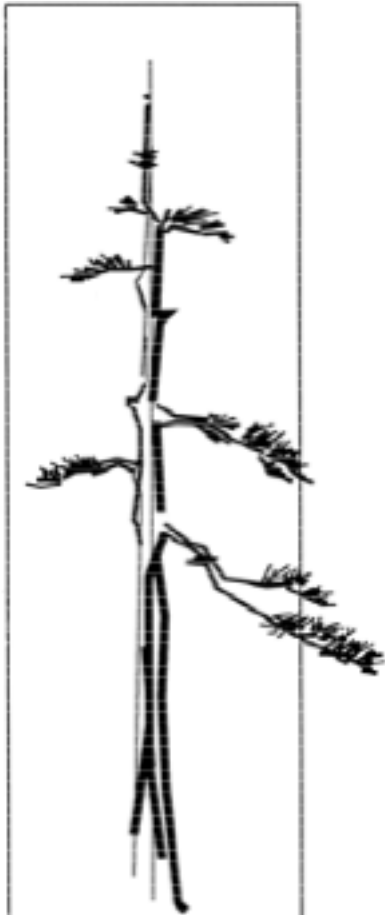


May 2011

Bonsai News



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

P.O. Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI
53224

*Information line
414-299-9229*

May Club Meeting

**Join us for
guest artist
Warren Hill...**
(see article on page 3)

**Come early for a new
segment at our
general meetings.
Starting in May, we
will meet at 6:30 to
host social activities.
Bring in your trees and
questions for advice
from other members.**

**Friends of Boerner
have asked that we no
longer park in the
circle for the entire
meeting. Please
unload and then park
across in the lot.
They also ask that we
not drag sleds as it
scratches the finish
on the floors.**

2011 Events

MAY

May 3 Warren Hill workshop
May 3 - CLUB MEETING
Guest Artist - Warren Hill
May 14 - Novice class #4
May 21-22 - Chicago Show

JUNE

June 7 - CLUB MEETING

JULY

July 5 - NO CLUB MEETING
July 24 - CLUB PICNIC

To see the year's events go to:
www.milwaukeebonsai.org
click on What's New

NEXT MEETING

May 3 - 7 pm
Boerner Botanical Gardens

President's Message

"Core Focus"

Shortly after the New Year, the new board met several times to discuss its mission and a strategic plan for MBS. During these discussions, the board presented all MBS members with a gift—a list of 3 core focus areas. I want to share with you why I think this list is a great gift and what these focus areas mean to me. Each member will have different reactions to them, and I welcome your comments and thoughts. The focus areas are a gift because it helps our leaders and volunteers work toward what is truly important to MBS.

Another aspect of this gift is that focus help us communicate to the community what we are, what we do, and, perhaps more importantly, why we do it. This helps us attract new members. We want to effect change in the lives of everyone in Southeastern Wisconsin. We will be more successful in this endeavor if people understand the substance behind the message.

Core Focus 1: Education: I am glad that the board listed education. Core focus areas do not have different degrees of importance, but sound education is where we begin our decision making, our actions, and our advice. Each day, MBS members add to our community's knowledge of bonsai.

Core Focus 2: Execution: Our board faces a number of activities with competing priorities such as teaching, chairing an exhibit, designing publicity, balancing the budget or organizing an event to name a few. Each of us has committed to take personal ownership by taking action and making decisions in support of MBS. We are taking responsibility for our own results; holding each other accountable for their results; and proactively providing feedback to each other.

Core Focus 3: Promotion: Lots of solid ideas don't get off the ground because a good implementation plan was not developed. Our

most recent planning meeting included a launch plan. We want to celebrate our successful move to Boerner. We want the community to know about MBS. We want to promote our annual show and standing in our community. Our newest board member is developing and acting on a Publicity Campaign to do this promotion. Once again our MBS leadership is poised to ratchet up our achievement level. What I ask of you as members of MBS is to get involved in one of our committees, sign-up for workshops and support our club financially. We are always looking for help and feedback. Please call me or any board member anytime with your ideas and let us know where you can help.

-Pam

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing."

– Walt Disney



Black P

Warren Hill

By Pam W.

The May meeting will feature Warren Hill as he continues his development of a Japanese Black Pine. Warren will discuss/analyze this tree with an eye toward future refinement. The



preliminary shaping and critique of the tree's potential will be the elements or processes that help to create the highest levels of bonsai expression.

