
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

I must admit I'm not really in a bonsai mood at the moment. Snow is falling, the sidewalks are too icy to walk on and Bonnie and I both have colds. But Ivan's workshop last weekend reminded me that even in winter we should bring out our trees at least occasionally—maybe do some work, maybe plan for work to be done later, or maybe just to admire them. It's "therapeutic", as Barney Fife used to say. Even more inspiring is the obvious sensation that days are slowly getting longer. Warmer will have to wait a few more weeks but I can see it coming now. We have our first regular meeting of the year coming up February 1, which happens to be the same date as last year's Superbowl—in case you don't remember we had a raging blizzard that Sunday and cancelled the MBS February meeting the next night (the only cancellation anyone can remember) due to so much snow. Fortunately the weather this year is looking much better, and Cat Nelson will be conducting the program so I urge everyone to bundle up and come on in—I'm sure it will be time well spent. We plan to try

some new ideas (probably old ideas if you've been around long enough) with our meetings this year, including an effort to get more member trees to the meetings. I will have more to say about that as the year unfolds but we would also like to hear your thoughts as well—it's your meeting so tell us what you would like to see. Speaking of meetings, does everyone

realize that the club has an extensive collection of bonsai-related books, magazines and DVDs available for all members to borrow? This is a great resource that newer members might not be aware of. Eileen Michal schleps the very heavy library cabinet to every meeting—all we ask is that you sign the log and return the items in the same condition as you received them. I've made a personal decision to attend some bonsai events outside of Chicago this

year. There are several within a days drive and Chicago does have an abundance of air travel options. Barring any unforeseen problems, my first stop will be the ABS Bonsai in the Garden Learning Seminars in Grand Rapids the week before our own May show. If you've got suggestions for other events later in the year, or if you see something at other events that we could incorporate into our own, I would like to hear from you.
—Jay Albright



February Presentation by Cat Nelson

Cat Nelson, former President of the Midwest Bonsai Society, and the author of the American Bonsai Society booklet *Introduction to Bonsai Pots*, published in 2012, will be the featured presenter at our first meeting this year: Monday, February 1st. She will be doing a presentation about bonsai pots, discussing both how to value and identify them and how to match them with trees. Cat is currently practicing bonsai in her new home in Keota, Iowa.

Events Calendar

Monday, February 1, 2016

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: 7:00 pm: Bonsai 101, topic TBA. 7:30 pm: Guest Speaker: Cat Nelson. She will do a presentation on bonsai pots. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY

General Meeting 7:30pm, Room TEC1038b Program: Photos from 2015 show. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Saturday, February 13, 2016

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,

9:00 am-1:00pm, with a light lunch. Boerner Botanical Gardens. Guest artist is Tom Longfellow covering the unique area of Fairy Tale Bonsai. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Sunday, February 28, 2016

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY Silhouette Show

9:00 am – 4:00 pm at the Domes. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Tuesday, March 1, 2016

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,

6:30 pm, Taking bonsai out of storage/framing your bonsai. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY,

7:00pm, Bonsai 101, TBD, General Meeting 7:30pm, Room TEC1038b Program: TBD. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Monday, March 7, 2016

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: 7:00 pm: Bonsai 101, topic TBA. 7:30 pm: General Meeting, topic TBA. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Saturday, March 12, 2016

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY

Two different Sean Smith workshops. For further information or to register, go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Sunday, March 13, 2016

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY

Sean Smith presentation 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at Boerner, on his experience with suiseki and diaza around the world. Free and open to all. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Friday, April 15 – Sunday, April 17, 2016

MID-ATLANTIC SOCIETIES SPRING FESTIVAL,

Cromwell, CT. For further info go to www.midatlanticbonsai.org

Thursday, May 12 – Sunday, May 15, 2016

AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY (ABS) CONFERENCE

Grand Rapids, MI. Early registration ends in March and the workshops are filling up. Four workshops and meals are included with the price of the registration. Go to: <http://www.absbonsai.org/2016-abs-bonsai-in-the-garden-learning-seminars> for more information.

Saturday, September 10 – Sunday, September 11, 2016

5TH US NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION,

Rochester, NY. Details to follow.

Chicago Bonsai Club

There is no Chicago Bonsai Club meeting scheduled for February. The first meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, March 16, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be senior members

available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a plant to work on. Chicago Bonsai Club meets at Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago. Contact: suekazoo@hotmail.com or call 773-235-9479.

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Society membership or the Board of Directors.

General Meetings

Meetings of the Midwest Bonsai Society are held at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

All meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Bonsai 101 presentations commence at 7:00 PM.

Library Resources

MBS has a fine collection of Bonsai books and journals which are available for loan. Please contact the Librarian for information.

