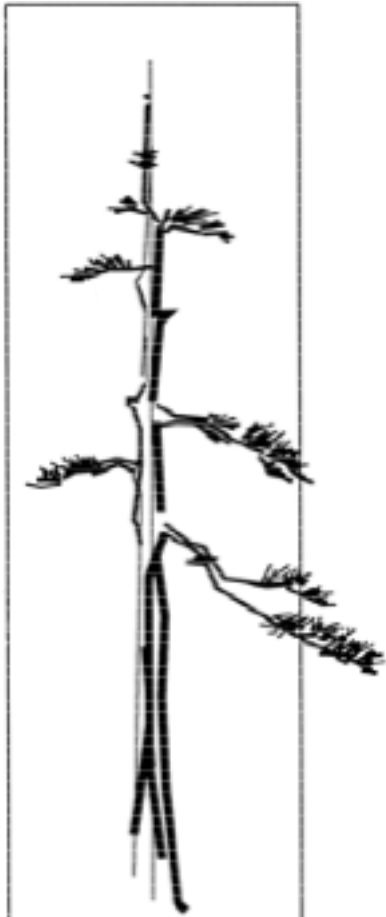


February 2011

Bonsai News



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

P.O. Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI
53224

Information line
414-299-9229

February Club Meeting

Get out of the cold and join us for a tropical evening. Wear your Hawaiian garb! Anything flowery, sandals, shorts, etc !!! Click on the following to get you revved-up!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiY0INgOnZs&NR=1>

No, sorry, we won't be having Polynesian dancers, but we will have a lot of other things going on...

Come for the tour around the Boerner facility.

A discussion on preparing for the Silhouette Show in March.

General tips for newer members from a few veterans...

Come and enjoy our new venue at Boerner!

2011 Events

February

Feb 1 - CLUB MEETING Tropical theme / Boerner Tour
Silhouette prep
Tips for newer members

Feb 6 (Sunday) - Open workshop
1-3 at Boerner... wiring and silhouette prep

March

Mar 1 - CLUB MEETING
Tom Longfellow, guest artist
hemlock report

Mar 19-20 Silhouette Exhibit
at Boerner Sat 8-1, Sun 8-4

Mar 19 Novice class #1 9-12

Mar 20 (12-4) - Root over rock
workshop with Houston S
Repotting workshop 12-4

NEXT MEETING

February 1 - 7 pm
Boerner Botanical Gardens

President's Message

"Our Vision, Our Plans"

Milwaukee Bonsai Society is known as the go-to organization recognized for our relationships, leadership and commitment to bonsai. Here we are starting a new chapter in our history. We have moved to what many members believe is our home at Boerner Botanical Gardens. So let's explore a little about the garden's history.

Charles B Whitnall had a vision to set aside land for a haven for "city dwellers – a place people could go to enjoy lakes, streams, wildlife, flowers and trees." Alfred Boerner landscape architect guided the development and display of plant material appropriate for home owners, business, industrial and municipal sites. His philosophy continues to guide the ongoing development of the Gardens. Two men held visions of what would enhance the lives of many people in our area and increase appreciation for nature.

Today MBS steps forward with *our vision* for increasing awareness of bonsai among the people of our area. We are scheduling shows and workshops to bring the beauty and art of bonsai to the community. We are taking additional steps in getting a permanent collection with our relationship with Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens.

To our members, let's make 2011 a great first year at our new home through teamwork, commitment to the betterment of our society and one another. Our bonsai society in Southeastern Wisconsin is unique. We study, compete, we work hard, we socialize, we enjoy each other's company, and we succeed. It is not like that in most other bonsai communities throughout the US. Let's use this uniqueness of MBS to our advantage, to move forward, to lay tracks for our vision of bonsai ahead and to make 2011 a year to remember.

To our board, we will have many different initiatives in 2011 that will require focus, dedication and collective efforts of our membership to be successful. Some of the things we are involved with in 2011 include, MBS instructor led Novice and Intermediate classes, continuing our outreach to middle school students and general public, developing leaders and organizing affairs for the permanent collection. This last initiative is very

dear to many of our members and affects us all as we build and maintain a framework to support the needs of a permanent collection.

These are just a few of *our plans* for 2011. What I ask of you as members of MBS is to get involved in one of these or another of our initiatives as we are always looking for help. Please call me or any board member anytime with your ideas as we are here for you

-Pam

2011 TED MATSON STUDY GROUPS

Novice, Intermediate, Advanced students are all welcomed.

There are still a few space left in Ted's Study groups. If you are already on the list, or would like to join one of the study groups (Friday, Saturday or Sunday), please bring a \$50 deposit to the February meeting or send to MBS, P.O. Box 240882, Milwaukee WI 53224.

