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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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[www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

## 2021 July Thoughts

Members, assume you feel, as I do, that it is great to see things opening up again for Live Events!

What a difference a vaccination can make. It is so nice to be able to meet in person again. We are very pleased to announce that the Chicago Botanic Garden has confirmed that our 43rd Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition will take place as planned. We are also working with them to determine when we can restart our General Meetings in the Bergenstein Center. We are cautiously optimistic that it will be in time for our August 2nd meeting.

Here are some of the Events that we are looking forward to;

**June Bonsai Event, IL, Saturday June 26th, 10 am. to 4 pm.** It will be held at 1708 Ashton Court, Wheaton, IL 60187, South of Rt. 64 (north Ave.) and West of Rt. 83 (Robert Kingery Expressway). Vendors will include Linda Camp, BC Bonsai, Karen Shuman Pottery, Victor Zurczak and Jim Baley plan to sell some of their trees. BC Bonsai will hold a workshop with contorted wiring of Shimpaku Juniper wips. The workshop cost

is \$40.00. Midwest Bonsai Society will bring some shirts and other items for sale. In addition we will be selling items from Ivan Watters tool sets and some memorabilia from his collections. On line sign-up for the BC Workshop is available on the Midwest Bonsai website via the link below. Non-vaccinated attendees are encouraged to wear a mask.

[www.midwestbonsai.org/june-2021-event](http://www.midwestbonsai.org/june-2021-event)

**June 24th Webinar.** Chris Baker of the Chicago Botanic Garden will be doing a joint webinar with Arthur Joura, curator of bonsai at the North Carolina Arboretum on June 24th, please see link below. It's a great way to get a look into the NC Arboretums unique collection as well as a behind the scenes look at the Chicago Botanic collection. Each curator combined backgrounds in fine art and horticulture to shape a rare profession and a rare collection. Though there are several states between them, they discuss the common ground in their innovative approaches to bonsai and awe for trees in nature. This will be a Zoom meeting, [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_)

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## July Meeting Focus - **Virtual Meeting via Webex**

The July meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 5th, will again be conducted as a Webex meeting (similar to ZOOM). We will send out an email with invitation/link to meeting and instructions for participating.

7:00 PM – No Bonsai 101 but this newsletter does include Victor Zurczak's Bonsai 101 program "The Rules of Bonsai - Branches". 7:00 PM - General program; "Pricing Bonsai" by Victor Zurczak. Presentation covers prices from seedlings to specimen bonsai. Video followed by question-and-answer session.

Hope you can join us for this event.

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education/horticulture/  
more\_meets\_eye\_online

**Sunday, July 11th Molnar Sale.** Long time member Bonnie Molnar has decided that it is time to step down from Bonsai. She will hold a sale of 16 trees, various pots, books and a few stands at her home in Arlington Heights on Sunday, July 11th. The time will be from 12 to 4 p.m. You can schedule a visit and get her address by contacting her at [hbogart@msn.com](mailto:hbogart@msn.com), or by calling her at 847-394-1222.

**The August Bonsai Exhibit at the Chicago Botanic Garden will be held on August 20th – 22nd.** This year's Guest Judge will be Phil Malhiot. Vendors will occupy the courtyards and we expect to have the usual Bonsai Exhibit and competition. Most of our usual group of vendors are planning to come with the addition of two new vendors, Yumi-En Bonsai, Vincent Lee,

Kawa No Oka Bonsai and Ken's World of Bonsai.

There will be workshops by the Guest Judge, BC Bonsai, International Bonsai, Bonsai by Fields, Golden Arrow and Lakeside Bonsai. Kriste Majeski will be doing a presentation on scrolls. We plan to do the Children's workshops as well. A Saturday night casual dinner will be held at the Heller Nature Center in Highland Park. There will be the usual silent auction of donated items.

**Need Volunteers.** Watch your E-mail for the Event-brite volunteer signup mail. If you miss the E-mail you will be able to find the Event-brite volunteer registration via the Society website. We're grateful to have a dedicated membership who sacrifices some of their personal time to make the Society work. The show would not be possible without this volunteer participation.  
—Larry Stephan

# July Events Calendar

So good to see the return of live events. What we have shown below is a list of events scheduled as of May 15, 2021. Good to see local clubs, while still not meeting in person, are getting some virtual general meetings scheduled and some live events. BC Bonsai and Hidden Gardens are open and offering workshops and or services and supplies. Chris Baker from the Chicago Botanic Garden is offering Zoom workshops and in June he even has a live event, touring the Bonsai Courtyards. Please check all events to insure they have not been canceled or changed.

