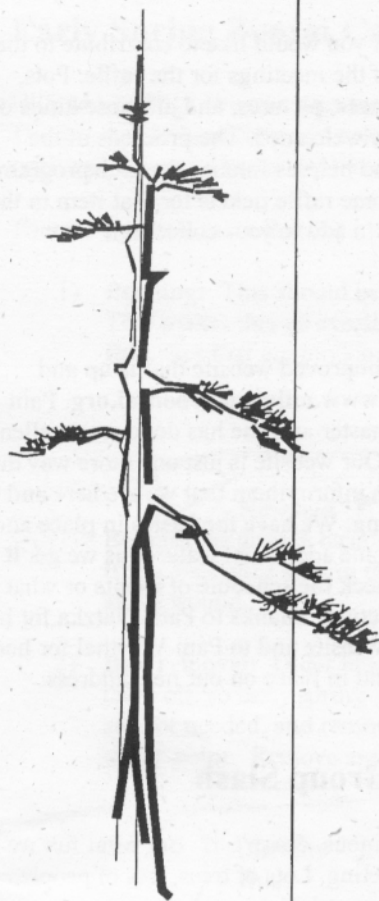


BONSAI NEWS

March, 2004



Milwaukee Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, Wisconsin
53208-0198

Information line
414-299-9229

What's Inside?

April Meeting	2
Sara Raynor Trip	2
Updated Website	2
New Nametags	2
2004 Club Schedule.....	3
Late Winter Bonsai Calendar.....	4

President's Message

At the meeting in March we will have a copy of the schedule of events for 2004 for all of our members. It is another year of outstanding programs. We have some excellent visiting artists who will instruct us in both workshops and demonstrations. In addition we are again offering the Novice Class. If you consider yourself a beginner you should enroll in this class because it will provide you with some excellent instruction from our more experienced, and talented members. Make sure that your dues are paid up, so you can participate in, and enjoy, all of the activities that are going to be happening in 2004. If you have not paid your dues this will be your last newsletter.

The Bonsai Clubs International Convention in going to happen in St. Louis Missouri on June 17th through the 20th. The American Bonsai Society is joining with them for this convention so it will be the only major bonsai convention in the US this year. They are bringing in two bonsai artists from Japan, one from Italy and eleven from the US of A. There will be a lot of exciting workshops planned with all of these artists. The information is in Bonsai Magazine (The Official Publication of BCI) but if you don't belong to BCI then we will bring some registration forms to the meeting for you. It is an outstanding opportunity to watch some very talented artists all in one place. And it is only a one-day drive away!

Another big event this summer is Brussel's Bonsai Rendezvous 2004. It will happen at Brussel's Nursery just south of Memphis Tennessee on May 28, 29 & 30, 2004. It will be in his new facility, and the registration fee is only \$100 for two people. He will have two of the same artists that will be at the BCI Convention, plus two others. As part of the rendezvous he has a reception on Friday night and a barbecue dinner on Saturday night. Registration includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday & Sunday and refreshments all weekend. And there is a 10% discount on all in stock material!

So plan now on participating in one of these big events. They are an opportunity to learn more about our hobby, meet bonsai enthusiasts from other areas, and find that tool, or new bonsai that you have been looking for.

The Joshua Roth New Talent Bonsai Competition for 2004 will be held at the BCI Convention in St. Louis. It is a competition that is open to any bonsai enthusiast, living in North America, who has less than ten years experience in bonsai. I know that there are several people in our club who have the talent to be a contestant in this competition. Consider participating - the winner receives a round trip ticket to Japan!!!! We will have entry forms and more information at the meeting.

March Meeting - Dan Kosta

Dan Kosta from Chicago will be our featured speaker. Dan holds a B.S. degree in horticulture and has worked in the horticultural industry for nearly thirty years. Currently he works in a retail greenhouse and operates his own landscape design and consultation firm. He has had an interest in bonsai for many years but did not get truly involved until the early 80's. His trees have won numerous prizes in several exhibits. He will give a very interesting and informative talk about bugs and pests. How to identify them, what kind of control works on which ones and what you can do to keep your trees healthy and happy. He also will have a handout that will let you take the information home with you. Tuesday, March 2, 7PM at Grace Lutheran.

