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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## President's Message

The calendar says it's mid-July as I write this but my thermometer says otherwise—what a cool and wet summer. I keep spraying fungicide to treat some pine needle cast and the rain keeps washing it off. The soil under my boxwoods is covered in thick green algae, no doubt due at least in part to the constantly wet conditions (though I'm not sure why it seems so much more severe with these boxwoods). One thing I don't have this year, at least not yet, is Japanese Beetles—haven't seen one yet. I'll probably be eating those words by the time you read this.

The 38th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit is just around the corner. It never ceases to amaze me that we have such a wonderful event right here, no travel required. Hopefully everyone who reads this newsletter has plans to attend and show support to our vendors who do have to travel to bring so much cool stuff right to our doorstep—not to mention all the enthusiasts who bring the finest bonsai in the mid-continent region for exhibition in Nichols Hall. Our Guest Artist this year

will be David Easterbrook from Montreal, Canada. David is a founder of the Montreal Bonsai and Penjing Society, as well as past curator of the Montreal Botanical Garden's bonsai collection. He was one of three international judges at last year's US National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, New York. The workshop material looks particularly good this year and I suspect many workshops will fill up in advance. Of course, you can always check them out on our new website—and sign up for one while you're there. Don't forget to sign up for the banquet also. We have very limited ability to handle last-minute changes so please make your reservations early. This dinner always has a good turnout because it is a great way to spend a summer evening.

On the subject of the show, you know I have to include a reminder to sign up for volunteer positions. We have openings for setup, tear down and docents during the show as well as many others. Anyone who's volunteered before already knows how easy and fun it can be, so this reminder is mainly for those who have not tried it yet. There is no

better way to see how the show works, meet other club members and support our top-notch event. Please sign up in advance so we can spot any gaps in our teams.

The next club meeting is on August 3 and the program will focus on preparing your trees for display—you are planning on bring trees to the August show, aren't you? We strongly encourage our members to submit trees for the exhibition. It does take some significant effort and expense to formally display bonsai, but it's almost nothing compared to the time you've spent during years of development. Just remember to water them well before bringing them to any indoor event.

Our friends at Prairie State Bonsai will be hosting their

summer show at the Morton Arboretum on August 1-2. They host a terrific show with several renowned guest artists and extensive vendor material. And of course the venue is a worthy destination on it's own.

August begins the new membership year. We appreciate the renewals already received and encourage everyone else to send in your applications. Renewing is easier than ever—simply go to the club website at [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org), click on Membership and enter your payment information. Of course, we still accept checks by mail and at club meetings.

I hope to see you all at the August meeting and Exhibit.

—Jay Albright



Ivan Watters (right) received the Japan America Society of Chicago 2015 Cultural Achievement Award, which was presented at the Society's 85th Anniversary Celebratory Dinner on June 11, 2015 at the Union League Club of Chicago.

# Events Calendar

**Saturday & Sunday, August 1 & 2, 2015**  
**ANNUAL PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SHOW.**  
10am-4pm at Morton Arboretum. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Monday, August 3, 2015**  
**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**  
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 pm, Bonsai 101. 7:30pm General Meeting, topic: preparing trees for exhibit. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Tuesday, August 4, 2015**  
**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**  
6:30 pm. How to set up a display. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**August 14 – 16, 2015**  
**38TH ANNUAL MID-AMERICA BONSAI EXHIBIT**  
at the Chicago Botanic Garden. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Wednesday, August 19, 2015**  
**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING,**  
6:00 pm, at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Focus will be on fall care, and there will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a plant to work on. For further information, contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com)

**Tuesday, September 1, 2015**  
**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**  
6:30 pm, Deadwood on Bonsai (Jin & Shari). For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, September 2, 2015**  
**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING,**  
7:30pm, Room TEC1038b Program: Fall Maintenance, 7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Fall Maintenance. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Monday, September 14, 2015**  
**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**  
7:00 pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 pm, Bonsai 101, 7:30 pm, General Meeting, Topics TBD. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org). Note: later date due to the Labor Day holiday.

