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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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www.midwestbonsai.org

Midwest Bonsai Society Newsletter  
Volume 63 • Issue 8 • September 2020

## Chicago Bonsai Club

Due to the COVID-19 closures, all future Chicago Bonsai Club meetings for 2020 have been cancelled at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Hopefully, we will be able to find an alternative space. Please watch for further information in the MBS newsletter.

If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: sukuzu17@gmail.com or call Susan Babyk at 773-235-9479.

## Ivan's Message LATE AUGUST WARNING—SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES—OCTOBER PEEK

### COVID-19 UPDATE

Another disturbing and confusing month goes into the history books. Increasing daily new cases of CV-19 infection and selective closures of public facilities in some areas are the rule of the day in Illinois. I continue support and congratulate Governor Pritzker, his staff and the Public Health Departments of the state for their untiring work. I feel, as I'm sure they do, that it is endless.

Many of us are beginning to act stir crazy for good reason. Seven months under the conditions we have experienced is a long time even in the day of unbelievably rapid and often incomprehensible change. It's a wonderful thing that we have bonsai to help us through these conditions. When I work on trees, I get the feeling of calmness that I get nowhere else. That maybe we can make it through this dilemma until it reaches the inevitable end.

So, a plan of action: Keep following all the protocols

we have been instructed to perform. Even more strictly if you are at a higher risk. Maybe even cut back some of the activities allowed. I'm seriously considering paring down the circle of people I react with until conditions improve.

Possibly next month there will be happier news.

### GARDEN UPDATE

At our board meeting Larry Stephan noted that he had been at the Chicago Botanic Garden and saw the Regenstein Center was being remodeled so not available for use until an unspecified date. Note the bonsai courtyards are open but you need to walk around the building to get from one to the other.

He asked if education center could be used for future general meetings and was waiting for response. He also inquired about the possibility of a tree sale and/or conducting small workshops in the fall. Shortly after the board meeting, he received an email stating that the

garden "...was cancelling the remainder of the onsite Plant Society meetings for 2020. We have also cancelled all remaining Flower Shows for the year as well. At this time the Garden still has not opened any buildings to the public aside from our Visitor Center and another set of restrooms. Later on in the year I will let you know the plan for 2021 meetings."

Wanted to remind members that since we are not having general meetings, we have started a new option for helping you with your trees. E-mail your bonsai related questions or concerns to midwest.bonsai@yahoo.com. One of our more experienced members will get back to you with our best advice.

### AUGUST

Hot, dry and windy through the end of the month. Keep the hoses handy. Maybe some afternoon watering in the picture.

No trimming for conifers. But, if Junipers persist in making that long, wispy

growth—whack it off. Deciduous and broadleaves can be trimmed to keep their shape.

Continue to prune tropicals. Even repot if needed. Watch for tightening wire on everything.

### SEPTEMBER

We've lost about an hour and a half of daylight and the all trees know it. Many leaves are changing color and some are dropping off. So the gradual entering of the dormancy is beginning.

I always think of mid-September as the beginning of a short vacation from regular bonsai work and arbitrarily pick the fifteenth to begin the big changes. No more trimming of anything but tropicals. Continue to watch for tight wire as there is rapid wood growth taking place.

Change to a low Nitrogen fertilizer. 3-4% is about right. 1+0-20% range of Phosphorus and Potassium is good. Continue to fertilize until the trees are

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# Events Calendar

**Please note:** What we have shown below is a list of events scheduled as of August 15, 2020. Where we have information on cancellations due to COVID 19 we have included same. While all of the local clubs are still not meeting, BC Bonsai and Hidden Gardens are open and offering workshops. Chris Baker from the Chicago Botanic Garden is offering Zoom workshops. In addition, Ivan Waters is offering one on one workshops. Please check all events to insure they have not been canceled.

