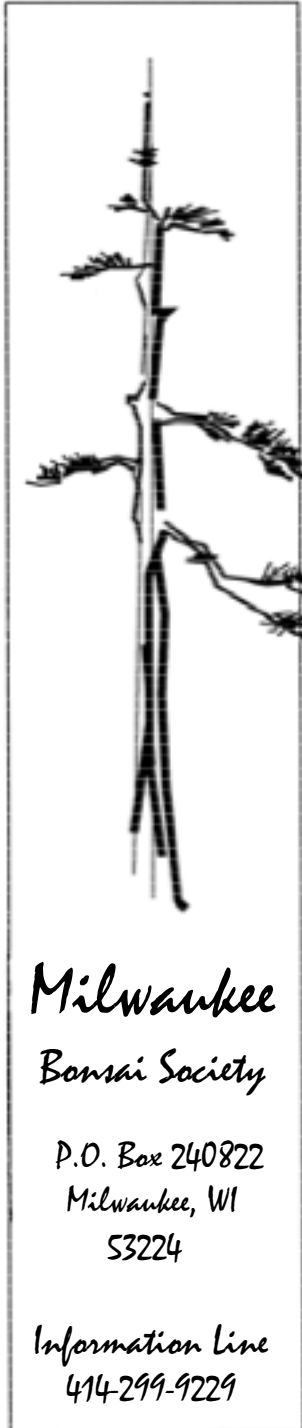


# Bonsai News



## OCTOBER CLUB MEETING

**Guest Artist – Jack Douthitt**

*By Pam Woythal*

In October, we continue our Guest Artist Series with our very own Jack Douthitt and a presentation on what he says “he has learned in the last 40 years”. Jack Douthitt has been a bonsai enthusiast for over forty years. The former president of Bonsai Clubs International, he has served as a judge at bonsai exhibits and exhibited his own award winning bonsai at various shows. Jack served as president of MBS in 2004 and 2005. Jack’s bonsai appear in both the National Arboretum Collection of American Bonsai in Washington D.C. and the Weyerhaeuser Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection in Tacoma, Washington. In 1987, he was named “One of America’s Outstanding Bonsai Artists” by the National Bonsai Foundation.

(continued on page 2)

**SEPTEMBER**  
Sept 24-26 Suthin workshops

**OCTOBER**  
Oct 5 - CLUB MEETING  
Presentation by Jack Douthitt  
Oct 9 Open Workshop BBG  
Oct 18-26 - Ted Matson classes

**NOVEMBER**  
Nov 2 - CLUB MEETING  
Dead Tree Contest / what to do with sick trees  
Nov 6 Open Workshop BBG  
Nov 19-21 - Folk Fair

**DECEMBER**  
Dec 7 - Holiday Party at Meyer's Restaurant

**NEXT MEETING**  
October 5 - 7 pm  
Grace Lutheran Church

**Slate for  
2011 MBS OFFICERS**

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

The election will take place at the October club meeting.

# President's Message

## “You Simply Cannot Afford Not to Participate”

Last year we had an impressive 35 trees displayed by novice, intermediate and advanced members, but it isn't quantity that is as important. The enthusiasm, energy and creativity in evidence at this year's exhibit were further proof that our community of practice is in robust good health. I am proud to tell you that our members really lead the way in the depth of their work. Trees were stunning. Guests were wowed from the moment they walked in to see Novice trees. I heard several viewers say “this is novice?” Thank you to Show Chair Steve Carini and Program Chair John Moore.

This year's Public Workshop had 29 trees! Thank you to Workshop Leader Kris Ziemann....my full appreciation to all who worked to make the weekend event so awesome!

In October, we continue our Guest Artist Series with our very own Jack Douthitt and a presentation on what he says “he has learned in the last 40 years”. Look forward to his three year program using a collected spruce as demonstration material. See more in related article.

MBS membership is growing and to continue as a successful organization, I encourage you to get involved. Sharing knowledge and participating in programs, attending meetings, offering suggestions, working for change, encouragement, optimism, and through personal development, equipping yourself for leadership.

