
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

Our next big event will be on Tuesday, December 5th at the Heller Nature Center. It is our annual pot luck holiday dinner. Please bring a dish of your choice if you are able. Soft-drinks, wine and beer will be provided by Midwest Bonsai. Besides the great food and spending time with your fellow Bonsai Club members there will be a no-cost raffle of donated items. You are welcome to bring a donation if you desire. The selection of donated items is always impressive. Wait until you

try Jim Fairchild's pecan pie! A postcard reminder will be going out soon.

Many members are not aware that Midwest Bonsai has established the Ivan Watters scholarship fund. This past August the Board voted to award free workshops to Maria and Cat (see photo above). They attended Rob Hoffman's Japanese Pine workshop and BC Bonsai's Yew workshop.

Board elections will be coming up very soon. What does the Board do?

Midwest Bonsai Society Newsletter
Volume 66 • Issue 10 • November 2023



Ivan Water's scholarships were awarded to Cat and Maria. Above photo shows Cat with her Japanese Pine from Rob Hoffman's workshop and Maria with the Yew she styled at BC Bonsai's workshop.

The Board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Hammond Library in Glencoe and sets policy for the Society. We also plan the annual events and exhibits for the coming year. Contact Amy Wright, Phil Troy or Jeng Fonseca if you are interested in joining the Board.

If you follow the news of the world these days, and it is hard to ignore, it is not very positive. Between severe weather events, fires, earthquakes, at least two wars going on now, pandemics, endangered

animal species, etc. The list goes on and on. We at least can find comfort and solace in our trees. The trees need water, fertilizer and light when they are not in hibernation. They can be styled and cared for and they are not interested in what is happening in the outside world. So, we have the opportunity to create some personal peace by paying attention to them. I am looking forward to the holidays and spending time with them.

—Larry Stephan

The Midwest Bonsai Society Annual Holiday Party

The annual Midwest Bonsai Society Holiday Party is Tuesday, December 5, 2023. The setup is at 5:00 pm, dinner 6:00 to 8:30 pm.

Where: Heller Nature Center
2821 Ridge Road, Highland Park,
IL 60035

When: Tuesday, December 5th,
2023, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Bring a pot luck dish if you can, and any item you would like to donate for the evening's free raffle. The Society is providing drinks. The last party, 2022, was a great deal of fun with fine food, wine and drinks. This is a great opportunity to renew friendships and meet new Bonsai members.



November Meeting Focus

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 6th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center and via WebEx. WebEx Invitations will be sent to all members in an email.

7:00 PM - Board Elections

7:30 PM - General program; "Black Pine and Juniper Development" by Jonas Dupuich.

Jonas is a full-time, award-winning bonsai expert and creator of Bonsai Tonight, one of the top bonsai websites in the world. This will be a Webex presentation. In addition, members are always invited to bring a tree from their collection 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>

November Events Calendar

Wednesday, November 1, 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; Wiring demonstration by Larry Magee and Linda Camp. Larry will also show a PowerPoint of his trip to Japan. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Wednesday November 1, 8 & 15, 2023

BONSAI: BEGINNER with Chris Baker

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Discover principles and techniques to appreciate and participate in the art of bonsai. You will get a tree to work on in class and gain sufficient knowledge of bonsai care to maintain and develop your tree during its initial phases. Each session includes a detailed lecture and assistance with design, styling, and wiring. Class will cover overwintering, feeding, watering, and of course, pruning and styling of your new bonsai. For more information or to register, go to: https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bonsai_beginner

Saturday November 4, 11 & 18, 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.

Saturday November 4, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Program: Winter preparation of your trees. Focus: Winter Storage - Storing trees in winter and winter care. ready for their winter homes. For further information go to [Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org](http://ScheduleforMilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org)

Saturday November 4, 2023

FALL PINE TREE STYLING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bring your own tree or buy one from us. For more information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Monday November 6, 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, Board Elections. 7:30 PM, Program: "Black Pine and Juniper Development" by visiting artist Jonas Dupuich. This will be a Webex presentation. Members are always invited to bring a tree from their collection 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/>

Saturday November 11, 2023

FALL DECIDUOUS TREE STYLING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bring your own tree or buy one from us. For more information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday November 18, 2023

FALL TREE STYLING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bring your own tree or buy one from us. For more information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 17, 18 & 19, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR EXHIBIT

Friday 2:00 PM - 10:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM - 10PM, Sunday 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM Wisconsin Exposition Center at State Fair Park, 8200 Greenfield Ave, Milwaukee, WI. Join in the celebration of cultural diversity. Holiday Folk Fair International showcases the heritage and culture of over 50 ethnic groups through international exhibits, food and dance performances. For more information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/YC/Exhibit_FolkFair_Flyer.pdf

Tuesday December 5, 2023

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY HOLIDAY POT LUCK DINNER

6:00 PM (set up at 5:00) - 8:30 PM. At the Heller Nature, 2821 Ridge Road, Highland Park. 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. See announcement in this Newsletter for more information.

