
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

From the President's Committee Head **Is Fall Really Here Already?**

The Farmer's Almanac is predicting a cold, cold winter, as are some weather forecasters. Still others claim our future weather is tied to El Nino, La Nina weather patterns in the Pacific. I don't know but when our furnace did not work for 4 days this past week it seemed pretty cool for early September.

This past weekend I had an opportunity to attend the 4th US National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, NY. It was a very impressive show. Trees exhibited included top trees from the Chicago Botanic Garden; the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum in Washington,

DC; the North Carolina Botanic Garden; and the Montreal Botanic Garden. Individual entries came from 27 states and Canada. The trees were amazing and they also had a very large Suiseki display area.

The vendor area was also quite impressive. I was stunned to find U.S. made bonsai tools on sale. A company in Florida is using American foundries to cast the parts for quality stainless steel tools. They look very good and come with a two-year warranty. I picked up a few to try. The scissors were not as tight as I would have liked but the Concave, and Knob cutters and

Splitters looked to be top quality. I would like to get them to one of our Chicago shows next year. You can check them out at www.AmericanBonsai.com. The GREAT NEWS is that I met two vendors that make and sell stands. One is begging to come to our May show and the other one wants to come to the show next August. Their stands look very good. It was also great to see a few of our regular vendors. Sara Raynor, Frank Mihalic, and Andy Smith were there, just to mention a few. The next National Exhibit will be in two years in Rochester. If you have the opportunity to go it is well worth the trip. If you drive you can

also see Niagara Falls on the way.

Last month I mentioned finding a way to keep the chipmunks and birds from dining on my accent plants when they are outside. My efforts with a wire and mesh cover crashed and burned. Eva Hernandez-Thomas gave me a tip. She suggested using Fiba-Tape wrapped around the edge of the pot and sticking up about ½" to 1" above the top edge of the pot. So far it seems to be working. Thanks Eva. Fiba tape is a plastic mesh tape available in hardware and home supply stores.

—Larry Stephan

Annual Holiday Party - Potluck!

Hold the date: December 3, 2014

Takiff Center, Aiken Activity Room
999 Green Bay Road
Glencoe, IL
5:00pm - 10:00pm

Bring a dish to pass and bring an item for the free raffle!

Please note that there is no general meeting in the month of Dec.



Events Calendar

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, Room SRC 1144. 7:00 pm: Bonsai 101 - TBD. 7:30pm, Program – Overwintering. For more information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com.

Monday, October 6, 2014

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY SEPTEMBER MEETING, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Fairchild Room. 7:00pm - Bonsai 101 – Tropicals Under Light. 7:30pm - Guest speaker, Martin Schmalenberg will give a presentation about literati. Also, please bring a tree for critique by Mr. Schmalenberg.

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 6:30 pm. Guest Artist: Suthin Sukosolvisit. For more information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org.

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING, 6 pm at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Contact suekazoo@hotmail.com for further information.

Monday, November 3, 2014

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY SEPTEMBER MEETING, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall. 7:00pm - Bonsai 101 – TBA; 7:30pm - Annual Business Meeting followed by a program TBA.

Tuesday, November 4, 2014

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 6:30 pm. Introduce Bamboo and Update Fertilizers Leo Schordje. For more information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org.

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, Room TEC 1038b. 7:00 pm: Bonsai 101 - TBA. 7:30pm, Program – Collecting and propagation techniques. For more information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com.

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY HOLIDAY PARTY. 5-10 pm. Takiff Center, Glencoe, IL.

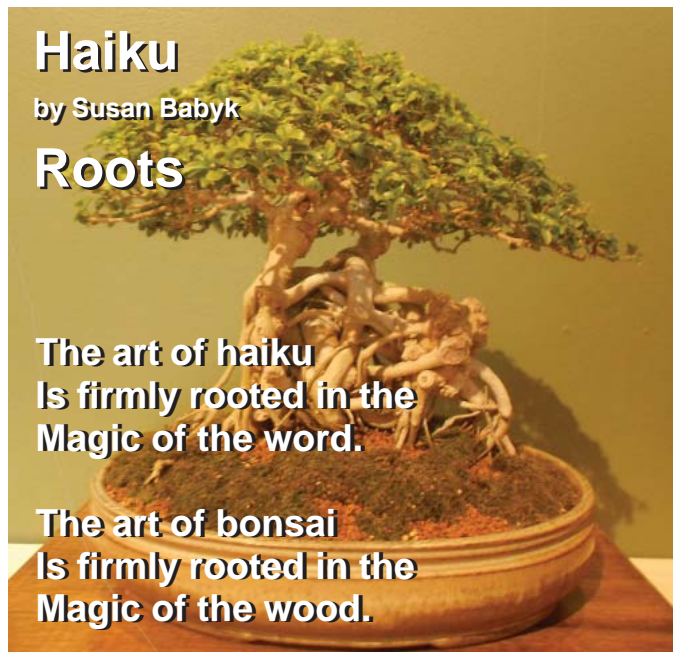
Haiku

by Susan Babyk

Roots

The art of haiku
Is firmly rooted in the
Magic of the word.

