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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## President's Message

It doesn't feel like Fall as I write this. It's still very warm and humid during the day, but all the signs are there—cool mornings, geese gathering in flocks and a few leaves already blowing in the wind. While we may have gotten complacent about watering during the summer, drenching everything every morning, fall watering requires more individual attention. Take care that you don't over-water trees in heavy, older soil or allow the smaller trees to dry out. I don't grow tropicals but I'm told now is the time to start preparing them for indoor storage. Hardy trees need another couple of months outside but the first frosts will be here before you know it. If you are new to bonsai and don't have a winter storage plan, I suggest you come to our next meeting on October 3 and ask for some suggestions—we love giving suggestions.

Speaking of the October meeting, don't believe everything you see on the internet—our own website shows (or did when I wrote this) that we would have Mauro Stemberger this month but that was not to

be. So we're moving the White Elephant Sale to October and we are trying to schedule Andy Smith for a demo in November. I encourage everyone to go through their collection of trees, accents, pots, tools, books, etc. and bring in the things you no longer use. And bring enough cash to buy stuff someone else no longer uses. If you haven't been to one of our sales before, it's really a lot of fun.

As many of you know, next year's August Exhibition is special—it will be the 40th consecutive exhibition hosted by the Midwest Bonsai Society. I know a couple of members who were around for that first show but I'm not naming names. However I am very happy to name next year's guest artist—Kathy Shaner. Kathy has been a judge at our show previously and many of you probably remember her. After serving a 5-year apprenticeship in Japan, she was the first American certified bonsai professional recognized by the professional bonsai growers branch of the Nippon Bonsai Association. Kathy is a

remarkably talented and experienced artist as well as a genuinely nice person.

The growing season is definitely winding down but most bonsai enthusiasts know that fall into early winter is an active time for wiring,

needle pruning and other styling work. Ivan Watters is conducting a series of workshops in Lake Forest on Tuesday evenings focusing on these late-season tasks. If you need contact information, please send an email to [midwestbonsai.org](mailto:midwestbonsai.org)  
—Jay Albright

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## New Ivan Watters Workshop Series... Tuesday Evenings

We are continuing the Sunday morning workshops on Tuesdays at 6:30-9:30 at Brendan's house in Lake Forest on Cherry Avenue. Meeting every Tuesday evening (unless we let you know) until there's nothing we can do. First session: September 13...\$60 per session.

(OK to come any Tuesday). Bring everything you will need to work. Turntables are a must!!! Wiring of trunks and primary branches can begin now.

One last opportunity to do some light trimming. Now is the time to plan work to be done for anything to be displayed next year. Tropicals can still be repotted if you have lights for winter care.

For further information, contact: Ivan Watters  
<[yasukunai@aol.com](mailto:yasukunai@aol.com)>

# Events Calendar

**Monday, October 3, 2016**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: 7:00 pm, WHITE ELEPHANT SALE. Bring your items and shopping lists. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Tuesday, October 4, 2016**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**

7:00pm, Upcoming Grad class share their experiences. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, October 5, 2016**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY,**

7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Overwintering; 7:30pm, Difficult Bonsai, What to Do. Room TEC1038b. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Wednesday, October 19, 2016**

**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING,**

Garfield Park Conservatory, 6:00-8:00pm. Bring a tree to work on. Senior members will be available to answer questions and provide assistance. Contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) or call 773-235-9479.

**Tuesday, November 1, 2016**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**

7:00pm, MBS Swap—trees, pots, new projects. See the November Newsletter for further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Monday, November 7, 2016**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: 7:00 pm, Tentative: Andy Smith, guest lecture. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Tuesday, November 22, 2016**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY,**

General Meeting(Note: Earlier start time) 7:00pm, Room TEC 1038b Program: Demonstration By Italian Artist Mauro Stemberger. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

## Seeking Newsletter Editor

The Midwest Bonsai Society is looking for someone with editorial abilities to become the next MBS Connections Newsletter Editor. If you are interested or have any questions regarding this position, please contact [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com).

## Bylaws Amendment

An amendment was formally added to the Midwest Bonsai Society bylaws in September after three public readings. This amendment provides for an orderly transition in the event that the office of President becomes vacant before the end of the current term. The amendment reads as follows:

**Amendment to Article 6: Elections**

9. In the event the position of President becomes vacant during a term, a committee of three board members shall be formed to seek a replacement, with a recommendation presented to the membership within 3 months for their approval.

- a) This committee will perform the duties of the President for the interim period.
- b) If the remaining term is less than one (1) year, this remainder shall not count toward the maximum duration in office for board members as specified in 6. above.

## October Meeting Focus

The October meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 3, 2016, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Bernstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. This will be our

annual "White Elephant" Sale meeting, so bring any bonsai-related items that you no longer need, and bring plenty of cash to pick up some great bargains from other members.

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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

Please read the President's message in this issue for helpful information on what to do with your trees in November. In addition, following is an excerpt from our 2013 newsletter

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 ac-

tive 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 canvas 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>).

## Chicago Bonsai Club

The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest

Bonsai Society, will hold its monthly meeting on

Wednesday, October 19, beginning at 6 p.m. The focus of the meeting will be on overwintering your bonsai. 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.

NOTE: This will be our last meeting of 2016.

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.



Child from 2015 Midwest Bonsai Society Childrens Workshop returns in 2016 to show her tree is still alive,

### Midwest Bonsai Society Board Members

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	Ivan Watters
Prairie State Representative	Dan Turner

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

## Membership Information

To become a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society or re-new your current membership (July is the month to renew), 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.

Midwest Bonsai Connection  
Volume 59 • Issue 9 • October 2016

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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