
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

It is with great honor that I step up to serve as the President of the Midwest Bonsai Society and I look forward to helping make 2015 a most exciting year for our club. Thank you to everyone who attended our Holiday Party in December, and I hope that everyone's end of year festivities were enjoyable. I have inherited a few important tasks: Larry Stephan, who had been serving as Public Relations Chairperson, was appointed VP of Special Events, as my replacement; but then Dick Besetzny, our VP of Programs, had to step back due to medical issues, so we now need to fill both positions. If anyone would like to serve on the Board, or knows a likely candidate for either of these positions, I'd like to hear from you at the next meeting.

So far this winter, the weather has been better than last winter—though it's still early, so you never know what the rest of the season will be like. Keep one eye on your trees in winter storage and the other on the weather forecasts—we still have more months to go. The board is busy right now planning out our meetings for the year, trying to find

interesting and educational items for the membership. Feedback and suggestions on programming is always appreciated—feel free to talk to any board member at a meeting if you have any comments, or email them to: midwest.bonsai@yahoo.com. This is your Society, and we want to hear from you!

It's unfortunate that there will not be a Three Friends of Winter show at the Chicago Botanic Garden end of January, which has for many of us been a glimpse into Spring.

January is a time of plan-

ning for the year ahead, and for me that means looking at calendars to track the year's upcoming events. There are events for every price range, degree of interest and willingness to travel. Our two shows will be on the 3rd weekends of May and August, and are the closest and cheapest shows to attend. Regionally, the Michigan All-State Show will be the weekend before our show in May, in Grand Rapids, MI. Nationally there is the American Bonsai Society Learning Seminar in Denver, CO in June, Brussel's Rendezvous in May and the International Bonsai Arboretum's National Exhibit, also in June. Details of each of

these events will be posted on our website, and will be mentioned again when we get closer to them. Remember, one of the best ways to improve your bonsai is to simply be around bonsai, and getting out to other shows and conferences are great ways to expand your knowledge.

Our first meeting of the year is coming up on Monday, February 2. We will follow bonsai 101 with a brief business meeting, but the focus of the general meeting has not been finalized, so bring your questions.

I look forward to seeing you all in February.
—Jay Albright

The Midwest Bonsai Society Invites You to the 11th Annual



© 2013 Chicago Botanic Garden.
Photo by: Tim Priest M. Photog., Cr

Spring Bonsai Show & Exhibit Chicago

May 16 • 17, 2015

Please visit www.midwestbonsai.org for more information.

Events Calendar

Monday, February 2, 2015

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY FEBRUARY MEETING, 7:30 pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 pm, Bonsai 101 (topic TBD). 7:30 pm, Annual Business Meeting followed by a general meeting (topic TBD).

Wednesday, February 4, 2015

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING, 7:30pm, Room TBATEC1038b. Program: Show critique/ video from 2014 show. 7:00pm, Bonsai 101, TBA. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Sunday, February 8, 2015

WINTER SILHOUETTE EXHIBIT AT THE DOMES, 9:00 am-4 pm. at Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, Milwaukee, WI. For further information: see flyer at www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Sunday, February 15, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY KICK-OFF MEETING, 10 am-1 pm. Bring pots to clean and tools to sharpen. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Sunday, March 1 & Monday, March 2

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY, 9 am-12:30pm. Artist Workshops with Andy Smith. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Monday, March 2, 2015

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MARCH MEETING, 7:30 pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 pm, Bonsai 101 (topic TBD). 7:30 pm, general meeting (topic TBD).

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 6:30 pm. Guest Artist: Andy Smith. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING, 7:30pm, Room TBATEC1038b Program: Repotting workshop, 7:00pm, Bonsai 101, TBA. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

