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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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www.midwestbonsai.org

## Greetings onto the Membership

I have good news and bad news for everyone with this President's message. The good news is for me, I have been offered and accepted a new job in Iowa; which will be a great career opportunity for me. Unfortunately, it will put me farther than what even I can consider an easy one-way commute to Chicago, so the bad news is that I am stepping down as President of the Midwest Bonsai Society. It was a hard decision to make, as I had just started another term as President, and I will miss everyone in the Society and the trip in every month for the meetings. At the end of the day, it's the best move for me in my non-bonsai life, so I am excited for the new

challenges that await me "out west". I have been a member of MBS since I moved to Indiana over 8 years ago; my first meeting was March of 2006. In that time I've endured almost constant admonitions of "being crazy" due to my willingness to drive two hours for meetings. I only missed two meetings due to work commitments.

But do you know why I've done it? And not only came to the general meetings but accepted a board position when I was asked? It's because the Midwest Bonsai Society was the best thing out there. There were no clubs in my hometown and of all the clubs that I could reach within a two-hour drive,

Midwest had it all. Meeting at the Chicago Botanic Garden with one of the best bonsai collections in the country right outside our meeting room doors; great speakers and meeting topics; and hosting one of the biggest bonsai shows in the country. Who could ask for more? It was worth the trip for such a great Society. I will miss each and every one of you, and will forever keep my time with the MBS in my heart.

To fill the interim until the next general election, I have appointed a committee to take over running the President's position. Ivan Watters, Larry Stephan and Phil Troy have all agreed to

work together to keep things running for the last year and a half of my term and then search out new Presidential candidates at that time. I hope everyone will be willing to step up and help these gentlemen with the tasks that they've taken up. My appreciation goes to them for their willingness to help. I will be at the July general meeting to say goodbye to the membership, though I don't know my new work schedule yet to know if I can come back for the August show.

Thank you to everyone who's made my tenure with MBS a fantastic experience, and I wish the Society all the best as it moves forward. I shall see you all one last time at the July general meeting!  
Sincerely, Cat Nelson

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## Board, What Board?

At the Board meeting last week we were all stunned to learn about Cat Nelson's MBS Board President resignation announcement due to a wonderful new theater management opportunity in Washington, Iowa. Cat has done an amazing job as Board President, Bonsai Society member, volunteer at our two Exhibits, etc. I tried to

put together a list of all the tasks Cat has taken on, so we don't drop the ball on anything. The list goes on and on. The Board loves her and we will miss her greatly. In the meantime, her responsibilities will be taken on by a Committee of the Board, which consists of Ivan Waters, member at large; Phil Troy, treasurer; and me, public relations.

So, the Society has a Board. What are we doing? The Board has actually been busy. Jim Fairchild has been the driving force behind purchasing a portable sound system, which we have now purchased for use by speakers and guests. Now we won't be paying the Garden for rental of their system. Ivan Waters has been working on a new judging form for the Fall Exhibit which should provide better

feedback to those entering trees. The date for the Holiday Party has been set for Wednesday, December 3rd in the same location as last year. Mark this date on your calendar.

Now, we need your help! With Cat moving so far away we need help from all of you for two big jobs, both of which are tied to the Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit on August 15th through 17th. *(continued on page two)*

# Events Calendar

Wednesday, July 2, 2014

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**, Room TEC1038b, 7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Laurel Oak; 7:30pm, Program: TBA. For more information go to [www.prairies-tatebonsai.com](http://www.prairies-tatebonsai.com)

Monday, July 7, 2014

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY JULY MEETING**, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center, 7:00 pm, Kris Jarantoski - Executive Vice President and Director of the Chicago Botanic Garden - will talk about future plans at the Garden to renovate the Nursery and Greenhouse which would expand and improve the Bonsai greenhouses. 7:30 pm Jim Fairchild talks about creating raft-style trees.

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING**, 6 pm at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Contact [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) for further information.

Sunday, July 20, 2014

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY OPEN WORKSHOP**, Tropical Repotting, 1:00 – 4:00pm. For more information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

Saturday & Sunday, August 2 & 3, 2014

**ANNUAL PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SHOW Hours:** Sat.-Sun. 10am-4pm, at the Morton Arboretum, For more information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

Monday, August 4, 2014

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY AUGUST MEETING**, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center, 7:00 pm, World-renowned German bonsai artist Walter Pall will be our guest speaker.

Tuesday, August 5, 2014

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**, 6:30 pm. Guest Artist – painter Charlotte Fung Miller." For more information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org) .

