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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## October Thoughts

### US National Exhibit, Rochester NY

I have just returned from the Valavanis National Bonsai Exhibit in Rochester, NY. Many of our friends were there as vendors. Sara Raynor, Jeff from Hidden Gardens, Mark Fields, Hank Miller, and Andy Smith were there with many others. Jose and Jennifer

Fonseca were able to make the trip as well. They visited the Valavanis nursery and picked up some real bargains. Since I was driving, I was able to bring their trees back in my car.

Due to Covid situation it was face masks inside and limited numbers of people in the building at one time. This

resulted in a much smaller crowd than they had three years ago. In the past everyone at the exhibit would walk next door to a Tim Horton's sandwich shop. They did not survive the pandemic. Likewise Bill had to change the venue for the Saturday night dinner because the long time event venue he had always used had closed as well.

On the other hand the people who came over the weekend really came to buy. Sara Raynor sold every pot she brought with her. Trees of all sizes were flying out the door, and a lot of them were selling for big money. And then there were the trees entered in the competition. I don't believe any exhibit, held anywhere in the world, could have a

better group of trees. They also had an amazing showing of Suiseki Stones. The next Exhibit will be held in Rochester in two years. Think about making the trip.

### Holiday Party

There will not be a general meeting in December. Instead we are bringing back our holiday pot luck party on Monday, December 6th at the Heller Nature Center. Working with a Heller Center for our Saturday night dinner for the August Exhibit was a pleasure and it was nice to not need to deal with elevators and a kitchen on another floor. Save the date, more details to follow.

—Larry Stephan

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## MVP Volunteers for Successful August Exhibition

We sincerely hope most of our members were able to come and enjoy the Exhibition. We certainly want to thank all our members that volunteered their time as the show cannot happen without your participation. It is amazing how many volunteers are required. Remember working as a volunteer provides a unique view of "backstage" at the Exhibition and how the general public is fascinated by the art of Bonsai.

In my opinion, far and away our MVP volunteer team members for the show are Larry Stephens, Amy Wright and Robert Wright. All three of these MBS members were at the Garden or working on logistics of the exhibition starting at 3:00pm on Wednesday August 18th and continuing every day (arriving before the show opened and leaving after it closed), until after 8:00pm on Sunday August 22nd. This means every other volunteer during the entire show worked with at least one of these members. I know when I have a question or need direction

this is the crew that is there, with the answers.

In fact, as Vice President of Special Events Larry began working with vendors for the this exhibition months ago. By March he had commitments from vendors for our August Exhibition. This year we had 22 vendors. Working with the Chicago Botanic Gardens staff he determines the number of tables that need to be rented, provided courtyard layout for vendor tables and ordered catering for vendor's and volunteer's lunches on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He also rented space at the Heller Nature Center, purchased plates, cups etc., and planned food order for Saturday night's Dinner Auction.

On the Wednesday before the show Larry arranges courtyard tables for vendors and hangs their signs. Amy and Robert rent a truck and meet volunteers at our storage garage in Glenview to load up our club merchandise (t-shirts, aprons etc.), exhibition signs, supplies, miscellaneous equip-

ment and most challenging the disassembled Tokonoma.

Thursday 7:30 AM Amy and Robert arrived at Chicago Botanic Garden with rental truck. Larry arrived at about the same time, after stopping to grab donuts and coffee for volunteers. Larry's initial focus was on working with vendors setting up their booths. This is everything from vendors requests for an additional table to getting volunteers to help vendors unload and showing them where to stage workshop trees.

Amy and Robert worked with volunteers to unload the truck. Then Robert and Larry worked with volunteers to set up Nichols Hall including tree display tables with Shoji Screens between them, installing lifts to raise tables on the perimeter, installing tablecloths and skirting. They also, assembled the Tokonoma and Mame display cases.

Amy focused on setting up Burnstein hall including sales tables for club merchandise,

educational boards and workshop tree logistics. From 3:00 to 8:00 Robert and Amy handled tree registration and coordinated positioning of trees on tables. They even brought their printer from home to print tree registration placards.

Friday this trio again arrived around 7:30 when judging began. Robert and Amy assisted with collecting judge's sheets and tabulating results. They, with volunteers distributed ribbons and trophies and moved Best of Show trees to Tokonoma. Robert for the past few years has also been shooting video of Judges Critique that is held from 5:00 to 7:00.

When show opened at noon on Friday until it closed at 5:00 on Sunday one of them (usually Robert) could be found at the Information Table in Nichols Hall answering questions and selling raffle tickets. Robert also watered trees, without damaging stands (that should have been waxed by owners to prevent damage but often weren't). Larry was usu-

*(continued on page 3)*

# October Events Calendar

**Saturday October 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 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](http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html) or call 630-655-8283.

