

MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

Newsletter thoughts!

The end of September is fast approaching. Leaves are changing color and falling in greater numbers every day. Ivan has advised me that tropical bonsai trees should be inside by the 30th of the month.

This has been a painful year and we mourn the passing of our good friend Fred Tarnow. On September 21st he passed away peacefully with his daughter Lillian by his side. Fred was the kind of person whom everyone both respected and admired. He never stopped growing as an artist and spent most of his time with his beloved trees or making pottery.

While Illinois is doing very well in controlling new cases of Covid 19 many states are seeing spiking numbers of infections and deaths. Please wear your mask when appropriate and use social distancing. While we all hope for a vaccine soon this is not the time to let down your guard.

The recent Garden Walk was very successful. I enjoyed the visitors that came to my house. Received reports from board members that all of the

other Garden Walk hosts enjoyed this event, as well. While some had expected more visitors (rainy weather and geographic location of some gardens played a factor in the turnout), they all felt this was an event worth repeating.

Hidden Gardens recently hosted Andy Smith workshops. Andy Smith from Golden Arrow Bonsai, in Deadwood, South Dakota, is one of the finest collectors of trees for bonsai in the United States. Andy's saying "if it ain't fun it ain't bonsai" describes what his workshops are like. Andy has spent many years collecting in the mountains and has a great understanding of how nature styles a tree. We are hoping to use video produced during workshops for our first virtual general meeting.

Unfortunately, the holiday pot luck dinner in December has been cancelled. We hope for a better year in 2021 for our health and our work with bonsai trees. The Garden has not given us any tentative dates for our Spring and Fall Exhibits. We will let you know when we hear from them. Good luck and stay safe.
—Larry Stephan

2020 MBS/PSBS Garden Walk

By: Matt Mazza & Dick Ruemmele

The joint effort 2020 Garden Walk with Midwest Bonsai Society (MBS) members opening their homes for tree viewing on September 12 & 13, and Prairie State Bonsai Society (PSBS) members doing the same on September 19 & 20 was a real pleasure for those who participated, even on the 9/12 rainy Saturday. We estimate that there were between 30 and 40 people making the rounds to the various homes. In addition to viewing the beautiful trees, we endeavored to find out the favorites of the particular artists, a little background about their trees, and the basic care employed. Our hope is that everyone not only developed an appreciation for the trees and the artistry, effort, patience and talent of the hosts, but also walked away with a bit of knowledge about some species or particular tree that perhaps they had not previously known. Enjoy.



Larry S. (MBS)

Larry built this genuinely pleasant display setting in the Spring of 2020. It has a concrete slab with woodwork above. Over the top is a retractable shade cloth that will let in ~40% sunlight when covering the display. Larry does not use any special fertilizing methods with his trees. He uses liquid and powdered fertilizer once a month.

Larry's favorite tree (on the top left of page 3) is his Cork Bark Elm that he obtained this year from Lucia Heyworth's collection. This shohin grew as a cutting from a larger tree. Larry recently did the pruning and wiring, removed the moss that had built up around the base of the trunk, and placed new moss at the base.

Continued on Page 3

Events Calendar

Please note: What we have shown below is a list of events scheduled as of September 22, 2020. Where we have information on cancellations due to COVID 19 we have included same. While all of the local clubs are still not meeting BC Bonsai and Hidden Gardens are open and offering workshops. Chris Baker from the Chicago Botanic Garden is offering Zoom workshops. In addition, Ivan Waters is offering one on one workshops. Please check all events to insure they have not been canceled.

Saturday October 3, 2020

STYLING OF TREE IN GROUND WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

Saturday October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 2020

SATURDAY WEST SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19 - but one on one, bring your own tree workshops are available by reservation any day of the week not booked. For further information go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Saturday October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2020

SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski

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

Sunday October 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2020

SUNDAY NORTH SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19 - but one on one, bring your own tree workshops are available by reservation any day of the week not booked. For further information go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Tuesday October 6, 2020

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING - ON HOLD DUE TO COVID 19

Boerner Botanical Garden. For more Information go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/Newsletters/MBS202007news.pdf>

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19

Room TEC/1038a College of DuPage. 7:00pm. For further information go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Saturday October 10, 2020

JUNIPER - LAST STYLING BEFORE WINTER WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, bring your own tree workshop at 50 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

Monday October 12, 2020

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19

Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

TROPICAL BONSAI WORKSHOP: ONLINE with Chris Baker

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden, This class will be taught online via Zoom. Juniper bonsai require unique care including soil type, feeding, pruning, and wiring. Learn the seasonal work and general care for one of the most common bonsai species used. For more information or to register for workshop go to https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/juniper_bonsai_workshop_online

Saturday October 17, 2020

MAPLE - LAST STYLING BEFORE WINTER WORKSHOP

at BC Bonsai

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, bring your own tree workshop at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19 Meetings for Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, have been postponed indefinitely due to COVID. If you would like further information about or to join, please email: sukazu17@gmail.com or call Susan Babyk at 773-235-9479.

