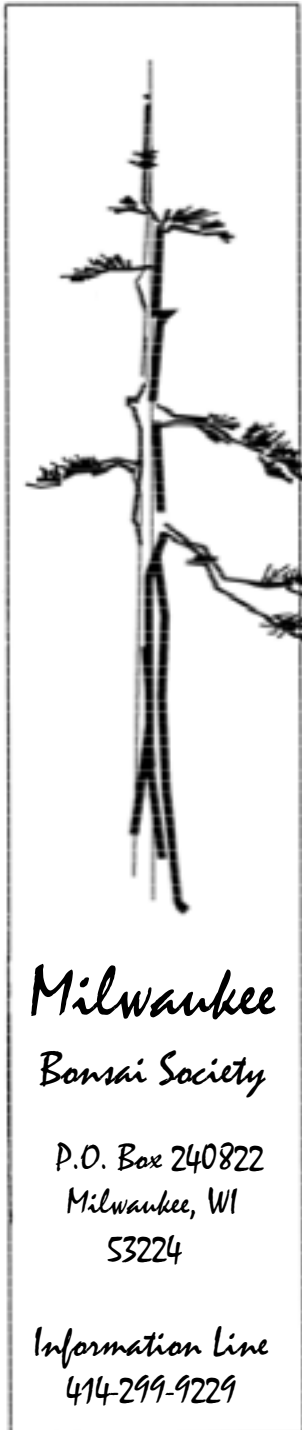


APRIL 2014

Bonsai News



*Milwaukee
Bonsai Society*

*P.O. Box 240822
Milwaukee, WI
53224*

*Information line
414-299-9229*

APRIL MEETING

AUCTION! AUCTION!
(See info on page 4)

Ginkgo Revisited

by Steve Ca and Houston S

I can clearly remember back to that cold, wet, morning in April of 2010, when 27 energetic... maybe crazy... MBS members collected 200 trees, most of them Ginkgoes, on a small private lot in the Bay View neighborhood of Milwaukee. I for one had a blast and am still enjoying working on all 9 trees that I had the opportunity to take home with me that day. Why not revisit these trees so that we can all learn together and see what they look like 4 years later.

I have made some mistakes while attempting to develop these trees and have also had some successes. I have one that is developing into a nice broom style... yes... a Ginkgo broom. Two others are looking like they will be shohin and two others have some unbelievable nebari but are not branching as fast as I had hoped. Jack D has an awesome forest planting. One of my study group students, Jim W, has just let his grow and it is developing well into a typical Ginkgo flame style, (continued on page 2)

2014 Events

APRIL

April 1 - Club Meeting
Ginkgo / AUCTION

**April 13 - Novice Class #2*
& Intermediate Class #1***

April 26 - Children's workshop
at Lynden

April 27 - Repotting workshop
at Boerner

MAY

May 3-4 - Peter Tea classes*

May 6 - Club Meeting
Peter Tea - guest artist

May 10-11 - Spring Display at
Lynden

May 11 - Novice Class #3*

**May 17-18 - Chicago Spring
Show & Madison exhibit**

**May 31 - Spring Public
Workshop** at Lynden

JUNE

**June 1 - wkshop w/ Arthur
Joura***

June 3 - Club Meeting
Guest Artist - Arthur Joura

June 21 - Intermed. Class #2*

June 22 - Children's workshop
at Lynden

**June 28-29 - Peter Tea
classes #2***

***Members only**

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday April 1 - 6:45

Boerner Botanical Gardens

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!!

President's Message

Hurray spring is here. At least that is what the weatherman says. Another slow start to Spring. We'll have more time to repot those trees that need it before it gets too warm.

The novice and the intermediate classes are starting this month. Welcome to the new members who are starting their journey into the wonderful world of bonsai. I would like to encourage them to look at taking a workshop with one of the guest artists coming this year. If they are unsure of the expense or think they are not ready then maybe the way to experience what it is like, is to be a silent observer. For a minimal fee they can come and watch. Being a Silent Observer means just that, no talking to the guest artist or students (interrupting the time they spend with the artist). It's a good way to see what a workshop is and you can learn a lot by watching an expert work and style a tree. You may not have the particular tree being worked yet, but someday you may. You may even see a tree you never thought about, and now want.

We are having an auction at the meeting this month, a way for members to sell excess trees and pots or other bonsai related items. It's a opportunity for you attain these things at the price you want to pay. The club gets 10% of the purchase price, so it helps the club and the members. If you are bringing items to be auctioned please arrive by 6:30 so we can set up.

