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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## President's Message

Summer is now in full swing and the people who do such things are predicting the hottest day of the year tomorrow. I'm OK with that myself but our trees, and especially the nicest ones in small bonsai pots, are vulnerable on hot sunny days. With temperatures in the 90's even a good soaking in the morning and evening may not be enough. I have a lawn sprinkler that comes on at 1pm during the hottest days and irrigates my benches for 10 minutes while I'm at work. What do you do? I'd like to hear from you.

There is so much going on this summer, I'm just going to touch on some local highlights below...

The next Midwest Bonsai Society meeting will begin at 7pm on Monday, August 1. Victor will reveal the secrets to accent plants during the Bonsai 101, and Jerry Meislik will conduct the main program. Jerry is a renowned bonsai artist specializing in tropicals—I don't have any tropicals but I always get something useful from his presentations. See [www.bonsaihunk.us](http://www.bonsaihunk.us) for more about Jerry's background.

The Prairie State Bonsai Show will be the weekend of August 6-7 at Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL. Not only does Prairie State put on a very nice show but they are also offering workshops by artists such as Ivan Watters and Andy Smith. See their website at [http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com/news\\_events.html](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com/news_events.html) for details.

Our very own 39th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition is almost upon us and it looks like we're going to have a great show this year. Colin Lewis, originally from England but currently living in Maine, will be the guest artist this year. Many of you may remember Colin from previous appearances at our August show but if not, he is a highly respected artist with an international reputation. Visit his website at [www.colinlewisbonsai.com](http://www.colinlewisbonsai.com) to learn more about his approach to bonsai. You can also find information about Colin at our own website <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/august-exhibition>. While you're on our website, be sure to check out all the workshops at this year's show—and remember

that you can confirm availability and register for the workshops right on the website.

In addition to the workshops, you can also sign up for the August Exhibition Banquet on our website. This is a hobby, after all, and the Saturday evening banquet provides a relaxed opportunity to hang out with other bonsai enthusiasts and discuss plans for that tree you just bought at the show. In addition to a very exclusive silent auction, we will also raffle the Black Hills Spruce demonstration tree that Colin will style on Saturday. The banquet is a must-do event in my summer schedule.

I can't mention the August Exhibition without reminding all our members that the show

only exists because of the volunteers who make it possible. Please sign up for a time slot or let Larry Stephan know when you are available to work (I know some members prefer to show up and ask where they can help and we do appreciate your contribution, but we need to know in advance to best manage the workload). Volunteering is not only rewarding but it's actually a lot of fun.

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society will host their 46th Annual Bonsai Exhibit on the weekend of September 16-18 at the Boener Botanical Gardens in Hales Corner, WI. Peter Tea will be their guest artist this year and I can't imagine a better way to cap off the summer bonsai season.  
—Jay Albright

### Ivan Watters August Workshop

August 14 - 10 am to 2 pm - \$60  
735 Cherry Avenue, Lake Forest 60045.  
Easy off Western or Washington.  
This space is great. Plenty of room inside/ outside and lots of parking. Great light. Good washing facilities. Time to get bonsai ready for August Show. Perfect for potting tropicals. BRING YOUR OWN TURNTABLE. Bring all your supplies. Need special tools? Let me know. Cart needed for moving everything. Sign up or questions: [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or 847-917-0817  
Limit 12.

# Events Calendar

**Monday, August 1, 2016**

## **MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program, 7:00 PM - Bonsai 101: accent plants. 7:30 PM - Guest Master Jerry Meislik demonstration, (Tree TBD). Afterwards, the tree will be raffled off. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Tuesday, August 2, 2016**

## **MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**

6:30 pm, Guest Artist, Jerry Meislik. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, August 3, 2016**

## **PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY,**

7:00pm, General Meeting Room TEC1038b Program: TBD. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**August 6 – 7, 2016, 10 AM – 4 PM**

## **PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SHOW,**

Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Sunday, August 14, 2016,**

## **IVAN WATTERS AUGUST WORKSHOP,**

10:00 am – 2:00 pm. 735 Cherry Avenue, Lake Forest 60045. Sign up or questions: [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or 847-917-0817

**Wednesday, August 17, 2016**

## **CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING, Garfield Park Conservatory,**

6 – 8pm. Bring a tree to work on or prepare for the MBS August Exhibit. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance. Contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) or call 773-235-9479.

**August 19 • 20 • 21, 2016 • 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

## **39TH ANNUAL MID-AMERICA BONSAI EXHIBITION**

at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, Illinois. For further information go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Wednesday, August 24, 2016**

## **CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN BONSAI WORKSHOP,**

Tropical, Chris Baker, curator of bonsai, \$49 nonmember; members receive 20% discount. For further information go to [www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org)

**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, General Meeting Room TEC1038b. Program: Ugly bonsai, what to do. 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 to follow.

