
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

It is September already! Now is the time to start planning for winter storage of your trees. My tropical tress love the grow lights I got from Home Depot. The hardy trees will go to their usual spot in the garage. Make sure you have a couple of good frosts before you bring the hardy ones in. You want to make sure they are going dormant for the winter. Even during the winter all the trees will need regular watering if you have them

inside and the tropical will want to be fertilized on a routine basis too.

So, what have I learned this year? I learned that we can pick up some good tips from our vendors. Diane Valavanis made some comments during a sale about how often we should fertilize tropical trees. It was more frequent than I had been doing. Super Fly Bonsai persuaded me to try spraying leaves with 2-0-6 Kelp mixed in the

water. Wow, my trees have responded well to both changes.

WHAT'S COMING UP? October 3rd is the General meeting, is focused on Azaleas with visiting artist David Kreutz of Satsuki Bonsai-en in St Louis. For Bonsai 101 Judy Doll gives us Balcony Bonsai which sounds very interesting and Robert Wright will cover Over Wintering Bonsai. And then there is the upcoming Holiday

Party at the Heller Nature Center on Tuesday, December 6th. As usual this will be a pot luck dinner with a raffle for numerous donated items. Once again I am sure the food will be great.

The Board is giving thought to the selection of a guest judge for the 2023 August exhibit. If you have any suggestions, please pass them along.

—Larry Stephan

Chicago Bonsai Club

The October meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, October 19, 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.

Chicago Bonsai Club meets at Garfield Park Conservatory, located at 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago.

If you would like further information about the meeting or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 312-590-6049.



A highlight of the recent Chicago Bonsai Club meeting was this praying mantis. It lives year round on Kurt Nykaza's Juniper, even staying with the tree when the tree is put in Winter storage. Photo by Jose Fonseca.

October Events Calendar

Saturday October 1, 2022

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: "How To Hunt/Select Nursery Material". Now let's take advantage of end of year sales. For further information go to [Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org](http://ScheduleforMilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org)

Saturday or Sunday October 1 or 2, 2022

TODD SCHLAFER WORKSHOPS at Hidden Gardens
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Willowbrook, bring your own tree workshop. For further information or to register go to <https://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday October 1, 2022

ADVANCED WIRING AND BENDING at BC Bonsai
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bring your own tree workshop and of course there are trees available to purchase. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Monday October 3, 2022

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY OCTOBER MEETING
Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein.

7:00 PM Bonsai 101 Program: "Balcony Bonsai" presented by Judy Doll and "Overwintering Bonsai" presented by Robert Wright. 7:30 PM, General Program: "Satsuki Azalea Care and Maintenance" by visiting artist David Kreutz of Satsuki Bonsai-en in St Louis. Bring your own tree to the meeting as Victor and other experienced members will be available to answer questions and provide advice. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday October 5, 2022

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage or via ZOOM

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Program; Penjing Demonstration by Jennifer Price. Penjing, also known as Penzai, is the ancient Chinese art of depicting artistically formed trees, other plants, and landscapes in miniature. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

October 8 thru 16, 2022

9TH WORLD BONSAI CONVENTION 2022 (VIRTUAL) from Perth, Western Australia

This will be the first Virtual World Bonsai Convention with demonstrators from every WBFF region, including some live, interactive sessions with International Demonstrators with unlimited replays for registrants. Exhibitions of Bonsai and Suiseki in Australian Collections and a selection

of free optional activities including a large Marketplace and an online auction. For more Info Convention Website: www.world-bonsai-convention-2022.com/

Saturday October 8, 15, 22, & 29, 2022

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.

Wednesday October 19, 2022

MBS CHICAGO CHAPTER MEETING
6:00 PM - 7:30 at Garfield Park Conservatory, located at 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a tree to work on. For more information about the meeting or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 312-590-6049.

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. The college address is 425 Fawell Boulevard in Glen Ellyn. 7:00 PM Program; TBD. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Saturday or Sunday November 5 or 6, 2022

ANDY SMITH WORKSHOPS at Hidden Gardens
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Willowbrook, bring your own tree workshop or buy tree at the gardens. For further information or to register go to <https://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday November 5, 2022

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Program: "Fall work; cutback, shoot selection". Time to get your tree ready for spring flush by proper fall work. For further information go to [Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org](http://ScheduleforMilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org)

Saturday November 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2022

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 November 7, 2022

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY NOVEMBER MEETING
Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center or via WebEx Meeting (Invitation to be sent via email).

7:00 PM, General Program: White Elephant Sale. Start looking for items you do not need or want and bring to sell. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Monthly Care Report - 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 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 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

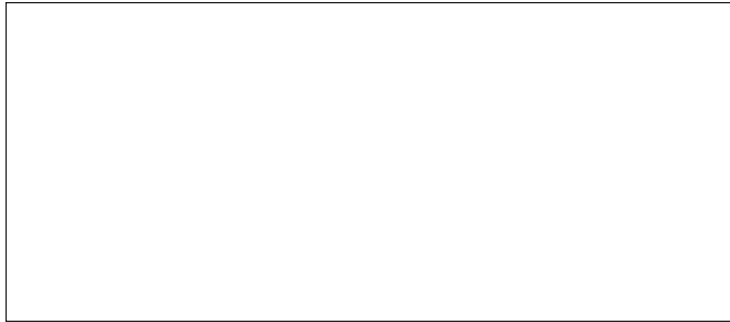
October Meeting Focus

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 3rd, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center and via WebEx. WebEx Invitations will be sent to all members in an email.

7:00 PM - Bonsai 101 program; "Balcony Bonsai" presented by Judy Doll and "Overwintering Bonsai" presented by Robert Wright.

7:30 PM - General program; "Satsuki Azalea Care and Maintenance" by visiting artist David Kreutz of Satsuki Bonsai-en in St Louis. Remember you can bring your own tree to the meeting as Victor and other experienced members will be available to answer questions and provide advice. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings/>

Midwest Bonsai Society
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Highland Park, Illinois 60035-7373
www.midwestbonsai.org



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.