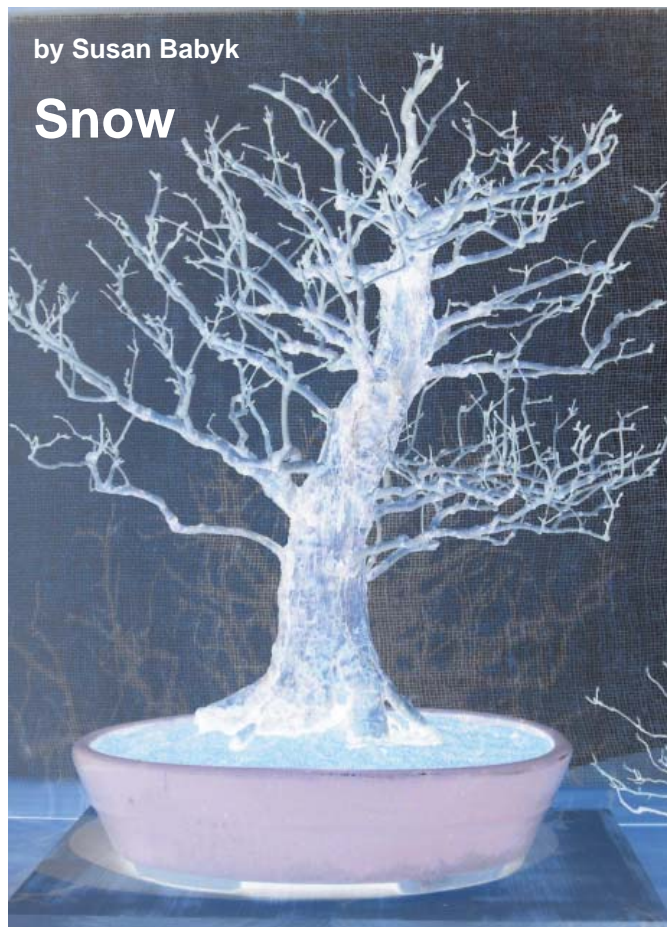
Wednesday, March 18, 2015

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING, 6:00 pm at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Contact suekazoo@hotmail.com for further information.

Haiku

by Susan Babyk

Snow



**Freshly fallen snow
Graces the leafless bonsai—
Winter silhouette.**

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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

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. 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 and adapted to our area.

Winter Bonsai Appreciation

All my bonsai are stashed for the winter and just about this time of year I get restless to find inspiration for the upcoming growing season. Unfortunately, the Chicago Botanic Garden will not have a "Winter Silhouette" show, but I ventured onto their website to see what I could find. I was pleased to find one website page focused strictly on a winter view of a selection of Nakamura trees from their bonsai collection. If you would like to see those, and more, go to the following website: <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/explore/bonsaiwinter.php>

—*Susan Babyk*,
Newsletter Editor

Chicago Bonsai Club

The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will not be meeting in February. Our first meeting in 2014 will be on Wednesday, March 18, beginning at 6 p.m., the program has not yet been determined.

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.

Midwest Bonsai Society Board Members

as of January, 2015

President, Jay Albright
Executive VP, Rich Helminiak
Past President, Jim Fairchild
VP Special Events, Larry Stephen
VP Programs, TBD
Treasurer, Phil Troy
Membership, Lorraine May
Public Relations, TBD
Recording Secretary, TBD
Librarian, Eileen Michal
Editorial, Susan Babyk
Assistant Editorial, Gail Thompson
Community Outreach, Eva Hernandez-Thomas
Member at Large, Ivan Watters
Member at Large, Tony Welninski
Prairie State Representative, Dan Turner

February Meeting Focus

The February meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 2, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

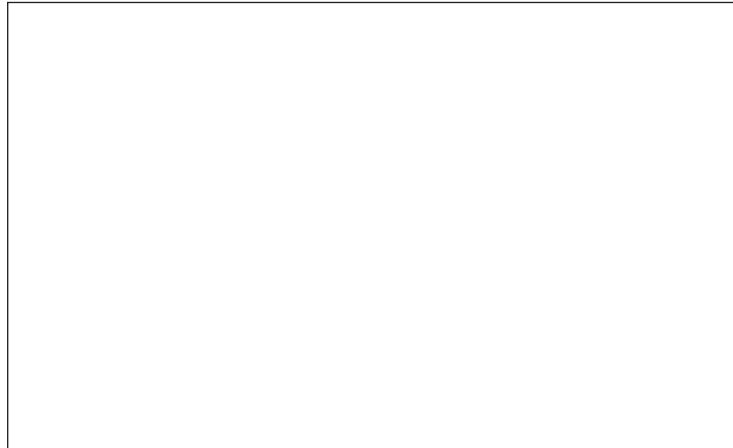
7:00pm - Bonsai 101, topic TBD;
7:30pm: General Meeting, topic TBD.

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 renew your current membership (July is the month to renew), please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on the last 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 \$40** Newsletter by Mail