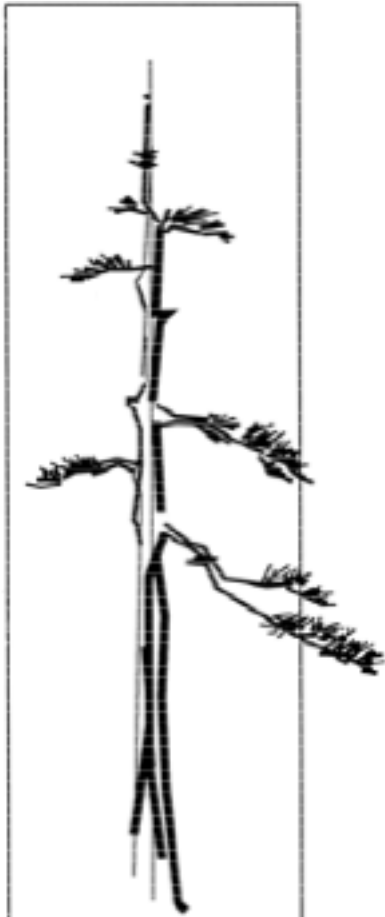


OCTOBER 2011

# Bonsai News



*Milwaukee  
Bonsai Society*

P.O. Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI  
53224

*Information line  
414-299-9229*

## OCTOBER CLUB MEETING

**Please note that we  
will start the  
meeting at 6:45!!**

## GINGKOS REVISITED

Ted Matson will be joining us to look at the progress of trees that were brought in at our April meeting. It's never a bad idea to look at trees in stages. It will be revealing to see the different types of progress and to look at ways to continue or correct a path as needed.

For those who brought tree to the April meeting, please bring them back! Or if you have a ginkgo that you would like Ted to look at, please bring it also.

## 2011 Events

### OCTOBER

**October 1-2** - Matson classes

**October 4** - CLUB MEETING  
Ted Matson - Ginkgos revisited

### NOVEMBER

**November 1** - CLUB MEETING  
Photo contest and  
Dead Tree Contest

**November 6** - Open workshop  
9:00-4:00, Boerner downstairs

**November 18-20**  
Holiday Folk Fair

### DECEMBER

**December 6** - Awards Banquet  
Meyer's Restaurant 76th and  
Forest Home

[www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday Oct 4 - 7:00 pm  
Boerner Botanical Gardens

# President's Message

## "Gratitude"

Stop me if you've heard this one before: A young committee works and works on its first (or next great) event. Blood, sweat and tears are sacrificed. When the planning and preparation are finally finished, they share the event with the community. And, guess what? The community loves it and everyone is talking about this new event. "Buzz" has been created. And then ... everyone moves on. The attention is diverted somewhere else. In today's environment, attention is a commodity and at this time, I want to call attention to some of our volunteers and express my gratitude.

*"Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others."  
- Cicero "Pro Plancio" 54 BC*

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society relies on the commitment and passion of its volunteers.

Steve Ca collaborated with MBS members and provided leadership and guidance to help shape the vision of the Annual Bonsai Exhibit at Boerner Gardens. Some of the key players in making this event so spectacular include Steve Co, John M, Jorge R, Kris Z., Greg P, Tony P, Pat B. Rocio S, Barb S and others who ensured posters and the word got out to the general public. Through your time and effort you have enriched the lives of our bonsai community.

Kris Z 's professional dedication shaped the core mission of education and lead many members on a way to bonsai through public workshops held during our exhibit. Some of the volunteer instructors include Jean S, Joe N, Ron F, Tony P, Steve Co, Anna S, Alan K, Jerry N, Pam W, Greg P and others. The impact of your time and efforts are seen in the opportunities for new students of bonsai.

Ron F, Rita L, Carol B, Pam W, Steve Ca, Gloria R and others form a key base of support and partnership. Your giving reflects what matters to you: honoring the time you have spent as members of MBS,

supporting the event that is meaningful to your organization, helping MBS and members achieve.

