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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## President's Message

Thank you friends and fellow members for making our 42nd August Show one of the best we have had. The quality of the trees this year was fabulous. Special thanks to the two young ladies from Indiana who volunteered their time Sunday morning to cover the show hall tables when we didn't have anyone to man them. And my deepest thanks to Mr. William Valavanis for the smoothest experience we've had with a judge in the past several years. His experience and energy carried the day from the judging process all the way through the critique of the show (which we will be playing back at the next General meeting) and all

the scheduled demonstrations and workshops. It was a real pleasure to work with him,

This month, our general meeting on September 9th (due to the Labor Day Holiday) will not be held in the Regenstein Center. Instead we will be meeting in Classroom 1 of the Learning Center where we will be watching Mr. Valavanis' critique of the show, which touched on every tree in the hall. If you didn't have the opportunity to speak to Bill about your comment card be sure to join us for the evening.

As I write this September is still a week off, but the

weather seems to be turning quickly to fall temperatures. If you have tropicals, it seems like a good idea to get your winter accommodations ready. If you have a few moments you can help us out with a project for the May show by taking a photo of your winter setup ready and sending it to the club E-mail. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

I've been asked by the Prairie State Bonsai Society to let my members know they are hosting a garage sale/swap meet September 21st 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the empty lot across the street from

1708 Aston Ct. Wheaton, IL. All comers are welcome, bring your own table and chair if you want to sell. Watch the PSBS website for more details. Also, the PSBS meeting November 6th at the College of DuPage will feature Mauro Stemberger doing a demo styling.

Our own Society will be having Board elections this November. There are several vacancies on the Board now, and several more will be left vacant if we cannot find persons willing and able to fulfill them. Please give some thought to serving in some capacity on the Board.  
—Bob Wright

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### Tool Sharpening/Maintenance

Passing on recommendation from Bob King for those needing your bonsai tools, or anything else sharpened. He has been pleased with service received at Exact Blade. They are located at 813 Waukegan Road, Northbrook, IL. Phone number is 847-920-7349. Website is [www.exactblade.com](http://www.exactblade.com)

### Watch For MABA/Milwaukee 2020

[www.milwaukeebonsai.org/maba](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/maba)



June 25 – 28, 2020  
Insights into Bonsai

François Jeker (France)  
Ted Matson (California)

# Events Calendar

**Sunday September 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2019**

**SUNDAY NORTH SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters**

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Bring your own tree workshop at Brendan Berry's residence. For further information or to register go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847 917-0817.

**Tuesday September 3, 2019**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

6:30 PM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: State Fair Winners – Guest judge Phil Maliot. For further information See September newsletter at [http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs\\_latest.html](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_latest.html)

**Wednesday, September 4, 2019**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage.  
7:00pm, Program: Club business. 7:15pm, Program: Insects and Diseases by Dan Kosta. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Saturday September 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2019**

**SATURDAY WEST SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters**

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, in Glenn Ellyn, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information or to register go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847 917-0817.

**Saturday September 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2019**

**SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski**

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630 655-8283.

**Saturday September 7, 2019**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY BEGINNER WORKSHOP**

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Boerner Botanical Garden. For further information or to sign up go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-beginner-workshop-tickets-62370649291>

**Saturday September 7, 2019**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Jennifer Price**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Boerner Botanical Garden. For further information go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jennifer-price-workshop-tickets-53996499985>

**Monday, September 9, 2019**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Classroom 1 located in the Learning Center. Closest parking lots are numbers 5 and 6. 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101 Program: Bonsai Basics. 7:30 PM, Program: Video of critique of trees in Exhibition by Guest Master William Valavanis For more information and updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

**Saturday September 14, 2019**

**BC BONSAI BASICS BONSAI COURSE**

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Wheaton, IL. 1st class of 7 week bonsai basics course. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630 386-1515.

**Wednesday, September 18, 2019**

**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING**

6:00 PM at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Contact [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) or call 773 235-9479 for further information.

**Wednesday, September 21, 2019**

**PRAIRIE STATE GARAGE SALE/SWAP MEET**

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM at empty lot across the street from 1708 Aston Ct. in Wheaton. Open to all wanting to participate, just bring your own table and chair. For further information, when available, monitor [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Wednesday, September 25, 2019**

**PREPARING BONSAI FOR STORAGE WORKSHOP with Chris Baker**

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/preparing\\_bonsai\\_storage](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/preparing_bonsai_storage)

**Saturday September 28 & 29, 2019**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY THE 49TH ANNUAL BONSAI EXHIBIT with Tyler Sherrod**

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Saturday, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Saturday, Boerner Botanical Garden in Whitnall Park. For further information go to [http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/YC/Exhibit\\_AE\\_Flyer.pdf](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/YC/Exhibit_AE_Flyer.pdf)

**5 Tuesdays, October 1 - 29, 2019**

**BONSAI BEGINNER COURSES with Chris Baker**

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/bonsai\\_beginner](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bonsai_beginner)

**Tuesday October 1, 2019**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

6:30 PM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: "Longest Tree" presented by MBS members. For further information see September newsletter at [http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs\\_latest.html](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_latest.html)

**Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. 7:00 PM, Program Bonsai 101: Overwintering 7:30 PM, Program: Styling presentation by Jennifer Price. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Saturday October 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2019**

**SATURDAY WEST SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters**

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM in Glenn Ellyn, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information or to register go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847 917-0817.