Thanks

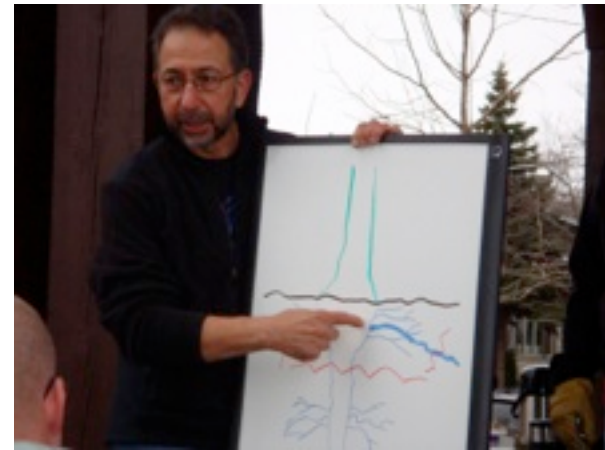
- *Greg*

(Continued from front page)

and Houston has experimented with defoliating one to see if it will help to encourage smaller foliage and ramification. Come to the April meeting and **PLEASE bring in one or two of your**



collected Ginkgo trees and let us all see what they look like. Houston and I will present a short program on our experience with the Ginkgoes and then we will just walk around the room as a group and discuss all that you have brought in. For one nite... we can all immerse ourself in the glory that is Ginkgo Bonsai... "free"



Ginkgo Bonsai, that is.



Silhouette Exhibit at Lynden Sculpture Garden

by Michelle Z.



Thirteen MBS members and the Mahone Middle School Bonsai Club presented our second silhouette show of the season on March 15 and 16, 2014 at the Lynden Sculpture Garden, a privately owned center for 'art interfacing with nature' which is open to the public. The stunning setting was the sun-drenched lobby and sunroom overlooking the exquisitely landscaped 40 acre sculpture park.

Our 'living sculpture' display of 11 bonsai trees featured beech, quinces, larch, elms, apple, maples, hornbeam and a flowering literati style Chinese wisteria, (brought to us from California barerooted in a suitcase by Steve Ca!) which perfumed the showroom and lobby.

The warmth of the sunroom defied the wintery outdoor weather and allowed us to observe the buds of the maples, apple, quinces and larch enlarge and open in just 24 hours!

Yes, it's true, all we need is a little more light and warmth and spring will be here.

The Mahone Middle School Bonsai Club, under the direction of club life member Jean S. created a wonderful 'touchable' exhibit explaining the tools and tricks of the hobby and art of bonsai -- everyone agreed it was the most popular part of the exhibit.



Thanks to club members Steve Co, John M, Linda O, Greg P, Rocio S, Jean S, Kris Z and Michelle Z for planning, preparation, set-up and take down of the exhibit and to Steve Ca, Jack D, Ron F, Jorge R, Houston S, Pam W and Michelle Z for bonsai for display.



Would you like to help MBS?

The Executive Committee needs a secretary.

The EC meets once a month on the second Tuesday. You would be responsible to take notes at the meetings and send out the minutes to the other members on the Executive Committee.

OPEN WORKSHOP - SUNDAY APRIL 27

You are encouraged to take advantage of the MBS Open Workshop which will be held on Sunday, April 27th from 10 until 2 in the Grandparents Room in the lower level of the Education Building at Boerner. If the time is right to repot your deciduous tree, this is an opportunity to get some advice on how to do it properly. A number of our experienced members will be available to help out. Ron Fortmann, owner of Ancient Arts Bonsai, will be there with pots, wire and bonsai soil for purchase.



Ron sent a reminder to those who plan to attend to think ahead about what you want to accomplish. Bring enough supplies such as: pots (you may want to bring a number to choose from and get opinions on which may work best with your tree), screening for the holes, wire to tie down the tree and bonsai soil. Also, bring a strong plastic bag to take the old soil away and old towels or paper towels to help clean up any mess that has been made. Don't forget your tools such as chopsticks, root hooks, root cutters, wire pliers, wire cutters and saws. You may want to do some trimming prior to repotting and possibly some quick wiring. Plan ahead, four hours goes faster than you think and we need to be totally cleaned up and out of the building by 2 PM.

You can certainly do conifers at this time, but the deciduous trees will come first if you want to do them before they leaf out.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS

We are forming the new MBS Intermediate Bonsai Class for 2014. Four sessions, first one is April 13, Sunday 8AM - 2 PM at Boerner Botanical Garden.

Three other dates are: June 21, July 12 and October 19, also at Boerner, 9AM-3PM.