The MBS Executive Committee, earlier this week, accepted the resignation of two members: Pat B and Jorge R. Both members have new challenges at work and have resigned for these and personal reasons. Their past support and generosity has helped our organization address pressing issues and improved our ability to create positive change. The Executive Committee has assigned Pam to fill in for Jorge and has asked John M to step in to complete Pat's tenure. That leaves us with a Director position to fill. Please let Pam know if you are interested in filling the vacant seat.

All of our MBS volunteers provided an invaluable resource — their time — to make MBS a stronger organization. Through their advocacy and leadership we shared our bonsai accomplishments with the community. As president of MBS I want to state my "gratitude" for our volunteers' commitment, acknowledge the many outcomes and advancements made through volunteer efforts, and share the importance of maintaining the momentum that will result in our ability to continue to provide great bonsai activities.

*-Pam*

### Slate for 2012 MBS OFFICERS

President	Steve Con
First VP	Tony P
Second VP	Kris Z
Secretary	Ron R
Treasurer	Susan L
Director	Greg P
Director	John M
Director	
Past Pres.	Pam W

The election will take place at the October club meeting.

# MBS CLUB SHOW Results - Congratulations

A=Advanced, I=Intermediate, N=Novice  
September 17-18 Judge: Suthin Sukosolvisit



*Best of Show*

Trident Maple (A) - Jack D

## NOVICE

1st - Japanese Garden Juniper - Bill G



2nd - Ficus - Rocio S



3rd - Ficus - Scott K





## *INTERMEDIATE*

1st - Shimpaku Juniper - Judy H



2nd - American Larch - Susan L



3rd - Pomegranate - Greg P

## *ADVANCED*

1st - Ponderosa Pine - Steve C



2nd - American Larch - Houston S



3rd - Eastern White Cedar -  
Pam W





## 41st Annual Exhibit Recap

Steve Carini

Just a short note to thank and congratulate. My committee of six; Jorge R, Rocio S, Kris Z, Steve Co, John M, and Pam worked very hard to present the very best Annual Exhibit in the 41 year history of our club. Thanks to you all. I also want to thank three volunteers who helped a great deal and they are Barbara S, and Ton S, and Tom F. A big congratulations goes to each of those who placed and received ribbons for their composition. And I especially want to thank all the Novice members for showing their trees.

The reception on Friday evening was a huge success and all really enjoyed themselves. The critique by Suthin was a wonderful addition to the evening and I am thinking that we will do this again in 2012. Many people attended the Exhibit and so many mentioned how impressed they were.

We had two very interesting guests. Some of you may have remembered seeing two lovely young ladies dressed in some very interesting clothing. I stopped and asked them to tell me a little about why they were so dressed up. They shared that they are a part of a group of young people who find interesting cultural events around the city and then set out to dress up for them. They searched out and wore clothing that one might find a young person dressed up in, in current day Japan. All the items they wore were from Japan.

### ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

- Section 4. The First Vice-President shall assume the duties of President in his/her absence and be chair of the Program committee
- Section 5. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings in a suitable, permanent record book, and shall have the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all members included in the permanent record.
- Section 6. The Second Vice-President's duties will be arranging workshops and Masters' visits.

### Proposed Changes for 2011

- Section 4. The First Vice-President shall assume the duties of President in his/her absence and be chair of the Program committee. **Duties include driving activities for member services such as programs at the general meetings, workshops and classes.**
- Section 5. The Second Vice-President shall chair the **Special Events Committee. Duties will be to arrange community sponsored activities including State Fair and other exhibits, public workshops and shows.**
- Section 6. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings in a suitable, permanent record book, and shall have the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all members included in the permanent record.

