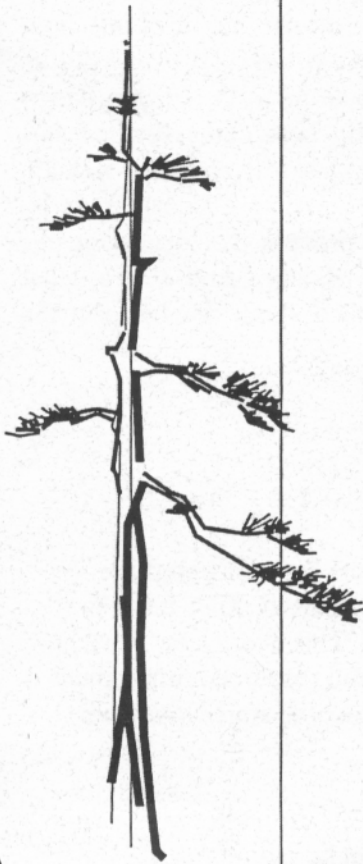


November, 2004

# BONSAI NEWS



*Milwaukee  
Bonsai Society*

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

Information line  
414-299-9229

## November Meeting:

Hey all. November is time to start getting things wrapped up for the winter. As such, we'll be talking about getting your trees ready for winter storage. Come ready to share you ideas of what has worked and what hasn't! We'll also be finding out how to anneal copper wire (no demonstration unless someone brings a Weber grill). Basics of bonsai soil is also on our list of topics to discuss. A large number of pots will be available for silent auction. Come to our last meeting of 2004. You'll be able to sign up for the Holiday Party and renew (PLEASE bring along the forms already made out with your checks to the meeting. If you can't make the meeting, send them in to our P.O. box.

## 2004 Folk Fair

We will be participating in the 2004 Folk Fair again this year. It will be on November 19, 20 and 21st. It is a wonderful opportunity to expose thousands of school children across the state to the wonders of bonsai. Friday, the 19th is our biggest day as the Folk Fair is reserved for the school kids on that day. We need about five or six people to tree sit on Friday (during the day especially) while two or three at a time will be enough at other times. We also need some trees to exhibit space is limited so you must sign up. The sign up sheets for tree-sitters and

trees will be available at the meeting.

In addition to the regular exhibit we are planning on attempting a "Children's Workshop" on Saturday November 13th. The workshop is for children under the age of 12!!! It will be for children within the local community and their creations will be given a special place to be exhibited at the Folk Fair. This is our first attempt at a workshop of this type. Unfortunately, we probably will not know at the time of our regular November meeting if this is going to be a reality or not. The publicity has gone out but the responses have not yet come in. This will be on smaller material and will be held at the church. If there are enough responses we may even have two workshops (one in the AM and one in the PM) that day. Please sign up to help teach the kids about bonsai. If we do not get enough responses we will call you and cancel the workshop. If we get a large number of responses we may be calling you to assist even if you did not sign up!

## 2004 Club Events Calendar

### November

Tuesday 2 - Annealing wire / winter protection / basics of bonsai soil  
Friday 19 - Sunday 21 - Folk Fair Exhibit

### December

Tuesday 7 - Christmas Party

# HOLIDAY PARTY

According to our custom, Milwaukee Bonsai will have its annual Holiday Dinner on Tuesday, December 7. The dinner will be at Meyer's restaurant (Forest Home and 74th St.). People always have a good time at the party. In the spirit of the holidays, please bring a small, wrapped gift for our drawing. It is a cash bar. The food is great and it is family style.

Please make your reservations using the form at the end of this newsletter. Bring it to the meeting along with your payment.

*Date: Tuesday, December 7*

*Time: 6 - 7 PM Cash Bar  
7:00 PM Family Style Dinner*

*Place: Meyer's Restaurant  
74TH AND FOREST HOME*

*Price: \$15.00 per person*

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## Holiday Party Reservation Form

Member's name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest's name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Number of Dinners \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 Each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Buddy Bucks \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$3.00 Each -(\$ \_\_\_\_\_)

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check payable to: Milwaukee Bonsai Society (MBS)*

*Payment accepted at the November meeting or mail form and check to:*

**Milwaukee Bonsai Society, PO BOX 198, Brookfield, WI 53008-0198**

**Reservations and money must be received by NOVEMBER 19, 2004**

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### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MBS dues for 2005 are due by December 31. Payment may be made at the November meeting or by mail. Individual membership dues are \$22.00. Family membership dues are \$30.00. Be sure to renew early so you won't miss any newsletters.

