
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

Well Ladies and Gentlemen the 41st Annual Midwest Bonsai August Exhibition is over, and I for one wouldn't mind just sleeping for about three days but I need to catch up on all the things I neglected at home over the weekend. So the dishes get washed, the lawn gets mowed, all the newly purchased trees get positioned on the benches (there's always a few at the show I just can't resist), and the monthly note gets written.

The show was a grand success this year. The public and internal comments that I've heard have all been very complimentary. The weather cooperated beautifully to increase traffic at the Garden, and people were apparently in a spending mood as most of the vendors reported better than average sales. While we were a bit concerned that entries in the exhibit were down to about 75 judged pieces this year, the turnout was almost exactly the correct number to place 1 exhibit per table in the show hall. As a result, the atmosphere in the hall felt open, airy, and lighter than in the last few years and we really had a chance to appreciate the exhibits as they were meant to be viewed. The

lower exhibit count also helped our excellent Judge Naoki Maeoka complete the judging in time for the exhibit opening. A feat we haven't managed to accomplish in several years. I'm very pleased that all the efforts of our volunteers, board members, and friends paid off so well.

The single criticism I have heard emerges from a misunderstanding about the judging scores. A few exhibitors have commented that the scores feel a bit low this year. The explanation for this is fairly simple, our Judge, Master Maeoka, is from Japan. As a result, he is used to evaluating trees that are centuries old and have been worked as Bonsai for sometimes hundreds of years. American Bonsai, despite our best efforts, look young to him. This does not alter the validity of the awards. We have encountered this issue before, and it was the genesis of our current judging system. Because we score and award exhibits on a point system, the results of our show are self-contained, resulting in a bell curve that is similar no matter where the judge comes from, or what they are used to working with.

Midwest Bonsai Society Newsletter
Volume 61 • Issue 8 • September 2018

At our exhibition, your tree is rated against the other trees in the show and nothing else. As they should be. Just as with past years, if you want to know where your tree could use improvement, look at your point scores and work on the lowest ones.

While the show went very well overall this year, I must especially thank some particular volunteers this year. While we had a good turnout for setup Thursday and our first day open on Friday, we had a virtually blank slate Saturday and Sunday. As a result the two days were carried by only about 20 people, 5 of whom were board members, and two of whom are not even members of the Society but exhibit regularly. So I need to express my gratitude to the following people for filling the vacancies. First off Tim Priest and Steve Jetzer, you gentlemen aren't even members, but you were there for us all day Saturday and Sunday. Thank you. Richard Katz, you were there all weekend too and covered the couple hours I couldn't be there Sunday morning. Thank you. Judy Doll, you were there every time I turned around as well. Bob King, you worked almost all day Sunday. Tony Welninski,

even though you were there with Phyllis you gave up most of your weekend to help out with the children's workshop that only two other people signed up to assist with. Dick Ruemele, Larry Stephan, Jim Fairchild, Eva Hernandez-Thomas, to each of you, a huge thank you. Several brave souls spent the late hours of Thursday photographing ALL the exhibits and then spent the next night and day editing them for show at the banquet. Kurt, Jose, Jennifer, Lynn, Rich, Dick, and Fernando (sorry if I got your name wrong), thank you for lending us your skills and time to document the show. Finally thank you Eileen for handling all the volunteers this year. You did a great job balancing the work load and the available help.

Coming up for the General Meeting on September 10th, we will be playing Master Maeokas recorded Friday evening critique of the exhibition. For Bonsai 101 we will be going over how to water your trees for all the new people who discovered Bonsai at the August show.

Thank you again to everyone who had a hand in this year's exhibition.

See you September 10th.
—Bob Wright

Chicago Bonsai Club

The September meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, September 19, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a tree to work on. 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.

Events Calendar

Saturday September 1, 15, 22 & 29, 2018

BC MASTER BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404

Saturday September 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2018

HIDDEN GARDENS WORKSHOPS

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Saturday Morning Bonsai with Mark Karczewski bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Sunday September 2, 16, 23 & 30, 2018

BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Brendan Berry's residence. For further information or to register go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. MBS Presentation – State Fair Winners. For further information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. Program: 7:00 PM Bonsai 101, Foliage presented by Matt Mazza. 7:30 PM, Program Bonsai development as a joint presentation by members, Phil Malhiot, Mark Karczewski and Jim Keith. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Saturday, Sunday, September 10 & 11, 2018

6TH US NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION

Rochester, NY. <http://www.usnationalbonsai.com/> or call 585-334-2595.

