
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

It's past the Autumnal Equinox as I write this, and I've been spending my free time cleaning out my basement to bring the tropicals in. By the time you read this, mine will be inside tucked under their lights for the winter. I always think that I will have plenty of time to clean over the summer, but inevitably end up scrambling at the last minute. Remember to clean up any old leaves, change out your tubes if you're using fluorescents, and give them one last shot of insecticidal sprays or systemics to start them off for the winter indoors.

September was a busy month for bonsai! Almost over-stimulation—my mind is swimming with ideas and things I want to try. ABS put on a fantastic Learning Seminar again this year; based more around lectures than workshops, the format is great for those with too many trees who want to learn neat tricks and tidbits. I took a very interesting session on grafting, and am now eyeing multiple trees for improvements through different grafting techniques. Next year ABS is teaming up with

the Golden State Bonsai Federation to have the seminar in Sacramento, CA. That is going to be one to save up your pennies to get to!

I was no sooner back from ABS, then it was time for Prairie State and Milwaukee to have their annual shows. Prairie State had our very own Ivan Watters in for their show critique, and they had a great exhibit of member trees. Milwaukee had Kathy Shaner in for their guest master this year, and their exhibit was also great. I want to send my congratulations on to our neighboring clubs for their successful events! Milwaukee had some very exciting news; they are working on establishing a permanent public bonsai collection. Another public display in the region would be fantastic, bonsai needs all the exposure it can get to keep growing and flourishing as a hobby. I will have more details at the next general meeting.

A couple of months ago we talked about the issues that our May Show was having. To summarize: there wasn't enough draw for the vendors to break even, the workshops were



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not getting participants, and the banquet was very lowly attended. We've been doing some brainstorming, and talking with our regular vendors, and we've got some ideas that we're going to try next spring. While several of our larger vendors will not be returning, we think we have some smaller, local vendors who will be willing to try vending for us. Without the huge overhead of traveling to Chicago, we are hoping that they will have success. We are also working on restructuring the workshops, with plans for some "Intro to Bonsai" ones put on by the club for the general public. We are

also looking into lecture/demo ideas to further the 'education' part of the show. We appreciate any of your thoughts and feedback during this process.

As we go into the fall, we are starting to make our plans for next year's meeting programs. We have some guest speakers that we are working on scheduling, but we always welcome any requests or offers from the membership for programming ideas. Please feel free to come to the next meeting with suggestions and we will happily listen!
—Cat Nelson

Hold The Date: December 4

The Midwest Bonsai Society is hosting a pot luck Holiday party

Where: Takiff Center, Aiken Activity Room, 999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe, IL 60022

When: Wednesday, December 4th, 2013, 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Bring a pot luck dish and any item you would like to donate for the evening's raffle. The Society is providing drinks.

Last year's party 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.

Midwest Bonsai Society Board Members

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October Meeting Focus

The October meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 7, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's

Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.
7:00pm - Bonsai 101, topic TBD
7:30pm – Presentation on Wiring by Ivan Watters, curator of the Chicago Botanic Garden Bonsai Collection.

Midwest Bonsai Connection

Chicago Bonsai Club

The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, October 16, beginning at 6 p.m. James Fairchild and Tony Welinski will be speaking about and demonstrating needle pruning, and

will be available to answer questions about overwintering your bonsai trees.

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.

Haiku

by Susan Babyk



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October

Time to prepare trees
For sheltering
in Winter.
We all need a
break.

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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.

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: N-P-K values of 2-8-4, where Nitrogen is 2% by weight of total

content, Phosphorus is 8% 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>)

Events Calendar

Monday, October 7, 2013

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY OCTOBER MEETING, 7:30 pm., at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. The Bonsai 101 session begins at 7 pm, the topic has not been determined.

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

beginning at 6 p.m. CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai meets at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Jim Fairchild and Tony Welinski will speak on and demonstrate needle pruning. For more info, email: suekazoo@hotmail.com

Thursday, October 17, 2013

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI GENERAL MEETING 7:30pm, at the Morton Arboretum. Program: Andy Smith demo and collecting presentation. For directions to meeting, go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING 6:30 pm. Fall Repotting of a Quince. For more information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY 6:30 pm. For more information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY 5:00 pm – 10 pm. Details to follow in November newsletter.



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Membership Renewal Reminder

July was the time to renew your Midwest Bonsai Society membership, so if you haven't already, please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on the last page of this newsletter. If you do not renew your membership by the end of the year you will no longer receive newsletters via email or snail mail. Your renewal is important in order for us to keep our mailing lists up-to-date. Thank you for your ongoing support. 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:

Send to: Midwest Bonsai Society

Midwest Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 1373

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Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

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\$35 Electronic Newsletter **OR \$40** Newsletter by Mail

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