

MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

Newsletter Thoughts

My first thoughts are about the upcoming **Holiday Pot Luck dinner**, Monday, Dec. 6th, at the Heller Nature, 2128 Ridge Road, Highland Park. We will start setting up at 5:00 pm. Plan on dinner for 6:00. Bring a dish for the pot luck if you can. If you cannot bring a dish come anyway. There will be plenty of food. Also, bring a White Elephant item you wish to donate to the raffle Nature Center is a great venue. They have lots of electrical outlets if you are

bringing a hot dish. Now I need to decide what I am going to bring...

Elections coming in November. Board elections for 2022 will held at the November general meeting at the Gardens on Nov. 1st. See the Board's suggested slate elsewhere in this newsletter. If anyone is interested in running for the board please contact any board member and/or express your interest at the November meeting. We have

no one running for an open "Member at Large" position. Also remember even though we have a slate of candidates we are more than happy to add another member if you are interested in any of the other board positions. We would love to see more than one person running for any of the board positions.

Next Year – The Chicago Botanic Gardens has reserved May 14th and 15th for our spring show and August 19th through the 21st for our fall Exhibition. Make a note on your 2022 calendar.

Climate change – There is no doubt that the global weather is changing in Illinois, like the rest of world. Normally I am distressed by the changes but this fall has been a blessing for Bonsai lovers. As of October 12th my tropical trees are still outside in my pergola. They may be

coming in soon but I have loved the chance to work on, repot, and wire numerous trees. At least I can work on them in the afternoon when it isn't raining. My hardy trees may be OK outside until the middle of November.

Bonsai Focus – If you are interested in old copies of Bonsai Focus Magazine contact Victor at zurczak@comcast.net. He has an extensive collection that is taking up a little too much space.

BCI Bonsai & Stone Appreciation Magazine – There will be an article in the first Quarter issue, with Jennifer Fonsca's photos, featuring our August Exhibit. For more information go to bonsai-bci.com.

Since this is the last Newsletter until February 2022 stay safe and enjoy the holidays.

—Larry Stephan

My Experience at the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition

As the wife of a bonsai practitioner, I've always loved how a tiny tree fits inside a small pot. As a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society, I've always enjoyed being part of a community even though I have never worked on or owned any bonsais. Visiting the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition for the first time was my turning point.

We arrived in Rochester the night before the show and checked into our hotel, the Woodcliff. We decided to have a drink at the bar and overheard not one, not two, but everyone at the bar talking about bonsai, vending and traveling for the show. We looked at each other, giggled and then whispered, "We're in the right place." The next day, at the arena we all waited for Bill Valava-

nis and other judges to cut the ribbon for opening day.

Marching in, the crowd dispersed into the vendor area and the exhibit. We decided to go see the vendors to check out their products and what deals they may have. Weaving through each table, I saw so many different bonsais, pots, tools, wire, bonsai apparel and accent plants. We visited vendors we knew as well as met new ones. It was sensory overload, I wanted to buy but wasn't sure.

It was already 10am and the first demo was about to start, Young Choe, a kusamono artist. She was very informative about her work using plants from different regions for that particular season. She also had her own display in the show of all the regions in the

world. We also saw demos by Enrique Castano from Mexico and Marco Invernizzi from Italy. Great work from both!

Next on our agenda was to check out the exhibition. It was truly amazing to see so many beautiful bonsais under one roof. You can sense the time, patience and work required for each tree, that was displayed. I was very proud to see that there were people we knew that had their trees in the show as well as Chicagoans. I walked in on a few critiques and heard about the shape of the tree, the pot, the stand and the accent plant. It was great to hear from bonsai experts about what they thought about each tree.

We spent the rest of the day marvelling over all the trees

and wondering what we were going to buy. Later on that evening was the Awards Banquet at the Woodcliff Hotel, which was pretty exciting, like the Grammys. Bill gave his thanks to his family especially his wife for making this entire event possible. The awards were given for Finest Bonsai Masterpiece, Finest Deciduous, Finest Azalea, etc. We had a great dinner, wonderful conversations at the table and enjoyed the entire event. That night I dreamt of bonsai.