Spring Surprise

We have a surprise for all of our members! Just a little something that we thought you would enjoy having. They will be available at the March meeting for all paid up members. But you have to come to the meeting to get it. We will not be mailing them out. So come to the meeting and get your surprise!!!!

Sara Raynor Field Trip

Saturday - Sunday April 24-25

by Kris Ziemann, 1st Vice-President

If you haven't seen a Sara Raynor pot, ask someone who owns one to bring one to a meeting for you too see. They are works of art. And we have planned a field trip to go to the artist's studio in Red Wing, Minnesota the weekend of April 24-25. We will leave from Milwaukee early Saturday morning, arrive in time to visit Sara for the afternoon, lodge overnight in a local hotel, (maybe have a swim in the morning), then be on our way to be home by early afternoon on Sunday. We had considered hiring a coach so nobody would have to drive, but it doesn't seem to be cost-effective. So, we will probably be looking for a few vans or cars to caravan up there. So, the cost? A night at the hotel, a split of the gas cost and whatever you spend on pots. Sounds like a great deal, right? What a great opportunity to get to know (close-up and personal) other members of the club. Be ready to sign up at the March meeting, if you're interested. We'd like to get a head-start on planning this excursion, so it might be too late to sign up in April. Stay tuned...

2004 Novice Class

by Kris Ziemann, 1st Vice-President

It's time for NOVICE CLASS 2004! If you are brand new to bonsai, or even if you have been in for a few years but have never taken the Novice classes, this is for you!! A series of four classes (March 20, 27, April 17, May 8) will give you terrific information about styles of trees, pots, tools, pruning, soils, fertilizing and much, much more. The first two sessions are classroom style. You will receive a workbook that has information galore. Two instructors will share their experiences in bonsai. During session 3 we will be working on a tropical plant (again part of your workshop fee). Many club volunteers will be on hand to help you with your trees. Session 4 is BYOT (bring your own tree). (If you can't find one, there is a Wal-Mart down the road from the church that offered us some great choices last year!) Again club volunteers will be available for help. [A 5th session (optional) is our annual nursey crawl for class participants. We gather together at a local nursery and search for great finds amongst the greenery!] ALL OF THIS FOR ONLY \$70 for the 4 sessions! We will be meeting at the church Saturdays from 9:00 - 12:00. Space is limited, so call or email Kris Ziemann (262-512-1228) (kziemann@mtsd.k12.wi.us) to reserve your spot. Bring your check to the next meeting (March 2) or send it to Kris.

You're sure to enjoy this educational experience!

New Name Tags

We will have our new name badges available at the March meeting. We have been using our old ones for almost a year since we changed our logo. So it is time for a change. The new name badges are badge holders that can either be worn on a lanyard or pinned to your clothing. The name badges are free to any paid-up member while the lanyards will be sold for \$3 each.

Club Raffle

If you have any items that you would like to contribute to the club, bring them to one of the meetings for the raffle. Pots, trees, tools, magazines, vases, pictures, and all those kinds of things are enthusiastically welcomed. The proceeds of the raffle all go to the club and help us finance the club programs. On the other hand, buy some raffle tickets for that item in the raffle that you would like to add to your collection!

New Website!

We now have a new and improved website that is up and running. Check us out at www.milwaukeebonsai.org. Pam Woythal is our new webmaster and she has done an excellent job of getting us on line. Our website is just one more way that we can reach the public to inform them that we are here and to tell them what we are doing. We have the basics in place and are planning on adding some additional features as we go. It is a good place for you to check the schedule of events or what is happening at the next meeting. Thanks to Paul Watzka for his previous efforts with the website and to Pam Woythal for her work getting it updated and in place on our new address. Check it out!

April Meeting - Group Slash

Group slash! Sounds ominous, doesn't it? But what fun we will have at our April meeting. Lots of trees, lots of people, lots of ideas, lots of excitement!

Teams of enthusiasts will grab a tree and began working. Some tables may have a couple of trees to work on. Everyone tosses around ideas as to what they see and how the trees could be shaped - a true collaborative effort. Prizes are awarded for the best outcomes. Come to our April meeting for a smashing, slashing good time!