Nominations were announced and I have a few comments about our MBS board: They are your Decision Makers and Leaders. They are big picture people. They immerse themselves in the business at hand. They are visionaries, and, as leaders, they influence others to a unified vision. They are passionate about making adjustments to the organization plans to reflect today's reality.

In the past two years, rising prices, the banking crises (on top of the security crises) and the labor crises have drastically changed the lifestyle and nature of spending in

North America. Many gardening organizations are dying on the vine due to lack of participation and funding in many communities. MBS is in a unique position to fulfill its promise as THE best choice for bonsai fun, education and community service. You simply cannot afford not to participate. I am so excited to be a part of our club, despite the hours and workload, I find being president extremely rewarding. It is my pleasure to serve you and as always, I really enjoy hearing from you.

*-Pam*

## Guest Artist – Jack Douthitt

(continued from page 1)

Jack's book, *Bonsai: The Art of Living Sculpture* approaches bonsai as art, exploring how the traditional fine arts apply to bonsai. He focuses on the specific design elements of the bonsai - the roots, trunk, branches, foliage, and container - and discusses how bonsai artists manipulate elements for a specific effect.

Unlike traditional arts, bonsai requires working with material that is alive and ever changing, presenting unique challenges and rewards.

*Bonsai - The Art of Living Sculpture* is a beautiful publication, with breathtaking color pictures of bonsai throughout. Although it is not necessarily a reference book per-se, it is a fantastic book to get inspiration and ideas for future bonsai projects. Much of the text focuses on outlining the principles and philosophy of bonsai as well as discussing basic design concepts.

In October Jack starts a three year program using a collected spruce as demonstration material. He chose the material not only for its beauty but because MBS members can all acquire spruces and work along with him on their own material.

## Intermediate, Suthin and Matson Study Group members

Please help us with a project for next July.

- At the end of the season, pick up an inexpensive tree at a local garden center.
- Bring it to the October or November Open workshop and style it.
- In spring, repot it and keep it alive until July where we will sell them as a club fundraiser at the Wauwatosa Garden display.

If you have questions, please contact Kris at 262-512-1228 or [hagr8d@mac.com](mailto:hagr8d@mac.com)  
THANKS!

Check out these 2 trees which  
were purchased at Minor's  
(both for less than \$10)!



### BONSAI BUCKS



If we have omitted your name, please email [hagr8d@mac.com](mailto:hagr8d@mac.com), or see Kris Z at the club meeting.

### PUBLIC WORKSHOP

1 Bonsai Buck

Allen K, Jean S, Jerry N, Joe N, Kris Z, Houston S, John M, Dennis G, Tony P, Ron F, Jorge R, Greg P and Rich H

**REMEMBER:** WITH 6 BONSAI BUCKS YOUR HOLIDAY DINNER WILL BE FREE!!

# MBS Heroes

Interview with Steve Carini

## Can You Tell us a Bit about Who You are

I am an energetic, ambitious, and committed man, father of three, grandpa of three and live in Milwaukee, my childhood hometown, with my partner Lori. We have a dog Wendell, named after Wendell Barry. I work in Port Washington with three wonderful women and many great clients. I move through life looking for the beauty all around me, while I dream of a better way to do just about everything... I drive Lori nuts! I love to flower garden, watch independent films, read good fiction, bicycle ride, drink good coffee and red wine, and of course, do bonsai. I wish I could be the first bonsai artist on the Federation Starship Enterprise.

## Are You Finding That People are willing to Share More Information Now?

No. I think people have ALWAYS shared everything they ever learned with me. If anything is the case, I would say that in the past, I have been too fearful to ask questions. When I would finally get up the nerve to ask that stupid question that I had rolling around in my head for months, I'd always get valuable input, and realize that it was NOT a stupid question at all. This club is chuck full of great members with lots of knowledge. We should all get in the habit of tapping this resource.

