
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

Welcome to 2019. It seems like I write the same address every year at this time. "The weather has been uncooperative (like that's a surprise around Chicago)", "Make sure your trees in storage aren't drying out", "Do whatever you can to get ready for the repot rush season in couple months." I want to take a different tack this year. Let's talk turkey about the Society.

In 2017 thanks to some good financial decisions by our Treasurer Phil Troy and a better than average year with the August Exhibition the Society saw a significant increase in our financials. Over the course of 2018 we used some of those gains to improve the assets of the Society. We purchased a new projector that is brighter and more detailed than its predecessor. We purchased a video camera and the required supplies to connect it to the projector so that we can project live feed during our meetings. We got a portable speaker that will connect to the microphones and other audio sources making setup for the meetings less backbreaking and freeing us from the need

to borrow CBG equipment for the August Exhibition. Finally, we commissioned Mr. Fairchild to rebuild and expand the small side of the Tokonoma, widening it by about 2 feet as our best-of-show trees seem to be getting larger every year and had begun looking rather cramped when on display in the smaller side. All of these expenditures along with a slower growth rate in the market and a lesser take from the August Exhibition have led to a minor draw down of Society funds, but we are still solidly in the black. If you would like more precise detail on the financial standings of the Society please feel free to consult our treasurer, Phil Troy, at the general meetings.

2019 brings us back around to elections (and you thought you'd be free of those until next year, ha!) for the Midwest Bonsai Society Board. The Bylaws of the Society stipulate that (with the exception of the Treasurer) a Board member may serve only two terms in any one position. A Board member may run for a third term if approved by a majority vote of the Board, but three terms is currently the

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February Meeting Focus

Note: February meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 4th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

General meeting program will be "Beginners Night". We will discuss Bonsai origins, appreciation, and the reality of raising and keeping miniature trees as a hobby. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

limit for any single Board position.

There are good reasons for term limits. They help prevent organizations from stagnating in outdated practices. They introduce new ideas and new methods through new people. They can prevent political entrenchment and personal feuds from damaging the Society.

But term limits have their drawbacks too. Sometimes they prevent good and effective people from staying in their positions. And sometimes they can force positions to go vacant. Especially when finding people willing to serve on the Board has been difficult for several years. It seems that the Board has had at least one or two vacancies ever since I joined the Society. In fact, I was first appointed to the Board when I volunteered to fill such a position. Even now we are missing a Programming Chairman and a Recording Secretary. Positions which I am trying my best to cover, but which would be much better served by the undivided attention of a dedicated individual.

The Society will face a choice this year. We will either need to put new

people in the Member-at-Large seats as all three positions have reached the limit of three terms in those seats, or we will need to amend the Bylaws to eliminate the term limits. The people in those seats right now could opt to run for one of the other Board seats, but we will still need three new faces for the Board as Membership Chair Eileen Michal has also announced to me that she does not currently intend to seek reelection to the Membership chair.

As for myself, I am uncertain whether I will seek the position of President after this year. I have had certain objectives since I entered this office, and primarily they revolve around getting the general business of the Society onto a calendar timetable and then, hopefully, advance that timetable out to about two years, or as far as reasonably practical for any particular task. While some progress has been made, my attention has been heavily divided over the last year, and there is still a lot of work to be done. I am convinced that this is an achievable goal, but it may be that I simply don't have the skills necessary to complete it. Regardless I will continue
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Events Calendar

Saturday February 2, 9, 16, & 23, 2019
BC MASTER BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday February 2, 9, 16, & 23, 2019
HIDDEN GARDENS WORKSHOPS
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Saturday Morning Bonsai with Mark Karczewski bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Sunday February 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2019
BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Brendan Berry's residence. For further information or to register go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Monday, February 4, 2019
MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM, Program: Beginners Night. Especially for those just getting started to learn about origins of Bonsai, as well as training and growing Bonsai as a hobby. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Thursday, February 7, 2019
PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. 7:00PM, Program: Slide show of last year's show. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Saturday, February 16, 2019
MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING
9:00 AM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. Program: This 2019 kick off meeting will feature Chris Baker from the Chicago Botanic Gardens who will be talking about pot selection and grafting. For further information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html

Wednesday, February 20, 2019
BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Chris Baker
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Most of the class time will be spent critiquing and working on trees. Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bring_your_own_bonsai_tree_workshop

Saturday or Sunday February 23 or 24, 2019
BC BONSAI FOREST WORKSHOPS
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM Saturday or Sunday or 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Sunday), Wheaton, IL. 5 different varieties of trees available. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2019
BC MASTER BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2019
HIDDEN GARDENS WORKSHOPS
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Saturday Morning Bonsai with Mark Karczewski bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Sunday March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2019
BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Brendan Berry's residence. For further information or to register go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Monday, March 4, 2019
MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101, Program: TBD. 7:30 PM. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Tuesday, March 5, 2019
MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING
6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. Program: TBD. For further information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html

