
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

Greetings fellow members and Bonsai enthusiasts. As I write this, November is still weeks away, but overnight temps here in northern Lake County have already touched 30 degrees. While there are still a few weeks before the weather becomes a serious threat to the plants, it is yet another nudge to me to get my winter quarters fully sorted. I've been suffering from an overall lack of motivation this year. Though I've completed a number of the lingering projects in my life, there are always several more that emerge for every one that is completed. One step forward and two steps back is exhausting. Success in nine words: just do all that stuff you don't want to.

At our next meeting on November 5th Bonsai 101 will cover winter work for Bonsai. While it may feel like it's time to take a break, this is our time to get ahead of the game. Our main presentation will be two videos. The first is a short review of the national show that took place in Rochester, New York this September. The second will be a long form

interview of Mr. Valavanis, owner of International Bonsai, Host of the National Bonsai Exhibition, and our 2019 August Exhibition Guest Judge. This will be our final meeting of the 2018 year, but save December 12th in your calendar for our Holiday party.

Over the last couple of shows we've seen a dramatic slowdown in volunteers for the weekend shifts. Oddly there seems to be no shortage of people willing to do setup, but operations and takedown are becoming difficult. So, in order for you to mark your calendars, here are the dates for the 2019 shows. Spring Exhibit: Setup May 10th, Exhibit May 11th & 12th. Fall Exhibit: Setup August 15th, Exhibit August 16th, 17th, & 18th. Please reserve a few hours to help out. We'll also be circulating the signup sheets earlier next year, keep an eye out for them.

Hoodies have been ordered. While they may not quite make it for the November 5th meeting, they will certainly be here for the Holiday Party.

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Holiday Party - Wednesday, December 12th

6:00 p.m. Takiff Center, upstairs banquet room, 999 Green Bay Road (set up at 5:30 p.m.) Please bring a pot luck dish and any item you would like to donate to the evening's raffle. There will be a fabulous no cost raffle of numerous items. The Society is providing wine, beer, and soft drinks. This is an annual fun event with great food. Please put it on your calendar.

Chicago Bonsai Club

Note: There are no Chicago Bonsai Club meetings from November, 2018 through February of 2019. We hope to reconvene in March.

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.

November Meeting Focus

November meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 5, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

7 pm - Bonsai 101 program will cover what you should do for your trees during the winter. 7:30 pm - General meeting program will feature video review of the National Bonsai Exhibition that took place in Rochester, New York this September. In addition we have second video of an interview with the host of the National Bonsai Exhibition, Bill Valavanis, who is also the owner of International Bonsai, and our 2019 August Exhibition Guest Judge.

Next year is our Board election year. I appreciate all of our Board Members and while I hope they will be willing to continue as their tenures allow, I also understand that there comes a time when one must pass on the torch. Next February we will address the issue in

a longer format in the newsletter, but for the time being, take some time to reflect on what you could do to help keep our Society running smoothly.

Thanks for listening, see you November 5th.
Bob Wright

Events Calendar

Saturday November 3, 10, & 17, 2018 BC BONSAI BRING YOUR OWN TREE FALL PRUNING WORKSHOPS

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. 3rd Azaleas, 10th Junipers, and 17th Pines. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

Saturday November 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2018 BC MASTER BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404

Saturday November 3, 10 & 24, 2018 HIDDEN GARDENS WORKSHOPS

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Saturday Morning Bonsai with Mark Karczewski bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Sunday November 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2018 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 5, 2018 MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101, Program: Winter work for your trees. 7:30 PM, Program: Video review of National Bonsai Exhibition and interview with exhibition host and judge for our 2019 August exhibition, Bill Valavanis. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Tuesday, November 6, 2018 MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. Program: Winter Storage Updates. For further information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html

Wednesday, November 7, 2018 JUNIPER BONSAI WORKSHOP with Chris Baker

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, This class is going to focus on juniper care, soil type, feeding, pruning, wiring of trees, and more. Bring your own juniper to work on after presentation. Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/juniper_bonsai_workshop

Wednesday, November 14, 2018 PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. Program: 7:00 PM

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Guest Artist Mauro Stemberger Demo. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday November 16, 17 & 18, 2018 HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR EXHIBIT

2:00 PM - 10:00 PM on Friday, 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM Saturday and 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM Sunday at Wisconsin Exposition Center at State Fair Park, 8200 Greenfield Ave, Milwaukee, WI. Holiday Folk Fair International showcases the heritage and culture of over 50 ethnic groups through international exhibits, including Milwaukee Bonsai Society member tree displays. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday and/or Sunday November 17 & 18, 2018 MAURO STEMBERGER BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOPS

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Tuesday, November 27, 2018
DECIDUOUS BONSAI TREE WORKSHOP with Chris Baker**
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, This class will focus on deciduous bonsai care and how it changes from season to season, including feeding, pruning, and repotting. Bring your own tree to discuss its design. Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/deciduous_bonsai_tree_workshop

**Saturday December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2018
BC MASTER BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters**
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Saturday December 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2018
HIDDEN GARDENS WORKSHOPS**
9:00 AM - 12 PM, Saturday Morning Bonsai with Mark Karczewski bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Sunday December 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2018
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.