**Saturday June 26, 2021**

## **MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY JUNE EVENT**

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, at 1708 Ashton Court, Wheaton, IL 60187. Vendors include BC Bonsai and Karen Schuman Pottery. MBS will have their normal offering of shirts, etc. as well as Ivan Waters tools and memorabilia. Individual members Victor Zurczak and Jim Baley will be selling trees from their private collections. BC Bonsai will conduct "Wiring Contorted Shimpaku Juniper Whips Workshop". More information provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Thursday, June 24, 2021**

## **MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE: ONLINE with Chris Baker**

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM, sponsored by Chicago Botanic Garden. Points of Connection Across Bonsai Collections. Join North Carolina Arboretum bonsai curator, Arthur Joura, in conversation with Chicago Botanic Garden bonsai curator, Chris Baker, for a look inside two of the most acclaimed bonsai collections in the country. Each curator combined backgrounds in fine art and horticulture to shape a rare profession and a rare collection. Though there are several states between them, they find common ground in their innovative approaches to bonsai and awe for trees in nature. For more information or to register for workshop go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/more\\_meets\\_eye\\_online](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/more_meets_eye_online)

**Saturday July 4, 11, 18 & 27, 2021**

## **SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski**

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to [http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai\\_saturday\\_morning.html](http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html) or call 630-655-8283.

**Monday July 5, 2021**

## **MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY JULY MEETING – VIRTUAL MEETING VIA WEBEX**

7:00 PM Program: Pricing Bonsai by Victor Zurczak. Presentation covers prices from seedlings to specimen bonsai. Video followed by question and answer session. Invitation/link to Webex meeting will be emailed to all members. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

**Wednesday July 7, 2021**

## **PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING – Zoom Meeting**

7:00 PM Program; Tropical Presentation by David Cutchin. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

**Saturday July 10 thru August 28 or Sunday July 11 thru August 29 or**

**Thursday July 15 thru August 26, 2021**

## **BONSAI BASICS at BC Bonsai**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Same class offered on three different days of the week. Topics covered include history of bonsai, styles, care of trees, bug control, watering, fertilizing, wiring, tools, propagation, soils, repotting and after care. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**Sunday July 11, 2021**

## **HORNBEAM WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**

1:30 AM – 3:30 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Covers styling and care. Trees can be purchased for workshop or you can bring your own tree. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

**Saturday July 17, 2021**

## **FUKIEN TEA WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**

1:30 AM – 3:30 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Learn the care and styling of this tropical tree. Trees can be purchased for workshop or you can bring your own tree. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

**Sunday July 18, 2021**

## **AZALEA WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**

1:30 AM – 3:30 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Covers styling and care. Trees can be purchased for workshop or you can bring your own tree. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

**Saturday July 24, 2021**

## **TROPICAL TREE WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**

1:30 AM – 3:30 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Learn the care and styling of this tropical tree. Trees can be purchased for workshop or you can bring your own tree. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

**Sunday July 25, 2021**

## **BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**

1:30 AM – 3:30 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bring a tree for help with styling. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

**Monday, July 26 2021**

## **MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP**

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM with guest master Jennifer Price in Whitehall Park For more Information go to [http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs\\_schedule.html](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html)

**Sunday August 1, 2021**

## **PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC**

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Cantigny. This will be the usual PSBS summer picnic, however, Cantigny has also asked us to set up a few display tables so that visitors can see the bonsai trees in the summer setting as opposed to the winter setting of the silhouette show. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/> <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

**Monday August 2, 2021**

## **MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY AUGUST MEETING**

7:00 PM, Bonsai 101 TBD. 7:30 PM, Main Program: TBD. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

**Tuesday August 3, 2020**

## **MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

6:30 PM, Zoom Meeting. Program: TBD. For more Information go to [http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs\\_schedule.html](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html)

**Wednesday August 4, 2021**

## **PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING – Zoom Meeting**

7:00 PM Program; How To Get Your Trees Show Ready. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

**Saturday August 7, 14, 21, & 28 2021**

## **SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski**

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to [http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai\\_saturday\\_morning.html](http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html) or call 630-655-8283.