**Wednesday, September 16, 2015**  
**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING,**  
6:00 pm, at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Focus will be on fall care, and there will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a plant to work on. For further information, contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com)

**Richard J. Helminiak,**  
age 77, a long-time member of the Midwest Bonsai Society Board, passed away on Wednesday, June 24, 2015. Richard graduated from Weber High School in 1955 and attended The DeVry Institute of Technology. He retired from Illinois Bell/Ameritech and was a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). He spent the next 17 years volunteering at the Chicago Botanic Garden where he donated so much of his time. He was instrumental in maintaining the Garden's Bonsai display, learning much from his bonsai mentors and was Executive Vice President of the Midwest Bonsai Society, as well as helping with many other Garden events. He loved people, telling stories, and was always there to lend a helping hand anytime you needed him. He will be missed. Memorials to the American Red Cross appreciated.  
Reprinted from *The Chicago Tribune*, June 26, 2015

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## Chicago Bonsai Club

The August meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be on Wednesday, August 19, beginning at 6 p.m. We will be focusing on fall care, and there will be senior members available to answer your

questions and provide assistance, so bring a plant 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](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) or call 773-235-9479.

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## August Meeting Focus

The August meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall,

located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 pm, Bonsai 101: topic TBD. 7:30 pm, General Meeting: Preparing trees for exhibit.

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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.



The Midwest Bonsai Society  
invites you to the 38th Annual  
Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit



- Bonsai Trees
- Workshops
- Vendors
- Raffles
- Demonstrations
- Banquet + Auction

**Guest Master:  
David Easterbrook**

© 2013 Chicago  
Botanic Garden  
Photo by: Tim Priest  
M.Photog.Cr



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 Lake Cook Road • Glencoe, Illinois  
August 14, 2015 • Noon - 5:00 P.M.  
August 15 + 16, 2015 • 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

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

# 38th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit Workshops & Banquet Schedule

Registration fee for each workshop is \$50.00 (except Children's Workshop for which there is only a materials fee). To purchase reservations for workshops and the banquet, use the Eventbrite links on our registration page: [www.midwestbonsai.org/august-exhibit/workshops/](http://www.midwestbonsai.org/august-exhibit/workshops/).

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

Cedar Elm (Winged Elm) - Linda Camp & Jim Beck  
1:00pm – 4:00pm  
\*Materials fee: \$25 to \$130  
Regenstein Center - Plant Science Lab

Jaboticaba - Bill Valavanis  
1:00pm – 4:00pm  
\*Materials fee: \$45  
Regenstein Center - Design Studio

Exhibit Critique - David Easterbrook  
5:00pm – 6:30pm  
Fee: \$20 (no workshop fee required)  
Regenstein Center - Nichols Hall

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

Japanese Black Pine - Jim Doyle  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
\*Materials fee: \$150  
Annex 2

Bougainvillea and Cotoneaster - Martha Meehan  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
\*Materials fee: \$35  
Regenstein Center – Linnaeus Room

Bring Your Own Tree - David Easterbrook  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
\*Materials fee: None  
Annex 1

Mame Boxwood - Frank Mihalic  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
\*Materials fee: \$45  
Annex 1

Collected Native Conifer - Andy Smith  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
\*Materials fee: \$65 to \$350, average \$125  
Regenstein Center - Linnaeus Room

Banquet, Silent Auction and Raffle  
6:30 pm – 9:00 pm  
Maggiano's Little Italy, Skokie, IL.  
(Make reservations online)

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

Bring Your Own Tree - David Easterbrook  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
\*Materials fee: None  
Annex 1

Contorted Shimpaku - Brian Ciskowski  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
\*Materials fee: \$125  
Regenstein Center – Design Studio

Sweet Acacia - Dave Lowman  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
\*Materials fee: \$29  
Regenstein Center - Linnaeus Room

Children's Shimpaku Juniper Workshop - Frank Mihalic  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
\*Materials fee: \$10 (No registration fee)  
Regenstein Center - Bernstein Hall

Kingsville Boxwood - Owen Reich  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
\*Materials fee: \$200  
Annex 1

Itoigawa Juniper - Mark Fields  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
\*Materials fee: \$60  
Regenstein Center - Linnaeus Room

NOTE: Materials fee is paid directly to the vendor at time of the workshop.