Ted is scheduled to come to Milwaukee March 29 - April 5 (classes on Friday April 1 - Sunday April 3) and September 30 - October 5 (classes on Friday September 30 - Sunday October 2)

***Day and evening classes will be offered.**

***Private and semi-private lessons will be offered.**

The costs will be discussed with interested parties at a future meeting when we have an idea how many MBS members will be participating.

To express you interest and for more information contact:

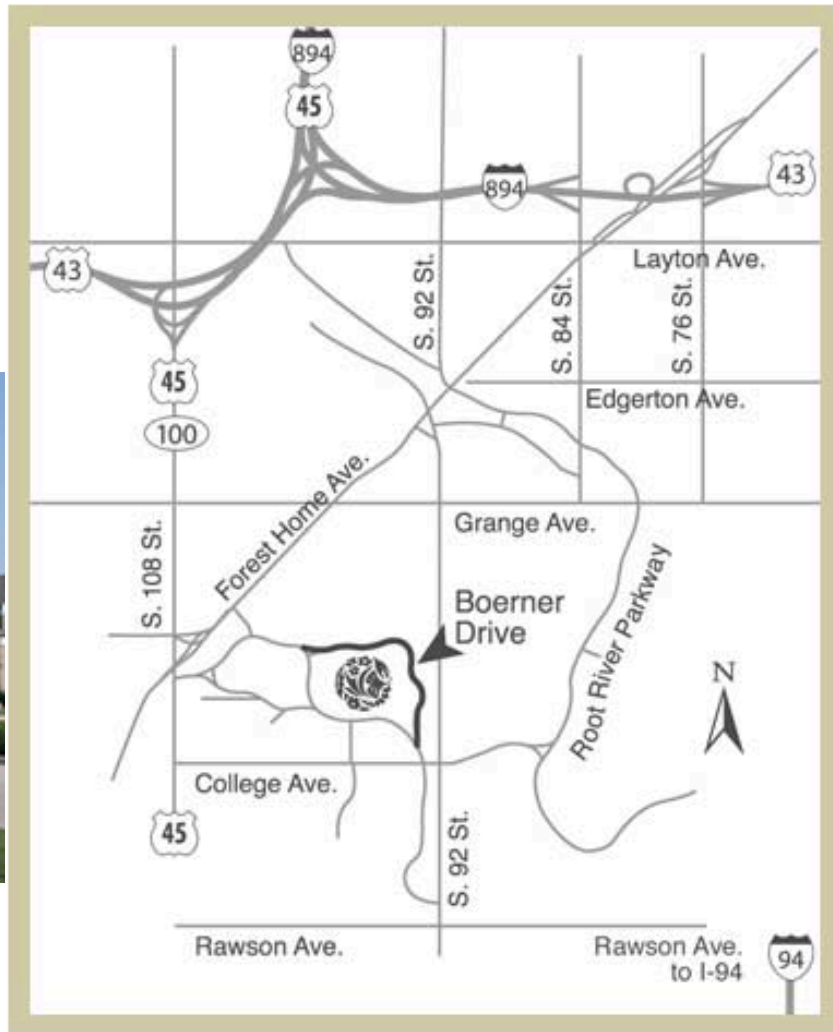
Kris Z 262-512-1228 / hagr8d@mac.com.

BOERNER BOTANICAL GARDENS

9400 Boerner Drive
Hales Corners, WI 53130

REMEMBER:

**OUR MEETINGS ARE NOW AT
BOERNER BOTANICAL GARDENS**



Hear ye, hear ye! The 2011 Novice class is now forming.

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 Boerner Botanical Gardens 9:00-12:00

Saturday April 9 at Boerner Botanical Gardens 9:00-12:00

Saturday April 30 at Boerner Botanical Gardens 9:00-12:00

Saturday May 14 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

FOLK FAIR 2010

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society (MBS) exhibit at Holiday Folk Fair International from November 19 to 21, 2010 was a great success. Many people stopped by the exhibit to ask questions about the 18 trees on display and vote for their favorite. There was a total of 2110 votes cast during the exhibit with Rob P, Susan L and Jim T winning the popular vote on Friday, Saturday and Sunday respectively. Quite a number of visitors expressed a real interest in MBS and said they would attend our public workshop or club meetings. The exhibit was a great experience for those of us who participated as "tree sitters", especially the Friday morning educational opportunity for school students. We were so busy that the morning passed in a flash. If you are a MBS member and have not participated at this event you should give it a try next year, you won't be disappointed. Holiday Folk Fair International is also a great place to try authentic ethnic food from nations around the world and also see their native dance and dress.



Wiring Workshop
Sunday, February 6th, 1-3PM
Boerner / Grandparents Room
by Steve Carini

For many of us, wiring can be a difficult and stressful task. I for one, seem to put off wiring a tree because it takes time, and I always seem to be short of that. Others may get confused as to which direction to wrap the wire on the branch. Or, once the wire is placed, the branch does not hold as planned. We all realize that wire placement is necessary to the success of a design, so why not come to a workshop where you can practice placement of wire on some test branches.