### ARTICLE VII- COMMITTEES

- Section 1. Standing committees shall be: Membership, Program, Newsletter, Publicity, Refreshments, Library, and Special Events.
- Section 2. Committee chairpersons shall be appointed by the President subject to approval by the Executive Committee. Each chairperson shall select the committee members.
- Section 3. The Program Committee shall be chaired by the First Vice President.
- Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President no later than the end of July and shall consist of three members subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

### Proposed Changes for 2011

- Section 1. Standing committees shall be: Membership, Program, **Website/Newsletter, Publicity/Marketing, Social/Refreshments, Education/Library, and Special Events.**
- Section 2. Committee chairpersons shall be appointed by the President subject to approval by the Executive Committee. Each chairperson shall select the committee members.
- Section 3. The Program Committee shall be chaired by the First Vice President.
- Section 4. The Special Events Committee shall be chaired by the Second Vice President.**
- Section 5. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President no later than the end of July and shall consist of three members subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

## Photographic Competition

By Pam W

Bring your printed photographs to the November Meeting. Prints must be no larger than 8x10 or smaller than 3x5. You may enter up to three pictures. Each entry must have been taken within the past three years (since January 1, 2009). You will be asked to complete this form for each entry (feel free to download from the website or print from newsletter) and of course we will have some available at the meeting.

We will have standard mats for your print for our second exhibition.

Photographer: _____	Phone: _____
Title of Photo: _____	
Please provide a brief description or comments of the photo (i.e. where and when it was taken): _____ _____ _____	
I certify that by completing and signing this entry form that I have read and understand all rules pertaining to the MBS Photo Contest and that I certify that I took the photo that has been submitted.	
By signing the entry form, the contestant grants MBS the unrestricted and exclusive rights to use photograph for any purpose. This includes, but is not limited to, publishing your photograph(s) in print or electronic form for promotional purposes without further compensation, and the right to use the photographers name as a credit along with the photograph.	
_____ Signature	_____ Date

COMING IN 2012 - Bonsai Forever Stamps



Five Bonsai Tree stamps designed by John D. Dawson will be issued in 2012. Dawson illustrated the Nature of America stamp series.

## GET READY FOR STATE FAIR 2012!!

The theme for 2012 in the Horticulture building is:  
“Rooted in Wisconsin”.

What a great opportunity to show off trees native to Wisconsin. To that end, the 2nd show at State Fair 2012 will be dedicated ONLY to trees grown in Wisconsin (shows 1 and 3 will follow the usual rules). Also the requirement of owning a tree over 2 winters will be waived during the 2nd show if members find a treasure at the end of this season in local garden centers and develop it into a showable bonsai by next year (‘yearling tree’). If you already have a tree on the list at the web address below, please show it in the 2nd show - normal rules - you must have had the tree over 2 winters. If you took advantage of all the sales going right now and just picked up a tree, please show it during the 2nd show (there will be a special section for ‘yearling’ trees).

Please use this website to determine if you have a native tree...

[http://www.uwgb.edu/biodiversity/herbarium/trees/tree\\_list01.htm](http://www.uwgb.edu/biodiversity/herbarium/trees/tree_list01.htm)

Have fun and we’ll see you at the 2012 Fair!!

Do you have any trees that  
didn't make it through the winter?  
Get them spruced up for our  
November meeting -  
the dead tree contest!





# Wiring of a Bonsai

By Dave Bogan

Wire used for bonsai is generally made of either aluminum or copper. Opinions on its use and one verse the other will vary.

## Aluminum:

Generally, made of solid aluminum wire with a bronze colored finish. Aluminum wire is imported and thus, it is sized according to the metric system.

Metric sizes start at #1, which is the smallest or finest size. It then increases by .5 increments. So typically you will see sizes 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5 and on. 2.0 and 2.5 seem to be the most popular sizes. It

is also sold by weight in 1/2 kilo or full kilo sizes. In other words, if you purchase a kilo of #1.5 wire it will probably have 20 times more in length than say a kilo of 4.0 wire.

## Copper:

Copper is sized by the old numeric system and sized by its gauge. In copper, the higher the gauge number, the finer it is. No. 6, 8 & 10 are very heavy and rarely used. No. 12 & 14 are the most popular sizes used to wire branches and small trunks. No. 16 & 18 are average primary branch gauges while 22 & 20 are for fine branches. I must also comment that this is annealed copper not shiny regular copper wire. Copper, which has been heated, and the allowed to cool is a lot softer than bare wire.

Recap: Copper = low numbers equals heavier  
Aluminum = low number equals finer wire.