Houston Sanders and Jean Sher will be the instructors for these classes.

Themes for discussion and active tree work will be the focus of these classes.

Cost for the series will be \$125.00.

Payable to MBS when registering; memo Intermediate class.

Please sign up with Jean Sher, in person at the March Meeting or email jsher46@wi.rr.com, or call 414.614.6525

AUCTION! AUCTION!

Bring anything you'd like to sell to the April 1 meeting. The main event is a program on Gingko. The auctions will be interspersed throughout the evening. Here's what to do:

- Get to Boerner BEFORE 6:30!!**
- Come with a list of all the items you have and the minimum amount you want for each item.
 - This is your master list (on page 5)**
 - You will receive a small sheet to fill out for each item (name of item, your number [you will get this as you register], and the minimum \$ you will accept for the item)
 - You will be directed where to put your items
 - Hand in the little sheets to be used in the auction and your Master List.
- After the auction, you will receive a check for your items MINUS a 10% donation to the club.

1	YOUR NAME	Your #	
2	Item name	Minimum amount	Sold for / bidder #
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Plant Activators

by Pam W

Activation of plant defense responses against diseases and insect pests can provide an effective management tool. These plant defense-activating compounds are known as plant activators, plant defense activators and are frequently termed bio-pesticides.

Plant activators induce plants to produce natural disease-fighting compounds, which can prevent or slow pathogen infection. They are the components applied to facilitate the complete growth of a plant. Studies have shown encouraging results for disease control. They found that one class of activators Salicylic acid pathway – Induces SAR (systemic acquired resistance), a natural biological defense response to pathogen attack and can control bacterial speck of tomato without negatively affecting yield.

Plant health activator, is a discovery that was stumbled on by accident. Researchers at Cornell University were studying fire blight in apples and pears when they discovered that the harpin proteins being produced as a kind of by-product of the disease, were triggering an early warning mechanism in the plant

being attacked, causing it to activate its own defense responses. They discovered a topical application of harpin protein that produces the same effect in plants. However the plant activator is not a pathogen and does not hurt the plant. The plant doesn't realize it is not being attacked, it just senses harpin proteins and is tricked into responding. The response is 3-fold:

1. The immune response genes are spurred into action
2. A growth response is triggered and the plant begins photosynthesizing at a higher level
3. The reproductive inclination is revved and the plant begins producing more blossoms



During my research, I found the following products online. I have used both Messenger and Organica Biotech Plant Growth Activator Plus about four weeks after repotting. I cannot claim that I have seen any significant improvement I am going to continue using what I have of them including adding them to my monthly maintenance plan.



Messenger is labeled as a bio-pesticide, Messenger is applied to the surface of the plant. It is not genetic or systemic. Messenger is non-toxic and breaks down quickly. In fact, since it is a protein, it is a food source.

Shelfin is an organic systemic product and is absorbed by foliage and root 3 way of action. Shelfin is applied by immersion or spraying depending on kind of fruit, vegetable or flower. The dosage varies but in most cases it is 1.50 to 2.5 ml per liter of water

Organica Biotech Plant Growth Activator Plus promote plant establishment and stimulate healthy growth and is formulated for evergreens, conifers and deciduous trees. It can be applied as a root drench or dissolved in a sprayer for monthly maintenance.



Check my earlier article on Repotting Additives in April 2013 and watch for a future article on Plant Strengtheners.

AABonsai is on the WEB now
Visit aabonsai.com

Our site is new and very basic at this point but it is a start
You can message me from there and as time permits we will add pages.

Also available at the April Meeting - going forward a huge selection of MICA pots. "They're Back" after a couple years absence I have found a supplier and the prices are reasonable for these durable training pots for those "Masterpieces in training". Remember I will have all your repotting needs on hand also along with a selection of new tools, fertilizers and wire. See you April 1st.
Ron Fortmann



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

Next Meeting of MBS
Tuesday April 1, 2014
Boerner Botanical Gardens
9400 Boerner Dr
Hales Corners, WI 53130

IT'S TIME TO RENEW!!

2014 MBS OFFICERS

President	Greg P
First VP	Judy S
Second VP	Susan L
Secretary	
Treasurer	Barbara S
Director	John M
Director	Teri W
Director	Steve Ca.
Past Pres.	Steve Con.



Other Club Functions:

Newsletter - Kris Z
Webmaster - Pam W
PAB Board - Rob P, Ron F & Houston S

Robins returning
with other heralds of spring
and their cheery songs
- Joe Nemec