I, along with a few other members, will be facilitating a short workshop on the above date at our club's new home, Boerner Botanical Garden. I will have some scrap branches for all to practice on and will give some tips that I have learned over the years.

If you are interested in taking part in this workshop, please send me an e-mail to register, so I know in advance that you are planning to attend. I will be the first to admit that I am not a wiring expert but am willing to share what I have learned. There may be a small charge to cover the cost of the wire, or bring your own.

Steve Carini
wenrenbonsai@me.com



PARAFILM FOR SALE!
by Steve Carini

Those of you who were not at the September meeting last year, I made a short presentation on the many uses of Parafilm. Here is a list as a reminder:

- * protect a branch where the bark has torn while removing wire that has dug in
- * protect a branch that has broken while trying to bend it (wire over parafilm)
- * protect a bud graft
- * secure a rod or stick to branches for positioning or bending
- * protect a branch while it heals after you have damaged it while creating jin or shari
- * As you can see, it is basically a protective cover for the branch, preventing the tender cambium from drying out while the bark heals over the wound. The best quality that parafilm has is that it stretches with the branch as it grows. It will not restrict the flow of fluids



through the vascular system of the tree.

The club has purchased some and will have it available for sale at meetings... see Kris for purchasing. The cost is \$1 for a small bag.

Ahhhhh, the places that Houston has visited...

Pencil Pines: Some Bonsai Inspiration from Tasmania

by Houston S

Bonsai are supposed to be inspired by nature. A good bonsai not only looks like a larger tree, but brings to the viewer's mind a picture of the location in which it would have grown. Some of the most dramatic bonsai incorporate deadwood into their designs, bringing to mind an image of the high mountains.

The trees that grow at the highest altitude are often restricted to small size. The bright sunlight, snow and freezing winds combine to cause twisted growth with sections of deadwood. Dwarfed and twisted trees like this occur in mountains throughout the world and this form of tree is called Krummholz, which is German for "twisted wood".

Everyone has seen articles and pictures about the ancient and beautiful bristlecone pine trees growing in the dry mountains of California. These are a great example of the classic image that bonsai artists often try to reproduce. Bristlecone pines are often 90% deadwood, but the dead sections last thousands of years in the dry mountain climate.



The Krummholz tree form also appears in much wetter climates. Recently, I had the opportunity to walk through a mountain trail in Tasmania, and was amazed to see Krummholz trees at an altitude of only about 1200 m (4000 ft). The trees present were Snow Gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) and a Tasmanian native species called Pencil Pine (*Athrotaxis cupressoides*).

Although I have never grown one, I am writing what appears to be the first bonsai article about pencil pines. These were the most spectacular examples of Krummholz trees that I have ever seen. As the pictures show, many could have been spectacular bonsai if only placed in a pot, with no styling at all. The foliage of pencil pines appears much like shimpaku juniper, though the green scales are twice the thickness. There are sometimes small brown cones at the tips of the branches.





According to the Australian National Botanic Gardens, pencil pines can reach 1300 years of age. The impressive deadwood on these trees makes them seem even older.

It is quite surprising that the deadwood doesn't immediately rot away. Unlike the bristlecone pines' climate, the Tasmanian mountains have constant and copious snowmelt and rainfall. In fact, so much water runs down the mountain that the trees at the lower levels are the tallest hardwoods on earth and may reach 100 m tall.

Despite the wet conditions, pencil pine deadwood creates sculptures that surpass anything we can create in the world of bonsai.

(see photo #4 - next page)

Many of the readers will know that your author has consistently expressed disapproval of deadwood...





... in bonsai.
Deadwood has its place, and the photos I have presented show the drama of naturally occurring jins and sharis on Krummholz trees, and this image is well worth striving for in

our bonsai. But it is difficult! Study photos or travel yourself to see what natural deadwood really looks like, and notice the form of the trees in which it appears.





MBS now has aprons for sale with the Milwaukee Bonsai Society logo embroidered in living color. These are great for working on your trees, especially repotting. It has a unique adjustable fitting system that allows for a tailored look throughout with the pull of a single strap, and features 2 pouch pockets. All for only \$20!

Milwaukee Bonsai Society Membership Form 2011

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # (home) _____ (work) _____

Email _____ Check # _____

(This e-mail address will not be shared with other parties and is for MBS Board use only.)

for (circle) **Single** 1 year \$25 2 years \$48 3 years \$70

Family 1 year \$35 2 years \$68 3 years \$100

Do you have any hidden talents / interests that you would be willing to share with our members?
If so, please describe:

Please send to: Milwaukee Bonsai Society, P.O. Box 240822, Milwaukee, WI 53224



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

Next Meeting of MBS
7PM, Tuesday, February 1
Boerner Botanical Gardens
9400 Boerner Dr
Hales Corners, WI 53130

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

Other Club Functions:

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



Winter storm has passed

Pagoda heavy-laden

Wind chimes now silent