
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

Sound bites, backstabbing, intense media coverage—all clear signs of yet another election year. Not for US President (we have another year to go before that)—I'm referring to our very own biannual election of Club officers. OK, maybe not so much media coverage. But the elections are important because the Board serves to fulfill the needs of the Club membership. The slate of elected positions is listed elsewhere in this newsletter and I suggest you review it. Note that most of the elected Board positions (including yours truly) have been filled by appointment since the last official election in 2013. The election will be held at 7pm instead of our usual Bonsai 101.

Fall is a difficult time of year for those of us who leave for the office early in the morning. All summer my routine has included a brief stop at the growing benches to draw in a little inspiration and spray out enough water to get them through the day. But by mid-October, the mornings are too dark to do either very well (and my dogs create additional hazards to be avoided) so I have to switch to evening

watering. I've always heard how that increases the risk of fungal problems—but it seems to rain a lot at night so surely evening watering can't be all that bad. With the cooling weather it's possible to skip a day here or there but be especially attentive to trees in smaller pots.

We seem to have a healthy number of new members this year and many of you may not have a plan for getting your trees through the winter. There are too many tree species and too many over-wintering options for me to cover here but I can tell you from experience that you must have some deliberate strategy in place by early December for most trees (Dwarf Alberta Spruce, American Larch and the ugliest tree in your collection can all fend for themselves just fine in our winters). If you are not sure what to do, our November meeting would be a great opportunity to ask more experienced members for help.

I'm very excited to meet Mauro Stemberger, our guest artist for the November meeting (which is being held a

week later than normal to accommodate his travel schedule). Mauro is visiting the US and agreed on fairly short notice to perform a demonstration on collected material. His demo will begin directly after the election and we will not have a Bonsai 101 this month.

We have our annual Pot Luck Holiday Party, our last gathering for the year, in December at the Takiff Center in Glencoe. If you haven't been to one of these before, you've missed out on one of the Club's best meetings of

the year. There is never, ever a shortage of good food or refreshments and just about everyone leaves with something from our silent auction. I'm not sure if it's a celebration of a successful year past or a means to steel ourselves for the next few months to come, but either way it's a wonderful chance to relax and just hang out with fellow Club members.

Just as a reminder, there is no regular meeting in January. We begin the new year with our first meeting in February.
—Jay Albright



Image from Mauro Stemberger's web site

Events Calendar

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,
6:30 pm, Prepare for Winter: Discussion on how to
button up your trees for the upcoming season. For
further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY,
Room TEC1038b. Programs: 7:00pm, Bonsai 101,
Stands by Jim Erlenborn; 7:30 pm, GENERAL
MEETING: Pots by Dan Kosta. For further information
go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Saturday & Sunday, November 7 & 8, 2015

DEMONSTRATIONS by Mauro Stemberger at the
Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook. Call (630) 655-8283 to
reserve a seat. Fee required. For further information go
to <http://www.thehiddengardens.net>

Monday, November 9, 2015

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall,
located in the Regenstein Center. Program: 7:00
pm: Guest Master Mauro Stemberger from Italy will
be at our meeting. The exact program is still being
finalized. Mauro's trees and blog are available at www.italianbonsaidream.com. For further information, go to
www.midwestbonsai.org. Note: later date due to the
opportunity to invite our visiting artist.

Friday, November 20 through

Sunday, November 23, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY FOLK FAIR,
An exhibit of trees from our membership from students
to advance members. Go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org
for details and times for this 3 day exhibit.

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY POT LUCK HOLIDAY
PARTY,** 6:00 p.m. (set up at 5) Where: Takiff Center,
Aiken Activity Room, 999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe,
IL 60022. Bring a pot luck dish and any item you would
like to donate for the evening's raffle. The Society is
providing drinks. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

TBD, December, 2015

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY CHRISTMAS
PARTY.** For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

NOTE: There are no regular MBS Meetings (or
newsletters) in December and January but look for your
February newsletter sometime in late January.

MBS Spring Show

The 2016 Midwest Bonsai Society Spring
Show has been scheduled for May 20 – 22,
2015, so hold the dates.

—Susan Babyk

Chicago Bonsai Club

Please note: there will be
no winter meetings of the
Chicago Bonsai Club, a
chapter of the Midwest
Bonsai Society. We will not
meet November, 2015
through February, 2016.
Our next meeting will be in

March, 2016. 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.

November Meeting Focus

The November meeting
is scheduled at 7:00 p.m.
on Monday, November 9,
at the Chicago Botanic
Garden's Burnstein Hall,
located in the Regenstein
Center. Our Annual
Election of MBS Board
Members will be followed
by a demonstration by
Guest Master Mauro

Stemberger from Italy.
Mauro's trees and blog
are available at www.italianbonsaidream.com.
For further information, go
to www.midwestbonsai.org. Note: later date due
to the opportunity to invite
our visiting artist. Also,
there will be no Bonsai
101.

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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 presenta-
tions 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.

BALLOT INSERT
Midwest Bonsai Society Board of Directors

Election Voting Ballot for Election at November 2015 meeting:

Email any nominations to MwBSSecretary@yahoo.com before November 1.

