
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

Wow. It seems like just last week I was pulling my hardy trees out of their winter accommodations and now it's almost time to put them back again. Another growing season is behind us, and winter's icy fingers are scratching at the window. Let your hardy trees get a couple good cold nights under their belt before you close them in for the winter.

Remember also to check your wired trees for any tight spots before you put them away for the winter. Despite the dormancy season many of your hardy trees will put some more girth on their trunks and branches over the winter in addition to hardening off the old wood. Any wire that is biting when you place the tree in storage will leave a nasty hardened scar if you leave it over the winter. In addition, this is a good time to make fine adjustments and rewire your branches into the perfect positions to take advantage of the winter hardening.

November brings our biannual elections. If everything has gone to plan there should be a list of the current candidates

in this newsletter. If not they will be on the ballots at our General Meeting November 6th. Further nominations will be accepted at the meeting before the vote. Nominees must be members in good standing (paid up on their memberships) and willing to accept the nomination. The elected positions on the board are:

President
Executive Vice President
Vice President in Charge of Special Events
Vice President in Charge of Monthly Programs (currently vacant)
Treasurer
Secretary (currently vacant)
And the 3 Member-at-Large Positions

To receive a ballot for the election, you must be a paid up member of the society. Please bring your membership card for easy verification. If you have not received a membership card yet we will have a member standing by to verify your status through the online database. If your status is still in question, you may be allowed to cast a provisional ballot for the election, which will

be counted if the outcome of any of the positions is in question.

In addition to the elected board positions there are still some unfilled seats on the board, if you have any interest or special skills in any of the following areas and have some time you can spare for the society, we'd love to hear from you. The currently available spots are Social Chair, Newsletter Editor-in-Chief, and Librarian. If you have any interest in filling or helping out with any of these positions, please drop us a note at Midwest.Bonsai@yahoo.com. More hands make lighter work for all.

Our Bonsai 101 for November will be on the care and sharpening of our tools. This might seem like a pointless topic, but a poorly cared for tool can add years of recovery time to a large pruning cut. In addition, it can spread disease between your plants,

so join us at 7:00 to review proper tool care.

Immediately after the 101 we will begin the elections process. I see the website has winter preparation and storage as the topic for the main program, but as that was presented last month the General Program is currently TBD. Materials explaining how to winter your bonsai will be available for you to take and review at your leisure.

December 7th is the date for our annual Holiday Pot-Luck Party and Raffle. I hope you'll come out and join us this year as we celebrate another year of Bonsai.

In case it turns out that someone else takes over these messages after November, I just want to say thank you to everyone for your support during the last year. It has been an honor to serve you.

—Robert Wright

Vote
November 6th!

Events Calendar

Saturday, November 4, 2017

NATIONAL BONSAI FOUNDATION AUTUMN FESTIVAL, all day. US National Arboretum, Washington, DC. For further information, go to www.usna.usda.gov

Sunday, November 5, 12, 19, & 26, 2017

BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters, (10:00 AM – 2:00 PM), Brendan Berry's residence. For further information or to register go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Monday, November 6, 2017

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: at 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101, Tool Care and Sharpening 7:30 PM: Winter preparation and storage. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 6:30 PM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. MBS Presentation – TBD. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

JUNIPER BONSAI WORKSHOP: Bring in your juniper to work on after an in-depth presentation on care. 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Chris Baker at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to www.chicagobotanic.org/education or call 847-835-8261.

Thursday, November 9, 2017

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING, 7:30 PM, Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. Program: TBD by Andy Smith. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Saturday & Sunday, November 11 & 12, 2017

HIDDEN GARDENS WORKSHOPS: Bring your own trees with Andy Smith (9:00 AM – 4 PM), 16W658 S Frontage Rd. Willowbrook, IL. For further information go to www.thehiddengardens.net or call 630-655-8283.