**Thursday August 5 thru Sunday August 15, 2021**

## **WISCONSIN STATE FAIR BONSAI EXHIBIT**

9:00 AM – 10:00 PM Daily, at Wisconsin State Fair Park Exposition Center, 8200 West Greenfield Avenue, West Allis, WI 53214 For more Information go to [http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs\\_shows.html](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_shows.html)

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, August 20, 21 & 22, 2021**

## **43rd ANNUAL MID-AMERICA BONSAI EXHIBITION**

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday and Sunday, with guest master Phil Malhot, at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road Glencoe, Illinois. For further information including links to workshops and tree registration go to August Exhibition - Midwest Bonsai Society

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, August 27, 28 & 29, 2021**

## **MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY ANNUAL EXHIBIT**

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM Friday and Saturday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Sunday, with guest master Mark Fields at Linden Sculpture Garden, 2145 W Brown Deer Rd, Milwaukee, WI. For more Information go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/ae/index.html>

# Monthly Care Report - What to do in July

July, hot and humid as it is, is a great time of year for bonsai. Growth has slowed, deciduous trees are leafed out, and juniper trees should be bushy. Since it is also vacation time, be sure to plan ahead, even if leaving for a few days. Find a trusty friend or hook up a watering system with a timer. Even when using watering system have someone check to insure it turned on, turned off and that all trees were watered.

Keep your trees in shape by pinching or light pruning. Check wiring on trees. Watch for pests and diseases, and spray accordingly. If you find something wrong and aren't sure what the problem is, consult someone who is knowledgeable, and ask them. Bring trees to monthly meeting and ask for assistance identifying problem. Watch out for scale, looking for tiny white specks on the foliage. Scale requires repeated sprayings regularly,

as it is amazingly persistent. Fertilize regularly. If using fertilizer cakes, replace every month.

## JULY WORK

July, hot and humid as it is, is a great time of year for bonsai. Growth is in full tilt and likely to continue, deciduous trees are leafed out, and juniper trees should be bushy. Keep trimming your trees. Because this July is forecast to be cooler than normal, we should be able to extend our repotting season through July—possibly August and September. Look to take advantage of this longer window to get trees out of depleted mix with room to grow after trimming roots and in the right pot. Since it is also vacation time, be sure to plan ahead, even if leaving for a few days. Find a trusty friend or hook up a watering system with a timer. Even when using watering systems have someone check to insure it turned on,

turned off and that all trees were watered.

Keep your trees in shape by all techniques required. Check wiring on trees. Even add some wire when defoliating or new growth is strong and not easily damaged. Watch for pests and diseases, and spray accordingly. If you find something wrong and aren't sure what the problem is, consult someone who is knowledgeable, and ask them.

Note we have added a "Bonsai Helpline" link on our website or you can simply email questions to Midwest Bonsai Society midwest.bonsai@yahoo.com and we will respond. So, if you have questions send them along with photos to get an opinion on what is afflicting your trees. In addition, given our live monthly meetings will be starting up soon, you can always bring tree with you and ask for help identifying a problem.

Watch out for scale, looking for tiny white specks on the foliage. Scale requires repeated sprayings regularly,

as it is amazingly persistent. Adding paraffin based horticultural oil or Neem oil to the insecticide makes it much more effective. Fertilize regularly. If using fertilizer cakes, replace every month.

Turn your trees often so that all sides get equal amounts of sunlight and grow in all directions, (turn 90 degrees clockwise each week). The hot sun can heat up pots and the soil, trees in wide rimmed pots tend to get hotter. To prevent heat damage to roots cover soil and the rims of your pots with sphagnum moss, old cloth or burlap. This will also help keep the plants moist longer. Another technique that works well, which I learned from Kay Berlenborn, is to use foam shelf liners which will cool and reflect light to increase growth and let in water and air freely.

—Ivan Watters  
07/2020

—Some information has been paraphrased from *IBA News & Muse, Volume 27, Issue 7, Iowa Bonsai Association Newsletter, Reprinted by Permission*

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## Bonsai 101 The Rules of Bonsai

### Branches:

1. No crossing branches, or branches that cross the trunk.
2. No eye-poking branches (pointed directly at viewer).
3. First branch should be placed approximately one third the height of the tree.
4. Succeeding branches placed at one third the remaining distance to the top of the tree.
5. Branches go on the outside of the curves (No belly branches).