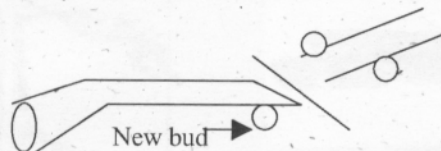
Early Spring Bonsai Calendar:

IT'S MARCH!!!! We can start to think about growing bonsai again!

The winter has been long and cold, and it isn't over yet. But some of the trees are already starting to wake up, and the buds are swelling. So you'd better get busy.

There are several tasks that are important this month:

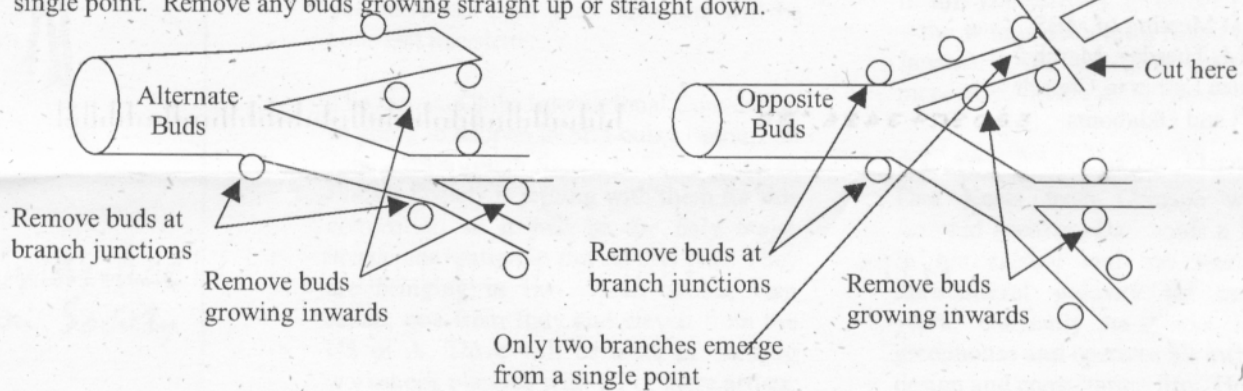
- 1) **Pruning:** This should be the first priority in early spring. As your tree starts to wake up, the new buds will begin to swell. That makes this an excellent time for pruning deciduous trees, since you can see where the new growth is going to take place. Branches that are too long can be shortened to an appropriately placed bud.



Cut the branch at this angle from the bud, leaving a short stub.

Because the growth hasn't yet started and the sap isn't really flowing yet, this is an excellent time to make large pruning cuts. If you wait until later in the spring, the tree may have a greater response to the pruning, and this could create an ugly swelling at the wound.

- 2) **Bud removal:** Older branches often need to have undesirable buds removed in spring. As the buds swell, it is easy to knock them off, so early spring is a very poor time to do wiring on deciduous trees. Remove buds from the trunk where branches are not needed, and remove any buds from branch junctions. Remember the rule – only two branches should emerge from a single point. Remove any buds growing straight up or straight down.



- 3) **Repotting:** The best time to repot is when buds begin to swell, but have not yet opened. It is OK to root-prune and plant trees in the ground during late March, if the weather is warm and the ground is unfrozen. It is probably better to wait until April to repot trees in bonsai pots, unless you have a means to keep the newly repotted tree from freezing. Some trees that required extra protection in winter, such as trident maples or pyracanthas, may leaf out early. If this happens, you can't repot while the leaves are immature! The new soft green leaves took a lot of the tree's reserve energy to form, and require a lot of moisture from the roots. The tree may not survive repotting. If the tree needs repotting, it is best to wait a few weeks until the new leaves are matured to a darker green color and harder texture.

MBS Meetings and Information Line:

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 3030 W. Oklahoma Avenue. Call the MBS Voice Mail/Message System at (414) 299-9229 to learn about upcoming events and meeting times. To contact the club via email: mbs@asapnet.net Look for us on the web at: <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org>

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 2004

January - No Meeting

February

Tuesday 3 - Design and Composition / Meet the vendors

March

Tuesday 2 - Bugs and Pests

Saturday 20 - Novice Class #1

Saturday 27 - Novice Class #2

April

Tuesday 6 - Group Slash

Saturday 17 - Novice Class #3

Saturday 24 - Sara Raynor Field Trip

May

Saturday 1 - AM Mame Crawl / *PM workshop

Tuesday 4 - Jack Wikle (Mame) /

Bonsai for Apartment Dwellers (part 1)