Saturday September 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2018

BC BONSAI WORKSHOPS

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. 8th Melon Seed Ficus, 15th Shohin Willow Leaf Ficus, 22nd Amur Maple and 29th Bring Your Own Tree Tropical Tree Styling. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

Saturday, September 8, 2018

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY BEGINNERS WORKSHOP

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. Includes tree, pot, wire and membership in the Milwaukee Bonsai Society for the years 2018-2019. For further information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_workshops.html

Monday, September 10, 2018

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101, watering your trees. 7:30 PM, recorded video of visiting Master Naoki Maeoka's Friday evening critique of trees shown in August exhibition. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING

6:00 PM, Garfield Park Conservatory. Bring a tree to work on. Senior members will be present to answer questions & give assistance. For further information, contact: suekazoo@hotmail.com

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

PREPARING FOR FALL AND WINTER STORAGE

with Chris Baker, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Discussion on the steps necessary to prepare your bonsai trees for the fall and winter seasons. Bring your own trees for late summer to early fall work. Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/tropical_bonsai_workshop

Monday, October 1, 2018

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: at 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101, Topic TBD. 7:30 PM: Program TBD. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. MBS Presentation – Elms Revisited. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. Program: 7:00 PM Bonsai 101, Water, light, and temperature by Jim Keith. 7:30 PM, Program Bring-your-own-tree workshop, senior members will offer suggestions. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 5, 6 & 7, 2018

48TH ANNUAL MILWAUKEE BONSAI EXHIBITION

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Friday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday and 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Sunday), at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Whitnall Park, 9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners, Wisconsin. For further information go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/ae/index.html>

Saturday October 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2018

BC MASTER BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

Saturday October 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2018

HIDDEN GARDENS WORKSHOPS

9:00 AM - 12 PM, Saturday Morning Bonsai with Mark Karczewski bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Sunday October 7, 14, & 21, 28, 2018

BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Brendan Berry's residence. For further information or to register go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday

October 12, 13 & 14, 2018

WALTER PALL FALL FESTIVAL

9:30 AM - 5:00 PM on Friday and Saturday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Sunday, This is for all levels – from outright newbie to master. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday October 13, 20, & 27, 2018

BC BONSAI BRING YOUR OWN TREE

FALL PRUNING WORKSHOPS

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. 13th Maple Trees, 20h Spruce and Fir Trees, and 27th Deciduous Trees. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Chris Baker

6:00PM to 9:00 PM), at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bring_your_own_bonsai_tree_workshop

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING

6:00 PM, Garfield Park Conservatory. Bring a tree to work on. Senior members will be present to answer questions & give assistance. For further information, contact: suekazoo@hotmail.com

And in the Tokonoma

Tim Priest's Itoigawa Shimpaku Juniper,
Best of Show and 1st Place Open Category



Bill Valavanis's Full Moon Maple, 1st Place Professional Category

August 2018 Exhibit



Award of Merit – Itoigawa Shimpaku Juniper



Award of Merit – Mexican Cypress

Members at the August 2018 Exhibit



Photo Team: Jennifer, Fernando, Kurt, Rich, Lynn, Jose, Dick, Bob and Amy



Phil Troy and Larry Stephan model new hoodies

September Meeting Focus

Because of the holiday the September meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 10, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

7 PM - Bonsai 101 program will cover watering your trees and how to tell when they need it. 7:30 PM - General meeting program will be a review of our August exhibition. This will include video of visiting Master Naoki Maeoka's critique of trees shown in the exhibition, which was recorded Friday evening, the first day of the show. We will also be interested in your feedback about what went well and any suggestions for how to make the show better.

Not for Profit • Copyright • Disclaimer

The Midwest Bonsai Connection is an official publication of the Midwest Bonsai Society, Inc., an Illinois Not for Profit Corporation.

This Newsletter is published monthly and may not be reproduced in whole or in part by any means without the written permission of the Midwest Bonsai Society.

The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the Midwest Bonsai

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.



Tree styled by Master Naoki Maeoka and won by Craig Morse.

Winners from August Meeting

At our August meeting we did a group styling exercise using 5 large Shimpaku Junipers that were raffled off at the meeting. Congratulations to winners John Marlin, Richard Rebot, Dean Silas, Kurt Nykaza and Dick Ruummele.

Winners from August Exhibition

For those that were able to attend the demonstration or dinner you know what a great job visiting Master Naoki Maeoka did with Ponderosa Pine acquired from Andy Smith of Golden

Arrow Bonsai (see picture below). Congratulations to MBS member Craig Morse who won this beautiful tree at the Saturday night dinner raffle.

Second raffle was open to the public to purchase tickets at the exhibition for three days. The prize was a Burning Bush tree the society bought from Cass Bonsai. The winner is the club's very own Membership Chairperson Eileen Michal. A very fitting reward for someone who did so much for the show.

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. 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. The books recommend that you start tapering off nitrogen late in August. Local expertise in Chicago land area advises

switching to something like Dyna-Gro 2-15-4 in mid September. This will help harden off twigs and roots, and encourage setting of buds on flowering varieties. 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.

Branches start to thicken during August, and by September wire begins to bite into the branches and needs checking. 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

6th US National Bonsai Exhibition

The United States has enjoyed five 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 8 & 9, 2018. See Museum Quality Bonsai and enjoy Bonsai Fellowship. It will take place in the relatively 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: <http://www.usnationalbonsai.com/> or call 585-334-2595.

central bud on the most vigorous branches.

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 repot if you want.

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.

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

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 61 • Issue 8 • September 2018



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

Highland Park, Illinois

60035-7373

Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

\$35 Electronic Newsletter **OR \$45** Newsletter by Mail