## Sunday, August 30, 2020

**TROPICAL BONSAI WORKSHOP: ONLINE with Chris Baker**  
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden, This class will be taught online via Zoom This comprehensive workshop will cover all aspects of seasonal tropical tree care, including pruning, wiring, repotting and more. Styles, grafting, air layering, and soil types will also be discussed. For more information or to register for workshop go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/tropical\\_bonsai\\_workshop\\_online?range\\_start=2020-08-30](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/tropical_bonsai_workshop_online?range_start=2020-08-30)

## Monday August 31, 2020

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY SEPTEMBER MEETING - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19** For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

## Wednesday September 2, 2020

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19 - Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage.** For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

## Saturday September 5, 12, 19, & 26, 2020

**SATURDAY WEST SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19** but one on one, bring your own tree workshops are available by reservation any day of the week not booked. For further information go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847-917-0817.

## Saturday September 5, 12, 19, & 26, 2020

**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.hidden.garden.net/bonsai\\_saturday\\_morning.html](http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html) or call 630-655-8283.

## Sunday September 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2020

**SUNDAY NORTH SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19** but one on one, bring your own tree workshops are available by reservation any day of the week not booked. For further information go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847-917-0817.

## Saturday and Sunday September 12 and 13, 2020

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY GARDEN WALK** at Various Members Homes - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, gardens located in N. Chicago, Skokie, Mt. Prospect and/or Wheaton. See announcement in this newsletter for more information.

## Saturday September 12, 2020

**CREPE MYRTLE WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**  
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

## Wednesday September 16, 2020

**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19.** Meetings for Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, have been postponed indefinitely due to COVID. If you would like further information about or to join please email: [sukazu17@gmail.com](mailto:sukazu17@gmail.com) or call Susan Babyk at 773-235-9479.

## Saturday or Sunday September 19 or 20, 2020

**CONIFER BONSAI CLASS with Andy Smith**  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Hidden Gardens Willowbrook, IL. Andy Smith from Golden Arrow Bonsai, in Deadwood, South Dakota, is one of the finest

collectors of trees for bonsai in the United States. Andy will bring some of his trees with him. For further information go to <http://campaign.r20.constantcontact.com/render?m=1104865020155&a=614ac481-0da3-42d1-8905-629e3ec5c0bf> or call 630-655-8283.

## Saturday and Sunday September 19 and 20, 2020

**PRAIRIE BONSAI SOCIETY GARDEN WALK at Various Members Homes** – 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, gardens located in N. Chicago, N. Riverside, Burr Ridge, Wheaton and/or Wayne. See announcement in this newsletter for more information.

## Saturday September 19 thru October 30 2020

**BONSAI BASICS at BC Bonsai**  
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Covers history, styles, tree selection and development, wiring, trunk and branch manipulation, soils and fertilizers, pest control, pot selection, and propagation. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

## Saturday September 19, 2020

**LAUREL OAK WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**  
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

## Wednesday, September 23, 2020

**PREPARING BONSAI FOR STORAGE: ONLINE with Chris Baker**  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden, This class will be taught online via Zoom. Prepare your bonsai trees for the fall and winter seasons as they get ready for dormancy. Proper feeding, pruning, and winter storage options for both temperate and tropical bonsai will be covered. For further information go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/preparing\\_bonsai\\_storage\\_online?range\\_start=2020-09-23](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/preparing_bonsai_storage_online?range_start=2020-09-23)

## Sunday September 27, 2020

**PREPPING TREES FOR SPRING HARVESTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**  
10:00 AM – 5:30 PM, Free at Nursery in Paw Paw, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

## Saturday October 3, 2020

**STYLING OF TREE IN GROUND WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**  
1:00 PM – 3:30 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

## Saturday October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2020

**SATURDAY WEST SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19 - but one on one, bring your own tree workshops are available by reservation any day of the week not booked.** For further information go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847-917-0817.

## Saturday October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2020

**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.

## Sunday October 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2020

**SUNDAY NORTH SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19 - but one on one, bring your own tree workshops are available by reservation any day of the week not booked.** For further information go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847-917-0817.