#### MBS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2005

NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_ single  family

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## **BUDDY BUCKS – Final Totals**

By Kris Ziemann

Many thanks to the volunteers at the Public Workshop (Part 2) on Saturday, September 25. One more session to go! Jean Sher, Jack Douthitt, Kris Ziemann, Jim Toepfer, Joe Nemece, Ron Fortmann, Erskine Tucker, Delores Day and Scott Hurula. Thanks so much!

Here is the grand total for Buddy Bucks for this year's Holiday Party. Each Buddy Buck counts as \$3 towards your Holiday dinner (\$15)....

Complimentary dinners go to: (REMEMBER - YOU MUST STILL TURN IN A RESERVATION FORM)

Jack Douthitt, Kris Ziemann, Jean Sher, Darlene Shaginaw, Karen Kleineider, Sharon Schmidt, Joe Herbert, Erskine Tucker, Ken Hahn, Houston Sanders, Mary Turner, Joe Nemece, Delores Day, Camrin LaFond, Rita Luedke, Jim Toepfer and Tony Plicka.

4 Buddy Bucks (\$12 off dinner)  
Melba Stockhausen and Tom Kerner.

3 Buddy Bucks (\$9 off dinner)  
Scott Hurula, Mary Ann Barragry, Yvonne Szatkowski, Kate Kerner, Greg Wein, John Moore and Ron Fortmann.

2 Buddy Bucks (\$6 off dinner)  
Allen Koszarek, Dorothy and Erv Schenzel, Dick Butula, Jerry Niemiec, Gen Molling, Ken Krueger, Ralph Stockhausen, Russ Weiss and Marilyn McKnight.

1 Buddy Bucks (\$3 off dinner)  
Carol Butula, Milt and Audrey Baas, and Don and Karen Gumieny.

If you feel your name has been omitted somewhere, PLEASE do email Kris Ziemann!  
(kziemann@mtsd.k12.wi.us)

## **New Librarian**

Joe Nemece has taken over full responsibility for the Milwaukee Bonsai Society library. All members are free to check out materials from the library, and this is one of the best ways to advance your bonsai knowledge. We have many good reference books

and magazines, including Bonsai Today, Journal of the American Bonsai Society, International Bonsai, and Bonsai Clubs International. Look for changes to the check-out and tracking system in the coming months. Thanks to Joe for taking on this important job!

## **Misting**

By Joe Nemece

It is generally believed that tropicals brought indoors for the winter benefit from frequent mistings.

But this practice does not provide the aura of humidity that one might think. The leaves of these trees do not "absorb" moisture and this practice provides no benefit to the trees.

The most practical way to provide some humidity to wintering tropicals is to set them in a shallow humidity tray of wet pebbles.

### **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](mailto:mbs@asapnet.net) Look for us on the web at: <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org>

## Late Fall Bonsai Calendar

OK, I don't know if November is really "late fall" or "early winter" around here. But it is the month for getting your trees into their safe and protected winter homes. Just about all bonsai, no matter how hardy the species, will benefit from some winter protection. Often small branches die back in winter. As the winter winds dry the branches out, the tree cannot move water through its frozen root system to keep the branches alive. So wind protection is desirable, especially for more developed trees with fine branches. This can be provided via a shelter such as a coldframe or garage, or just a sheltered location alongside a house or behind other trees.

Compared to trees growing in the ground, bonsai root systems have a small volume and are much more exposed to temperature fluctuations. Repeated freezing and thawing can damage the roots and weaken the tree. Therefore, you should find a way to insulate the roots of your bonsai. This can be as simple as digging a shallow hole in your garden and burying the bonsai pot, leaving the trunk and branches above ground. If your tree needs repotting in the spring, it is also acceptable to remove the tree from its pot before burying it.

Another way to protect trees from wind and temperature fluctuation is to make a shelter. This can be as easy as moving the trees underneath a table or bench, then covering the bench with a sheet of plastic. There are many places to find instructions to build other simple shelters or "coldframes" (do an internet search for coldframe). Many people already have a shed or garage that can provide even better shelter. An unheated shelter provides protection from wind, but not much protection from cold temperatures. With this type of shelter, it is best to insulate the roots of your trees with a layer of porous mulch such as shredded cedar.