**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)

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## Chicago Bonsai Club

The next meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, August 17, beginning at 6 p.m. Bring a tree to work on or prepare for the MBS August Exhibit. There will be senior members available

to answer your questions and provide assistance. 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 1, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Bonsai 101 begins

at 7 pm, topic: Secrets to accent plants. At 7:30 pm, Jerry Meislik, renowned tropical bonsai artist, will conduct the main program. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

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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 39th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition

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



**Featuring  
Guest Master  
Colin Lewis**

© 2013 Photo by Tim Priest,  
M.Photog.Cr



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 Lake Cook Road • Glencoe, Illinois

August 19 • 20 • 21, 2016 • 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**Parking Fees Apply**

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



# 39th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit Workshops & Banquet Schedule

All workshops \$50.00 with the following exceptions. The Children's workshops on Saturday and Sunday afternoon cost only \$10.00. The Exhibition Critique on Friday evening costs \$20.00. The Saturday evening banquet costs \$45.00. Except for the Children's workshop please bring your own tools and some wire. Register online using Eventbrite via the link accompanying each of the listings on the [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org) website. Materials fees are paid directly to the vendor at the time of the workshop. Register: Sign up Now at Eventbrite

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

### **Saikei (Landscape) Trays with Meehan's Miniatures**

Aug 19, 2016, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Skill level: Beginner to advanced, Limit: 8 participants,  
Material fee: \$125.00

### **Exhibition Critique with Guest Master Colin Lewis**

Aug 19, 2016, 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Skill level: Any, Limit: 20 participants,  
Material fee: \$20.00

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

### **Dawn Redwood Workshop with BC Bonsai**

Aug 20, 2016, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Skill level: Beginner to Advanced, Limit: 8 participants,  
Material fee: \$60.00

### **Bring Your Own Tree Workshop with Guest Master Colin Lewis**

Aug 20, 2016, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Skill level: Beginner to Advanced, Limit: 8 participants,  
Material fee: None

### **Jaboticaba Tree Workshop with International Bonsai**

Aug 20, 2016, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Skill level: Beginner to Advanced, Limit: 15 participants,  
Material fee: \$45.00

### **Japanese Yew Workshop with Bonsai by Fields**

Aug 20, 2016, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Skill level: Intermediate to Advanced, Limit: 10 participants,  
Material fee: \$60.00,

### **Collected Conifer Workshop with Golden Arrow Bonsai**

Aug 20, 2016, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Skill level: Beginner to Advanced, Limit: 10 participants,  
Material fee: \$65.00 to \$350.00 (average \$125.00)

### **Children's Workshop with Wildwood Gardens**

Aug 20, 2016, 1:30pm – 4:00pm

Skill level: Beginner, Limit: 30 participants, Material fee:  
Included in \$10.00 registration fee.

### **August Exhibition Banquet**

Aug 20, 2016, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Cocktails start at 6:30 p.m. (not a workshop). The Banquet, an amazing silent auction and raffle will be held at Maggiano's Little Italy, Skokie, IL. The raffle will be for the tree styled by Colin Lewis in the afternoon demonstration. Cost is \$45.00 per person.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

### **Indigenous Common Hackberry Workshop with Cass Bonsai**

Aug 21, 2016, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Skill level: Beginner to Advanced, Limit: 8 participants,  
Material fee: \$35.00

### **Bring Your Own Workshop with Guest Master Colin Lewis**

Aug 21, 2016, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Skill level: Beginner to Advanced, Limit: 8 participants,  
Material fee: None

### **Tropical Tree Workshop with Da Su Bonsai**

Aug 21, 2016 9:00am – 12:pm

Skill level: Beginner to Advanced, Limit: 10 participants,  
Material fee: \$49.00

### **Engelmann Spruce Yamadori Workshop with Hidden Gardens**

Aug 21, 2016, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Skill level: Beginner to Advanced, Limit: 8 participants,  
Material fee: \$125.00

### **Children's Workshop with Wildwood Gardens**

Aug 21, 2016, 1:30pm – 4:00pm

Skill level: Beginner, Limit: 30 participants, Material fee:  
Included in \$10.00 registration fee.

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## Mid-America August Bonsai Exhibition

What makes the Midwest Bonsai Society Exhibition special? It is not the US National Bonsai Exhibition nor is it The Artisans Cup exhibit. The trees on display come from club members and bonsai owners from Minnesota, Michigan, Indi-

ana, Illinois, Iowa, Tennessee, Ohio and Wisconsin. They are complimented by trees from professional Bonsai Masters from a wide variety of states. Trees are not just by invitation but a large number would be welcome at any US Exhibit.