## Tuesday October 6, 2020

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING - ON HOLD DUE TO COVID 19,** Boerner Botanical Garden. For more Information go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/Newsletters/MBS202007news.pdf>

## Wednesday, October 7, 2020

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19 - Room TEC/1038a College of DuPage.** 7:00 PM. For further information go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

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# Thoughts

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put into winter storage. This will help the trees progress into dormancy with plenty of stored energy for new spring growth. This is also good for tropicals as it helps prepare them somewhat for the move indoors

Never use a fertilizer with no Nitrogen. The chemistry states that hardly any other elements will work without it. It is also known that Nitrogen is quickly de-

pleted from containers that are constantly watered. That little bit of Nitrogen keeps everything in balance and the trees healthy. Without it most of the other elements build up and the medium can become toxic. Your bonsai are actually being starved.

Rain is forecast to be very sparse this month with daytime temperatures about normal, but night temperatures will be warm and retard the dormancy process somewhat. Some afternoon watering again will be needed on a few days. The warm nights will

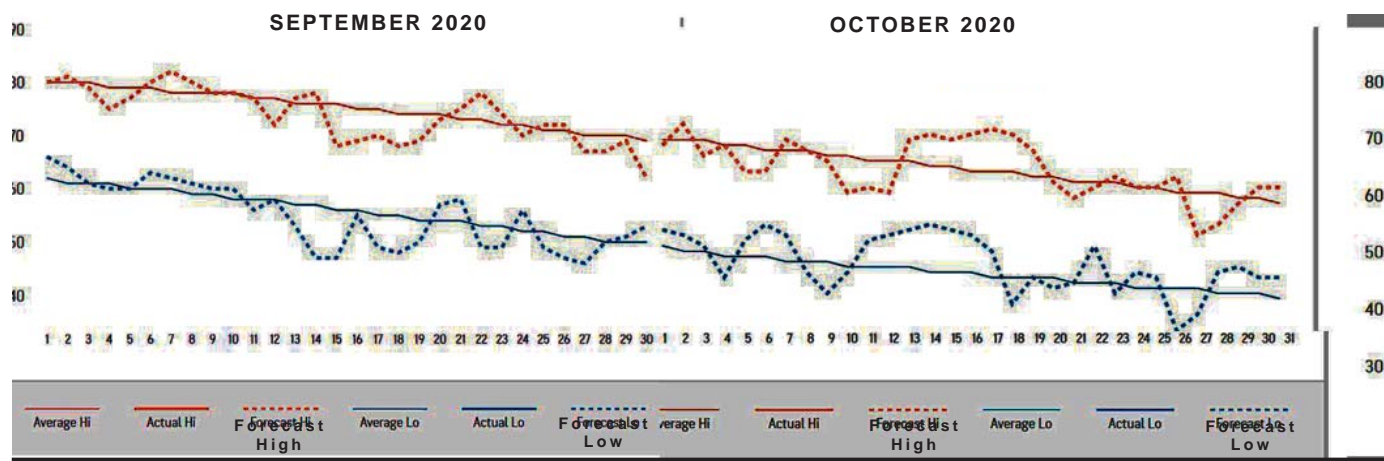
allow the tropicals to stay outside all month.

Insects can be a big problem in September. They too know the winter is coming and are in a feeding frenzy. The warm nights will be very beneficial for continuing their feasts. Spider mites and mealy bugs are very active as are the chewers. The grasshoppers and katydids are full grown and can chomp down a whole lot in a day. Good insecticide with contact and systemic properties will do the job well. My favorite is Bayer's.

## OCTOBER PEEK

Day temperatures will be about normal for the month averaging around 70 until the 24th—then cooler. Nights will be warm until the 23rd with a couple of dips below 50 on 10/14 and 19. The tropicals could stay out until 10/24. That's a drop-dead date. Cover them on the two cold nights. Or if you're gutsy just leave them alone.

All-in-all it's been a pretty good year for bonsai so far except for the next 4-5 weeks of dryness.  
—Ivan Waters



# Events Calendar

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Monday October 12, 2020

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING** – TBD DUE TO COVID 19 - Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Saturday October 10, 2020

**JUNIPER - LAST STYLING BEFORE WINTER WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai** 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

Saturday October 17, 2020

**MAPLE - LAST STYLING BEFORE WINTER WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai** 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING** - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19 – Meetings for Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, have been postponed indefinitely due to COVID. If you would like further information about or to join, please email: [sukazu17@gmail.com](mailto:sukazu17@gmail.com) or call Susan Babyk at 773-235-9479.

