
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

First and foremost, thank you very much to the Board and volunteers whose efforts make our shows happen. Things went great with a few minor setbacks for us at our May show. Attendance was great on both days. Less people on Saturday but more buyers; more people on Sunday, but less buyers. All of our vendors made a profit. Given that our revenues come mostly from the vendor table fees and workshops we suffered somewhat because our workshops were not well-attended. The raffle tree was profitable, and our clothing and accessory sales were exceptional. The Children's Bonsai Styling Workshop did 80 trees, which may be a new record.

While Will Baddeley's was expensive our costs

for Will were somewhat defrayed because the Holiday Inn in Carol Stream was kind enough to comp his room. We attribute poor workshop attendance to Mother's Day weekend where people actually spend time with their families instead of with trees, competition from the much larger Michigan show where we know a lot of Chicago people attended, and Will doing workshops locally a week after our show. On the other hand, Will's styling demonstration on Sunday was amazing. I learned a lot about the best way to remove bark and create dead wood on a tree.

The Board is still working with Chicago Botanic Garden to possibly adjust the date of our May show, off of Mother's

Day weekend. We have not definitively made any decisions. In the interest of cooperation, we have spoken with the West Michigan Bonsai Club so that they are aware of our efforts and they are appreciative. We are in agreement that Michigan should have the premier Spring show and Midwest Bonsai Society will continue with the premier August show for the Continental Midwest territory. Though May will remain our smaller show, we do want the experience to exceed expectations for all who attend; members, vendors and public alike. We feel that was accomplished during our 2023 show. While the event may not have generated a lot of revenue, we feel that the exposure to the public and providing a venue for enthusiasts to further their hobby was

a big win. As such, the general feeling is that MBS will continue to host this event.

Under our By-Laws this is the year to start thinking about elections for our Board of Directors. You will hear a lot about this in coming months and it will be discussed at the General Meetings. Please read article later in this newsletter, by our former president, Robert Wright, where he includes descriptions of all board positions. If you have an interest in serving on the Board please contact any Board member. The Board meets the second Monday of each month at 7 pm at the Hammond Library in Highland Park.

Keep those trees watered and fertilized during the expected summer heat.
—Larry Stephan

MBS Board Elections

Dear fellow members,

It has been a while since I last wrote for the newsletter, so please bear with me if this doesn't flow quite as smoothly as the excellent content to which we have become accustomed.

Every two years our Soci-

ety holds a vote to elect a slate of people responsible for the continued operation of the Society. This year our elections will be held at the General meeting on November 6th. I want to stress to you the need for a regular refreshing of the board membership. Without a regular infusion of

new and interested faces, bringing new ideas and methods, organizations tend to grow stagnant and entrenched in their ways. This in turn disappoints newcomers and results in an unfortunate spiral of decreasing membership and further entrenchment of power structures. In addition, as members of the board fall due to age, sickness, and other

factors, critical skills and information are lost and must either be abandoned or recovered through time and resource consuming trial and error. It is therefore necessary that new people and new ideas be introduced to our board on a steady basis in order to maintain a continuity of knowledge and skill.

(Continued on Page 3)

June Events Calendar

Saturday June 3, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Main Program: Summer Juniper Work. Novice Program: Pruning, Partial Defoliation of Tropical Trees. For further information go to Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org

Saturday June 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2023

SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree and Mark will evaluate and help you get it to the next level. (Repotting and wiring are extra). For further information go to http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday June 3 thru Saturday July 17, 2022

7 WEEK BASIC BONSAI COURSE at BC Bonsai

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Topics covered: History of Bonsai, styles, care, bug control, watering, feeding, wiring, tools, propagation, soils and repotting, aftercare and more. For more information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Monday June 5, 2023

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center or via WebEx Meeting (Invitation to be sent via email). 7:00 PM, No Bonsai 101. General program; "Deciduous Bonsai Development" presented by Sergio Cuan via Webex, from his bonsai garden in New Jersey. Members are, as always, invited to bring a tree to get advice on care or styling from Victor Zurczak or other senior members For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. The college address is 425 Fawell Boulevard in Glen Ellyn. 7:00 PM Program; TBD. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Saturday June 10, 2023

AIR LAYER WORKSHOP at Nightowl Bonsai

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM or 1:00PM - 4:00 PM at 3728 North Fratney Street, Riverwest Area in Milwaukee. Bring your own tree workshop. For mor information or to sign up email nightowlbonsai@gmail.com

Wednesday June 21, 2023

MBS CHICAGO CHAPTER MEETING

6:00 PM - 7:30 at Garfield Park Conservatory, located at 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a tree to work on. For more information about the meeting or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 312-590-6049.