Another thing that makes the Exhibition stand out is the setting. Located in the incredible Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, IL, it is one of the finest Bonsai venues in the country. Just outside the trees to be judged are two large

courtyards with displays of the trees from the amazing Garden Bonsai collection. On the edges of the Courtyards, vendors are positioned at 32 tables to show and sell their trees, pots,

*(continued on page 5)*

# Monthly Care Report: What to Do in July-August

Mid-July has been hot and dry, so watch your watering daily, especially small trees like mame and/or shohin. Trees that are sensitive to full sun, like Japanese maples, should be situated in partial shade on hot, sunny afternoons. Don't water foliage if trees are in sun. On super hot days, I spray foliage early in the day, so it dries off before the sun hits, or in the evenings after trees are getting some shade, to help cool them a bit. Sometimes you can overwater in this heat too. Continue to check wires.

On pines in late summer, if you see the needles completely formed, you can take the central bud out, which should stimulate the formation of more buds and possible back budding for next year. Be careful of new buds if you are adding or removing wire, since they are the future

branches. On some pines you can take the entire new growth off and get new buds to form. Some trees, like pines & hemlocks, enjoy a couple mild doses of fertilizer during late summer and early fall.

It's generally too late in the season for digging or re-potting except for tropicals, though the more experienced can seemingly get away with almost anything. Your feeding, pinching, and pruning schedules should be in full swing by now. Pinch terminal buds from deciduous trees, leaving only one pair of leaves, and keep plucking terminal buds off junipers and cedars as well. Everyone seems to have their own preferences for fertilizers and feeding schedules, so ask around or find a good book. Watch for insect pests, but don't overdo it with the chemicals! Always read and fol-

low manufacturers' directions, and be aware that plants in small containers are more easily 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.

Watch for leaf burn or heat stress from too much afternoon sun. Midday root watering and a little extra nitrogen will help. Trees do much better outside, but if they are facing from east to west and are receiving late afternoon sun, the pot and the soil temperature can get extremely high, enough to kill the roots, so give them some shade in late afternoon. Be sure to turn your trees weekly so the sun doesn't pull them to one side. High temperatures, and humidity are perfect breeding grounds for fungi and mildew. Be vigilant and use a preventive fungicide on trees you have had problems within the past. With this being the most active growing season it sometimes seems

you can't keep up with all the pruning. I let some of my trees grow out a little now to promote healthy roots and help with gaining some trunk size. Now is a good time to let those certain branches grow out to thicken them up. You may do so by letting the branch grow out for the summer and then cut it back. Also, if you have branches that have outgrown your composition, now is a good time to remove them and start growing a new one. To force back budding, keep your growth tips pinched off.

Can't stress enough to keep up with watering. If your tree is outside, water daily those that drain fast and are in shallow pots, maybe twice. It would be very hard to overwater a tree sitting outside this time of year. If in doubt whether it needs water, water.

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

*(continued from page 4)*

stands, tools and scrolls. 2015 vendors traveled to Illinois from Arkansas, Florida, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, New York, and South Dakota. A number of vendors conducted small, hands-on workshops on styling various nursery grown and collected material. Guest Judge Ivan Watters also presented a major styling demonstration to a large audience. In addition, Ivan conducted a tour of trees in the competition and explained how the entries were judged.

To add interest, the Botanic Gardens also holds the Malott Japanese Garden Summer Festival on

the same weekend. The Festival features Japanese music, folktales, and a tea ceremony. The setting is the beautiful Japanese garden within the Botanic Garden and close to the Bonsai Exhibit.

At the Mid-America Exhibition the vendors and exhibitors are treated to that famous Midwest hospitality. Our volunteers are on hand to help vendors unload good and set up their booths. The same volunteers also set up the venue, organize the tree displays and act as docents to the many hundreds of visitors drawn to the Exhibition. Buffet lunches and breakfasts are provided to the vendors, and all out of state

visitors can take advantage of hotel discounts.

While the Exhibit is open to all who want to display their trees and have them judged, the best trees shown are truly amazing. In 2015 guest judge Ivan Watters, former Curator of the Chicago Botanic Garden Bonsai collection, had to make many hard choices. Best in the Exhibit was awarded to Gary Andes for his Trident Maple, root over rock style, with a Japanese White Pine by its side. The award for best Professional tree went to Bill Valavanis for his American Larch, sinuous style. The Larch was collected in Canada. That year, for the first time, an Award of Merit by the

American Bonsai Society was given to Andy Smith for his Black Hills Spruce. This award is given for the best tree native to North America or best tree grown entirely in North America. At the Exhibition, trees to be judged are entered into one of three categories: Professional, Open, and Novice.

If you want to see a great Midwestern Bonsai Exhibition, buy some trees and top quality materials, think about coming to Chicago. And, if you are thinking of coming to Chicago, be sure to check out all the other events happening in and around the windy city.

—Larry Stephan, Midwest Bonsai Society

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**

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