Wednesday December 6, 2023

BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Chris Baker

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Chicago Botanic Garden's Bonsai Studio located in the Grainger Center. December is a great time to work on many species of trees. Bring your own tree that needs work and evaluation to this workshop. You will learn skills to critique and care for your tree that will set a foundation for a long-lived, healthy tree. For more information or to register, go to: [Bring Your Own Tree Bonsai Workshop | Chicago Botanic Garden](http://BringYourOwnTreeBonsaiWorkshop|ChicagoBotanicGarden)

Saturday December 9, 16, 23 & 30, 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 Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL or call 630-655-8283.

Monthly Care Report

What to Do in November

Outdoor Trees: Be ready to put your trees into winter protection as soon as the weather dictates the need for it. Generally, in November you can leave them outside with no protection. Trees from **Hardy Trees** Hardiness Zones 4 and below do not tolerate the 28-35°F temperatures, so protect them or bring them in sooner. By around December 1, group the remaining **Very Hardy Trees** together on the ground in a protected space. To cope with the occasional night or two in the 25°F or below range, cover with tarps or snow blankets. Make sure to weigh down the blankets so wind doesn't blow them off. A consistent night temperature of 25°F is a good reference point as to when the **Very Hardy Trees** need to be put in their final winter protection location. When bringing trees in, remove remaining foliage on deciduous trees and any weeds or debris on the soil before placing them into winter protection. Reduced wind and light are extremely helpful for dormancy. A spraying

with a general fungicide can help prevent problems over the winter and in the Spring. If leaving the trees out with pots/roots buried, provide mulch or wood chips for protection. Burying with snow when it comes will also help protect from freezing and provide moisture. Water if there is no snow so the roots don't dry out.

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.

Regarding **Semi-Hardy Trees** like Chinese/Japa-

nese Elms, Pomegranate, Holly, Chinese Sweet Plum, Olive, Japanese Silverberry and Crepe Myrtle, leave them outside as long as possible, but bring them in when the temperature is consistently hitting the lower 30's. They are safe in your regular storage so long as the temperature does not drop below 30°F; leave them there until they are dormant. Once they're dormant, bring them inside and put them under light and heat. They should start leafing again in a week or two after which you can take care of them as you would your indoor trees per below.

Keep your trees properly watered. The trees will use less water in the cooler temperatures. Fertilization may be stopped at this point. Do not repot except in the case of an emergency. Wiring may be done and is easier to do on deciduous trees after the leaves have fallen. Wire as many trees as you can in December but do not prune them.

Indoor Trees: Continue fertilization assuming the trees will be receiving 12-18 hours of light daily and will continue to grow. If you are not using supplemental light, do not fertilize until mid-March. Some people opt not to fertilize at all (and adjust their lighting accordingly) during the

winter so as to avoid long leggy growth. Such growth will occur if you are not providing enough light but will be exacerbated if you are fertilizing and not providing enough light. All species are a little different, so adjust your watering, fertilizing and light accordingly as needed for your particular indoor conditions. Provide some means for humidity via humidity trays or a room humidifier. Circulate air with a small fan. Light pruning may be performed if long internodes occur. Wiring may be done, but repotting should be avoided unless there is an emergency. If you must repot, use a heating pad set at ~80 degrees below the pot until the tree recovers.

Regarding lighting, unless you have a system that provides good results and has a reasonable cost factor, the current system of choice is LED (Light Emitting Diode) lamps. On a broad basis, LED is far superior to everything else in use. Cost, results, electricity use and ease of operation are all attractive. The author used metal halide lighting in the past and was very pleased with the results (some trees seem to prefer it to LED), but the electricity consumption is considerably higher than LED.

— Ivan Watters

Chicago Bonsai Club

There is no November meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, beginning at 6 p.m. If you would like further information about the meeting or to join the club, please contact: suka-zu17@gmail.com or call 312-590-6049.

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



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.

Not for Profit • Copyright • Disclaimer

The Midwest Bonsai Connection is an official publication of the Midwest Bonsai Society, Inc., an Illinois Not for Profit Corporation. This Newsletter is published monthly and may not be reproduced in whole or in part by any means without the written permission of the Midwest Bonsai Society. The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the Midwest Bonsai Society membership or the Board of Directors.



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.