Saturday 8 - Novice Class #4

Saturday 15 - Novice Class Nursery Crawl

June

Tuesday 1 - Club Show / Tropicals with Gerry Knopps /
Bonsai for Apartment Dwellers (part 2)

Friday 11 through Sunday 13 - Asian Moon Festival

Saturday 26 - Refinement Workshop / Using lime sulfur

July

Tuesday 6 - Demo by Colin Lewis

Wednesday 7 - Evening Workshop with Colin Lewis

Saturday 10 - Wauwatosa Show

Saturday 17 - "What next?" Workshop*

Saturday 31 - Workshop with Ted Matson

August

Tuesday 3 *- Demo by Ted Matson

Thursday 5 - Sunday 15 - Wisconsin State Fair

Saturday 28 - Slab making workshop

September

Tuesday 7 - Critique

Saturday *11 - AM *Public Workshop

October

Tuesday 5 - Dead Tree Contest & White Elephant Sale /
Demo on Origami

November

Tuesday 2 - Annealing wire / winter protection / basics of bonsai soil

Friday 19 - Sunday 21 - Folk Fair Exhibit

December

Tuesday 7 - Christmas Party

Pictures from Bunjae
Artpia in Jeju Island, Korea



Your #1 Milwaukee Bonsai Source!



mami.com

THE CITY GARDENER

Featuring
Bonsai and bonsai accessories

- ◆ Indoor and outdoor bonsai ◆ Pre-bonsai
- ◆ Pots ◆ Bonsai soil ◆ Wire ◆ Tools ◆ Books
- ◆ Clay miniatures and more

Plus We offer practical, easy-to-understand help in
choosing and caring for your bonsai

1 Block
North of Brady Street

1814 North Farwell Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
(414) 224-8224



NINO'S

Landscape Company

P.O. Box 510108
New Berlin WI 53151

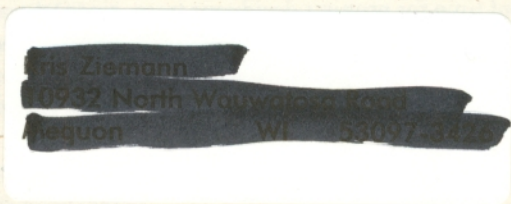
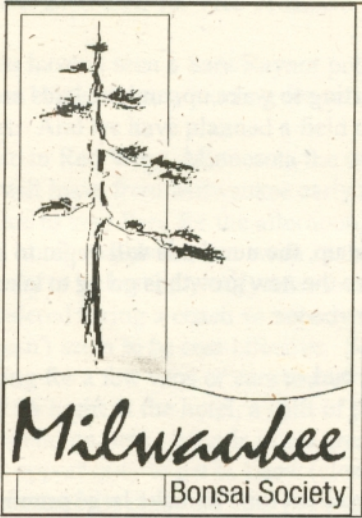
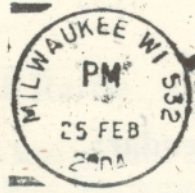
Tony Plicka

(414) 761-9298
Fax (414) 327-4882

Bonsai Supplier

- ◆ Specimen trees ◆ Stock material ◆ Seedlings
- ◆ Tools ◆ Pots ◆ Books ◆ Videos ◆ Mail Order

Now accepting VISA and MasterCard

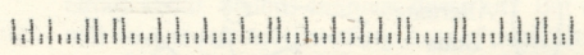


P.O. Box 198
Brookfield, WI 53008-0198

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Next Meeting of MBS
7PM, Tuesday, March 2
Grace Lutheran Church
27th and Oklahoma

5309743426 30



MBS Board, 2004

- Jack Douthitt – President
- Kris Ziemann – 1st Vice President
- Jean Sher – 2nd Vice President
- Karen Kleineider – Treasurer
- Darlene Shaginaw – Secretary
- Sharon Schmidt – Board Member
- Dr. Erskine Tucker – Board Member
- Joe Herbert – Board Member
- Ron Fortmann – MABA Representative
- Houston Sanders – Newsletter Editor
- Pam Woythal - Webmaster



Morning dew blankets
Young buds on flowering trees,
Awaiting the sun.

- Scott Hurula, Sr.