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

DEADWOOD BONSAI WORKSHOP: Techniques to create and maintain deadwood, including proper use of carving tools. (6:00 PM – 9:00 PM), Chris Baker at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to www.chicagobotanic.org/education or call 847-835-8261

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, November 17, 18 & 19, 2017

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY FOLK FAIR: Members of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society will exhibit trees from their membership from students to advanced members, Friday 2:00 PM – 10:00 PM,

Saturday 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Wisconsin Exposition Center at State Fair Park. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Saturday & Sunday, November 18 & 19, 2017
BC BONSAI WORKSHOP:

Bud reduction on Pines (10:00 AM – 3:00 PM), Paw Paw, IL. For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

Sunday, December 3, 10 & 17, 2017

BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters, (10:00 AM – 2:00 PM), Brendan Berry's residence. For further information or to register go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Thursday, December 7, 2017

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY POT LUCK HOLIDAY PARTY, 6:00 PM (set up at 5) Where: Takiff Center, Aiken Activity Room, 999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe, IL 60022. Bring a pot luck dish and any item you would like to donate for the evening's raffle. The Society is providing drinks. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

PINE BONSAI WORKSHOP, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Chris Baker at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to www.chicagobotanic.org/education or call 847-835-8261.

NOTE: There are no regular MBS Meetings (or newsletters) in December and January but look for your February newsletter sometime in late January.

Thursday December 7th Midwest Bonsai Society Pot Luck Holiday Party

6:00 PM, (set up at 5:30). At the Takiff Center, upstairs banquet room, 999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe, IL 60022. There are elevators that take you to the 2nd floor. There will be a fabulous no cost raffle of numerous items. Please bring a pot luck dish and any item you would like to donate for the evening's raffle. The society is providing wine, water and soft drinks. This is a fun event with great food. Please put it on our calendar.

Monthly Care Report:

What to Do in November

NOVEMBER IS HERE...
A very busy month. It is time to put everything up for the winter.

WINTER PREP... You should also be getting ready for winter. All of your tropical trees should be inside by now. They should receive as much light during the day as possible, if you have plants under lights (as I have) they should be on approximately 12 hrs. a day. A small greenhouse is great. If you have a greenhouse with plastic on it check the plastic to make sure it will make the winter, if the plastic is dirty clean it to allow as much light in as possible.

OUTDOORS—YOUR TREES will naturally acclimate to cooler weather and the longer you have them the better they will do here.

A gradual decrease in temperature going into winter is best. Elm, Holly, Juniper, Maple, Boxwood, Pine and all other cold hardy varieties should be left outside, they need the cold.

WATERING... Morning watering is still the best. But if the night is going to be cold, watering just the soil in the evening will help maintain temperature in the pot and protect the roots better.

PRUNING... When I bring my trees in, I prune back the tips and thin them out some, this allows more light to reach the lower branches. Your trees will be getting less sun in the winter so keeping them thinned out a little will keep you from losing the fine twigging that you worked all summer to get.

During November deciduous and evergreen trees can remain totally exposed until about the last week of the month. Prepare trees for their winter setting, whether it be a cold frame or whatever type of winter protection you may have. Prior to setting them in their winter quarters, check for insects and spray and remove all dead leaves and branches. Thinking ahead, write down and plan what you need to do for spring and choose which trees you will work on first.

Also during November we typically get our first heavy freezes so be prepared to protect your trees. November can also bring long rainy spells so shelter those trees that are sensitive to excess rain, such as pines. Once leaves have dropped from your deciduous trees is a good time to begin needle thinning your two needle pines. If you thin last year's needles by pulling be careful to

pull in the direction they grow. Otherwise, you will most likely lose the bud you are trying to stimulate. Safer approach is to cut off needles rather than pulling. On strong, well-developed pines, you can also thin this year's needles by thinning to 5 or 6 pairs of needles in the top half of the trees and 7 or 8 pairs in the lower half of the trees.

Don't forget to pull any weeds and clean dropped leaves off your soil surfaces since they can provide shelter for unwanted pests. If you put your trees away for the winter be sure to inspect them for pests like mealy bugs or scale before doing so. Don't mulch too early or you may get creatures (mice) in it and they will damage your trees.

—Ed Hake. Fort Wayne Bonsai Club. Reprinted by Permission. Compiled from several web articles and adapted to our area.

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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.

Chicago Bonsai Club

There are no Chicago Bonsai Club meetings between November, 2017 and February, 2018. The next Chicago Bonsai Club meeting will be in March, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact: suekazoo@hotmail.com.

November Meeting

The November meeting is scheduled at 7:00 PM on Monday, November 6, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

7:00 PM: Bonsai 101, Topic: Tool care and sharpening
7:30 PM - Main Program, Topic: Midwest Bonsai Society Board Elections & TBD

For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

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

Membership Information

To become a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society or re-new your current membership (July is the month to renew), please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on this page of this newsletter, 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.

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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

60035-7373

Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

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