

MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

First off, I want to say thank you to everyone who helped out and participated in the May show. I've been told that all went well, with many folks bringing trees, helping out and enjoying the vendors and workshops. I want to send a thank you out to our vendors as well, who travel far to bring us great bonsai shopping opportunities. I'm sorry to have missed everything; we just got done hosting the largest event that we've ever had at my building, since it opened in 1922. Things were a rousing success, and now that that massive project is done I can return to my normal bonsai activities. My trees have missed me and I have missed you all in Chicago.

Which means that I will be back in June for our next meeting, where we will take a vote on the proposed bylaw updates. We've heard back from some of the membership with questions that I hope we've been able to answer. If anyone has any other questions or concerns, they can feel free to contact us at midwest.bonsai@yahoo.com and we will do our best to explain.

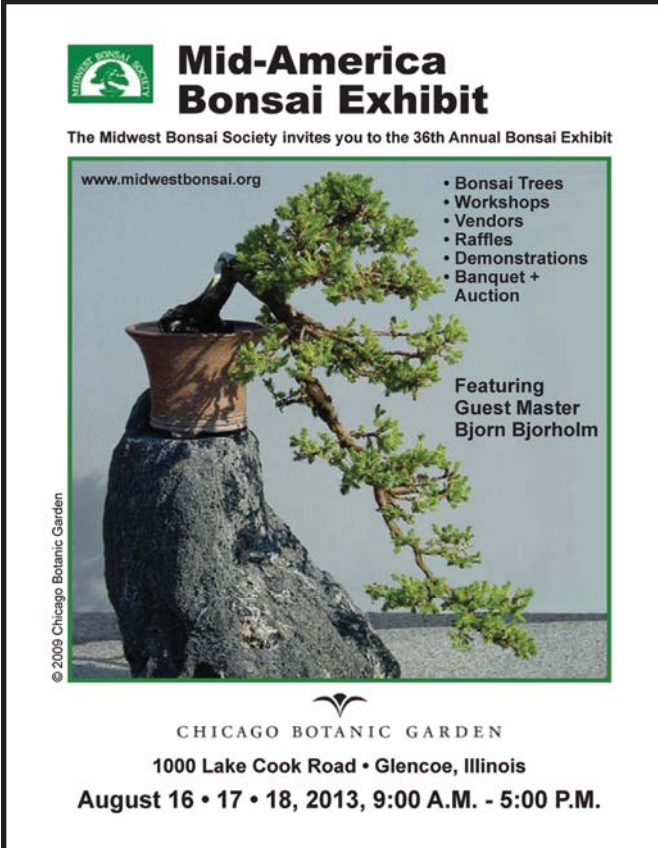
Summertime is drawing near, and now that the hectic spring repotting season is over, it's the best time of the year, the time to sit back and enjoy your bonsai. I love spending the evenings walking my bonsai benches and seeing the daily, minute changes in my trees. The bonsai show season is in full swing, out east Bill

Valavanis is celebrating his 50 years in bonsai with a Bonsai Colloquium on June 7-9. That same weekend Midwest Bonsai Society is putting on a display at the Mid America Japanese Club's annual Japanfest. It's being held at a new venue this year, the Elk Grove High School, due to the construction at their normal venue. More

information can be found at: www.japaneseclub.org. August brings us the Indiana State Fair bonsai exhibit which our very own Ivan Watters is judging this year. Later in the month is our show in Chicago at the Garden. September rounds out the show season with a bang, with the American Bonsai Society's Learning Seminar in Saratoga Springs, NY on Sept. 12-15. Prairie State and Milwaukee are both hosting shows in September on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd. These are all great places to be exposed to some fantastic bonsai, great teachers, fun shopping and good camaraderie.

Speaking of August, it's not too early to think about the August show. As you look at your trees start thinking about the ones that you'd be interested in showing. It's never too early to start giving them that little bit of extra attention to get them ready to show. On that note, I will see everyone again at the June meeting on Monday, June 3rd. See you then!

—Cat Nelson



The poster features a central image of a hand in a black glove carefully tending to a pine tree in a brown pot, which is placed on a large, dark, textured rock. The background is a clear blue sky. Text on the poster includes the Midwest Bonsai Society logo, the event title 'Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit', the website www.midwestbonsai.org, a list of activities (Bonsai Trees, Workshops, Vendors, Raffles, Demonstrations, Banquet + Auction), the guest master's name Bjorn BJORHOLM, and the event details: CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN, 1000 Lake Cook Road • Glencoe, Illinois, August 16 • 17 • 18, 2013, 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. A copyright notice for Chicago Botanic Garden is on the left side.

Events Calendar

Monday, June 3, 2013 Midwest Bonsai Society Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center, will feature a presentation by Jim Fairchild on preparing trees for the Fall Bonsai Show. There will be no Bonsai 101 session in June.