The art of bonsai
Is firmly rooted in the
Magic of the wood.



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October Meeting Focus

The October meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2014, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Berstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00pm - Bonsai 101: Tropicals Under

Lights. 7:30pm – Guest speaker, Martin Schmalenberg will give a presentation about literati. Also, please bring a tree for critique by Mr. Schmalenberg.

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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

October means cooler temperatures are just around the corner, the prediction for the near future is temperatures in the low 70's.

When the nights start getting longer and the sun is lower in the sky the mornings have lots of dew. Your tropicals still can be repotted if you haven't repotted yet. You best get on the ball, mid-month is about as late as you can push it. I always recommend that you start to bring your tropicals indoors mid to late Sept when you still have some windows or doors open and the furnace has not started to kick on to dry the air. If you wait until Oct, you risk the chance of shocking them and losing lots of leaves when you bring them inside from a more drastic change.

Your deciduous trees are preparing for dormancy, don't overfeed them now, which will promote too much new growth. It is time to remove the fertilizer blocks from your trees if they have fully broken

down. Many of my tender leafed deciduous trees, especially Maples, have suffered some leaf burn, set them in full shade. It will better prepare them for dormancy and reduce stress. Your tropicals are still in their active growing season, cut back on feeding them towards the end of the month as not to promote too much new growth. Mature leaves can handle the shortened days and cooler nights coming better. End of September into October is pre-hardening time and the end of October into November trees need to be hardened off in preparation for winter, that means your deciduous trees will be going dormant and the growth on your tropicals will be slowing.

It is about time to begin hardening-off your trees for the cold months ahead, and preparing a safe place to keep them. For the most part you should not attempt collecting, repotting, air-layering or drastic pruning at this time of year. Continue pulling weeds from your pots and always

checking for insects. Feeding: Please note that fertilization must be handled with sensitivity, or else you risk pushing too much new growth that will not harden-off sufficiently before the cold weather sets in. Following the needs of outdoor plantings, it can be said that deciduous trees may benefit from a low-nitrogen (that is, higher in potassium and phosphorous) feeding after the leaves have fallen but prior to November 1; this can promote bud formation and strengthen the trunk and root system for winter. Similarly, evergreens may be fed a low-nitrogen fertilizer, until the end of October. Most reference books refer to a single Autumn feeding.

Winter protection: Start planning how and where you will store your trees for the winter. In a normal year, and when was the last time we had one of those, most of our outdoor bonsai can stay virtually unprotected beyond Thanksgiving, but this holiday is commonly used as a start date for winter protection. If you have only a few trees, it may be possible to plant them directly into the ground, pot and all, but for larger collec-

tions it may prove useful to build some sort of cold-frame or organize some space in an unheated shed or some-such. You will not need these precautions for a few months yet, but it pays to plan ahead!

Watering continues to be the most important task during this month. Reduce feeding at this point, and use low-nitrogen or nitrogen-free fertilizer. Also remove wires from branches that have set properly and be aware of thickening branches and trunks on wired pines. Early in the month can still be warm so watch your watering and don't let your trees dry out too much. Growth is really slowing now. Continue with your 0-10-10 fertilizers. Avoid pruning any trees except pines. Jin and shari can still be worked, but avoid heavy cuts on deciduous trees until next spring. Continue to watch your wiring, especially on pines. Pines tend to put on their wood in the fall so watch closely to avoid wire scars.

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

Chicago Bonsai Club

The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 15, beginning at 6 p.m. The focus of the meeting will be on preparing your trees for fall. Senior members of the MBS will be available to answer questions, and assist with styling and maintaining your bonsai trees, so bring one to work on or for critique.

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.

*Please note: October is the last club meeting for this year, and we will be on hiatus until March of 2015.

Midwest Bonsai Society Board Members

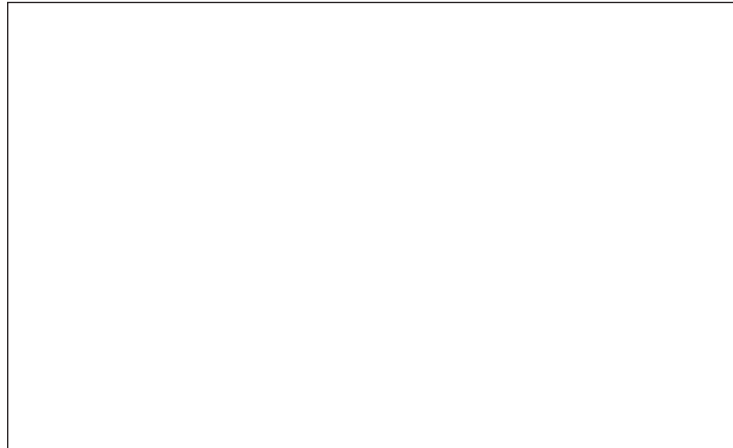
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Midwest Bonsai Society
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www.midwestbonsai.org

Membership Information

To become a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society or renew your current membership (July is the month to renew), please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on the last 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.

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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

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Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

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