President	Jay Albright (incumbent) Nominee - _____
Executive Vice President	Kurt Nykaza (incumbent) Nominee - _____
Vice Pres. Special Events	Larry Stephan (incumbent) Nominee - _____
Vice President Programs	Victor Zurczak (incumbent) Nominee - _____
Treasurer	Phil Troy (incumbent) Nominee - _____
Membership	Lorraine May (incumbent) Nominee - _____
Recording Secretary	Robert Wright (incumbent) Nominee - _____
Member at Large	Ivan Watters (incumbent) Nominee - _____
Member at Large	Eva Hernandez-Thomas (incumbent) Nominee - _____
Member at Large	Tony Welninski (incumbent) Nominee - _____

Appointed Board Members (not elected positions)

Librarian	Eileen Michal
Editorial	Susan Babyk
Assistant Editorial	Gail Thompson
Public Relations	Cindy Hayden
Webmaster	Matthew Corpolongo

Monthly Care Report: What to Do in November

Please read the President's message in this issue for helpful information on what to do with your trees in November. In addition, following is an excerpt from our 2013 newsletter

The combination of frosts and subsequent sunshine will bring on fall colors. Colors will be better if conditions remain dry in the month. If you are aiming for a great fall display, protect your trees from wind and rain and keep them in sunlight as much as possible.

As the leaves begin to fall, keep the soil surface clean to avoid fungus and keep air circulation good. Through the bared branches, you may notice some wire that should be removed. Now is a very good time to remove the wires that have cut in and done their job. Cut the wire with a good pair of wire cutters, perpendicular to the wire, and at each coil, giving a slight twist as you cut will pop the wire loose. It is not a requirement to remove wire for winter storage, so long as it's not embedding itself into the branches.

Older pine needles are yellowing and should be removed with tweezers; one at a time, since a bud is in the sheath between each needle pair/cluster that will be removed if you pull the pair/cluster and remove the sheath with it.

Prepare your overwintering site, spray it with fungicides and insecticides when you spray your trees to reduce chances of problems when you put them away next month. Lime Sulfur diluted to 1:100 (about 1.25 oz per gallon) is a traditional Japanese all-purpose insecticide and fungicide. Other products are more effective and less offensive, so it's a matter of choice. Lime Sulfur also has the whitening effect-

that you'll notice on most trees in the Japanese books.

Finally, a couple "don't do" points for this time of year. Repotting should be avoided in all instances until spring. Watch closely for watering needs, they will sharply decline now that we've had some frosts. Also, don't do heavy pruning on trees just yet; sap is still flowing and a couple weeks of warm weather could inspire a tree to grow after a hard pruning.

—Excerpt from Brian's Bonsai Blog on the *Nebari Bonsai Website* (<http://nebaribonsai.wordpress.com>)

Ginko Bonsai Thrives

by Susan Babyk

Indigo skies over garden again
Angel arrives, hovering about
Looking melancholy but optimistic
The only odd part—that ginko bonsai
Growing near silence
Where sunshine abides.
Now ginko bonsai fades
Into indigo beginnings
As sun serenely sets
In the angel's eyes.

Proposed Candidates for Election at November 2015 meeting:

President	Jay Albright
Executive V.P.	Kurt Nykaza
V.P. Special Events	Larry Stephan
V.P. Programs	Victor Zurczak
Treasurer	Phil Troy
Membership Chair	Lorraine May
Recording Secretary	Robert Wright
Member at Large	Ivan Watters
Member at Large	Eva Hernandez-Thomas
Member at Large	Tony Welninski

Appointed Board Members (not elected positions)

Librarian	Eileen Michal
Editorial	Susan Babyk
Assistant Editorial	Gail Thompson
Public Relations	Cindy Hayden
Webmaster	Matthew Corpolongo

Hold The Date: December 2

The Midwest Bonsai Society is hosting a pot luck Holiday party

Where: Takiff Center, Aiken Activity Room,

999 Green Bay Road, Glencoe, IL 60022

When: Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

(set up at 5pm) Bring a pot luck dish and any item you would like to donate for the evening's raffle. The Society is providing drinks. Last year's party was a

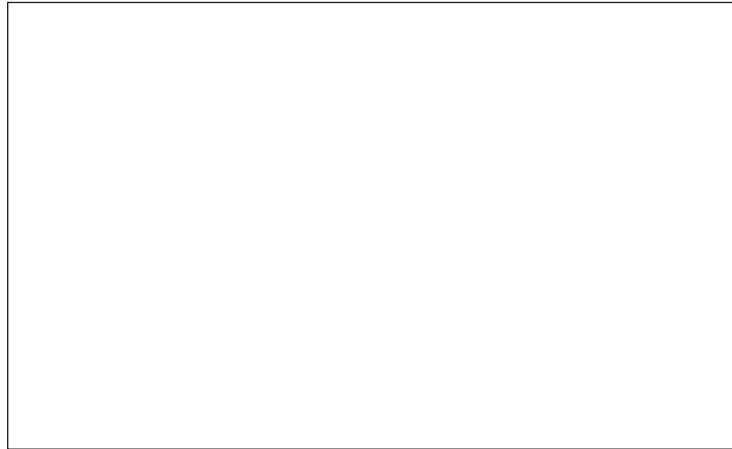
great deal of fun with fine food, wine and drinks. This is a great opportunity to renew friendships and meet new Bonsai members.

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, 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.

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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 \$40** Newsletter by Mail