Warren Hill was first introduced to Bonsai in 1960 while living in the Los Angeles area of California. After this

initial exposure Warren went on to study the rich Japanese culture that spawned this unique art form. In addition to his Asian studies, Warren majored in engineering and horticulture while attending college. Warren's formal Bonsai studies and training has been with a wide variety of Japanese sensei, (teachers) which include such notables as John Yoshio Naka and Saburo Kato.

In 1974 Warren began teaching.

Since 1974

Warren has conducted

lectures, demonstrations and workshops for numerous State, National and International Bonsai Organizations.

In 1996, the Federal Government, U.S.D.A., Agricultural Research Service selected Warren, to be the Supervisory Curator for the



United States Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C. where he served until 2001.

Warren maintains a busy teaching schedule at Tree-Haven, Warren Hill's School of Bonsai located in Greeneville, Tennessee and throughout the Nation. Let's all find out his vision for our club owned tree.

There is one more spot in the Tuesday May 3 workshop with Warren Hill call Pam at 414-352-7799

The MBS Intermediate Class 2011 will meet at various venues for 4 eight hour sessions during 2011. These classes are open to all MBS members who have taken the novice class, intermediate class or have some Bonsai experience.

Jean S, Houston S, Ron F, and Steve C and will teach one class. The Intermediate classes are schedule for June 4th, June 12th, July 31st and August 28th from 9:00 to 5:00 pm.

The intermediate class offers excellent hands on opportunity to improve your Bonsai skills meet other members of our club and accelerate your Bonsai experience, all for \$100.

To reserve your class please send in your payment to the Milwaukee Bonsai Society. Mail check to MBS, P.O. Box 240822, Milwaukee WI, 53224.

Any questions please call Jorge R 414-357-8793, or e-mail AL345900@hotmail.com.

Suthin (pronounced Su Tin) Sukosolvisit

by Pam W

Over the last year, I was lucky to find this beautiful piece of raw material pine. I thought it would be a great idea to reconnect with our bonsai teacher Suthin Sukosolvisit. Those who know his work and him as a person agree that he is one of the greatest bonsai artists in America. He is in very high demand and I was very fortunate to get time with him.

Suthin Sukosolvisit has been a bonsai artist since 1970. He and his wife, Dararat, opened the Royal Bonsai Garden, Inc. in Stoughton, MA. His work can be viewed on the internet at www.royalbonsaigarden.com. Suthin has one of the finest selections of finished and pre-bonsai on the East Coast displayed at his nursery. Being from Thailand, he has extensive experience with tropical bonsai and is also a magician with shohin sized bonsai.

He also works extensively with Japanese maples, black pine and root over rock styles and is proficient with many other species. He is considered to be without equal as far as shohin bonsai in the states. He lectures all around the world, and has been the headliner at some of the biggest bonsai conventions in the United States. He is one of the most highly regarded speakers in the country and we are privileged to have him as a workshop artist this July. You won't want to miss this chance to work with one of the foremost bonsai artists on your trees.

Suthin says plant enthusiasts who create bonsai can rejoice in "a four-season, living art." In fact, Suthin, said he was "like an addict," and had collected so many trees, he decided to open a nursery. He is a very humble, gracious and quiet person whose talent will absolutely astound and amaze. In fact, at the 2nd National US Exhibition Best tree went to a Japanese White Pine by Suthin Sukosolvisit.

We are honored to have him and his workshop should not be missed. **Workshop dates are Saturday and Sunday July 16 and 17th (private dates are also available).** Follow-up workshop dates are scheduled in September. More on that later. **Cost is the same as previous years \$80 a day per person.** Sign up at the next meeting or call Pam at 352-7799.



Ponderosa Pine before Suthin styled



After Workshop



Here is the material early evening at the start of Mr. Sukosolvisit's demonstration



Finished Design

Bonsai Development Using Colanders

by Houston S

Recently, I helped put on a club workshop making root-over-rock trees from pencil-sized seedlings. In the workshop, we planted our tree/rock plantings in 12-inch colanders (available from your local dollar store). This article will explain why the colanders are used and show an example of the root development this can produce.

