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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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[www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

## President's Message

Hello again Midwest members. It seems there is always one more thing to do these days. September is almost over, and I still have a plate full of projects to handle before the winter weather settles in. My indoor plant stands are still occupied by the inevitable clutter that lands on them (almost the minute the plants go outside it seems), and I still have half a dozen trees I wanted to change over from nursery pots this year. Guess they'll be waiting another 6 months, as the winter weather will start settling in soon.

It's that time of year again when we should start seriously prepping our winter quarters for our plants. Clear out that cold frame, replace the tubes in the tropical stands. Don't forget to spray your tropicals for bugs before bringing them in. Move over to your low nitro fertilizer if you haven't already. No more cutting on deciduous. Remember the Ivan Watters workshops at B.C. Bonsai and the Barry residence in Lake Forest for those last guiding touches on your hardies. For details and times, contact [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com).

Speaking of things on the to-do list I need to hear-ken back a moment to the Society Dinner in August. It is customary for us to announce the winner of the Ladany Award at the dinner, but we are still getting accustomed to the new venue and format. As a consequence we forgot to announce the award. As most of you know, the Ladany is given on two qualifications. One is that the recipient must have kept at least one Bonsai in good health and growth for a number of years. The second is that the recipient must have given time and effort to the advancement of the Society. This year recipient received not one, but two Awards of Merit and a Second Place ribbon, and has done several good turns for the Society behind the scenes this year in addition to volunteering his time at our two shows. So I hope you'll all join me as I extend thanks and congratulations to Bob King, the 2018 recipient of the Midwest Bonsai Society Ladany Award.

Another thing you may have noticed if you were paying careful attention this year was a change in our Tokonoma. After feedback from the 2017 show, it was

## Midwest Bonsai Society Newsletter Volume 61 • Issue 9 • October 2018

decided that due to the increasing size of American bonsai, the smaller side of the Tokonoma should be expanded, and the wallpaper, which had begun to peel, would need to be replaced. Fortunately, the Society still has the benefit of access to the Master Carpenter who originally built the Tokonoma, James Fairchild. Over the 11 months between the shows, Mr. Fairchild worked out a plan to extend the Tokonoma, found samples of wallpapers and presented them to the Board for review, built the extension pieces, and, with the help of a small crew, repapered the entire display. The Tokonoma looked better than ever, and the work is almost undetectable, unless you know exactly where to look. Showing that it was done by a true craftsman. Thank you Mr. Fairchild.

The General Meeting October 1st will be our pseudo-annual White Elephant swap meet/sale.



Everyone who's been in the hobby for a while has a few pots, stands, plants, etc. that they don't really need or use. One man's trash is another's treasure, bring your unwanted items for giveaway, sale or trade and enjoy some cookies and coffee as a Halloween treat. Bonsai 101 will review wintering your trees, this is an important topic for the new folks so we will be starting it promptly at 7.

Sincerely,  
Robert Wright

### Bob King at MBS September meeting accepting the Ladany Award

Bob received not one, but two Awards of Merit and a Second Place ribbon at the August show, and has done several good turns for the Society this year behind the scenes, in addition to volunteering his time at our two exhibits.



# Events Calendar

**Monday, October 1, 2018**

## **MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: at 7:00 PM: Bonsai 101 Program Wintering Trees. 7:30 PM: Program White Elephant Sale/Swap Meet with coffee and cookies. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Tuesday, October 2, 2018**

## **MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. MBS Presentation – Elms Revisited. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, October 3, 2018**

## **PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. Program: 7:00 PM Bonsai 101, Water, light, and temperature by Jim Keith. 7:30 PM, Program Bring-your-own-tree workshop, senior members will offer suggestions. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 5, 6 & 7, 2018**

## **48TH ANNUAL MILWAUKEE BONSAI EXHIBITION with visiting artist Walter Pall**

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Friday, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday and 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Sunday, at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Whitnall Park, 9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners, Wisconsin. For further information go to [http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/YC/Exhibit\\_AE\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/YC/Exhibit_AE_Flyer.pdf)

**Saturday October 6, 13, 20 & 27, 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 October 6, 13, 20 & 27, 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.

**Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday October 5, 6 & 7, 2018**

## **MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY 48TH ANNUAL EXHIBIT with Walter Pall**

An exhibit of the best trees of our members, 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM on Friday and Saturday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Sunday. Boerner Botanical Gardens. MBS Presentation – Elms Revisited. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Sunday October 7, 14, & 21, 28, 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](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847-917-0817.

**Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday October 12, 13 & 14, 2018**  
**WALTER PALL FALL FESTIVAL**

9:30 AM - 5:00 PM on Friday and Saturday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Sunday, This is for all levels– from outright newbie to master. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Saturday October 13, 20, & 27 2018**

## **BC BONSAI BRING YOUR OWN TREE FALL PRUNING WORKSHOPS**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. 13th Maple Trees, 20th Spruce and Fir Trees, and 27th Deciduous Trees. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Wednesday, October 17, 2018**

## **BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Chris Baker**

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/bring\\_your\\_own\\_bonsai\\_tree\\_workshop](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bring_your_own_bonsai_tree_workshop)

**Wednesday, October 17, 2018**

## **CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING**

6:00 PM, Garfield Park Conservatory. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a plant to work on. NOTE: There are no Chicago Bonsai Club meetings from November through February. The next meeting will be in March, 2019. For further information, contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com)

**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.

## **BC BONSAI BRING YOUR OWN TREE FALL PRUNING WORKSHOPS**

**Saturday November 3, 10, & 17, 2018**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. 3rd Azaleas, 10th Junipers, 22nd and 29th Pines. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**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](mailto: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: TBD. 7:30 PM, Program: TBD. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://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](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

*(continued on page 3)*

# Monthly Care Report:

## What to Do in October

Fall is here! This is a great time to work on evergreen trees, particularly junipers and 5-needle pines. Remove yellowing needles from pines, and crispy leaves from deciduous trees. Keep a close eye on exposure to sunlight as the sun continues to move south in the sky, as warm pots can dry out quickly.