The final day, Sunday we went back to the show, looked at all the vendors and watched Kathy Shaner work her magic on a Ponderosa pine demo. We also saw Sean Smith's Suiseki

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November Events Calendar

Monday November 1, 2021

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY NOVEMBER MEETING

Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM Bonsai 101 Program: Winter Storage and Care for Hardy Trees presented by Linda Camp General Program: TBD. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday November 3, 2021

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Zoom Meeting 7:00 PM Program Guest Artist Mark Fields. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Tuesday November 6, 2021

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: Group work on the club's Rosemary Tree. We will also be answering questions on Winter Care of your trees. Bring your own tree for show and tell. Everyone is welcome. For further information go to Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org

Saturday November 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2021

SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday November 6, 2021

PINES BEFORE WINTER PLACEMENT WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

1:30 AM - 3:30 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday November 13, 2021

EVERGREEN TREES BEFORE WINTER PLACEMENT WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

1:30 AM - 3:30 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Tuesday December 4, 2021

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: A year in the life of a WI bonsai hobbyist. Everyone is welcome. For further information go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/Newsletters/MBS202111news.pdf>

Saturday December 4, 11 & 18, 2021

SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html or call 630-655-8283.

Monday December 6, 2021

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY HOLIDAY POT LUCK DINNER

6:00 PM (set up at 5:00) - 9:00 PM. At the Heller Nature, 2128 Ridge Road, Highland Park. See announcement in this Newsletter for more information.

National Bonsai

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Japanese Viewing stones. We decided to visit Bill Valavanis' International Bonsai Arboretum which is also where he resides. We drove into his neighbourhood, parked and walked up Bill's driveway, which lead to his backyard. It was like a secret garden of bonsai. We saw his private collection, finest quality of bonsais, rows and rows of different species. We followed the path to another area of more bonsais, hoop houses and greenhouses filled with propagating, waiting for their turn to be next in the show. My husband found a Black pine and I found two Japanese maples to buy.

Excited to return to the exhibit, we purchased a Kingsville boxwood from Tandamiti Bonsai and gave all our purchases to Larry to transport back to Chicago. We walked around one last time through the entire arena, said our goodbyes

to our fellow bonsai friends and flew back home. It was an eventful weekend, we made new friends and hung out with old ones, learned more about bonsai and I really appreciate the art. Thank you Bill for hosting a wonderful event, I must say that I'm hooked! No longer the "wife" of a practitioner as I now have my own trees to style and nurture.

—Jeng Fonseca

Below are links to 3d tour and videos of the show.

7th US NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION 3d Tour:https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=Xy3gi73A8YZ&fbclid=IwAR0J5Z-yTaXx1SGYZIW1CQAR-wSnRUWioFqpa4k5QC94g_ITjfaVeRGlaol0

7th US NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION 2021 Video
<https://youtu.be/7Te4ozqFgk>

The International Bonsai Arboretum - William N Valavanis <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlq9zxAKSQk>

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY Board of Directors – Nominations for 2022

President: Larry Stephan

Executive Vice President: James Fairchild

Past President: Robert Wright

Vice President Monthly Programs: Victor Zurczak

Vice President Special Events: Matt Mazza

Treasurer: Phil Troy

Membership Chair: Peter Buckley

Recording Secretary: Bob King

Member at Large: Eva Hernandez-Thomas

Member at Large: Linda Camp

Member at Large: Open

Editorial Chair: Dick Ruemmele

Assistant Editorial: Gail Thompson

Librarian: Amy Wright

Public Relations Chair: Jose Fonseca

Social Chair: Jennifer Fonseca

Webmaster: Matthew Corpolongo

Prairie State Bonsai Society Representative: Open

If any member is interested in any of the above referenced positions contact a current board member or make your interest known at the November meeting. We would be very pleased to have more than one member running for any of the positions listed above. Note we also have no one running for open Member at Large position.

Monthly Care Report - What to do in November

Outdoor Trees: Be ready to put your trees into winter protection as soon as the weather dictates the need for it. Generally, in November you can leave them outside with no protection. Trees from **Hardy Trees** Hardiness Zones 4 and below do not tolerate the 28-35°F temperatures, so protect them or bring them in sooner. By around December 1, group the remaining **Very Hardy Trees** together on the ground in a protected space. To cope with the occasional night or two in the 25°F or below range, cover with tarps or snow blankets. Make sure to weigh down the blankets so wind doesn't blow them off. A consistent night temperature of 25°F is a good reference point as to when the **Very Hardy Trees** need to be put in their final winter protection location. When bringing trees in, remove remaining foliage on deciduous trees and any weeds or debris on the soil before placing the them into winter protection. Reduced wind and light are extremely helpful for dormancy. A spraying with a general fungicide can help prevent problems over the winter and in the Spring. If leaving the trees out with pots/roots buried, provide mulch or wood chips for protection. Burying with snow when it comes will also help protect from freezing and provide moisture. Water if

there is no snow so the roots don't dry out.

