
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

I am behind in writing this month's President's Letter, but maybe for once there is a reason. I have just received sad news that Rich Helminiak passed away early Wednesday morning, June 24. While I talked to Rich occasionally at club meetings and at our shows, I was not fortunate enough to know him as well as many long-time members. Rich was a natural leader and a force to reckon with, truly earning the unofficial title "Rich#1" in a club full of Richs. His presence has already been missed by the club, and I can only imagine the loss felt by his family.

This has been such a cool Spring that we have not had to give much thought to heat and protection from drying out, other than recently repotted material. But it seems like Summer is finally arriving so be sure to monitor trees for heat stress. Remember that small pots in full sun can quickly reach temperatures that can damage roots.

Our next general meeting will be July 13 and it will be much different from anything we've done recently. Victor Zurczak

and Tony Welninski, at great personal sacrifice, drove all the way to Brussels Rendezvous to select and return with seven very nice Juniper trees of roughly 1-2 inch caliper. Club members will work in teams to style these trees, which will then be raffled at the end of the meeting.

Our August show, known formally as the 38th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit, is fast approaching. And this year we have completely filled both courtyards with vendors. We also have an excellent lineup of workshops this year which should be posted on the website by the time you read this. Our August Exhibit has become the premier bonsai event in the Central US due in no small part to the hard

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work of our volunteers. We will need you again this year. Please notify Larry Stephan, VP Special Events, what times you will be available, and of course we will be signing up volunteers at the July 13 meeting. I encourage you to sign up in advance for a specific time slot, just so we can spot any "holes" in the lineup.

And of course, along with the August exhibit comes the August Banquet. If you've never attended one of our banquets, I highly recommend you give it a try. I mean, seriously, what could be more fun than having a wonderful dinner surrounded by bonsai artists, vendors and fellow aficionados? Our venue, Maggiano's Little Italy, does have a fairly strict reservation policy so be sure to make your reservations with the club well in advance.

It's that time of year for membership renewals, by the way. And we've now made it easier than ever before—just go to the new website and click on Membership. Of course, you can always mail it in, bring a check to the next club meeting, or at the August show.

The MABA (Mid America Bonsai Alliance) Convention held on July 10-12 would be a great warmup for our August exhibit. I probably won't make it this year due to family commitments but I would like to hear from anyone who does go.

And now for something completely different, MBS will be participating in the 2015 Japan Day festivities hosted by the Chicago Japanese Club at Arlington International Racecourse on July 18-19. For more information, please visit their website <http://japandaychicago.org/>.

And don't forget the annual Prairie State Bonsai Show will be August 1-2 at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle IL. Prairie State members have been huge supporters of our events and we should return the favor.

—Jay Albright

Events Calendar

Wednesday, July 1, 2015

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING,
7:30pm, Room TEC1038b

Program: Iron Bonsai competition, 7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Show display. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,
6:30 pm, Tropical Discussions. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Monday, July 13, 2015

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY JUNE MEETING,
7:00 pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 pm, Society-provided tree workshop. At completion, trees will be raffled off. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING,
6:00 pm, at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Focus will be on summer care, and there will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a plant to work on. For further information, contact: suekazoo@hotmail.com

Saturday & Sunday, July 18 & 19, 2015

JAPAN DAY,
12 – 5 pm each day, Arlington Race Track. MBS Members will be present, working on their own trees. For further information go to: japandaychicago.org/july-18-19-at-arlington-race-track/

Saturday & Sunday, August 1 & 2, 2015

ANNUAL PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SHOW. 10am-4pm at Morton Arboretum. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Monday, August 3, 2015

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY JUNE MEETING,
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 pm, Bonsai 101. 7:30pm General Meeting, topic: preparing trees for exhibit. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,
6:30 pm. How to set up a display. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

August 14 – 16, 2015

38TH ANNUAL MID-AMERICA BONSAI EXHIBIT
at the Chicago Botanic Garden. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Chicago Bonsai Club

The July meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be on Wednesday, July 15, beginning at 6 p.m. We will be focusing on summer care, and 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.

July Meeting Focus

The July meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 13, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

NOTE: meeting moved to 2nd Monday of July due to Independence Day holiday. There will be no Bonsai 101. General Meeting: Society-provided tree workshop. Come work on Society-provided trees in a group setting. Work with other Society members as raw materials are initially styled. At completion, trees will be raffled off.



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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.

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.

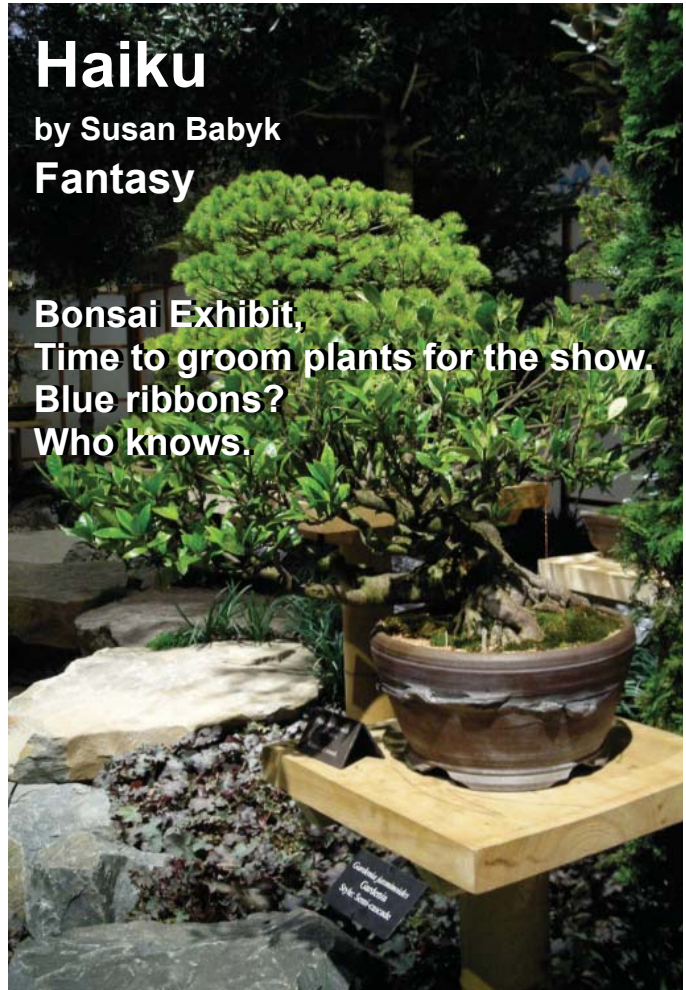
Keep your trees in shape by pinching or light pruning. Check wiring on trees. Watch for pests and diseases, and spray accordingly. Watch out for scale, looking for tiny white specks on the foliage. Scale requires repeated sprayings on a regular basis as it is amazingly persistent.

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.

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Haiku

by Susan Babyk
Fantasy

**Bonsai Exhibit,
Time to groom plants for the show.
Blue ribbons?
Who knows.**

A poem by Susan Babyk Bonsai

Why transplant a tree and try to
bend it to your will?

The bonsai artist humbly practices
being God with nature, hoping to inspire:

Calm, patient wabi,
age and simplicity, sabi,

Starkness of form, literati
to generosity—raft, windswept, cascade, more;

Awareness of the focal point
apex to nebari,

Rooted in a striking pot
sometimes mossy, sometimes not.

Details in displaying accent plants, suiseki,
not distracting, only enhancing
antiquity frozen in the serene moment.

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