**Wednesday, December 12, 2018
PINE BONSAI WORKSHOP with Chris Baker**
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. Bring your pines to work on after an in-depth presentation on care. For further information go to https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/pine_bonsai_workshop

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...

Prepare your trees for their winter setting, whether it be a green house, cold frame or whatever type of winter protection you may have. If you put your trees away for the winter be sure to inspect them for pests like mealy bugs or scale before setting them in their winter quarters. Don't forget to pull any weeds and clean dropped leaves off your soil surfaces since they can provide shelter for unwanted pests. Remove all dead leaves and branches. You can combine insecticide and fungicide and apply a preventative spray treatment. Don't mulch too early or you may get creatures (e.g. mice) nesting in it and they will damage your trees.

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.

Thinking ahead, write down and plan what you need to do for spring and choose which trees you will work on first.

INDOORS ...

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 hours 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. During November deciduous and evergreen trees can remain totally exposed until about the last week of the month. 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.

During November we typically get our first heavy freezes so be prepared to protect your trees. November can 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.

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.

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

Growing Moss for your Bonsai

Every show season it seems people are looking for moss to put on their exhibits because sun-hardy moss is difficult to find. There is, however, a fairly easy method to extend your supply of moss, and that would be to grow your own.

There are over 12,000 species of moss. Most like shade, some tolerate sun, some grow best on dense organic soils, and some prefer aggregate sandy mixes. The method I will give you here does not guarantee success, but tries to give a good balance of conditions to give any moss a reasonable chance to thrive.

Step 1: Find some live moss.

Go out and collect moss that is growing under the general conditions you will be keeping it in. If you grow in surface, find moss on rocky soil or in the cracks of patios and driveways. If you grow in nursery soil, collect it from the topsoil under trees or other organic soil areas. Collect as much as you can. The more the better.

Step 2: Prep your growing container.

Choose a flat container like a boot tray, propagation tray, or even a cookie sheet. The container should have light drainage to prevent standing water, but not so much drainage that the planting medium you use will dry rapidly. Evenly spread a thin layer (about ½ inch) of your growing medium in the bottom of the tray.

Step 3: Grind the collected moss.

Using a blender or food processor, grind up the moss you collected with an equal portion of dry sphagnum moss. You will probably need to add a portion of water equal to the combined

volume of the dry and live mosses. Process the mixture until it has roughly the consistency of oatmeal.

Step 4: Apply the mixture to the container.

Spread the mixture evenly on top of the growing medium in the container. Try to maintain a layer about ¼ to ½ inch thick.

Step 5: Saturate the moss and the medium.

Using a hose nozzle set to mist or some other very gentle applicator, thoroughly water the moss mixture and the medium beneath.

Step 6: Protect the surface from full sun.

Lay some shelf liner or heavy window screen on the surface of the wet mixture to protect the recovering moss from direct sun exposure, but do not place the container in full shade. The regrowing moss will need good light to thrive.

Step 7: Do not let the moss dry out.

Maintain moist to wet conditions in the container. If the mix dries out it can be reground and spread again, but your chances of success will be much reduced. It is best to keep the moss mixture damp until the moss is very well established.

Step 8: Use your new moss.

Once the moss has established itself in a uniform carpet of green, use it to dress your pots. After the show, if you like, you can recycle the moss using the same steps above and expand your on hand moss supplies.

Good luck growing, Bob Wright

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General Meetings

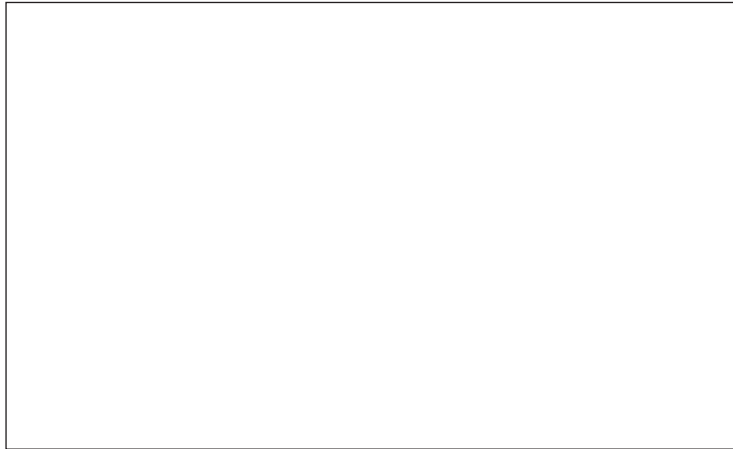
Meetings of the Midwest Bonsai Society are held at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

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.

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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

**Membership
Information**

To become a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society or renew your current membership, 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.