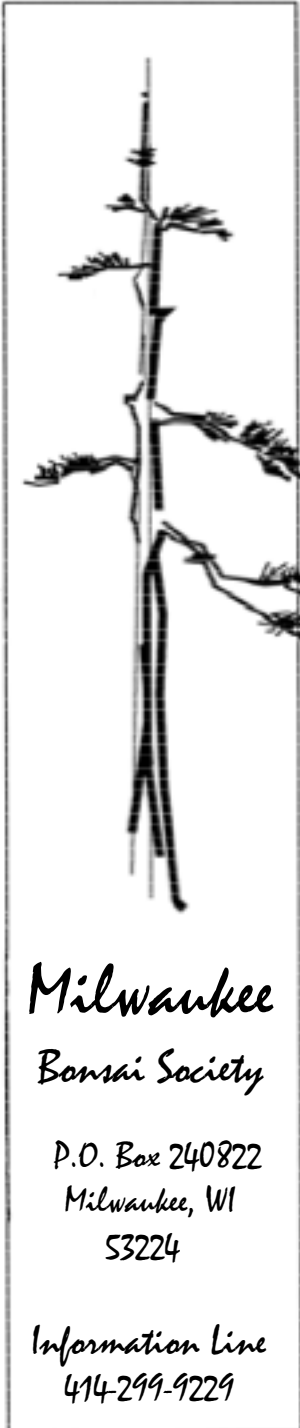


August 2010

# Bonsai News



## AUGUST CLUB MEETING

MBS will feature the visiting artist Suthin Sukosolvisit. Suthin (pronounced Su Tin) is owner of the Royal Bonsai Garden, Inc. Suthin's nursery offers workshops, trees, containers, tools and other garden related products. It was started after coming here from Thailand. His work includes Japanese maples and black pines. He is a master of shohin bonsai. He is also noted for his work in tropical species. He has exhibited in a number of shows and has earned a number of prestigious awards.

Suthin got involved in bonsai in Thailand 35 years ago, and moved to the U.S. 17 years ago. His nursery is located in Stoughton, MA and offers a fine collection of pre-bonsai, bonsai, and specimen trees. His work can be viewed at [www.royalbonsaigarden.com](http://www.royalbonsaigarden.com)

**NEXT MEETING**  
August 3 - 7 pm  
Grace Lutheran Church

## AUGUST

Aug 1 - Suthin workshop  
Aug 3 - CLUB MEETING  
guest artist Suthin S  
Aug 5-15 - State Fair  
Aug 8 Carini Study Group  
Aug 20-22 - Chicago Show  
Aug 29 - Intermediate class

## SEPTEMBER

Sept 7 - CLUB MEETING  
Photo Contest/silent auction  
& home remedies  
Sept 18-19 - Club Show at BBG  
Sept 18 - Public Workshop  
Sept 25-26 Suthin workshops

## OCTOBER

Oct 5 - CLUB MEETING  
Guest Speaker  
Oct 9 Open Workshop BBG  
Oct 21-28 - 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

## President's Message

### "Shout the Commitment"

The year is half over, from a year to date standpoint, it is a good year. Memberships and activities are up and we feel very good about what is going on. We have great participation on the board. As an example let's look at what is going on for programs. The Program committee (John M., Greg P., Steve Ca., and Jorge R) has been working on a plan that outlines every general meeting and mapping where we might be able to work with Chicago and Madison. The committee has met with these clubs and has scheduled an upcoming meeting to discuss details. By working today we expect to plan next year's meetings and have artists booked with nearby clubs for additional years. Let's thank the committee members.

And it's not just our MBS board. I can proudly shout the commitment to bonsai our individual members demonstrate. This last convention is an example. We had several members (Scott K., Greg P., Ron F., Kris Z., Jorge and Rocío R. Jack D., Michelle Z. and Pam W.) attend, they brought trees to exhibit, took workshops, volunteered to water and report when needed, supported the vendors, supported the organization by purchasing (and winning) raffles, and at the banquet auction.

MBS commitment does not stop with support and participation. MBS members have served as leaders of regional, national and international organizations. Ron F has served several times and most recently as MABA treasurer, I have served on the board of ABS, as Secretary and webmaster, Mary T. has served as Secretary for BCI and Jack D

has served on the board working up through the offices to president of BCI.

Now, congratulations to the following MBS members who were recognized at the June Mid-America Bonsai Alliance Convention in Michigan. Jack D. was a second place winner and received \$200.00; Michelle Z. was tied for third place winner and shared \$100.00. But the real surprise was the People's Choice Award, judged by the general public, to Michelle for her literati Pine. On a great last note, Ron F. as outgoing treasurer has passed the baton to Kris Z who was elected MABA treasurer and continues our commitment to leadership in other organizations.

*Pam W*

## SUTHIN WORKSHOPS 2010

*"Silent observers" are welcomed at these workshops - 8:30 - 5:30. A charge of \$5.00 per AM or PM sessions (or \$10.00 for a whole day). You will not be able to interact with Suthin, but you will be able to gain insight from a leading bonsai master. Saturday July 31 - at the Church Sunday August 1 - home of Ron F (262-567-6158) Monday August 2 - home of Jack D (262-228-9628)*

## BONSAI BUCKS



Following is an update on the Bonsai Bucks earned so far.