# Monthly Care Report: What to Do in August

Now that summer has arrived and temperatures are getting hot, we need to keep a close watch on our trees. The insects will be coming to feast on our expensive plants.

It's generally too late in the season for digging or repotting except for tropicals. Your feeding, pinching, and pruning schedules should be in full

swing by now. Pinch the terminal buds from deciduous trees, leaving only one pair of leaves, and keep plucking the terminal buds off your junipers and cedars as well. Keep an eye peeled for insect pests and don't overdo it with the chemicals! Always read and follow manufacturers' directions, and be aware that plants in small containers are more eas-

ily stressed than plants growing in the ground. If you spray your trees with insecticides or fungicides, it's best to put them into the shade for the rest of the day. We have had lots of rain the past few weeks, so watering has to be adjusted accordingly.

Summer is in full swing now so watch your watering, especially small trees like mame and / or shohin. Trees that are sensitive to full sun, like Japanese maples, should be situated so they are at least partially shaded from hot afternoon sun. Hot soil can affect dark colored pots and can damage the roots on the side exposed to sun. If you have your trees sitting in full sun all day, you can use some shade cloth to drape over the side of the pot in the sun to keep it a little cooler. Continue

to check your wires, as they can eat into the bark quickly when they grow so fast during the summer.

On black pines from which you removed this year's growth, you should start to see new buds forming. Be careful of these new buds if you are adding or removing wire, since they are the future branches. With elms and maples, you can pinch every shoot from 5 leaves back to 2 leaves. Summertime work is just as important as the major operations that are carried out in the wintertime. Usually it's as simple keeping a pair of scissors on the bench and tidying up the trees as part of daily watering.

Compiled from several web articles and adapted to our area  
—Ed Hake.

## Club members at MABA working on yews



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Victor Zurczak (top) and Jon Turkowski (bottom, left) attended the Mid-America Bonsai Alliance workshop on yews conducted by Mark Fields (bottom, right) in Indianapolis, IN, July 2015.

## Midwest Bonsai Society Board Members

- President, Jay Albright
- Executive VP, TBD
- Past President, Jim Fairchild
- VP Special Events, Larry Stephan
- VP Programs, Victor Zurczak
- Treasurer, Phil Troy
- Membership, Lorraine May
- Public Relations, Cindy Hayden
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- Member at Large, Ivan Watters
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- Webmaster, Matthew Corpolongo

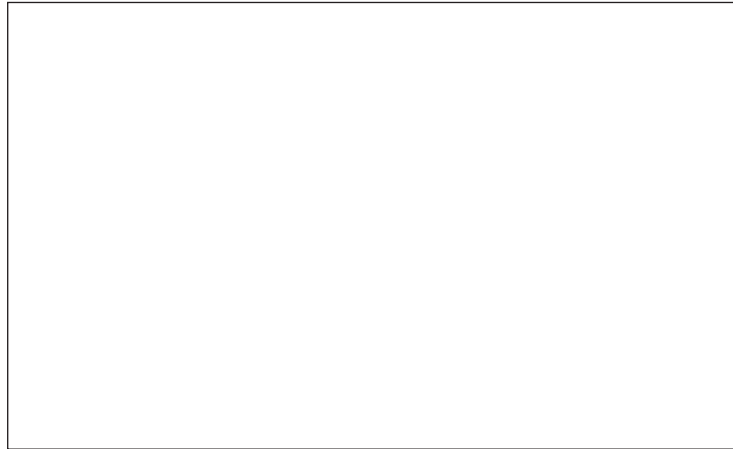
Midwest Bonsai Society  
P.O. Box 1373  
Highland Park, Illinois 60035-7373  
www.midwestbonsai.org

## Membership Renewal Reminder

August begins the new membership year. We appreciate the renewals already received in July, and encourage everyone else to send yours in August. Renewing is easier than ever—simply go to the club website at [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org), click on Membership and enter your payment information. Of course, we still accept checks at club meetings or by mail, and you can 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.

Midwest Bonsai Connection  
Volume 58 • Issue 7 • August 2015

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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

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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 \$40** Newsletter by Mail