Saturday or Sunday October 24 or 25, 2020

BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Jan Culek

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Hidden Gardens Willowbrook, IL. Visiting artist Jan Culek is from the Czech Republic with a masters degree in art. Jan studied from 2012 until 2016 with the famous Spanish artist David Benavente. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630 655-8283.

Saturday October 24, 2020

PINE - LAST STYLING BEFORE WINTER WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, bring your own tree workshop at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

Saturday October 31, 2020

FIR/SPRUCE - LAST STYLING BEFORE WINTER WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, bring your own tree workshop at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

Monday November 2, 2020

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY NOVEMBER MEETING - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19

For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings/>

Tuesday November 3, 2020

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING - ON HOLD DUE TO COVID 19

Boerner Botanical Garden. For more Information go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/Newsletters/MBS202007news.pdf>

Wednesday November 4, 2020

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Saturday November 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2020

SATURDAY WEST SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19 but one on one, bring your own tree workshops are available by reservation any day of the week not booked. For further information go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Saturday November 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2020

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.

Sunday November 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2019

SUNDAY NORTH SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19 but one on one, bring your own tree workshops are available by reservation any day of the week not booked. For further information go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Continued on Page 3

Walk

Continued from Page 1

The tree (second photo in left column) is Larry's Dawn Redwood forest. There are 15 trees in the assembly, which he started ~5 years ago. A few of the trees needed to be replaced since then. He keeps the trees in full sun and they grow in a Sara Rayner pot; the largest she could make.



Anthony W. (MBS)

Tony (bottom photo in left column) has a collection reflective of his 50 years as a bonsai artist, including several trees initially styled by Harold Lenz. Tony fertilizes his collection once a week weakly with the usual Dyna-Gro bonsai fertilizer products, with exceptions noted below.



Tony's favorite tree on the top right is his Azalea which flowers profusely. The tree is over 35 years old, and Tony has had it for 10 years. He waters it once per day unless it is hot and/or windy, in which case he provides another watering. The azalea is planted in 100% Kanuma



Continued on Page 4

Events Calendar

Continued from Page 2

Saturday November 7, 2020 DECIDUOUS TREE - LAST STYLING BEFORE WINTER WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, bring your own tree workshop at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

Saturday November 14, 2020 FIR/SPRUCE - LAST STYLING BEFORE WINTER WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

1:00 PM - 3:30 PM, bring your own tree workshop at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**Saturday or Sunday November 28 or 29, 2020
BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Todd Schlafer**
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Hidden Gardens Willowbrook, IL. Todd is a collec-

tor and bonsai artist from Colorado. Todd started teaching in 2018 and has been in demand ever since. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Wednesday October 21, 2020
CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING - CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19**
Meetings for Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, have been postponed indefinitely due to COVID. If you would like further information about or to join please email: sukazu17@gmail.com or call Susan Babyk at 773-235-9479.

**Sunday September 27, 2020
PREPPING TREES FOR SPRING HARVESTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**
10:00 AM - 5:30 PM, Free at Nursery in Paw Paw, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**By Reservation Only in October or November
ONE ON ONE WORKSHOPS at BC Bonsai**
Time TBD, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Pick a time and plan to spend 1 to 2 hours in one on one workshop with your tree or ours. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

2020 Bonsai Garden Walk

Continued from Page 3

and grows very well. He fertilizes this tree with Miracle-Gro Miracid (30-10-10).

The previous page bottom right tree is Tony's Dawn Redwood purchased at Brussels Nursery. The tree is ~75 years old, and he did the carving on it in a class with Will Baddeley. The soil is an equal distribution of Akadama, Lava and Pumice, but with a slightly heavier distribution of Pumice.