**Saturday October 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2019**

**SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski**

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630 655-8283.

**Sunday October 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2019**

**SUNDAY NORTH SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters**

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Bring your own tree workshop at Brendan Berry's residence. For further information or to register go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847 917-0817.

**Monday, October 7, 2019**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101 Program: TBD. 7:30 PM, Program: TBD. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

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# Photos of Trees from August Exhibition

Special thanks go out to Jeng and Jose Fonseca for organizing and shooting photos of our trees entered in the show. They set up early on Thursday and stayed late so that as exhibitors arrived to register their trees and set up displays they could have them photographed. It is so nice to have quality photos, of not just our trees, but the

entire display used at the exhibition, including stands and accent plants.

If you had your tree photographed or if you just want to see photos of trees displayed click on the following link [https://www.klipartstudio.com/site/Bonsai/2019\\_Aug\\_Show/](https://www.klipartstudio.com/site/Bonsai/2019_Aug_Show/)



Thanks to Jim Fairchild's skill we have renovated tokonoma for displaying the winning trees. Note how he enlarged left side so it is as wide as the right to accommodate larger trees. In this picture we have on the left Mark Field's 1st Place professional class, informal upright, Japanese white pine and on the right Tim Priest's Rocky Mountain Spruce which one 1st Place Open category and Best of Show.



Mathew Holt's Black Hills Spruce - Award of Merit  
Photo courtesy of Jeng Fonseca



Matt Berenberg's Needle Juniper - Award of Merit  
Photo courtesy of Jeng Fornesa



Matt Berenberg's Trident Maple - Award of Merit  
 Photo courtesy of Jeng Fornesa



Gary Andes' Japanese Black Pine - Award of Merit



Jim Baley's, J Billy/Elephant Tree - Award of Merit



Steve Jetzer's Black Pine - Award of Merit



Midwest Bonsai Connection



Judy Smith's Ponderosa Pine w Boston Terrier accent dog on slab - Innovation Award - Photo courtesy of Jeng Fonseca  
 Left, 2nd Place Professional class - Owen Reich's Triple Variegated Star Jasmine.

# Monthly Care Report: What to Do in September

Keep an eye on temperature predictions for September. While as stated below normally September can be warm, this year we are expecting it to turn cold early. You may need to move your tropical trees into winter quarters by middle of the month. Normal recommendation is to move inside when temperature is going to be consistently below 55.

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 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 with adaptations to our area.

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## Items Left at August Exhibition

After the Exhibit ended on Sunday night we found a few leftovers. Any one missing a folding, rolling cart or a very nice Scroll can reply to [midwest.bonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:midwest.bonsai@yahoo.com) with a description and we will work to reunite you with your item.

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## Events Calendar

*Continued from Page 2*

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019**

**BRING YOUR OWN BONSAI TREE WORKSHOP  
with Chris Baker**

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, 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](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bring_your_own_bonsai_tree_workshop)

**Wednesday, October 16, 2019**

**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING**

6 pm at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Bring a tree. Contact [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) or call 773-235-9479 for further information.

**Saturday or Sunday, October 26 and 27, 2019**

**BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOPS with Jan Culek**

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Hidden Gardens Willowbrook, IL. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630 655-8283.

## September Meeting Focus

The September meeting is scheduled at 7:00 PM on Monday, September 9th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Classroom 1, located in the Learning Center. Please note change of location. To get to the Learning Center you take first right after entrance booths. Very little parking so use lots 5 and 6 which are just across entrance road (i.e. first left after entrance booths).

7 PM - Bonsai 101: Bonsai Basics with Linda Camp. 7:30 PM - General program; Viewing and discussion of video showing critique of trees, displayed in the exhibition, by our visiting master, Bill Valavanis. He did a very comprehensive review addressing virtual every tree in the show.

## Chicago Bonsai Club

The September meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, September 18, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a plant to work on or or just come to observe Chicago Bonsai Club meets at Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago.

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

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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.

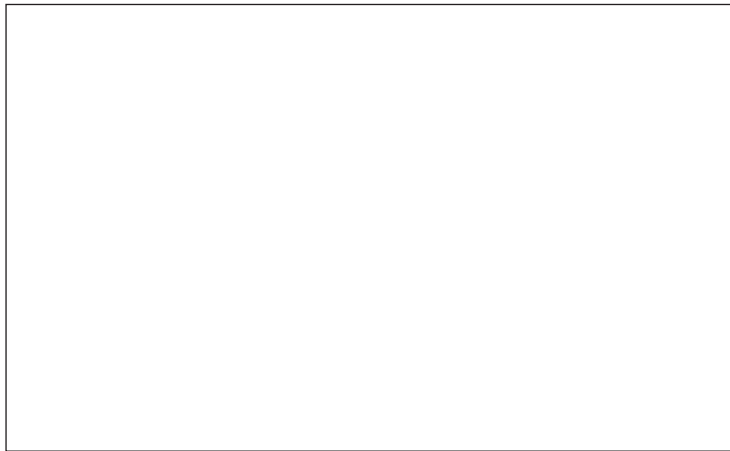
All meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Bonsai 101 presentations commence at 7:00 PM.

**Library Resources**

MBS has a fine collection of Bonsai books and journals which are available for loan. Please contact the Librarian for information.

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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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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

**Membership Information:** To become a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society or renew your current membership, fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on this page of this newsletter, and mail it in with your check. Or to join online, go to: <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/membership/join-renew/> 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.