6. Branch caliper should be in proportion to the trunk. Branches that are thicker than one third the trunk caliper will be too thick.
7. First branch should be left (or right), second branch right (or left), third branch should be back branch.
8. Branches should visually alternate, no parallel branches.
9. Branches should diminish in size and caliper as they ascend.
10. There should be space

between the branches to 'Let the birds fly through'.

11. First and second branches (Left and Right branches) should be placed forward of the mid line to 'invite' the viewer.
12. First, second, and third branches are approximate 120 degrees apart, with the back branch not directly behind the tree.
13. Only one branch per trunk position, no 'wheel and spoke' or whorled branches, or bar branches (branches directly opposite each other).
14. Branches should create an outline of a scalene triangle with the apex representing

God, the middle corner man and the lower corner earth.

15. Secondary branches should alternate left and right and follow the rules of main branch placement, except there should be no secondary branches moving up or down. This creates the foliage pad.
  16. To create the illusion of an old tree, wire the branches down. Young trees have ascending branches. The branches near and in the apex can be horizontal or ascend since this is the young part of the tree.
  17. Branches for cascades
- (continued on page 4)

# 42nd Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition

All you need to know for August Exhibition, featuring guest artist from right here in Chicago Phil Malhiot, is now or will soon be available on our website! This includes, great descriptions of workshops and sign up is effortless. If you are showing a tree registration on website will be

added soon. Online registration is a real time saver for all so please consider using same. Here is link <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/august-exhibition/> Thanks to Mathew Corpolongo and Larry Stephan for their work gathering and publishing this information.

## Rules of Bonsai (continued from page 3)

generally follow the rules for uprights, except that the trunk moves down.

18. In twin trees, there should not be branches between the trees which would cross the trunks. The outside branches of both trees create the triangle of foliage.

19. A jin should not be hidden in foliage.

The main branches are arranged left, back (rear) and right (or right-back-left) in ascending order starting from the bottom portion of the trunk approximately one-third of the height of the tree. The thickness of the main branches should be proportionate to the

size of the trunk and separated vertically with equal or nearly equal distances. The first branches to the left and right of the tree should be slightly forward as if the tree wishes to embrace the viewer.

Viewed from the top, the tips of the three main branches should form a triangle with unequal sides (scalene) when connected by lines. The first back branch should be arranged slightly to the right or left so that it is partly visible to the viewer.

This triangular arrangement of the branches continues as the tree rises to create a spiral of higher, shorter and thinner branches. If the trunk is curved, as in the informal upright style, the branches should emerge from outside of the curve. The apex should be treated as a small bonsai.

## Chicago Bonsai Club

Our next regularly scheduled meeting, in July 20th, has been cancelled due to closure of the Garfield Park Conservatory, because of COVID-19. Hopefully, we will be able to find an alternative space for future meetings or Garfield Park will reopen. Please watch for more information in the MBS newsletter. Please note that our MBS General meeting is virtual on July 5th at 7:00 PM - General program; Presentation "Pricing Bonsai" by Victor Zurczak. He will cover costs of trees from Seedlings thru Specimen Bonsai. Chicago Chapter members can join without the need to drive to the garden. See "July Meeting Focus" announcement. If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: Susan at [sukazu17@gmail.com](mailto:sukazu17@gmail.com) or call 773-235-9479. Susan can also provide you with invitation/link and instruction for joining the general meeting.

There should be slightly fewer branches at the front than at the back so that the viewer will have good impression of depth and perspective. No branch crosses another, nor points to the viewer (we call such branch "eye-poker"). The branches should likewise taper gradually towards the tip with texture proportionate to that of the trunk.

The heavier branches should drop toward the horizontal just like those of old trees because of their heavy load and the pull of gravity. The extent of drop differs with species.

**Note:** A negative space or

"gap", that part of the trunk without a branch when it should have one, may be considered positively as a gift and incorporated into the design of the tree to give it a natural effect. It will be as if the tree itself made the decision.

Secondary branches or twigs emerging from the sides of branches should be arranged in alternate pattern. It minimizes symmetry and allows gradual taper of the branch. Opposite twigs (or bar branches) tend to constrict the development of the branch. Bark, texture, and sizes of twigs should also be proportionate with branches.

## Membership Request

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: **Midwest Bonsai Society**

Please Check If Renewal

Send to: Midwest Bonsai Society  
P.O. Box 1373  
Highland Park, Illinois  
60035-7373

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

Midwest Bonsai Connection

### 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 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.