Thursday, March 7, 2019
PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101: Pot selection by Phil Malhiot. 7:30 PM, Program: Repotting by Jim Keith. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Saturday March 9, 16, 23, 24 or 30, 2019
BC WORKSHOPS
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM on 9 & 16, 10:00 AM - Sunset on 23, 24 & 30. 9th Propagation workshop, 16th TBD workshop, in Wheaton, IL. 23rd, 24th Harvesting workshop and 30th Hardy Tree Repotting in Paw Paw, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Wednesday, March 20, 2019
FOREST PLANTING WORKSHOP WORKSHOP with Chris Baker
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. You can either bring your own trees and pots, or we will provide them for you for an additional fee. For further information go to https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/forest_planting_workshop

Tuesday March 26, 2019
HIDDEN GARDENS WALTER PAUL WORKSHOPS,
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Evening bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday or Sunday March 30 or 31, 2019
HIDDEN GARDENS WILL BADDELEY WORKSHOPS,
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

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. 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 tropical trees 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.

President's Message

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to support the Society whether as President or in some other capacity, but working a full time job while holding down three board positions frankly isn't something I can continue long term.

All of the above leaves us with a lot of gaps to fill. Please consider stepping up and joining the Board to support the Society. If you want more information on any of the Board positions or better yet if you'd like to throw your hat in the ring for a position on the Board please contact me through the Society E-mail at Midwest.Bonsai@Yahoo.com.

Thus far for 2019 our programming is pretty light. We have two speaking guests on our radar, but we have logistics to work out before we can announce them. If things work out we will be holding workshops at the Garden with the speakers on the days they will be speaking. There is a possibility of holding a weekend workshop with them as well, but we need to find a space for the workshops that won't

cost an arm and a leg. The workshops would run as two four hour sessions or maybe one 6 hour session. If you have a space we can use or ideas on where to find a space please contact us, again at the Society E-mail.

While we are talking about programming, what speakers would you like to hear at the meetings? Give me some ideas on who to track down for our presentations.

Our first General Meeting of 2019 is scheduled for February 4th. We're billing it as "Beginners Night". Anybody out there who was suddenly gifted a Bonsai over the holiday season or anyone with a casual interest in Bonsai is encouraged to attend to find out about Bonsai origins, appreciation, and the reality of raising and keeping Bonsai as a hobby.

Fair warning, in the case of inclement weather, unless the Garden locks us out, I will be there to hold the meeting. But please, use your best judgement and

don't put yourselves at risk.

See you the 4th. Probably.
—Bob Wright

(Ok, fine. I can't really leave it at that now can I? So here from SumoBonsaiSupply.com is a bullet list of the things you should be paying attention to this month.)

- Your bonsai should be completely dormant by now and in their winter storage area.
- Make sure to keep an eye on the moisture levels in your pots and watch for pests.
- Keep your bonsai and pots cleaned up to prevent mold and fungus.
- This is a good month to start planning and preparing for spring.
- Use this month to study your trees and plan for styling changes that you need to do this spring. Photographs, sketches,

and notes that you have made will help remind you of what you had in mind. (Photographs are especially helpful.)

- For some styling ideas, you can look at pictures in books, magazines or the internet. Remember that the roots need styling as well.
- While you are planning for repotting you could select the pots that you will use for your trees or search for a pot to purchase. Identify which pot goes with which tree.
- Include in your repotting notes how and where the tree will be positioned in the pot.
- The more notes, indicators, sketches, photos, etc. that you produce during this planning month, the easier and faster your tasks will be when the spring rush begins.
- Sharpen tools, check the pot and soil supply for spring planting.

Chicago Bonsai Club

There is no February meeting. The first 2019 meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, March 20, 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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General Meetings

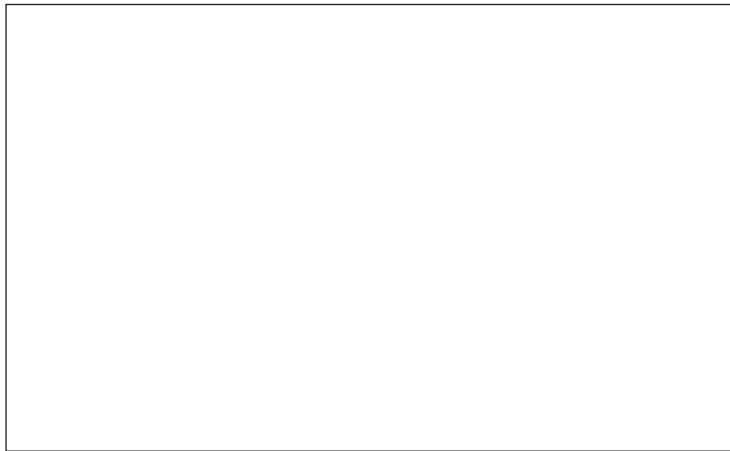
Meetings of the Midwest Bonsai Society are held at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

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.

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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

Membership Information: To become a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society or renew your current membership, fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on this page of this newsletter, and mail it in with your check. Or to join online, go to: <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/membership/join-renew/> 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.