Sunday June 25, 2023

BONSAI BASICS with Chris Baker

6:00PM - 8:00PM from the Chicago Botanic Garden Plant

Science Lab located in the Regenstein Center. Learn the horticulture, art, and philosophy of bonsai through the history, fundamental aesthetic elements, and basic style types. You will learn about tools, wiring, soils, fertilizers, and year-round care. A walk to view part of the Garden's Bonsai Collection is included. Dress for the weather. For more information or to register, go to: https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bonsai_basics

Saturday July 1, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Main Program: Show Preparation. Pot Clean up, Tree Clean up, Show Mossing, Stand and other component selections. Focus: Summer watering. For further information go to Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org

Saturday July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2023

SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. Bring your own tree and Mark will evaluate and help you get it to the next level. For further information go to http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html or call 630-655-8283.

Monday July 10, 2023

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center or via WebEx Meeting (Invitation to be sent via email). 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101 program; "Wiring Techniques" presented by Victor Zurczak". 7:30 PM, Program: "Grafting" presentation and demonstration by Mark Fields via Webex from his Indianapolis Bonsai Nursery. Members are also invited to bring a tree to get advice on care or styling from Victor Zurczak or other senior members. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. The college address is 425 Fawell Boulevard in Glen Ellyn. 7:00 PM Program; TBD. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Wednesday July 19, 2023

MBS CHICAGO CHAPTER MEETING

6:00 PM - 7:30 at Garfield Park Conservatory, located at 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a tree to work on. For more information about the meeting or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 312-590-6049.

Sunday July 23, 2023

BONSAI COURTYARD TOUR with Chris Baker

12:00PM - 2:00PM at the Chicago Botanic Garden - Bonsai East Courtyard, Regenstein Center. Take an in-depth look at the collection of trees and how they are displayed and get additional information about other pieces in the collection. For more information or to register, go to: https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bonsai_courtyard_tour

Monthly Care Report - What to Do in June

All deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Your feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning routines should be in full swing by now. 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. Air-layering of deciduous and evergreens can be continued. The nights are warm enough now, staying in the 60's, so it is time to work on tropics. 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.

Repotting of pines should have been completed in early May. Remember to keep them in the shade for a couple weeks. 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.

Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees as sudden frosts (which we hope have ended) can damage the young 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. 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. 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 pruning your Elms back to the first or second node.

PRUNING tropics...
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. You can also root prune and repot your tropics now.

Water routinely if we don't get rain. 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... an old Japanese saying. "Never count on Buddha to water your bonsai."

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 whose main ingredient is Imidacloprid, available at some nurseries or garden centers. This kills almost all insects and is highly toxic to honeybees, birds and fish. (See University of Florida IFAS Extension, EDIS). Careful use of

insecticides and fungicides becomes increasingly useful at this time of year. Always read and follow manufacturer's directions. Don't use less because it may not be effective. Don't use more because it may cause damage or death.

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 through September.

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.

—Ed Hake • Fort Wayne Bonsai Club • Reprinted by Permission. Compiled from several Web articles with adaptation to our area by Ivan Waters.

Board Elections (Continued from Page 1)

While any member is welcome to step forward to serve on the board, we ask that you review the board positions below and consider what positions suit your talents. While procedures and skills can be taught, some take a long time to learn, and talents cannot be taught. It would not

benefit anyone for someone to take a position they cannot handle.

It should also be noted that fulfilling a board position need not be a solitary journey. While only one person occupies a seat on the board, board members are welcome to tap other members of the board and general membership of the Society to form groups to fulfill the tasks of

the position. Many hands make light work, and more informed minds make better decisions.

I would like, as a closing, to extend my thanks and appreciation to everyone who has served with me over the years. Through all the discussions, including the occasional heated ones, your earnest input and dedicated service have made the Society possible.

Thank you and if you are interested in a board position please email me at "wrightrobertt1974co@gmail.com".

—Bob Wright, Former President

President: The President of the Board sets agendas for Board meetings, acts as Chairperson for the Board

(Continued on Page 5)

May Exhibit Photos

All photos courtesy of Jeng Fonseca



Society volunteers Amy Wright foreground and Larry Magee in background at Children's workshop. Not shown, Matt Mazza, Robert Wright, Richard and Laura Rebot also assisted with this workshop. Initial results showed 80 participants, between Saturday and Sunday.

Right, Will Baddeley, an International Bonsai Master, from the UK, famous for his ability to remove bark and carve deadwood to enhance a tree. His Demonstration at the May show was very informative and enjoyable.



