
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

September already???
The Bonsai growing season is coming to an end. Now we need to keep an eye on the weather. Tropical trees will need to come inside as the nighttime temperatures drop. Then the hardy trees will be ready to go into hibernation after two or three hard frosts. The next general meeting will be focused on wintering your trees.

As we move into fall and winter our thoughts turn to our December holiday

pot luck dinner. Matt will be booking a date with the Heller Nature Center. He will try to book it for Tuesday, December 5th. If you write that in your calendar use a pencil because the date could change. (Yes, I still have a calendar book. I can't bring myself to move on to an electronic calendar). And to add to fall excitement we will have annual Board elections coming soon. If you have an interest in serving on the Board contact Jeng Fonseca, Robert Wright

or Phil Troy. The Board meets on Monday nights in the week following the general meeting.

What I learned this month. I just returned from the Bill Valavanis National Exhibit in Rochester, NY. We had quite a group from our club at the event. The trees were amazing and they had a beautiful display of Suiseki stones. What I realized is how much North American Bonsai has diverged from Japan in terms of the display to

the trees. What in the past has been an accent plant to compliment the tree has become a display of its own. One prize winning tree had an accent of three African elephants walking to the tree. Others had Suiseki stones as accents. Still more had large accents with multiple plants and an occasional stone set among the greenery. It was an eye opener. I wonder what other changes are coming in the future.

—Larry Stephan

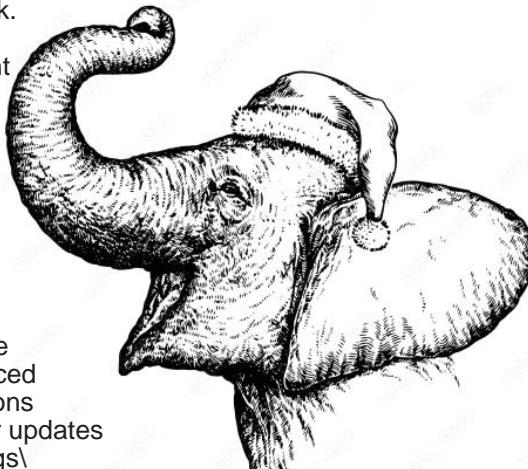
October Meeting Focus

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 2, 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 - Bonsai 101 program; "Bonsai Preparation and Winter Storage" presented by Victor Zurczak.

7:30 pm - General program; "White Elephant Sale". All members are invited to bring supplies, pots plants or any other bonsai related item that you want to sell or give away. MBS will have leftover Children's Work-shop trees that will be for sale at \$10 each. This was our cost. Trees are Zelcova, Chinese Wisteria, Japanese Maple, Trident Maple, and maybe one Amur Maple.

Remember you can also bring your own tree to the meeting as Victor and other experienced 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 October meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 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.

October Events Calendar

Monday October 2, 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, "Bonsai Preparation and Winter Storage"
7:30 pm General program; "White Elephant Sale". Sale. All members are invited to bring supplies, pots plants or any other bonsai related item that you want to sell or give away. 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, October 4, 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; All About Pines. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Saturday October 7, 2023

INTERMEDIATE WIRING AND BENDING TECHNIQUES at BC Bonsai

1:30 PM - 4:00 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 October 7, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: Breakdown of the differences between the many different pine types and how they should be handled. Focus: Getting trees ready for their winter homes. For further information go to Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org

Saturday October 7, 14, 21 & 28, 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.

Saturday October 14, 2023

JUNIPER WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai
1:30 PM - 4:00 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.

Sunday October 15, 2023

BONSAI COURTYARD TOUR with Chris Baker
1:00PM - 3:00PM Join us in the bonsai courtyards for a curated tour. Take an in-depth look at 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

Wednesday October 18, 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: suka-zu17@gmail.com or call 312-590-6049.

Saturday October 28, 2023

FALL MAPLE WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai
1:30 PM - 4:00 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.

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; Andy Smith Black Hills spruce. In training since 2012. Estimated age 150 years. ZOOM presentation by Andy Smith from Golden Arrow Bonsai. From Andy Smith's website; <http://www.goldenarrowbonsai.com/index.html> For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Wednesday November 1, 8 & 15 2023

BONSAI: BEGINNER with Chris Baker
6:00PM - 8:00PM 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

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.

