keep in mind, insects love to live in areas of debris and moisture. By keeping your trees clean and sprayed on a regular basis, you will be a lot better off and fairly insect free

Thoughts and Ideas for Spring

by Dave Bogan (Indianapolis)

Accent Plants: Spring is a great time to start all these little plants. Make a trip to your local garden center. Even this early, they will have a selection of little plants in their greenhouse areas. Yes, many of these must be treated as



tropicals this early in the year but they will do great once the weather warms up or if they're kept in a warm room or greenhouse. The real fun is looking through all the seed catalogs that typically start to arrive this time of year. Many of us

have a lot of those little pots which looked cute but were not suited for trees. Fill them with a little soil and plant a few seeds. Imagine some little pots with several types of little flowering annuals in them. Surprisingly, many plants will dwarf on their own and stay small in little pots. \$.50 worth of seeds this spring may give you a lot of fun throughout the year. Even if you don't have a lot of small pots, start a flat of different seeds for transplant later.

Ever thought of using a dandelion as an accent plant? Try one later in spring once you can find some seeds. Cutting are also a lot of fun. Spring is a great time to start some cuttings. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Soil: First off, make sure you have plenty. There's nothing worse than running out in the middle of potting season and either have to make a trip to buy some or worse yet, use the wrong soil. There are as many types of soil as folks doing bonsai. Use what works for you. A reminder: ALWAYS sift your soil or at least make sure it doesn't have a lot of "fines" or dust in it. All those little particles clog up the air spaces in the soil. Without the small air spaces, the trees roots will not function or grow properly.

Wiring: As you design and prune your trees, make sure you have allotted time to properly wire them. At the very least, wire all the major branches as you work on them. Use nice clean wire, don't scrimp and use the wrong size or wrong type of wire. As you wire in spring, it's very easy to see and properly install the wire. Later, after the leaves have come out and you have slept a few nights, you may forget the wire was on certain trees. A neat little trick is to place a colored stake or hang a red tag on trees which have wire on them. Consider using golf tees. If you only did major wiring this spring, makes sure you schedule a time to finish the wiring later or make sure you do as you planned and prune it properly.

Experiment: Have a little fun this spring, start a few experiments. If you have a couple of the same species tree, try growing them in different types of soil. Use a coarse soil in one and a finer one in another. Experiment with particle size, soil types— granite, haydite or fired clay. Mix in different sizes of additives— bark (vary the sizes), long fiber sphagnum moss, worm castings or other additives you've heard about. Label all the trees and keep records of your experiments. Try pruning a branch a certain way. See if it really does bud at a leaf or see how much a branch dies back before it stops. Experiment using wire as a guy wire. Maybe substitute string?



Have fun using thin plates under the root systems which give you a nice flat system. With others, you can start below ground air layers on to remove horrible old root systems.

Experiment with locations. See how trees are affected by different light levels. Try different nutritional additives. Some have had great success with some of the kelp additives. If you get the idea, try something new!



P.O. Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI 53224
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS
7PM, Tuesday, February 2
Grace Lutheran Church
3030 W Oklahoma

Please note our new P.O. Box #

2010 MBS OFFICERS

President	Pam W
First VP	John M
Second VP	Greg P
Secretary	Jorge R
Treasurer	Kris Z
Director	Jerry N
Director	Steve Car.
Director	Steve Con.
Past Pres.	Joe H

Other Club Functions:

Newsletter - Kris Z
Webmaster - Pam W
Librarian - Tom A
Telephone response - John M
PAB Board - Don G, Leo S, & Houston S



IS SPRING HERE YET???