Monthly Care Report: What to Do in February

Don't feed the trees.
Don't repot until the threat of frost has passed.

Do sift soils, select plants and pots for spring repotting.

Stock up on fertilizers.

Come to the February meeting and bring a tree to wire. Prune and wire pines and junipers. Watch for pests and diseases.

It's the heart of winter, but we didn't get much snow. While your trees are deep in dormancy, there is still work to be done. Continue your winter care and don't forget to check the trees, as they do need water from time to time if they are not in an area where they will get snowed on, although their water needs will be minimal. Check out some bonsai books or magazines from the library.

Mid to late February...

In our area, late February can be the beginning of early spring. If you need to repot, be sure to be vigilant about not letting your repotted trees freeze, since a cold snap can be just around the corner. You can begin to wire your deciduous trees while the buds are still small. During the bleak winter months, the extreme cold temperatures can take its toll on all of your trees. The main task is to protect them from the very cold weather. Don't wait until spring to do all of your maintenance! When the weather moderates in late winter, it is an excellent time for heavy pruning, new design and carving, needle plucking on pines (2-3 year old needles). Don't forget to remove old wire and add new wire. This is a good time to plan your repotting

schedule for spring. Draw up a list of trees that need repotting, get your soil, and search for the pots you may need. Finally, watch out for mice girdling your trees. Use mothballs or a hungry cat to prevent problems!

TROPICALS...

If you have tropicals, some of the leaves may have turned yellow and are falling off, go ahead and cut the remaining ones off. Be sure to leave part of the petiole (leaf stem) to protect the new buds; also leave the growth tips. When a tree naturally defoliates, that doesn't seem to hurt it a bit. If you had to defoliate a tree, now would be a good time to wire it before the new buds start swelling and leaves start emerging. The new leaves seem better acclimated to the cooler temperatures and will harden off and not be affected again. Be careful about watering a defoliated tree too much, and do not fertilize. You

can still style any of your tropicals, just no major top or root pruning.

If you have all of your tropicals in a small area or greenhouse, you still need to be on the lookout for insects, especially aphids and soft body scale. You will want to keep air circulating either by a fan or by opening the area daily to prevent any mold or fungi problems. Keep the area clean of dead leaves and other debris.

Your trees won't generally need as much water and with the lower humidity in the house the surface of the soil will dry quickly, so check not just on the surface but deeply. On the other hand, when the sun shines they will start to use more water, so check and check again.

Excerpted from articles by Ed Hake, Fort Wayne Bonsai Club and Brian's blog (<http://nebaribonsai.wordpress.com>). Reprinted by Permission.

12th Annual May Bonsai Exhibit May 21 & 22

Started in 2004, the May Exhibit is smaller than the August Exhibit but is well worth the trip to view the displays of trees. The Garden Bonsai trees will be displayed in the two courtyards. Vendors will offer an amazing selection of trees, accent plants, pots, stands, tools and Bonsai books and literature. There will also be five workshops, including a children's workshop and some demonstrations. The Spring Exhibit is held in the Burnstein Hall of the Regenstein Center at the Chicago Botanic Garden. The theme of the show is education. Members are invited to bring trees in various stages of training, accompanied by explanations of what processes are being used. There is no fee to attend, but regular parking rates apply for entry into the Chicago Botanic Garden. Visitors can take advantage of hotel discounts arranged by the Chicago Botanic Garden. When making reservations tell the hotel you are in town to attend an event at the Garden. Suggested hotel accommodations can be found at the Chicago Botanic Garden's website: www.chicagobotanic.org.

February Meeting Focus

The February meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 1, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Bonsai 101 begins at 7 pm, topic TBA. At 7:30 pm, Cat Nelson, former Presi-

dent of the Midwest Bonsai Society, and the author of the American Bonsai Society booklet *Introduction to Bonsai Pots*, published in 2012, will be the featured presenter. She will be doing a presentation about bonsai pots.



Midwest Bonsai Society
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Membership Renewal Reminder

July is the time to renew your Midwest Bonsai Society membership, so if you haven't already, please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on the last page of this newsletter. If you do not renew your membership by the end of the year you will no longer receive newsletters via email or snail mail. Your renewal is important in order for us to keep our mailing lists up-to-date. Thank you for your ongoing support. Membership dues keep the Society running and cover costs such as producing our 2 annual shows, inviting guest lecturers to various meetings, and newsletter printing and postage.

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Membership Request

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone

Date

Email

Please Check If Renewal

Please make check payable to: **Midwest Bonsai Society**

Send to: Midwest Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 1373

Highland Park, Illinois

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Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

\$35 Electronic Newsletter **OR \$40** Newsletter by Mail