**Saturday October 2, 2021**

**AZALEAS 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 October 2, 2021**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

9:30 AM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: Winter Care. Masks required. For further information go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org>

**Monday October 4, 2021**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY OCTOBER MEETING**

Chicago Botanic Garden's Pullman room located in the Regenstein Center across from Auditorium. 7:00 PM Bonsai 101 Program; Keeping Tropical Trees Alive Over Winter by Linda Camp 7:30 PM General Program; Satsuki Azalea presentation by David Kreutz from Satsuki Bonsai-en located in Metro St. Louis. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

**Wednesday October 6, 2021**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

– Resuming Live Meetings Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. 7:00 PM, Program Bonsai 101: TBD 7:30 PM, Program: Juniper Styling Workshop. 16 junipers available for a modest price and more experienced members available to assist those that would like some help. Masks are required. For further information go to October General Meeting - In-person! - Juniper styling workshop - Prairie State Bonsai Society

**Saturday October 9, 2021**

**FIR AND SPRUCE BEFORE WINTER PLACEMENT WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**

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

**Saturday October 16, 2021**

**JUNIPERS 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.

**Midwest Bonsai Connection**

**Saturday October 23, 2021**

**MAPLES 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 or Sunday October 23 or 24, 2021**

**BASIC BONSAI COURSE at BC Bonsai**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Saturday or 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Sunday at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Course runs for 7 weeks. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

**Saturday October 30, 2021**

**DECIDUOUS TREE 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.

**Monday November 1, 2021**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY NOVEMBER MEETING**

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

**Tuesday November 2, 2021**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

6:30 PM, 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

**Wednesday November 3, 2021**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. 7:00 PM Program TBD. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

**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](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.

# Monthly Care Report - What to do in October

**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 systemic insecticide (the 2-in-1 granular placed in the soil) for killing insects with Seris-sas or Elms; use the spray.

**Indoor Trees:** Move your tropical (indoor) trees inside under grow lights. Night-time 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 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 pines, remove old needles (those that haven't grown this season) so that more light can get between branches to activate

dormant buds. 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.

—Matt Mazza

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## MVPs at Exhibit

(continued from page 1)

ally at the Sales Table answering questions, coordinating volunteers, collecting money for Workshops and selling Club Merchandise. Amy kept tables stocked with t-shirts, sweatshirts and aprons. Amy and Robert both assisted Frank Mihalic with the Children's Workshop on Saturday and Sunday. They all filled in when we didn't have enough volunteers signed up or when volunteers did not show up.

Larry orchestrated the Dinner Auction on Saturday

Evening. This means getting supplies from storage, buying additional supplies, ice and beverages, on the way to Heller Nature Center. He ordered catering and assisted our contact at Heller to set up tables for eating and displaying auction items and cleaned up afterwards.

Sunday after the show closed these MVPs worked to get aprons folded, table skirts hung up, Shoji screens folded and placed on rack, table lifts removed and collected, Mame displays and Tokonoma disassembled and boxed. All sales merchandise,

signs, miscellaneous supplies and equipment was collected from both halls stowed and loaded on the rental truck along with display cases and Tokonoma. Then at storage garage, in Glenview, it was unloaded and stowed. This year that wasn't finished until after 8:00.

Again, all the work described above is done as a labor of love by these MVPs assisted by all of our other volunteers. When asked why they dedicate so much time and effort, their response is that this is the signature event of Midwest Bonsai Society. This is their fa-

vorite part of what are society provides to our members and the public at large.

We all can show our appreciation for their efforts not just with a "Thank You" but by volunteering a little more our own time to assist in putting on the Exhibition next year. While we had great support for the bulk of the items needed for the show we could have used a few more volunteers Saturday afternoon and Sunday, including for the tear down of the Exhibition. This will this make their favorite event even more enjoyable.

—Dick Ruemmele

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## Chicago Bonsai Club

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

The October meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday October 20th, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a tree to work on or just come to observe.

Chicago Bonsai Club meets at Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago. Contact: suekazoo@gmail.com or call 773-235-9479.



## October 4th Meeting Focus

This month we will again have a live meeting with guest artist. You can also join the meeting using WebEx. WebEx invitation will be sent via email to all members before the meeting.

The October meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 4th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Pullman Room Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. This is not our normal meeting room. Pullman is located at the north/east corner of the Regenstein Center across from the auditorium.

7:00 PM - Bonsai 101: Keeping Tropical Trees Alive Over Winter by Linda Camp.

7:30 PM - General Program; Satsuki Azalea presentation by David Kreutz from Satsuki Bonsai-en located in Metro St. Louis.

## 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.