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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## President's Message

Whew! I'm writing this newsletter while my back is still sore and the memories still fresh from our August exhibition. For a few days each year everything else in my life gets put on hold so I can live vicariously as a bonsai professional totally immersed in the business, art and physical labor of bonsai. It's a tough life but apparently very rewarding for those who have the stamina and skill to make a go of it. To be honest, I'm kinda relieved the weekend is over so I can return to the job that better suits my skill set.

One of the most popular events at the show is the Friday evening Guest Artist Critique of selected exhibition trees. It is a chance to meet the guest artists and hear their thoughts on what makes certain trees special. Well, I can top that. If you think the one hour critique is interesting, try volunteering as a "scribe" for the Friday morning judging—three of us spent six hours trying to keep up with Colin and his assistant as they verbally dissected every single tree in the show. Words like overwhelming and

exhausting barely convey the experience, and I came away with a much more structured approach to viewing bonsai.

Several people commented that the exhibition trees were better than last year and perhaps the best in recent memory. Maybe it was just a lucky year, but I prefer to think that the general level of skill and material in this region is trending upward. And I also think that shows like ours can help to advance the art.

We get a lot of questions during the show weekend. Most are routine questions that every bonsai hobbyist can answer, such as "Can I grow this indoors?" Some are merely perplexing, like "Why are the Award of Merit ribbons so much larger than 1st Place ribbons?" But others demand serious attention—one such question this year was "Why do we continue with the substantial expense of the Saturday evening banquet when only a dozen or so club members attend?" I would like to hear from fellow club members on that one.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers—it is your contribution of time and energy that makes the show a success. And we are also grateful to the vendors who come back year after year. On Sunday night, when we're finally home and able to relax, most vendors are still on the road or in a hotel somewhere, no doubt wishing they were already home.

I want to remind anyone who doesn't already know that 5th Annual National Bonsai Exhibition will take

place in Rochester NY the weekend of September 10-11. This world class show is organized by Bill Valavanis who you probably know from our own August show.

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society will be hosting their 45th annual Exhibition September 16-18 at Boerner Botanical Garden in Hales Corner, WI.

The next MBS general meeting will be Sept 12—a week later than usual due to the Labor Day holiday.  
—Jay Albright



Midwest Bonsai Society Best of Show, 2016, Tim Priest

# Events Calendar

**Tuesday, September 6, 2016**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**  
6:30 pm, Guest speaker: Leo Schordje. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, September 7, 2016**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY,**  
7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Schefflera; 7:30pm, Tropical Workshop, Water Jasmine. Room TEC1038b. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Saturday, September 10 – Sunday, September 11, 2016**  
**5TH US NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION, Rochester, NY.**  
Details in separate story on this page.

**Monday, September 12, 2016**

**(Note: meeting moved due to holiday)**  
**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**  
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: 7:00 pm, General Meeting – August show review and tree critique. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**September 16 • 17 • 18, 2016**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY 5TH ANNUAL BONSAI EXHIBIT at the Boener Botanical Gardens,**  
Hales Corner, WI. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, September 21, 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.

**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, Bonsai 101: Fall care; 7:30pm, Guest Master Mauro Stemberger demonstration (tentative). 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.

**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, White Elephant Sale. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

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## 5th US National Bonsai Exhibition

The United States has enjoyed four successful National Bonsai Exhibitions featuring some of the finest masterpieces in the country. Hobbyists as well as professionals from around the country are preparing their specimens for exhibition. The exhibition will be held in Rochester, New York on September 10 & 11, 2016. See Museum-Quality Bonsai and enjoy Bonsai Fellowship. It will take place in the new facility in East Rochester: "Total Sports Experience," which is a 55,000 square foot venue with ample free parking and several nearby restaurants. For further information, go to: [www.usnationalbonsai.com](http://www.usnationalbonsai.com).

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## September Meeting Focus

**\*Note later date due to Labor Day Holiday\***

The September meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 12, 2016, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's

Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00pm - August show review and tree critique.

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## 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 September

Since September can be hot and dry, it is imperative that trees be checked and, if needed, watered every day. Not much else can be done except to feed regularly. From August on, trees will need less nitrogen and more potassium and phosphorus to harden the wood and induce budding. Branches start to thicken during August, and wire begins to bite into the branches and needs checking. This is about the time that most people

start backing off their feeding, pinching, and pruning schedules.

Don't fertilize too aggressively, or else you risk the trees pushing too much new growth that will not harden-off sufficiently before the cold weather comes in. When September temperatures start to cool a bit (into the low to mid 70's), take off any remaining portion of your fertilizer blocks and add it to your soil mix for repotting next spring.

The books recommended that you start tapering off nitrogen late in August and go to something like 0-10-10 in late September-mid October. Avoid doing any heavy pruning so as to not generate new growth that will not harden off before frosts in the fall.

Pines and junipers can still be wired if needed and if you want more branching and fullness now is the time to break out the central bud on the most vigorous branches. Late August is a good time to begin applying 0-10-10 to help harden off twigs and roots, and help set buds for flowering varieties.

Watch for spider mites. Check your plants often—look under leaves and at the ends of branches. Weeds can harbor many insect pests, so watch out.

You may not want to prune your hardy trees, but you can continue pruning your tropicals as much as you want. I know mine seem to need some pruning every week as they love the heat and humidity and are growing like crazy. You can even replot if you want.

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



Midwest Bonsai Society 1st Place Professional, 2016, William Valavanis

## Chicago Bonsai Club

The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 21, beginning at 6 p.m. The focus of the meeting will be on preparing 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](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) or call 773-235-9479.

### Midwest Bonsai Society Board Members

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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 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

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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**

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Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

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