
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

Hello, fellow Society members, and welcome to the new year. I hope you have all had a pleasant and restful holiday season. As we move forward into 2017 the year promises the opportunity of a new season of growth and refinement for our Bonsai and, we hope, for the Society as well.

As you may already know, the winds of change have been blowing for the Society. In October of last year, they carried away the Society President, Jay Albright. The Board formed a committee to seek a replacement for Mr. Albright, and this January, someone volunteered. Me. After a brief discussion at the last board meeting the board voted to approve me, Robert Wright, as acting President for the remainder of Mr. Albright's term, which will be the duration of this year. I wish Mr. Albright success in his new Colorado home and look forward to serving the Society in this new position.

February 6th will see the start of a new cycle of meetings for the Society and we hope to see you all there to greet the new season. There will be a brief "State of the Society" business

discussion we have held in February the past few years and we will also be circulating some questionnaires to get a feel for the needs and wants of the members. We hope these will give us some guidance in regards to the content of our meetings, but they will also be a good opportunity to present any other issues you may wish to bring to the attention of the Board.

Preparations for the May Exhibition are nearly complete thanks to the tireless efforts of our Vice President of Special Events Larry Stephan. We'd like to ask you all to start considering what you would like to bring to our little public "show and tell". While having some refined Bonsai is necessary, our best public feedback from the May Exhibit has always been about seeing work in progress on the trees, and the revelation of the processes and time involved in the development of these works of art. Please consider showing something under progress and writing a short description of the process and the intended results.

2017 also brings us our 40th Annual August Exhibi-

tion at the Garden. We are pleased to have Kathy Shaner returning as our guest artist this year. It has always been a pleasure to work with her. Her energy and enthusiasm are infectious and we hope they will help to make this a show to remember.

All these events and monthly presentations are labors of love brought to you by the efforts of the men and women of the Midwest Bonsai Society Board, but these labors are becoming more difficult. Currently the Board is understaffed in two important positions and a third auxiliary position. Those are Public Relations, Social Chair, and Recording Secretary, respectively. Public Relations is responsible for our Facebook page, Advertising for the Exhibitions, and looking for new ways to put the Society in the public eye. It really is a critical position. Our Newsletter Editor, Susan Babyk, has been doing

double duty covering Public Relations. She would like to devote her full attentions to the position, but until a new Editor can be found, the newsletter has to be a priority. The Social Chair position has been open for some time, but it would be a welcome change to have it occupied and active again. And finally the position of Recording Secretary is a duty I will continue to perform until someone is kind enough to assume it for me. All these vacancies are contributing to the work load for the active board members, and it would be a significant relief to have their support again. So, if you have skills, experience, or even an interest in Editing, Public Relations, Social Chair, or Recording Secretary positions, please contact a board member at your first opportunity. The Midwest Bonsai Society needs you too.

*Sincerely,
Robert Wright*

Sunday Bonsai Workshops

Starting February 5th, 10 AM to 2PM,
Brendan Berry's residence,
735 Cherry Lane, Lake Forest, IL 60045
Cost: \$60 ea. Please bring your supplies (and a turntable). Workshops are limited to 8 participants.
For more info or to register go to
yasukunai@hotmail.com or 847-917-0817
—*Ivan Watters*

Events Calendar

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY

General Meeting 7:30pm, Room TEC1038b Program: Slide presentation of last year's show. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Sunday, February 5, 2017

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY Silhouette Show

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

Monday, February 6, 2017

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: 7:00 pm: Bonsai 101, "Rules of Bonsai" featuring trunks. 7:30 pm: There will be a presentation on pot preparation and soil. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Saturday, February 18, 2017

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SPECIAL MEETING,

9:00 am – 1:00pm. Boerner Botanical Gardens. Dale Sievert-Magical World of Moss Gardening. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY,

7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Pot selection, General Meeting 7:30pm, Room TEC1038b Program: Repotting demo by Mark Karczewski. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Monday, March 6, 2017

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

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,

6:30 pm, Taking bonsai out of storage with Chris Baker. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Saturday, March 11, 2017

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY

Novice workshop. For further information or to register, go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Saturday, March 25, 2017

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY

Novice class session 2. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Friday, April 7 – Sunday, April 9, 2017

MID-ATLANTIC SOCIETIES SPRING FESTIVAL,

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

Midwest Bonsai Connection

Thursday, May 25 – Sunday, May 28, 2017

AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY (ABS)

LEARNING SEMINAR

Orlando, FL For more information, go to absbonsai.org.

