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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## President's Message

Greetings onto the membership! I want to send out a hearty thank-you to everyone who helped out at the show, we couldn't have done it without you. From the vendors who drive from all over the country to sell us wonderful goods, to the entrants who brought their superb trees to display, to the volunteers who ran around all weekend doing the grunt work, I'd say we did a great job. Bjorn was a great judge to work with, and hopefully everyone was able to benefit from his experience. If you didn't get your judge's comments at the show, we'll have them at the next general meeting for picking up. And, as always, Paul Stokes of the website [www.ofbonsai.org](http://www.ofbonsai.org) recorded both the critique and the demo, you can find them on his website if you're interested in a flashback.

We had a fantastic array of trees this year, the level of quality was very high. It was nice to see the efforts that folks have gone through in creating great trees. Someone asked me if I was bonsai-ed out after the show, but in reality it's the opposite. It's hard not to go home and want to

do too many things to my trees after being inspired by all the great trees that I see at the show, or the tidbits that I've learned from someone. And who doesn't itch to use the new pot they just bought, even though it's not the right season for repotting? You mean I really have to wait until next spring?

As we wind down from the show, we're going from unusually cool temps to a sudden heat wave. It's 95F out as I write this, and I am watching my trees for late

season heat stress. I am fertilizing lightly with a low-nitrogen blend, especially on my wisteria that I am trying to get to bloom next year. My research on them says they don't like nitrogen, so now when it's setting next year's buds I am feeding it a high potassium fertilizer.

I am also preparing to attend the American Bonsai Society's annual Learning Seminar that is the second weekend in September this year. The following weekend, Sept. 21 & 22, has both Prairie State's show and Milwaukee's show. No

problem—weekends were made with two days for a reason! You can go to one show on one day and the other show on the other day. Support our nearest bonsai neighbors with their efforts; I know they were supporting our show.

I hope to see everyone at the next meeting in September, remember that it's a week later than normal due to the Labor Day Holiday. I look forward to seeing our regular members as well as any new members we picked up at the show. Until then, keep cool.  
—Cat Nelson



Best of Show and 1st Place Professional Award winning trees, displayed side by side

© 2013 Cat Nelson

# ABS Mentor Program

The American Bonsai Society is proud to offer a mentor monitored correspondence course for all who wish to learn the art of bonsai. This course was written by bonsai artists Tom Zane and is offered through the ABS Book Service. Each bonsai student has the opportunity to learn the art of bonsai at his or her own pace in the comfort of his or her home.

No previous bonsai experience necessary.

The American Bonsai Society realizes that a hands-on course of study with a recognized bonsai teacher is a preferred way to learn bonsai. But many of us do not live near a well-known teacher or nursery.

ABS's Introduction to Bonsai: a Correspondence Course, written in English, instructs the student in the fundamental concepts of the art of bonsai and is especially suitable for isolated bonsai enthusiasts or beginning bonsai students who prefer to learn at home.

What's most remarkable about this home-based correspondence course is that you have proficient help as you learn.

For more information, go to <http://absbonsai.org/mentor-program>



Bjorn BJORHOLM, Guest Master, in the "Bring Your Own Tree Workshop" giving individual help, during the 36th Annual Mid-America Show.

## September Meeting Focus

The September meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, September 9, (Note later date due to

Labor Day Holiday) at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00pm - Bonsai 101, topic TBD 7:30pm - Prior August Show Critiques.

Midwest Bonsai Connection

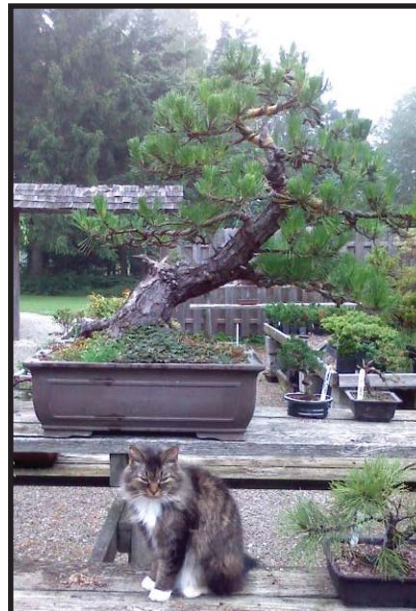
# Chicago Bonsai Club

The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, September 18, beginning at 6 p.m. Bring the tree you bought from a vendor at the Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit, for assistance in styling. James Fairchild and Tony

Weininski will be available to answer questions, and assist with styling and maintaining 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](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) or call 773-235-9479.