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## Board, What Board? *(continued from page one)*

For past Exhibits Cat seemed to arrive a day before the show and be there continuously until the take down of the Exhibit space. She also brought lots of beautiful trees to show in the competition. So, we need more volunteers than ever to help with setting up the Exhibit, running the

show when it is open, and taking it down at the end. AND, WE NEED YOUR TREES IN THE EXHIBIT! Please get those little trees in shape and enter them. The Board will work with the Guest Master in an effort to make sure that a significant number of ribbons are given out during the judging.  
—Larry Stephan,  
PR Board Member

## 37th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit, August 15-17, 2014 Guest Artist Rodney Clemons



Rodney Clemons

Our August show is our show with the longest history, going into year 37 in 2014. It is one of the biggest regional shows in the nation.

Centered on the Chicago Botanic Garden's Permanent Collection, featuring almost 50 world-class trees, it's a show-place of trees from across the Midwest. Enthusiasts from five states bring their trees to be judged in the main hall at the Garden's Regenstein Center - with this year's Guest Master Rodney Clemons. There are no residency or membership restrictions for entering the show - any tree that can make it to Chicago is welcome to be entered. Go to [http://www.](http://www.midwestbonsai.org/august-show.html)

[midwestbonsai.org/august-show.html](http://www.midwestbonsai.org/august-show.html) to download a tree registration form that you can fill out in advance and bring with your tree.

Along with this fabulous display of regional talent, there are over a dozen national vendors, workshops, free demonstrations, and a banquet with a silent auction. For more information about workshops and for on-line registration, please go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/augworkshop.html>.

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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 July

July is a great time of year for bonsai. Growth has slowed down, the deciduous trees should be in full glory, and juniper trees are lush.

Keep your trees in shape by pinching or light pruning. Check wiring on trees. Watch for pests and diseases, and spray accordingly. Watch out for scale, looking for tiny white specks on the foliage. Scale requires repeated sprayings on a regular basis as it is amazingly persistent.

Fertilize regularly. If using fertilizer cakes, replace them every month.

Rotate your trees to be sure all sides get equal amounts of sunlight and grow in all directions.

Regarding hot pots: the hot sun can heat up pots and, therefore, the soil. Studies have shown that trees in pots with a wide rim tend to heat up more and deep pots retain more heat than shallow ones. To prevent heat damage to roots, you can use old cotton tee-shirts over the rims of your pots to shade the pot and also help retain a bit of moisture. Or use burlap, pinned in place with U shaped pieces of bonsai wire or provide a bit of shade during the hottest part of the day.

(This is an excerpt from *IBA News & Muse*, July 2010, Volume 27, Issue 7, Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter) Reprinted by Permission.

## Haiku

by Susan Babyk

### Ode to the Bonsai Forest



© 2008 Chicago Botanic Garden

O bonsai forest,  
thriving in the pot,  
Where, within your  
grove of ancient  
looking trees,  
I pause to admire the  
magical spot.

Spires of branches,  
some alive, some  
bleached bones,  
Rise up and outward,  
as I imagine  
A miniature me  
standing beneath,  
In reverence, alone.

The pebble path  
draws me in deeper,  
A wood nymph  
within beckons,  
come play,  
But I've too many  
obligations to keep.

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## July Meeting Focus

The July meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 7, 2014, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Berstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00pm - Kris Jarantoski - Executive Vice President and Director of the Chicago

Botanic Garden - will talk about future plans at the Garden to renovate the Nursery and Greenhouse which would expand and improve the Bonsai greenhouses. 7:30pm - Jim Fairchild talks about creating raft-style trees.

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## Chicago Bonsai Club

The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 16, beginning at 6 p.m. The focus of the meeting has not yet been determined, but senior members of the MBS will be available to answer questions, and assist with styling and

maintaining your bonsai trees, so bring one to work on or for critique.

Chicago Bonsai Club meets at Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago. Contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) or call 773-235-9479.

## Become a Member

To become a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on the last page of this newsletter, and mail it in with your check, or pay in person at the August Show. 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.

## Midwest Bonsai Society Board Members

President, Cat Nelson  
Executive VP, Rich Helminiak  
Past President, Jim Fairchild  
VP Special Events, Jay Albright  
VP Programs, Dick Besetzny  
Treasurer, Phil Troy  
Membership, Lorraine May  
Public Relations, Larry Stephan  
Recording Secretary, Robert Wright  
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

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

# Membership Renewal Reminder

July is the time to renew your Midwest Bonsai Society membership, so please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on this page of this newsletter, and mail it in with your check, or pay in person at the August Show. 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

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Address

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City, State, Zip Code

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Telephone

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Date

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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

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