
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

August is behind us, and the heaviest lifting of the year, our 40th Annual August Exhibition at the Chicago Botanic Garden, is done. While I know there are several more weeks of warm growing season weather to come (at least historically), the close of the August show always feels like the end of the bonsai season to me. But there is still plenty of Midwest Bonsai Society business to attend to, including three more general meetings, an election, and a holiday soiree to arrange (not to mention the planning already in motion for the 2018 shows). Yep, the plate is still full and the work goes on.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the members who gave their time to make this event a success. Quite a number of you went above and beyond by staying many extra hours to fill slots that were still entirely vacant or badly understaffed. Your hours of work made this event possible. If anyone has thoughts on how to attract more volunteers for these events in the future, I'd really like to read them, both our volunteer pool and our workshop attendee

pool seem to be dwindling quickly and that saddens me. If it is true, then it would seem the Society is failing to achieve its primary mission to inspire and drive interest in the art of Bonsai.

I'd also like to take a minute to shine a particular spotlight on our Show Chair, Vice President of Special Events, Larry Stephan. For the past three years Larry has worked tirelessly to organize our May and August exhibitions. It's a challenging job that requires him to juggle Vendors, Garden concerns, Board demands, Guest Artists, and I'm sure several other things of which I have no idea. The job takes all year and Larry does it with precision, skill, and dogged determination that astonishes me every time.

Our Guest Artist this year, Kathy Shaner, was inspiring to behold. She worked her way through the event almost without a break, leaping from judging to public critique to 8 person workshops to public styling demonstration etc. with only enough rest to grab a sandwich in between. She was quite disappointed

that she was unable to leave direct comments on every tree for the people exhibiting, but she did everything in her power to try. Every minute she could find to spare she returned to the hall to fill out one or two more forms, but with well over 100 trees in the exhibit and some issues with Kathy's hotel stay, there simply wasn't time for a full review on each. My apologies to those unfortunate few who expected feedback but didn't get it.

In other news, the new membership cards are printed and being filled out (actually by the time you read this hopefully are filled out). I was able to distribute a few at the show, but not as many as I had hoped. If you weren't lucky enough to be around the info table while I was checking dues and filling them in you will receive it sometime this month as long as I have your mailing address on file. You will receive them in the mail in September. For those few who don't have a mailing address on file we will try

to contact you by E-mail or phone to get your cards to you, otherwise they will be at the General Meetings to be picked up at your convenience.

I'd like to emphasize once again that Board elections will be held this November. The elected positions on the board are:

President
Executive Vice President
Vice President in Charge of Special Events
Vice President in Charge of Monthly Programs
Treasurer
Secretary and
3 Member-at-Large Positions

Nominations to the aforementioned positions must be members in good standing, and a paid, current membership is required to vote.

Thank you all again, and see you on August 28th and/or October 2nd.
—Robert Wright

Save the date of Dec. 7th
for the Holiday Party

Events Calendar

Saturday, August 26, 2017

BC BONSAI WORKSHOP: Shohin Buttonwood
(1:00-3:30 PM), 2250 Durham Drive Wheaton, IL.
For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404

Sunday, August 27, 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@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Monday, August 28, 2017

NOTE: The September meeting is scheduled at 7:00 PM on August 28 (one week early)
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Alsdorf Auditorium, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: 7:00 pm: Ivan Watters will review the frankly amazing trees that were entered in the Exhibition.

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

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

Wednesday, September 9, 2017

BONSAI WORSHP:
Preparing Your Trees for Fall and Winter Storage,
6:00–9:00 PM, Chris Baker at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to www.chicagobotanic.org/education or call 847-835-8261.

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'! 9:00AM-12:00pm, Boerner Botanical Gardens. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Saturday September 9, 2017

BC BONSAI WORKSHOP: Large Pond Cypress
(1:00 to 4:30 PM), Paw Paw, IL. For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404

Sunday, September 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

Sunday, October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 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@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Monday, October 2, 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, Fall care, Tree shopping 7:30 PM: White Elephant Sale - bring items you no longer need, to sell to other Society members. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,
6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. MBS presentation: Elms. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, October 4, 2017

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY General Meeting
7:30pm, College of DuPage Room TEC/1038b Program: TBD. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Friday, October 6, thru Sunday October 8, 2017

HIDDEN GARDENS: Oktoberfest with Walter Pall
(9:30 AM to 5 PM), 16W658 S Frontage Rd. Willowbrook, IL. For further information go to www.thehiddengardens.net or call 630-655-8283.

Friday October 13 thru Sunday October 15, 2017

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY – 47TH ANNUAL BONSAI EXHIBIT at Boerner Botanical Gardens,
9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners, WI 53130. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING,
6:00 PM, Garfield Park Conservatory. Program TBD. For further information, contact: suekazoo@hotmail.com

Saturday & Sunday, October 21 & 22, 2017

BC BONSAI WORKSHOP: Needle pruning of pines. 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.

Saturday or Sunday, October 21, 22, 28 & 29, 2017

HIDDEN GARDENS WORKSHOPS: Wiring, Design or Bring you own trees with Mauro Stemberger
(four individual workshops from 9:30 AM to 4 PM), 16W658 S Frontage Rd., Willowbrook, IL. For further information go to www.thehiddengardens.net or call 630-655-8283.

2017 Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition



First Place Professional and Best of Show trees in Tokonoma.



Over 115 trees and suiseki were registered for this year's exhibition.

Photos by Kurt Nykaza & Fernando Soto



Shohin 10 Tree Display



Itoigawa Juniper



Kishu Sargent Juniper



**Itoigawa Shimpaku Juniper
& Chojubal, Quince**



Japanese Black Pine



Colorado Blue Spruce

Monthly Care Report:

What to Do in September/October

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. Branches start to thicken during August, and wire begins to bite into the branches and needs checking. 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 sets in. The books recommend that you start tapering off nitrogen late August and begin applying 2-9-6

fertilizer to help harden off twigs and roots, and help set buds for 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.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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

Brenden Barry Workshops

Our Sunday workshops are continuing. They are scheduled for: August 27, September 3, 10, 17 and 24. Workshops will continue each Sunday morning thereafter, October through November, unless notified otherwise.

Location: Brendan Barry's residence

735 Cherry Lane, Lake Forest, IL 60045

(Depending on the weather, the workshops will be held either in Brendan's garage or outside or, if needed, in his basement.

Cost: \$60 ea.

Time: 10 AM to 2PM

Please bring your supplies (and a turntable).

(Workshops are limited to 8 participants)

For more information or to register: yasukunai@hotmail.com or 847-917-0817—*Ivan Watters*

September & October Meetings

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Chicago Bonsai Club

The September meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, September 20; the October meeting will be held on October 18, each 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. (Note: October is the last Chicago Bonsai Club meeting of the year, so bring your overwintering questions.) Chicago Bonsai Club meets at Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago.

Contact: 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.

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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