Victor Z. (MBS)

Victor (top photo this page) has been a bonsai artist since 1999 and has mostly pines and conifers in his collection. He generally feeds the pines with a lower nitrogen fertilizer. When necessary, he treats his pines for needle cast with Clearys 3336 fungicide. While not indicated below, he also has a small assemblage of azaleas that flower profusely. He built the cedar wood stands that you see beyond in the center left photo.

Victor's favorite tree left center is his Boulevard Cypress which has won numerous awards. He originally bought the tree at home Depot for \$3. The tree is potted in straight Akadama. He begins fertilizing in the Spring and continues feeding through to mid-summer with a balanced 20-20-20 fertilizer.

The tree on the right center is Victor's White Pine that he purchased at Brussels ~7 years ago. The tree is currently in straight Akadama, but he prefers Aoki soil, which is a pre-mixed Japanese blend of premium Akadama, Fuji and Kiryu (and Hyuga for conifers). He uses a 5-10-5 fertilizer (or a balanced fertilizer) once per week but stays away from Dyna-Gro Bloom (3-12-6) in the Spring. He stops fertilizing in the hot part of summer and restarts in the fall.

Victor keeps his winter storage temperature at around 35° F and feeds the conifers once a week with a 0-10-10 fertilizer while in storage.

BC Bonsai: Jim and Linda (MBS & PSBS) (bottom right)

BC Bonsai has been in business since 2003 and was kind enough to have its business open for the Garden Walk on both weekends. Though a business, Jim and Linda also have their personal favorite trees that they care for as part of their private enjoyment of the hobby. In general, they fertilize their Tropical trees with Stone lantern's Green Growth Natural Slow Release Pellets (12-4-5) and all others with Stone Lantern's Green Balance Natural Slow Release Pellets (5-7-4); see below for exceptions. We have a number of their favorites here.

Jim's favorite tree on the top left next page is his 30 year old Boxwood. He has had it in training for the last 20 years. The soil is a mix of Turface, Pumice, Lava and Fir bark. He uses a mix of fertilizers once per month: Plantone (5-3-3) by Espoma and Stone Lantern's Green Balance Natural Slow Release Pellets (5-7-4). The pot was made by Fred Tarnow.

Linda's favorite tree on the top right is her 30 year old Trident Maple. The tree is from Japan and she has cared





for it since 2008. She initially had a difficult time styling it because the tree didn't want to keep branches in the position she wanted. Once one branch finally kept position, it changed the look of the tree and she kept it. The soil is a mix of Turface, Pumice, Lava and Fir bark. She uses a mix of fertilizers once per month: Plant-tone (5-3-3-) by Espoma and Stone Lantern's Green Balance Natural Slow Release Pellets (5-7-4). The pot was made by Karen Schuman.

The tree on the center left is Linda's 75 year old Azelea. It was purchased in 2011 from an estate. The top of the tree died and the remaining tree almost died altogether from a fungus. Eight years ago, the tree had only one live branch ~4" long. She saved the tree by painting the exposed wood with a fungicide. The azalea is potted in a mixture of Kanuma, Turface, Lava, Pumice and Fir bark. The tree is fertilized with Holly-Tone (4-3-4) by Espoma and Stone Lantern's Green Balance Natural Slow Release Pellets (5-7-4). In the Spring, the tree features lots of pink blooms.

On the center right is Jim's Dawn Redwood forest. The forest is 21 trees and was planted this year; however, it was designed 4 years ago. Some of the trees are 10-15 years old, they were grown in a wood box and overwintered on the ground. The pot is 3"x24"x36". The soil is a mix of Turface, Pumice, Lava and Fir bark. He uses a mix of fertilizers once per month: Plant-tone (5-3-3) by Espoma and Stone Lantern's Green Balance Natural Slow Release Pellets (5-7-4).

Larry M. (PSBS)

Larry (left) has been a bonsai artist for ~35 years and has a wide range of bonsai species in his collection, many of which he took out of the ground himself. He has tropicals, deciduous, pines and other conifers. As you can see, he's created a lovely garden of paths and stands that offer the kind of tranquility many bonsai artists seek. The typical soil mix that he uses for his trees is equal parts Akadama, Lava and Pumice, but he uses much more Akadama with his deciduous trees. He uses much the same fertilizer for most of his trees, which is "Alaskan Fish Fertilizer" fish emulsion and Bio Gold pellets.

Larry's favorite tree, on the bottom left, is his White Pine. The features that he enjoys the most are the trunk and the aged feeling of the tree. The tree is about 30 years old and was purchased from an enthusiast in Texas.