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

### WAUWATOSA GARDEN TOUR

2 Bonsai Bucks

Jean S, Steve Co, Kris Z

### JACKSON SENIOR HOME WORKSHOP

1 Bonsai Buck

Jean S, Ron F, Kris Z, John M, Pat B, Susan L, Barb S. Allen K

## NEW AT STATE FAIR THIS YEAR

We will be having critiques of the display trees - one critique per show! MBS members as well as members of the public are welcomed to attend these critiques. They will be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday August 5, Monday August 9 and Friday August 13. This is an excellent opportunity to have a close-up view and discussion of the trees. There is no charge for the critique but **State Fair admission is not included.**

## Membership Badges

Pick up your updated membership badges from the Jorge R. (MBS Secretary) at our next meeting.

## SEPTEMBER CLUB SHOW

*We are excited to announce that our September Club Show will take place at Boerner Botanical Gardens on Saturday and Sunday September 18-19.*

*You will be able to drop your trees off on Friday Sept 17 and pick up will follow immediately at the close of the show on Sunday. Stay tuned for more in depth information in next month's newsletter.*

*We will NOT have a show at our September Tuesday night Club meeting.*

## September Photographic Competition

*By Pam W*

Now is a good opportunity to make a photographic record of your trees at the peak of their condition and take the opportunity of entering our first photo competition at the same time. We are looking for entries associated with bonsai and MBS events. Tree portraits, members working on trees, exhibition shots, club workshops, even quirky pictures that bring a laugh – they all qualify for entry.

All MBS members are eligible. Bring your printed photographs to the September Meeting. Prints must be no larger than 8x10 or small than 3x5. You may enter up to three pictures. Each entry must have been taken within the past three years (since January 1, 2008) and should be accompanied by full details of the subject with your name attached. Winning photos will be featured on the MBS website if they are available in digital format.

The judges will be looking for good composition, technical skills and that 'something special' that gives a picture pizzazz.

**STATE FAIR 2010** - Are you interested in entering a tree at State Fair? If you have never exhibited before, please consider doing so this year. Classes are: Youth, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Open. **Please sign up at the August Club meeting or call 414-378-0782 to participate.**



## STATE FAIR EXHIBIT SCHEDULE 2010

Exhibit #1 (August 5 - August 7)  
Exhibit #2 (August 8 - August 11)  
Exhibit #3 (August 12 - August 15)

### Exhibit #1

Deliver trees to \*\*  
Wednesday, Aug 4 from 6pm - 7pm

Pick up trees from \*\*  
Sunday, Aug 8 from 9am - 10am

### Exhibit #2

Deliver trees to \*\*  
Saturday, Aug 7 from 6pm - 7pm

Pick up trees from \*\*  
Thursday, Aug 12 from 9am - 10am

### Exhibit #3

Deliver trees to \*\*  
Wednesday, Aug 11 from 6pm - 7pm

Pick up trees from \*\*  
Monday Aug, 16 from 9am - 10am

**\*\* Strip mall parking lot approx. 102nd and National, just west of Baker's Square. Turn in by the Sentry/Fashion Bug sign. Meet in the area nearest the street (National)**

### When checking in please bring:

+ your list of scientific names and common names,  
+ the approximate age of the tree,

+ stand, accent, sketch of display, and the proposed style of tree.

It is also wise to mark all components of your display with your name.

(an address sticker is usually adequate)

**Note:** If the drop off/pick up schedule is not good for you, please make personal arrangements for your trees with someone who will care for them. YOU must alert the crew about these arrangements so trees will not be misdirected, lost or stolen.

Call or email

Greg at 414-378-0782, gpolak@mac.com

Good luck and thanks for supporting the MBS 2010 State Fair committee.

**For specific information** as to whether your tree will qualify to be entered at State Fair, please go to:

[http://www.wistatefair.com/pdfs/competitions/2010/entry\\_info/general\\_info/hort/society\\_shows.pdf](http://www.wistatefair.com/pdfs/competitions/2010/entry_info/general_info/hort/society_shows.pdf)

Go to horticulture info... p14-15

# MBS Heroes

## Interview with Ron Fortmann

The second installment of the column that interviews our heroes so we can get to know them.

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

Who am I? My career path has been in the technical support of manufactured products most recently coin and currency counting machines. This position has allowed me to travel much of the world (Japan; China; Australia; Singapore; South Africa; Europe; England). Personally I have been married for 33 years to Kathy and have a daughter and two granddaughters.

I have admired bonsai for more than 40 years but only acquired my first bonsai (a willow leaf ficus) which I still have back in 1995, and since have become obsessed with the hobby. Initially just building a personal collection and when the opportunity arrived started my business Ancient Arts Bonsai to fill the need of local hobbyists. Today I have about 60 trees in my personal collection.

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

I have found that more individuals are sharing their personal experiences that are relevant to local hobbyists.

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

I believe that bonsai is an art form but at its basis must be sound horticultural practices. One without the other leads to less than desirable results such as great looking trees artistically but dead or healthy looking trees of little interest. The presentation should tell a story, it should cause the viewer to think why is this tree in the form it is in.

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

I am all about growing healthy trees and this is accomplished by good soil, sound watering practices and a vigorous fertilization program, and pest management practices. Having that in place allows you the advantage to be very aggressive in your styling process as you are working with a tree that is not already stressed and clinging to life.

Figure 1: Ron at his last convention as MABA Treasurer



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

This past year there were more informal workshops where newer members could come to seek advice on their trees; I think these were very productive sessions for all both the newer people and for the more experienced members to share their knowledge.

The formation of a permanent collection in the greater Milwaukee area would be a major accomplishment for the club. And a public show outside of the state fair that would allow us to showcase our many talented members work.



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

Next Meeting of MBS  
7PM, Tuesday, August 3  
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



*Persistent downpours  
Soggy lawns, sump pumps humming  
Bare feet leave footprints*