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Monthly Care Report

What to Do in October

General Care: Pay particular attention to watering right now as temperatures fluctuate. Do not water by schedule!!! Check your soil/pots and water accordingly! Colder temperatures or cloudy days, generally require less watering. However, roots will remain active, so proper watering is still crucial. Light levels are changing and leaves/needles are turning yellow as is normal for this time of the year. Fertilize all of your trees generously with low-nitrogen (Low N - High P - High K) fertilizer through to the end of October or until you bring them indoors. Chemical fertilizers (in lieu of organic) may be best at this time. CHECK YOUR WIRE to make sure it's not biting in since branches (and trunks on smaller trees) have been gaining their greatest volume over the last month and will continue into October.

Now is also a good time to spray an insecticide/fungicide on your trees before bringing them in for protection. I typically use Bayer 3-in-1 Insect, Disease & Mite Control along with Neem Oil (separate product). Put the correct dosage of Neem Oil into warm water first, and then add the Bayer 3-in-1. Avoid spraying Jades/Portulac-

aria and Buttonwoods with Neem Oil. If Neem oil application on Ficus is too thick, it will drop leaves. Don't use a systemic insecticide (the 2-in-1 granular placed in the soil) for killing insects with Serissas or Elms; use the spray.

Indoor Trees: Move your tropical (indoor) trees inside under grow lights. Nighttime temperatures are now typically between 40 and 50 degrees. Clean any debris from the soil and any dead leaves/branches from the trees before bringing them in and spray with insecticide/fungicide if you haven't already. Pay close attention to your soil as you may not need to water as much shortly after the trees are brought indoors. Once the heat in your house is back on, you will need to check for dry soil more frequently. Continue fertilization assuming the trees will be receiving 12-18 hours of light daily and will continue to grow. 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 differ-

ent, so adjust your watering, fertilizing and light accordingly. 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.

NOTE: Some species like pomegranates, Chinese sweet plums, Japanese silverberry and olive trees like some cold weather before being brought indoors for the winter. It's generally alright to leave these trees out for several frosts before bringing them in. Avoid leaving them out for hard freezes.

Whether there is a frost or a freeze is dependent upon the amount of water in the air. A frost is when there is a visible frost. A freeze is when the air temperature drops below freezing. Often frost occurs when the temperature is above freezing; however, there can also be a freeze without frost.

Outdoor Trees: Continue fertilizing per above through October but look to stop around mid-November depending upon forecasted temperatures. You want to stop fertilizing ahead of the first freeze. On pines, remove old needles (those that haven't grown this season) so that more light can get between branches to activate dormant buds.

On broadleaf trees, begin removing dead leaves to prevent critters and fungus from enjoying excess moisture. Treat branch and trunk deadwood with jin seal (properly diluted if product requires).

Remove air-layers from your hardy trees if they have roots. If they do not have roots, it's a judgment call as to whether or not you continue with the air-layer. Either way, the air-layer remaining on the tree or the separated air-layer with roots need to be kept cold (around 35 degrees), but they **must** be protected from freezing.

You should be making your final arrangements **now** as to how you will protect your trees through the winter so that you aren't caught off guard by early freezes. Some options include unheated garages, crawl spacing, cold greenhouses and even outdoors with roots protected under a mulch bed. Seek additional sources to check your intended setup. Keep the trees outdoors for two or three frosts. Do not bring them indoors! **Light** pruning may still be performed through October. Repotting may be performed only in emergency situations. Avoid cutting any more roots than necessary and keep them well-protected if emergency repotting has been done.

—Matt Mazza

October Events

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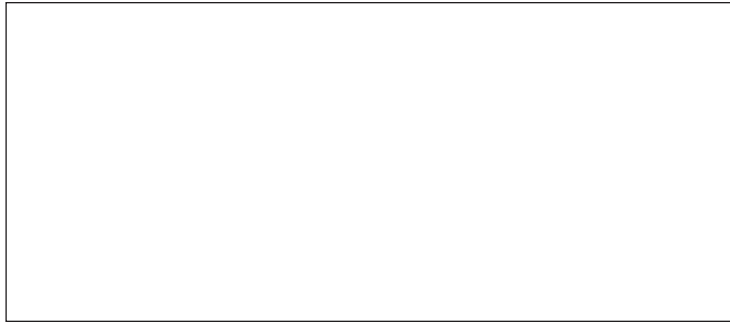
Bring your own tree or buy one from us. For more information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

**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

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.

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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.