On the bottom right is Larry's Siberian Elm. He collected this tree 33 years ago from his grandmother's house. The tree is constantly growing, and due to its apical dominance, the apex tends to get long very quickly. While he does like the taller look on the tree, he does cut the apex back every couple of years so that the top looks more proportioned to the rest of the tree.

James K. (PSBS)

Jim's passion for bonsai began over 22 years ago through his friend and first teacher, Tom Russell. He has attended Brussell's Rendezvous for the last 19 years and has had numerous instructors: Ivan Waters, Marc Noelanders, Kathy Shaner, Colin Lewis, Andy

Continued on Page 6



2020 Bonsai Garden Walk

Continued from Page 5

Smith, Peter Warren, Walter Paul, Jim Doyle, Mauro Stemberger and others. He is currently taking intensive courses with Bjorn BJORHOLM at Eisei-En in Tennessee. He could share quite a bit more about tree care, but for purposes of this article, we'll stick with some basics. For soil, he uses Aoki for his refined trees. He adjusts watering based upon the climate and the microclimate/positioning of certain trees in his yard. In other words, trees in full sun receive more water than trees in shade. Summer requires daily watering whereas fall and Spring may require less. He fertilizes every couple of weeks in the Spring and fall, but no fertilization during the summer heat. He only uses copper wire for bending on his conifers because it better holds the bends more precisely.



Jim's favorite tree: Alberta Spruce Forest Planting won the Best in Show Award at the 2019 Prairie State Bonsai Society exhibition at the Morton Arboretum. (Top Left: 2020, Top Right: 2011) The forest was started from nursery stock. New growth is pinched back in the Spring (with a technique specific to Alberta Spruce) to keep foliage compact and promote back budding.

The tree below on the right (in photo 2nd from bottom) is Jim's Japanese Black Pine that was originally styled by Ben Oki. At some point, a major branch had broken off. He recently brought the tree with him to Bjorn BJORHOLM's classes where he and Bjorn restyled it. Since the JBP is a double flush pine, he cuts the candles in June after the new candles have opened (full techniques are not covered here).



Other photos on this page are from Jim's bonsai garden.

Jennifer Price (PSBS)

Jennifer also hosted for the event but preferred not having photos of her trees published. Jennifer discovered bonsai eight years ago after retiring from the stage as a professional ballerina. She is struck by the line and form within bonsai and the ability to use the tree's natural flow of movement. For the last several years she has been involved in an intensive study program with Walter Pall from Germany and Jim Doyle from Pennsylvania. She has taught workshops and given demonstrations worldwide and last year was in Germany to be a part of Generation Bonsai and on to represent America at an international bonsai convention in Shanghai, China.



When asked to describe her bonsai philosophy Ms. Price replied "Bonsai is first and foremost a way for me to express the grace and power of nature with its beauty, its quiet elegance and harshness. Creating a bonsai forms a connection to a living entity, which you cannot truly control, but can listen to and learn from. Through one's own creativity, the possibilities are almost endless."

Jennifer's garden was a wonderful combination of bonsai and flowers in a beautifully landscaped space. In fact one of the visitors to her garden while we were there





was her landscape architect. Given her relatively short tenure in this art form she has assembled a wonderful collection of trees. How she finds time to maintain her flower beds and trees is inspiring.

Phil M. (PSBS)

Phil discovered bonsai in the mid-1980's and has practiced and taught the art since then. In 2006 he won the Best in Show award at the Chicago Botanical Garden's annual bonsai show.

His garden was special in that it showcased his considerable artistic and craftsman/builder skills. He not only featured his bonsai but virtually all of them were in pots that he made. He had a notable display of pots and pottery artworks he created using a wood fired kiln. Trees and accent plants were displayed on stands that he designed and built, including the three-legged triangular tables you see in the photo below. Phil also incorporates glass outdoor art into his garden and buildings. They are all illuminated and so very attractive during the day and after dark.

Photos from Phil's bonsai garden are on this page.

Midwest Bonsai Society offers a thank you to the two boards that collaborated and to everyone who opened their homes for the club memberships to view their trees. The event offered a much-needed outlet for people to break the daily routine (albeit safely) and get out to see some great bonsai trees created by fellow hobbyists and peers. Given the success of the event, it is certain to continue in the upcoming years.