Tuesday, June 4, 2013 Milwaukee Bonsai Society Meeting 6:30 pm at Boerner Botanical Garden. For more information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, June 5, 2013 Prairie State Bonsai General Meeting 7:30pm, at the College of DuPage. Room TEC1038b Program: TBA. For directions to meeting, go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Sunday, June 9, 2013, Prairie State Bonsai Annual Club Picnic/Show and workshop with Ben Oki 10am to 4pm, Next to the Fabyan Japanese Garden, Batavia, IL

Wednesday, June 19, 2013 beginning at 6 p.m. The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will hold its meeting at the Garfield Park Conservatory. James Fairchild and Tony Welinski will be available to answer questions, and assist with styling and maintaining your bonsai trees. For more info, email: suekazoo@hotmail.com

June Meeting Focus

The June meeting, scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 3, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in

the Regenstein Center, will feature a presentation by Jim Fairchild on preparing trees for our Fall Bonsai Show in August. We will also vote for passing the updated bylaws. There will be no Bonsai 101 session in June.

Haiku

by Susan Babyk

Spring Rain

Basking in the mist,
Sturdy Boxwood perks to life,
Ready to spurt growth.

MBS By-Laws Revisions Vote at June Meeting

We will vote for passing the updated bylaws at the June meeting. The bylaws can be found on the website under the "newsletter archive" link. This is mainly a 'maintenance' update on the bylaws, to incorporate items that have already been approved by the board and have been in practice.

Chicago Bonsai Club

The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, June 19, beginning at 6 p.m. James Fairchild and Tony Welinski will be available to answer questions, and assist with

styling and maintaining your bonsai trees.

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.



Kurt Nykaza and his daughters Nina (left) and Tessa are all bonsai enthusiasts at the Garfield Park Conservatory meetings.

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of the Midwest Bonsai 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 June

Repotting of pines should have been completed in early May. Remember to keep them in the shade for a couple weeks. Trees repotted in April can be given light doses of fertilizer.

Continue to check for insects and adjust your watering to match the warmer weather. Candles on pines can be pinched any time. Start with the weak buds and do the strong buds a week or so later. Spruce, junipers and larch shoots are probably ready for their first pinching of the season. Watch the new growth on your deciduous trees and trim back to 1-2 pairs of leaves. Stay on top of maples now and pinch out the center bud just as it emerges from the middle of the first two leaves.

All deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Watering routinely if we don't get rain. Air-layering of deciduous and evergreens can be continued. Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees as sudden frosts (which we hope have ended) can damage the young leaves.

Your feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning routines should be in full swing by now. Careful use of insecticides and fungicides becomes increasingly useful at this time of year. Always read and follow manufacturer's directions, but keep in mind that trees in containers may do better

with slightly diluted formulations.

Watch wired branches carefully to avoid unsightly spiral scars from bark growing over the wires, deciduous trees in particular can expand very quickly in May and June.

Spring and early summer are usually the worst for drying out trees, low humidity, windy, with somewhat cooler temperatures, gives a false sense that they don't require as much water, but do not be fooled, check your trees daily. The nights are warm enough now, staying in the 60's, so it is time to work on tropicals. We are starting our very active growth season, so proper pruning, feeding and watering through the summer months will be essential. Any wiring you did this winter should be checked and probably removed now.

PRUNING tropicals... After our winter months some trees have wanted to grow out of proportion, their leaves have enlarged and some branches have elongated due to lower light. So now is the time to prune for shape. Some deciduous species, can handle defoliation, usually early summer, it will greatly reduce their leaf size and create better ramification. If the tree needs to be brought back further, do it now. You can also root prune and repot your tropicals now.

• Now is when you really

have to keep on top of your pruning to increase ramification.

- Cut your Bougainvillea back before all of the flowers are spent to keep it blooming.
- Keep growth tips pinched on your Maples.
- Keep pruning your Elms back to the first or second node.

FERTILIZE... You can start on your summer feeding program soon. Young trees more nitrogen, older ones a more balanced food to maintain them. Any tree you have defoliated or cut back hard, place in shade until new growth starts and wait till they have flushed back out to feed them. Be careful not to over water, trees need leaves to transpire water. Blooming varieties can be fed with a fertilizer with a higher middle number. You want your trees healthy to

prepare them for the hot summer months.

INSECTS... check daily for any insect problems. Aphids love spring growth and can get out of hand before you know it. Look for scale on the underside of the leaves. Soapy water can usually take care of both those problems. Check your Ficus for Thrips (folding in of the leaves) for they have been a problem in the past. Check your Junipers for mites. We use a granular systemic insecticide which main ingredient is Imidacloprid. This only kills non beneficial insects. Available at some nurseries or garden centers.

Compiled from several web articles and adapted to our area.

—Ed Hake. Fort Wayne Bonsai Club. Reprinted by Permission.



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Membership Renewal Reminder

As usual, July 1st is the renewal date for your Midwest Bonsai Society membership, so please fill out the "Membership

Request" form provided below, 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.

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

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