Once leaves have dropped from your deciduous trees is a good time to begin needle thinning your two needle pines. If you thin last year's needles by pulling be careful to pull in the direction they grow. Otherwise, you will most likely lose the bud you are trying to stimulate. Safer approach is to cut off needles, rather than pulling. On strong, well-developed pines, you can also thin this year's needles by thinning to 5 or 6 pairs of needles in the top half of the trees and 7 or 8 pairs in the lower half of the trees.

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Regarding **Semi-Hardy Trees** like Chinese/Japanese Elms, Pomegranate, Holly, Chinese Sweet Plum, Olive, Japanese Silverberry and Crepe Myrtle, leave them outside as long as possible, but bring them in when the temperature is consistently hitting the lower 30's. They are safe in your regular storage so long as the temperature does not drop below 30°F; leave them there until they are dormant. Once they're dormant, bring them inside and put them under light and heat. They should start leafing again in a week or two after which you can take care of them as you would your indoor trees per below.

Keep your trees properly watered. The trees will use less water in the cooler temperatures. Fertilization may be stopped at this point. Do not repot except in the case of an emergency. Wiring may be done and is easier to do on deciduous trees after the leaves have fallen. Wire as many trees as you can in December but do not prune them.

Indoor Trees: Continue fertilization assuming the trees will be receiving 12-18 hours of light daily and will continue to grow. If you are not using supplemental light, do not fertilize until mid-March. Some people opt not to fertilize at all (and adjust their lighting accordingly) during the winter so as to avoid long leggy growth. Such growth will occur if you are not providing enough light but will be exacerbated if you are fertilizing and not providing enough light. All species are a little different, so adjust your watering, fertilizing and light accordingly as needed for your particular indoor conditions. Provide some means for humidity via humidity trays or a room humidifier. Circulate air with a small fan. Light pruning may be performed if long internodes occur. Wiring may be done, but repotting should be avoided unless there is an emergency. If you must repot, use a heating pad set at ~80 degrees below the pot until the tree recovers.

Regarding lighting, unless you have a system that provides good results and has a reasonable cost factor, the current system of choice is LED (Light Emitting Diode) lamps. On a broad basis, LED is far superior to everything else in use. Cost, results, electricity use and ease of operation are all attractive. The author used metal halide lighting in the past and was very pleased with the results (some trees seem to prefer it to LED), but the electricity consumption is considerably higher than LED.



Holiday Party Wednesday, December 6th

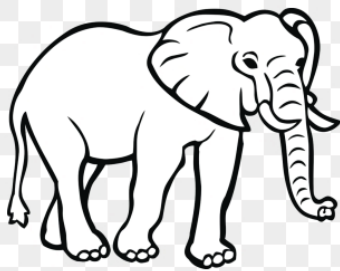
6:00 p.m. Heller Nature, 2128 Ridge Road, Highland Park. (set up starting at 5:00 p.m.) Please bring a pot luck dish and any item you would like to donate to the evening's raffle. There will be a fabulous no cost raffle of numerous items. The Society is providing wine, beer, and soft drinks. This is an annual fun event with great food. Please put it on your calendar.

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

Chicago Bonsai Club

There will not be a meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, in November. The next meeting will be in March at the Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago.

If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 773-235-9479.



November Meeting Focus

The November meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 1st, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

7:00 pm - Midwest Bonsai Society Board Balloting and Elections

7:30 pm - Bonsai 101 program; Winter Storage and Care for Hardy Trees

8:00 pm - General program; White Elephant Sale. All members invited to bring supplies, pots plants or any other bonsai related item that you want to sell or give away.

Next Meeting February 7th, 2022

Membership Request

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Date _____

Email _____

Please make check payable to: **Midwest Bonsai Society**

Please Check If Renewal

Send to: Midwest Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 1373
Highland Park, Illinois
60035-7373

\$35 Electronic Newsletter **OR** **\$45** Newsletter by Mail

Midwest Bonsai Connection

Library Resources

MBS has a fine collection of Bonsai books and journals which are available for loan. Please contact the Librarian for information.

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Membership Information: To become a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society or renew your current membership, fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on this page of this newsletter, and mail it in with your check. Or to join online, go to: <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/membership/join-renew/> 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.