## This Leads into the Primary Question: How Would You Define Bonsai?

Bonsai is a visual art. It is living art... art that changes with the years. It is dynamic, like nature. The more that one recognizes this fact, the easier time one will have with their trees. I have always been attracted to trees. I had a brother-in-law, Bob Skiera, who was the past City Forester for Milwaukee. When he would tell me things about trees, I would remember every last detail. Bonsai is a way for me to be around trees, interact with them, nurture them, design with them. and love them.

## When it comes to Bonsai, What Do You Think is the Coolest Thing You've Seen Done or That You've Done?

Since I have been donating time at the GSBF Collection in Oakland, CA, and have had the opportunity to watch Kathy Shaner work on trees, I have seen a lot of cool things. Like the use of a hammer and chisel for instance. It seems like there is no branch that cannot be moved. I've seen Kathy split a branch, from the top of the branch, right into wood, insert a wedge, usually wood, leaving the underside bark and cambium untouched and wire it into its new position. I've seen her reduce the underside of the nebari way beyond what I have ever dreamed possible, thus getting the tree farther down into the pot. And most importantly, I've watched her carefully, and almost obsessively, be sure that each root cut is sharp and cleanly finished.

## Steve digging Ginkos



## Is there anything about Bonsai or MBS That You'd like to Add?

Well, my grand kids, kids and Lori are the most important. But with bonsai, what I feel is most important is... that I like my tree. Rules are great guidelines, visiting artists lend input and training for my eye, books and magazines are great teaching tools, but it is my tree and in the end, it will reside on my bench and it will be me that looks at it every day. I want to look at it and really feel the WOW!

## **OCTOBER 9 - OPEN WORKSHOP**

**Bring your trees to work with other  
MBS members at the next  
Open Workshop on October 9  
at Boerner Botanical Garden.**

**9 - noon.**

## **ESSENTIAL BONSAI** by PAM WOYTHAL

**Buds** come in a variety of shapes and sizes but all contain an entire new shoot, complete with its own apical and axillary buds, minutely formed and tightly packed within a protective sheath of scales. The bud has the capacity of stimulating growth in the tree and is responsible for producing leaves and maintaining active cellular division.

### **What are the types of buds?**

Terminal or apical buds form at the tips of the current year's shoots and are typically the largest since they contain next year's extension growth. These are often flanked by smaller axillary buds.

Axillary buds form along the length of the shoot, in each leaf axil (the point where the leaf stem joins the shoot), or in the axils of the bud scales. They produce the shorter side shoots next year or remain dormant.

Dormant buds are generally axillary buds that failed to open in the year following their formation. They can remain, barely visible, for several years until stimulated into growth by pruning, feeding or increased light levels.

Adventitious buds can emerge anywhere on old wood around pruning cuts or even on roots. They are the tree's response to improved conditions or its method of regeneration after loss of foliage.

Adventitious buds tend to produce vigorous, sappy shoots.

### **How are buds distributed?**

Buds have a regular distribution around the stem called phylotaxi position. The buds may be alternative, opposite, or verticillate depending on the species. Buds growing on each side with one further and higher than the other are alternative. If they emerge on the same level they are opposite. If the distribution consists of three or more buds, radiating at the same level around the stem, they are verticillate. Knowledge of distribution of buds for your tree is important for adequate pruning.

### **When do new buds develop?**

Leaves growing at the tip of a terminal bud, lateral buds or axillary buds produce a hormone called auxin. The young, developing leaves produce auxins while the mature leaves serve as storage centers. As auxin moves in the direction of the base of the shoots or leaves it will accelerate stem growth and may inhibit the growth of lateral or axillary buds. Therefore it is necessary to pinch the terminal buds in early spring before shoots appear. Because the first pair of leaves has not yet opened, auxin is not present to prevent the development of axillary buds.





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

Next Meeting of MBS  
7PM, Tuesday, October 5  
Grace Lutheran Church  
3030 W Oklahoma

## 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



*Breathtaking beauty  
Leaves will fall, trees denuded  
Too soon colors wane*