

# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## The 40th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition

Our premier Exhibition is coming up in just a few weeks. August 18th, 19th and 20th at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Guest Master Kathy Shaner will be judging trees entered in the competition, styling a tree in a demonstration on Saturday afternoon and hosting two Bring-Your-Own-Tree workshops. The Exhibit is open Friday from noon to 5 pm and Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm and includes workshops, vendors, exhibits and demonstrations. Vendor sales will start at 9 am on Friday. Details are listed on the Society website and you can register directly from the website. [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

You can register your trees on-line at the website and bring them in Thursday from 3 pm to 7 pm (NO BOXWOODS). On Saturday night the Society will host a casual dinner/auction at the Takiff Center in Glencoe just a short drive from the Garden. The dinner will include complementary wine, beer, soft drinks, salads, chicken, pasta dishes and pizza catered by two local restaurants for only a \$10 charge. At the dinner there will be a raffle for

the Kathy Shaner demo tree and a silent auction for items donated by our vendors and members.

Please plan to attend the largest Bonsai Exhibition in the Midwest. And don't forget that we need volunteer

help to set up, take down and staff the tables (you can sign up to volunteer on our website).

### President's Message

Hello members, and welcome to August 2017. I hope everybody is ready for a busy month, because this one is packed to the gills with Midwest Bonsai Society events. The information load herein is going to be pretty heavy, so don't tune out on me just yet, ok?

Our month starts with the August General Meeting on Monday, August 7th. Former Society President Cat Nelson will be coming in to present on accents for display. The first half of the evening will be informational and the second half will be hands-on potting of accents. Bring a pot, a plant, and some soil to participate. The meeting will be held in Bernstein Hall as usual.

Next up on the agenda is our 40th Annual Bonsai Exhibition at the Garden. Setup will be Thursday, August 17th for the brave and beautiful who have volunteered, and the show itself opens the 18th and runs through the 20th. Tree registration should be open online by the time you read this. Remember, Boxwood and Pachysandra are no longer permitted on the premises of the Chicago Botanic Garden. Such plants will

be turned away from the show so please, leave them home.

Finally, the SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING will be held on MONDAY, AUGUST 28th. This is due to the Labor Day holiday that falls on September 4th. For our 2nd General Meeting of the month, Ivan Watters will give his review of the August show. This Meeting will be held in the Auditorium of the Regenstein Center.

So that's the Agenda for the month. Please make note of the dates, especially the last one.

In related news, we will have a guest Society making an appearance at the August Exhibition this year. The Cactus and Succulent Society of Chicago will be our guests in Bernstein Hall. We are allowing them access because their own annual event was flooded out of the Garden last month during the torrential rains. It will be interesting to see what they have to offer, perhaps some interesting and unusual potential accent pieces?

Volunteer schedules were circulated at the last General meeting and will be available again at the meeting on the 7th.

Please take a good look and help us fill in the gaps. E-mails will be circulated after the meeting to fill in any further gaps.

The design for the new membership cards has been approved and a print run has been ordered. If we are fortunate, they will be on hand for the August 7th general meeting, if not we will begin handing them out at the Exhibition and will mail the remainder by the end of the month.

Board elections are coming up this November. The currently vacant positions are: Vice President of Programming, Recording Secretary, and, technically, President. Eileen Michal, our current Librarian, has also announced her intention to retire from the position at the end of her term this November. If you have the time to serve the Society or you want a voice in the operation of the Society please consider running for a board seat.

That's all I have for this month. Thanks again to all those who give their time and effort to make the Society possible. See you at the meetings.  
—Robert Wright

# Events Calendar

**Tuesday, August 1, 2017**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**  
6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. MBS  
presentation TBD. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Saturday & Sunday August 5th & 6th, 2017**

**ANNUAL PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY SHOW,**  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Morton Arboretum. Special  
Guest Artist Owen Reich. For further information go  
to [http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com/images/PSBS\\_](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com/images/PSBS_showflyer_2017.pdf)  
[showflyer\\_2017.pdf](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com/images/PSBS_showflyer_2017.pdf)

**Sunday, August 6, 13 & 27, 2017**

**BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters,**  
(10:00 AM to 2:00 PM), Brendan Berry's residence.  
For further information or to register go to [yasukunai@](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com)  
[hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847-917-0817.

**Monday, August 7, 2017**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**  
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall,  
located in the Regenstein Center. Program: at 7:00 PM,  
Bonsai 101, Accent plants, Display stands 7:30 PM:  
Former Society President Cat Nelson will give us a last  
minute refresher on displays and accents trees for our  
August Exhibition! For further information, go to [www.](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)  
[midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Thursday August 3 thru Sunday August 13, 2017**  
**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY - ROTATING BONSAI**  
**DISPLAY at WISCONSIN STATE FAIR**

For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday, August 18 • 19 • 20, 2017**  
**40TH ANNUAL MID-AMERICA BONSAI EXHIBITION,**

12:00 PM to 5:00 PM Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Saturday and Sunday, 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 16, 2017**

**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING,**  
6:00 PM, Garfield Park Conservatory. Program TBD. For  
further information, contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com)

**Saturday, August 26th, 2017**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY INTERMEDIATE CLASS**  
FALL SESSION 1: 5 sessions total. Registered class  
participants only. See the Intermediate Class Flyer for  
details of each class, schedule, cost and registration  
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Steve's Studio. For further  
information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Saturday, August 26th, 2017**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY BONSAI BASICS**  
SESSION 1: 5 sessions total. Registered class  
participants only. See the Bonsai Basics Class Flyer for  
details of each class, schedule, cost and registration  
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. For  
further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Monday, August 28, 2017**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**  
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located  
in the Regenstein Center. Program: at 7:00 PM: Bonsai  
101, Wiring, How to use raffia, Collecting trees. 7:30 PM:  
August Exhibition Review. For further information, go to  
[www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Sunday, September 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2017**

**BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters,**  
(10:00 AM-2:00 PM), Brendan Berry's residence. For  
further information or to register go to [yasukunai@](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com)  
[hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847-917-0817.

**Tuesday, September 5, 2017**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**  
6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. Guest Speaker  
– Richard Eyre - Dwarf plant material emphasis on  
conifers, maples, beeches, ginkgo's. For further  
information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, September 6, 2017**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY General Meeting**  
7:30pm, Room TEC/1038b Program: TBD. For further  
information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Saturday, September 9, 2017**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY BEGINNER**  
**WORKSHOP:** Members of the Milwaukee Bonsai  
Society will be on hand to help with the creation of your  
first Bonsai 'masterpiece'! 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Boerner  
Botanical Gardens. For further information go to [www.](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)  
[milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Saturday & Sunday, September 9 & 10, 2017**

**BC BONSAI WORKSHOP:**  
Developing and styling trees while they continue to grow  
in the ground, Paw Paw, IL. For further information & to  
register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Wednesday, September 20, 2017**

**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING,**  
6:00 PM, Garfield Park Conservatory. Program TBD.  
For further information, contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com)

## August Meeting Focus

**NOTE: The August meeting is scheduled at 7:00 PM on Monday, August 7,** at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

Program: 7:00 PM: Bonsai 101, Accent Plants, Display Stands. 7:30 PM: Former President Cat Nelson will return to give us a last minute refresher on displays and accent plants just in time for our August Exhibition! For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

# Monthly Care Report: What to Do in 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. Midday root watering and a little extra nitrogen will help. 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 follow 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. 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 the need 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.

---

## 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

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.

## Chicago Bonsai Club

The August meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, August 16, 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 prepare for the August Exhibition.

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.

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 60 • Issue 7 • August 2017

---



## 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