As Americans, we always ask why or which is best. If you ask an older practitioner, they

will usually tell you to use copper. usually due to the fact they started using copper years ago and like its properties. Now the younger person may say aluminum because that's all they have ever used. Some of this is due the fact; aluminum bonsai wire has not been available very long. Even with this, most lean towards aluminum because they think it is easier to use. Actually they are both about the same as far as ease of use. The secret is to use the proper size. Actual strength and wire diameter of copper verse aluminum is considerable.

Typically on average you can use a copper wire 1/2 to 1/3 third smaller than the aluminum and still have at least as strong of holding power.

Now, the real differences. Some like copper due to its color. In time, copper will tarnish and turn darker, helping conceal its visibility. The main plus to

annealed copper is its unique ability to strengthen or harden after it has been twisted on a branch. With this in mind, if the proper size is used, it is actually better. The hardening of copper adds holding strength. Personally, I use about 4 times more aluminum than I do copper. I like both but lean towards the ease of use in most cases. I use copper on trees, which take a long time to set branches like junipers and pines. Since they are slow growers I usually need to leave the copper on a lot longer. I also use copper for my very fine wiring. The smallest gauge of copper is actually smaller than the finest of aluminum.

Ultimately, the reason for wiring a tree or branch is to hold the bend long enough that the tree will keep the movement we desired. Yes, most trees will need to be wired several times in order to obtain the desired results. In my opinion, wire is used as a temporary application until the desired results are





achieved so; I don't like the looks of wire and remove it as quickly as I can. Wire has no aesthetic purpose.

6Now, my pet peeve. People who use the wrong size wire, or use used wire. Yes, you can re-use wire and I occasionally do but, why take the chance of breaking a branch to save \$.05 worth of wire. Some like to use regular copper wire, which they have found. This is fine IF it's annealed properly and again, if you use the proper size. Using a wire too large for a branch can just as easily break the branch when applied. So, if you going to practice Bonsai do it right. Buy a good assortment of wire. You don't need every size available. I suggest you have at least 3 sizes. I would recommend aluminum in sizes 1.5, 2.5 & 3.0.

### **Applying Wire:**

Again, the single most important thing is to use the proper size. Take a piece of wire and try to push the branch with it. If the branch doesn't move and the wire bends, the wire is too small. If a wire can't push a branch, it can't hold it in the desire position. Just as important, don't use a wire, which is too strong. Generally if you use a wire, which is too large, you will end up either breaking the branch or the wire will not be installed properly to hold the branch. As a rule of thumb, copper wire should be 1/3 of the branch diameter while aluminum should be 1/2 the branch size.

A technique that I use quite often is to double the wire. When wiring a branch, you should only use the correct size for the area it's being applied too. By doubling my wire, I can use a slightly smaller size and also have the ability to continue one strand out onto the smaller area of the branch. Simply picture a bobby pin with one leg twice as long as the other does. As you wire out the branch, you have two wires. At the point where you no longer need the double

strength, the one wire stops and the single (longer side) continues on out the branch. To start a wire like this, simply double it. I usually crimp the one end so the wires start out as if they were one. The secret here (as with any wire) is estimating the length. I look at the branch length then add 2 or 3" depending on the trunk size. Keep in mind, your doubling the wire so you need one which is long enough to reach the end of the heavy area and one to reach the next area. Confusing but after doing it a couple times, you will get better at estimating the length required.

A huge factor in wiring your trees is to properly anchor one end of the wire. If the wire moves at the anchor point, it will not hold properly. A good rule of thumb is to always have, at minimum, two wraps around a trunk or branch before you start out the branch. Another good anchor is to push one end into the soil and then start up the trunk. When wrapping the wire, remember the wrap should go on the outside of the intended bend point. Always support the outside of an area, which will take the stress.

If wiring a branch down, the first wrap of wire should go over the top of the branch.





P.O. Box 240822  
Milwaukee, WI 53224  
[www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS  
7PM, Tuesday, October 4  
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  
PAB Board - Ron F, Don G & Houston S



*Cameos adrift  
Silent on an autumn pond  
Awaiting the call*

*- Joe Nemeec*