Tree functions change significantly toward the latter part of October. In fall, photosynthesis slows down, deciduous trees "wall-off" the leaves at the petiole, and as a result leaves begin to turn colors, and the trees prepare themselves for winter by continually moving accumulated

energy stores down into the roots. As this happens, deciduous trees become less and less active on top, until winter is here and it becomes safe to work on the top by wiring and light pruning. Roots will remain active for the next several weeks, so proper watering is important. The stronger they are, going into winter, the stronger they'll emerge in the spring. Remember, healthy growth is the canvass for our art.

Continue feeding through October, using feeds with higher Phosphorus and Potassium. These are the 2nd and 3rd values on fertilizer labels. For example: at our meetings BC

Bonsai will have "Dyna-Gro Mag-Pro" with N-P-K values of 2-15-4, where Nitrogen is 2% by weight of total content, Phosphorus is 15% by weight of total content, and Potassium is 4% by weight of total content. Phosphorus is associated with blooms and root growth. Potassium is associated with root growth and disease resistance.

Cool nights and higher humidity can lead to fungal problems. Watch the soil surface, backside of trunks, and understory leaves and take action if any fungal problems are identified.

—*Excerpt from Brian's Bonsai Blog on the Nebari Bonsai Website (<http://nebaribonsai.wordpress.com>)*

## Chicago Bonsai Club

The October meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, October 17, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a plant to work on. NOTE: There are no Chicago Bonsai Club meetings from November through February. The next meeting will be in March, 2019. Chicago Bonsai Club meets at Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago. Contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) or call 773-235-9479.

## Events Calendar

(continued from page 2)

juniper care, soil type, feeding, pruning, wiring of trees, and more. Bring your juniper to work on after an in-depth presentation on care. 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](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/juniper_bonsai_workshop)

**Wednesday, November 7, 2018**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**  
Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. Program: 7:00 PM Bonsai 101, TBD. 7:30 PM, Program Bonsai TBD. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://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.

## Pat Yourselves On The Back

I was at the Bill Valavanis National Exhibition in Rochester, NY last weekend. At the Exhibit I was approached by Hank Miller of Tandamiti Bonsai. Tandamiti is a regular at our August Exhibit. He showed me an amazing Baobab tree that he has had for some time. It was not up for sale. Then he told me how much he and his wife enjoys coming to the Garden in August to sell at our show. He said it is their favorite event because it is the only one where they are treated like "real people." He and his wife are considering donating that Baobab tree to the Garden collection to express their appreciation for how they are treated in Chicago. Chris Baker has seen the tree and says it would be a valuable addition to the collection.

This reminded me of Andy Smith writing in an ABS news letter some years ago that he had just returned home from his favorite Exhibit in Chicago. He rated it the most enjoyable show that he attends. He also told me that his wife is not a fan of going to Bonsai Exhibits with him. He talked her into coming two years ago and I noted that she came with him again this year.

These reactions are not due to my efforts, or Robert's or any other person on the Board. They are reacting to all of you who donate time, help them, talk with them, and support them. You are the Midwest hospitality that is generating these feelings on the part of our vendors. Thank you and pat yourself on the back one more time.  
—Larry Stephan



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The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent those 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.

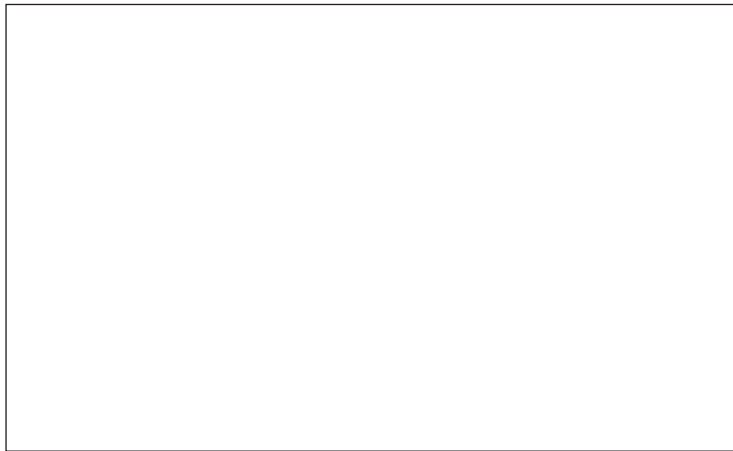
All meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Bonsai 101 presentations commence at 7:00 PM.

**Library Resources**

MBS has a fine collection of Bonsai books and journals which are available for loan. Please contact the Librarian for information.

Midwest Bonsai Connection  
Volume 61 • Issue 9 • October 2018

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## Membership Request

Name

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Address

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City, State, Zip Code

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Telephone

Date

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Email

Please Check If Renewal

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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.