Saturday or Sunday October 24 or 25, 2020

**BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Jan Culek** 9:00 AM - 4:00

PM, Hidden Gardens Willowbrook, IL. Visiting artist Jan Culek is from the Czech Republic with a masters degree in art. Jan studied from 2012 until 2016 with the famous Spanish artist David Benavente. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday October 24, 2020

**PINE - LAST STYLING BEFORE WINTER WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai** 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

Saturday October 31, 2020

**FIR/SPRUCE LAST STYLING BEFORE WINTER WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai** 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

By Reservation Only in September or October

**ONE ON ONE WORKSHOPS at BC Bonsai**

Time TBD, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Pick a time and plan to spend 1 to 2 hours in one on one workshop with your tree or ours. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

By Reservation Only in September or October

**FREE LESSONS ON TREES IN THE GROUND at BC Bonsai Nursery**

Time TBD, Paw Paw, Illinois. Throughout the summer you can come out to the nursery and work on the development of as many trees as you would like. We will give you free lessons and training on bonsai techniques to develop trees in the ground. Then you can come back in the early spring to harvest only those trees that you like. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-7585.

# 2020 Bonsai Garden Walk

The Mid-West Bonsai Society and the Prairie State Bonsai Society are pleased to announce our first "Bonsai Garden Walk". Gardens will be open from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM September 12th and 13th for MBS members' gardens and September 19th and 20th for Prairie States' gardens from. See Schedule on right for more details.

This event is not open to the general public, only members of our two clubs. All club members in good standing are eligible to participate and to bring guests for any of the four days. You can choose to visit as many or as few gardens as you want. There is no formal registration, but you do need to call the hosts of the gardens you want to visit to get their street address and to insure there aren't too many members all showing up at the same time.

Please note that masks are required and all social distancing measures will be in effect.

## September MBS General Meeting Has Been Cancelled Due to COVID 19

The September meeting was originally scheduled for 7:00 PM on Monday, August 31st, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

The Chicago Botanic Garden informed the board this month that they are canceling all onsite Plant Society meetings for the balance of 2020. With meeting canceled we are happy to be able to sponsor "Bonsai Garden Walk" this month.

## MBS Help Line Reminder

As announced in last month's newsletter, given we cannot hold General Meetings or Events we understand that many of you may be looking for help or advice on what to do with a tree or grove or accent plant. If you have questions please e-mail them to [midwest.bonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:midwest.bonsai@yahoo.com). One of our more experienced members will get back to you with our best advice.



# 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

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Highland Park, Illinois

60035-7373

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Midwest Bonsai Connection

### MBS Gardens

#### Saturday, September 12th

1. Anthony Welninski  
N. Chicago/Portage Park  
Call to visit 773-612-9312
2. Fred Tarrow  
N. Chicago/Avondale  
Call to visit 773-505-6074
3. Larry Stephen, Mt. Prospect  
Call to visit 847-612-5133
4. Victor Zurczak, Skokie  
Call to visit 847-416-0493

#### Sunday, September 13th

1. B.C. Bonsai  
Jim & Linda  
Wheaton  
Call to visit 630-690-0404
2. Larry Stephen  
Mt. Prospect  
Call to visit 847-612-5133
3. Victor Zurczak  
Skokie,  
Call to visit 847-416-0493

### PSBS Gardens

#### Saturday, September 19th

1. Phil Mahliott  
North Riverside  
Call to visit 708-705-776
2. Jennifer Price  
Burr Ridge  
Call to visit 312-952-9338

#### Sunday, September 20th

1. Larry Magee, Wayne  
Call to visit 630-650-1285
2. Fred Tarrow  
N. Chicago/Avondale  
Call to visit 773-505-6074
3. B.C. Bonsai  
Jim & Linda, Wheaton  
Call to visit 630-690-0404

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### Library Resources

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