The use of colanders for bonsai training is a great tool for developing your bonsai material. This is a technique recommended by many master growers, and allows you to control and improve the roots while growing your pre-bonsai tree to a larger size.

Unlike any other container, a colander has perfect drainage. In a plastic nursery pot or a bonsai pot, when the roots reach the walls of the pot, they curve around the outside of the pot and keep growing. There are many problems with this. First, you end up with a smaller number of thick curving roots, that grow at the expense of the finer roots closer to the trunk. Second, if these roots are allowed to thicken, they will be ugly and curved, and look unnatural.

In a colander you can grow your tree in the ground, or above ground as with a normal container. In a colander, the roots don't stop at the walls. They grow out thru the holes. Above ground, the tip grows out, dries out, and stops growing. Just like with branches, stopping growth at the tip stimulates new growth closer to the trunk. This produces a more compact root system. In the ground, the root tip can grow out thru the colander. But the mesh constricts it a bit, and the soil outside the colander isn't bonsai soil, so you usually don't get really big roots. And it is always easy to remove the tree from the ground with a healthy root system. Just cut around the edges with a sharp shovel and pull it up. The colanders are very sturdy - the one shown below lasted 7 years in the ground, and can still be reused for another tree.



Here are some photos of the root development that can be obtained by growing a tree in a colander. This is a Montpelier maple (*acer monspessulanum*) that has been planted in a colander and growing in the ground since 2004. It began as a pencil-sized seedling,

much like the trees in the root-over-rock workshop.

This tree was grown for a year in a 4 inch pot, then planted in a colander and grown in the



ground for three years. It was then taken out for root trimming and adjustment. At that time, a flat stone was placed at the base of the tree to force root growth outward.

The tree was returned to the same colander and grown in the ground for four more years. The trunk is now two inches thick, widening to a 4-inch flare at the base. It will become a medium sized

bonsai of about 18 inches.

In addition to your collection of wired and pruned trees growing in pots for exhibit, it is great fun to grow material like this for future use. You will find that even a beginner can quickly produce far better bonsai material than your local nursery.



Hope for Japan

by Jorge R

On Sunday, April 3rd, 2011 I had the challenge to be, for the first time in my Bonsai career .the chairman of a bonsai exhibit. The Bartolotta Restaurants organized a charity event to help those affected by the tragedy in Japan. The event was called "Hope for Japan" at the Grain Exchange.

I always wanted to be in charge of organizing an exhibit but never thought it will happen too soon.



This is the first "on-demand" exhibit we have had in our club and had to be very special.

Some of the things needed for this exhibit were to design and print several different bookmarks as well as our 2011 pamphlet to promote our club. We also printed the name of the trees on small cards to improve the look and feel of the exhibit. These are small details that I hope we keep for future exhibits.



Everything started on Tuesday March 29, 2011 when Steve C called me to have a meeting to talk about this event and all the things that needed to be done; he had a previous commitment and couldn't be present.

Steve is extremely organized and detail oriented, he came with a huge list of things that I needed to do.



I wanted to take the time to personally thank Jack, Michelle, Kris, Pam, and Steve for having their trees ready for the exhibit, Steve Contney for printing the poster/bookmarks and John, Joe, Kris and Rocio for helping to setup a beautiful exhibit that added to the general atmosphere of the event.

The experience I gained with this event will be very valuable to the future of my bonsai career.

The result of this event was that more than \$36,000 was raised to aid Japan!

INTERESTED IN FORMING A STUDY GROUP?

Have you ever thought how nice it would be to get together with other club members just to work on trees and enjoy each other's company? Spur of the moment, it's such a nice day, why don't we work on trees?...

Well, here's what you can do...

At our May meeting, we will have sign up sheets for you to show your interest. We will group them as to where you live: NW, NE, SW, SE.

At the end of the evening, we will hand the sheet over to someone in your particular group to coordinate things (maybe to put the list together and e-mail it out to all in the group).

Just be prepared to sign up with your email address and phone number. Then have fun!!

The president is looking for volunteers to
review the club's By-Laws.
If anyone is interested call Pam
at 414-352-7799



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

Next Meeting of MBS
7PM, Tuesday, May 3
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 - Jorge R
PAB Board - Ron F, Don G & Houston S



Hidden forest pool
Nourished by sunbeams and streams...
... and serenity

- Joe Nemec