October 2020 Monthly Care Report – Matt Mazza

General Care: Pay particular attention to watering right now as temperatures fluctuate. Do not water by schedule!!! Check your soil/pots and water accordingly! Colder temperatures or cloudy days, generally require less watering. However, roots will remain active, so proper watering is still crucial. Light levels are changing and leaves/needles are turning yellow as is normal for this time of the year. Fertilize all of your trees generously with low-nitrogen (Low N - High P - High K) fertilizer through to the end of October or until you bring them indoors. Chemical fertilizers (in lieu of organic) may be best at this time. CHECK YOUR WIRE to make sure it's not biting in since branches (and trunks on smaller trees) have been gaining their greatest volume over the last month and will continue into October.

Now is also a good time to spray an insecticide/fungicide on your trees before bringing them in for protection. I typically use Bayer 3-in-1 Insect, Disease & Mite Control along with Neem Oil (separate product). Put the correct dosage of Neem Oil into warm water first, and then add the Bayer 3-in-1. Avoid spraying Jades/Portulacaria and Buttonwoods with Neem Oil. If Neem oil application on Ficus is too thick, it will drop leaves. Don't use a system-

ic insecticide (the 2-in-1 granular placed in the soil) for killing insects with Serissas or Elms; use the spray.

Indoor Trees: Move your tropical (indoor) trees inside under grow lights. Nighttime temperatures are now typically between 40 and 50 degrees. Clean any debris from the soil and any dead leaves/branches from the trees before bringing them in and spray with insecticide/fungicide if you haven't already. Pay close attention to your soil as you may not need to water as much shortly after the trees are brought indoors. Once the heat in your house is back on, you will need to check for dry soil more frequently. Continue fertilization assuming the trees will be receiving 12-18 hours of light daily and will continue to grow. 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. 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.

NOTE: Some species like pomegranates, Chinese sweet plums, Japanese silverberry and olive trees like some cold

Continued on Page 8

Monthly Care Report

Continued from Page 7

weather before being brought indoors for the winter. It's generally alright to leave these trees out for several frosts before bringing them in. Avoid leaving them out for hard freezes.

Whether there is a frost or a freeze is dependent upon the amount of water in the air. A frost is when there is a visible frost. A freeze is when the air temperature drops below freezing. Often frost occurs when the temperature is above freezing; however, there can also be a freeze without frost.

Outdoor Trees: Continue fertilizing per above through October but look to stop around mid-November depending upon forecasted temperatures. You want to stop fertilizing ahead of the first freeze. On white pines, remove old needles (those that haven't grown this season) so that more light can get between branches to activate dormant buds. For two needle pines wait and needle prune after they go dormant, which is normally later in November. On broadleaf trees, begin removing

dead leaves to prevent critters and fungus from enjoying excess moisture. Treat branch and trunk deadwood with jin seal (properly diluted if product requires).

Remove air-layers from your hardy trees if they have roots. If they do not have roots, it's a judgment call as to whether or not you continue with the air-layer. Either way, the air-layer remaining on the tree or the separated air-layer with roots need to be kept cold (around 35 degrees), but they must be protected from freezing.

You should be making your final arrangements now as to how you will protect your trees through the winter so that you aren't caught off guard by early freezes. Some options include unheated garages, crawl spacing, cold greenhouses and even outdoors with roots protected under a mulch bed. Seek additional sources to check your intended setup. Keep the trees outdoors for two or three frosts. Do not bring them indoors! Light pruning may still be performed through October. Repotting may be performed only in emergency situations. Avoid cutting any more roots than necessary and keep them well-protected if emergency repotting has been done.

October MBS General Meeting Has Been Cancelled Due to COVID 19

The October meeting was originally scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 12th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. The Chicago Botanic Garden informed the board that they are canceling all onsite Plant Society meetings for the balance of 2020.

Chicago Bonsai Club

Due to the COVID-19 closures, all future Chicago Bonsai Club meetings for 2020 have been cancelled at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Hopefully, we will be able to find an alternative space. Please watch for further information in the MBS newsletter. If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: sukuzu17@gmail.com or call Susan Babyk at 773-235-9479.

MBS Help Line Reminder

Given we cannot hold General Meetings or more Events this year we understand that many of you may be looking for help or advice on what to do with a tree or grove or accent plant. If you have questions please e-mail them to midwest.bonsai@yahoo.com. One of our more experienced members will get back to you with our best advice.

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

Annual Membership • July 1st thru June
\$35 Electronic Newsletter **OR** **\$45** Newsletter by Mail

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.