I divide my trees into four groups based on hardiness, and give each group different winter care.

- 1) The first group, tropicals, includes ficus, bougainvillea, cactus/succulent, eugenia and guava fit into this category (I don't grow many in this group). They are sensitive to temperatures below 50°C and need to be moved indoors by early October.
- 2) The second group, sub-tropicals, includes pomegranate, citrus, olive, and anything from South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, or South America. I also include with this group any trees that are grown in very small pots (> 4 inch). These sub-tropical trees benefit from a period of cold-but-not-freezing temperatures, and are left outdoors until mid-November or until the first prolonged frost. When the pomegranates lose their leaves, these trees go in. These trees grow especially well indoors under artificial light.
- 3) The third group includes anything not quite hardy in our climate. Trident maples, Japanese maples or hornbeams, hinoki cypress, Chinese quince (*Pseudocydonia*), azalea, redwood and sequoia, live oak, pyracantha and miniature Chinese elms fit into this category. These will need protection from cold wind and the most extreme cold temperatures. Some club members box up these trees and store them in their unheated garages for the winter, or place them

in window wells. I have found that they will survive our winters in a well-built shelter that offers complete protection from wind, with a layer of mulch to insulate the roots. Before building a greenhouse, I would take trident maples in to my basement for the coldest part of the winter in January/February, then put them back outside when the temperatures warmed up to stay above 20°.

- 4) Finally, there are the easy ones – hardy to anything. Pines, larch, juniper, Amur maple, boxwood, hawthorn, apple, yew, etc. It is likely that these trees can be left outside in pots all winter with no attention at all, and they would survive. But it is better for the tree to provide insulation for roots and protection from wind. November is a great time to buy junipers at 75% off from the garden centers and bury them, with the pots, in the garden for the winter. They will be ready to work on in the spring. If the tree has good branch details, however, it is best to protect it from snow, wind and animal damage by placing it in a shelter.



**Tony Plicka**  
(414) 761-9298  
Fax (414) 327-4882


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NAME(s) \_\_\_\_\_ single  family

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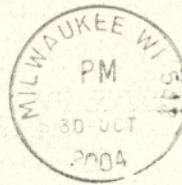




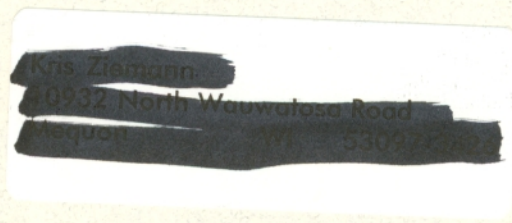
P.O. Box 198  
Brookfield, WI 53008-0198

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

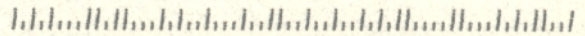
Next Meeting of MBS  
7PM, Tuesday, Nov. 2  
Grace Lutheran Church  
27<sup>th</sup> and Oklahoma



GREETINGS  
FROM  
Far Far Away

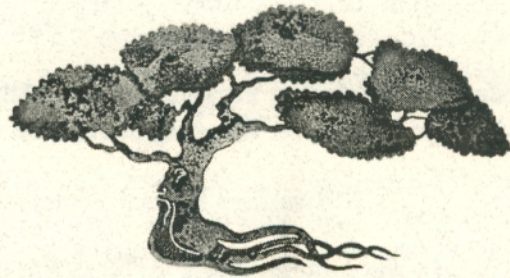


53097+3426



**MBS Board, 2005**

- Kris Ziemann – President
- Jean Sher – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- Darlene Shaginaw – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Karen Kleineider – Treasurer
- Sharon Schmidt – Secretary
- Dr. Erskine Tucker – Board Member
- Joe Herbert – Board Member
- Allen Koszarek – Board Member
- Ron Fortmann – MABA Representative
- Houston Sanders – Newsletter Editor
- Yvonne Szatkowski - Distribution
- Pam Woythal - Webmaster



Autumn birds flocking  
Dipping and weaving as one  
Ballet in the sky

- Joe Nemeec