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## Haiku

by Susan Babyk

### Final Stretch

Oh,  
September's  
here.  
Trees radiate  
their splendor.  
Step back and  
enjoy.

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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: Events Calendar

## What to Do in September

The home-stretch... September is here! The heat of summer may be giving way to football weather and the dogwoods are hinting that fall is approaching. Bonsai trees have made it through the hottest days and are in the home-stretch. What are we doing with our trees now? Here is a list:

- Continue feeding if you're using organic fertilizers into the middle of the month; it takes a few weeks to realize the benefits of organic fertilizers and you want trees to be strong for that last growth spurt. Start looking for a low-nitrogen fertilizer with higher Potassium and Potash numbers for use in October-November.
- Watch watering very closely, it gets tricky now. Cooler nights slow evaporation, and hardened-off leaves transpire less. In August, watering was automatic—do it daily. In September, trees benefit from a slowed wet-dry cycle. Drier weather and increased

sunlight will improve fall color.

- Watch the sunlight your trees get. As the sun starts to travel lower in our sky, trees that were once under the shade of overhead trees may suddenly be exposed to very direct rays of hot sunlight.
- Continue to look for pests and fungal diseases. Overnight humidity begins to increase this month, which increases risk of unwanted pests and diseases. Slugs are active and are drawn to organic fertilizers.
- Remove yellowing needles from pine trees. White pines tend to shed old growth before black pines.
- Remove fallen leaves from the soil surface to prevent fungal problems.
- Check wires and remove those that have begun to be imbedded in the bark.

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



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**Ongoing through September 29, 2013**  
**10:00 am – 4:00 pm (Fridays – Mondays only)**  
**EXHIBIT: BECOMING A BONSAI.**

National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, Washington D.C. "How do they do that?" Pictures and text illustrate the principles and steps involved in transforming a common crapemyrtle into a charming bonsai through pruning, wiring, styling, and repotting. See how the original exhibit tree, now in its fourth year of training, has developed. Artifacts from the Museum's collection will also be displayed, including tools used by bonsai masters Toshio Kawamoto, John Naka, and Yuji Yoshimura. Free. For more information, go to <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Education/events.html>

**Tuesday, September 3, 2013**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

6:30 pm. See the top award winning trees from State Fair "up-close and personal" with insights from their owners. For more information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, September 4, 2013**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI GENERAL MEETING**

7:30pm, at the College of DuPage. Room TEC1038b. Program: Wintering & Fertilizing trees. For directions to meeting, go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**September 12-15, 2013**

**The 2013 AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY LEARNING SEMINAR** in Saratoga Springs, NY. For more information go to [www.loveofbonsai.com](http://www.loveofbonsai.com)

**Wednesday, September 18, 2013**

Beginning at 6 p.m. **CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING**, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai meets at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Bring the tree you bought from a vendor at the Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit, for assistance in styling. For more info, email: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com)

**September 20-22, 2013**

**43rd ANNUAL BONSAI EXHIBIT**

Milwaukee Bonsai Society at the Boerner Botanical Garden & Visitor Center, Hales Corner, Wisconsin. Special Guest: Kathy Shaner. Exhibit trees, workshops, vendors. For more information, go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org/ae](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/ae)

**September 21-22, 2013**

**ANNUAL PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SHOW**

Hours: Sat.-Sun. 10am-4pm, at the Morton Arboretum. Display trees; demos; workshops by Brian Ciskowski, Jim Doyle, Ivan Watters, vendors. For more information, go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

Midwest Bonsai Society  
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Highland Park, Illinois 60035-7373  
www.midwestbonsai.org

# 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

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Address

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City, State, Zip Code

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Telephone

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Date

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Email

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Please Check If Renewal

Please make check payable to:

Send to: Midwest Bonsai Society

**Midwest Bonsai Society**

P.O. Box 1373

Highland Park, Illinois

Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

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

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