May's show went well. Intent of show is to promote the Art of Bonsai with the general public. Here we have three generations admiring trees on rock.

Board Elections

Continued from Page 3

meetings, and oversees all operations of the Society. Their essential role is to ensure the smooth operation of the Society.

Helpful qualities: Good people skills are necessary. Good organizational skills are necessary. Bonsai skills are helpful but not required.

Executive Vice President:

The Executive Vice President aids the President in his duties and acts as President when the President is indisposed.

Helpful qualities: Similar qualities to the position of President and a willingness to execute on needed tasks.

Treasurer: The Treasurer maintains the finances of the Society. They pay the Society bills from the Society accounts, calculate and collect the vendor table fees at shows, and maintain the non-profit status of the Society with Illinois authorities.

Helpful qualities: Excellent organizational skills. Understanding of finances and accounting. Understanding of legal reporting requirements for non-profits. Bonsai skills not needed.

Vice President of Monthly Programming:

The Vice President of Programs plans and organizes programming for the monthly General Meetings. They determine the agenda for bonsai 101 presentations, book artists, and create programming

for the main meeting segments.

Helpful qualities: Bonsai knowledge is very helpful. Social contacts among the greater bonsai community are also helpful in booking presentations from experts. Social media skills are also useful in making connections with presenters. Good organizational skills are again very useful.

Vice President of Special Events:

The Vice President of Special Event is responsible for organizing our four annual events, the Spring Show, the Fall Show, the Fall Show Dinner, and the Winter Holiday Dinner. While the venues and some routines of the events are generally established, the Vice President of Special Events is responsible for a plethora of details. The VP of Special Events books Guest Artists, vendors, volunteers, and catering for the events, as well as advertisement for the events.

Helpful qualities: Patience, perseverance, and people skills to deal with vendors, volunteers, and CBG difficulties. Excellent organizational skills to track and complete multiple projects at once. Good communication skills. Social Media skills are a bonus.

Membership Secretary:

The Membership Secretary tracks and maintains the roll of current members. They send out correspondence to remind members when their memberships are coming due and when they have lapsed, collect the membership dues for the

Treasurer, and send out materials to new or renewing memberships.

Helpful qualities: Primarily, good organizational skills and communication skills.

Editorial Chair: The Editorial Chair is responsible for publishing the monthly newsletter. They collect content and format the newsletter for electronic and print distribution and send the completed work out to the membership. They also help with the printed advertising for the annual events.

Helpful qualities: Organizational and communications skills.

Assistant Editorial:

Works with copy from other members to produce the monthly newsletter, postcards and posters for shows, and ads to promote shows and annual Holiday party.

Helpful qualities: Must have software programs (Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Acrobat) on own computer to design and prepare files so that they can be printed. Graphic design skills are needed.

Public Relations Chair:

The Public Relations Chair maintains the social media accounts of the Society and responds to media inquiries. They generate content for Facebook, Instagram, and other Social Media sites and respond to inquiries coming through those channels.

Helpful qualities: Computer and Social Media skills. Communication skills.

Webmaster: The Webmaster maintains and updates the Midwest Bonsai Society website. They also assist with data processing and other computer needs for the Society.

Helpful qualities: Excellent computer skills.

Recording Secretary:

The Recording Secretary makes records of our Board meetings and the major decisions of the Board.

Helpful qualities: Note taking and typing skills.

Social Chair: The Social Chair provides light refreshments for the General Meeting expensed to the Society.

Helpful qualities: No specific skills are necessary.

Librarian: The Librarian keeps the Society collection of books and offline media. They are responsible for tracking lent materials, acquiring new materials, and properly cataloguing the materials for perusal by the membership.

Helpful qualities: Organizational skills.

Member-at-Large: The three Member-at-Large positions do not have a designated set of responsibilities. Instead they are meant to reflect the voice of the general membership with regard to issues brought before the board, and if possible, aid the other board members in the execution of their tasks.

Helpful qualities: Good rapport with the membership of the Society.

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



June Meeting Focus

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 5th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center and via WebEx. WebEx Invitations will be sent to all members via email.

7:00 pm - No Bonsai 101 program, as we have a guest artist. General program; "Deciduous Bonsai Development" presented by Sergio Cuan via Webex, from his bonsai garden in New Jersey. Sergio specializes in the cultivation and development of deciduous trees. His favorite trees include maple, elm and beech.

Remember you are always invited to bring in a tree of any sort, as Victor and other senior members will be available to answer questions and provide advice. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Chicago Bonsai Club

The June meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, June 21, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a tree to work on.

Chicago Bonsai Club meets at Garfield Park Conservatory, located at 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago.

If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 773-235-9479.

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.