Seeking Newsletter Editor

The Midwest Bonsai Society is looking for someone with editorial abilities to become the next MBS Connections Newsletter Editor. If you are interested or have any questions regarding this position, please contact suekazoo@hotmail.com.

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 15, 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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The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent those

of the Midwest Bonsai 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

The weather had been unusually warm for January—temps in the 50s for several days, little snow and little rain. In our area, early February can be very severe weather-wise, and late February can be the beginning of early spring. It is a bit too early to repot, but 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. When there is a break in the weather, you can wire your deciduous trees while the buds are still small.

Get your tools ready by sharpening them. Consider your soil needs for repotting. If you need soil, come to the February Midwest Bonsai Meeting to purchase some. You can begin to prune deciduous trees taking care to be sure that remaining branches and shoots are in good health. If in doubt as to whether buds on a particular branch or shoot are viable, then wait to prune until you see some bud-swell. Don't forget to sterilize your tools with alcohol before going on to another tree in order to avoid spreading diseases and/or pests.

If the ground has thawed it is also possible to lift trees from the ground and do some undercutting. Leave evergreens until later. Branch pruning of deciduous and evergreen trees can be done (except Japanese maples and pines). Any major redesign and reshaping of trees can be done now. Can't wait to see what February has in store for us. Also, I stress for everyone to know and study each species of tree you have. Knowing their natural environment and growing conditions will enable you to take much better care of that tree.

My tropicals seem to know that the days are getting longer as I can see a little more growth and some need a little pruning. My thermometer in the basement ranges from the low 50s to the mid 60s this time of year. So far, I have not seen any pests on my plants, but I remain vigilant in checking under leaves and along stems.

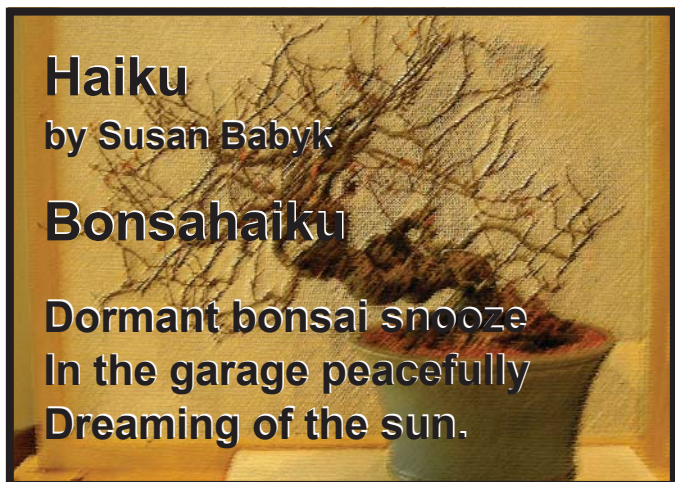
—Ed Hake • Fort Wayne Bonsai Club • Reprinted by Permission. Compiled from several Web articles with adaptation to our area.

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. Victor Zurczak will give a short presentation on "Rules of Bonsai"

featuring trunks. At 7:30 pm, he will talk about pot preparation and Tony Welninski will talk about soil. They will also be distributing a short questionnaire for members to fill out stating their interest in bonsai topics for future meetings and any specific bonsai questions.



Midwest Bonsai Society Board Members

President	Robert Wright (interim)
Executive Vice President	Kurt Nykaza
Vice President Programs	Victor Zurczak
Vice President Special Events	Larry Stephan
Treasurer	Phil Troy
Recording Secretary	Robert Wright
Membership	Lorraine May
Librarian	Eileen Michal
Editorial	Susan Babyk
Assistant Editorial	Gail Thompson
Public Relations	Vacant
Webmaster	Matthew Corpolongo
Members at Large	Eva Hernandez-Thomas Tony Welninski
Past Presidents	Jay Albright Jim Fairchild Ivan Watters
Prairie State Representative	Dan Turner

Midwest Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 1373
Highland Park, Illinois 60035-7373
www.midwestbonsai.org

Membership Information

To become a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society or re-new your current membership (July is the month to renew), please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on this page of this newsletter, and mail it in with your check. 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

60035-7373

Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

\$35 Electronic Newsletter **OR \$45** Newsletter by Mail