
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

Bonsai is Back

Our three day Exhibit was a great success. We were the first flower show event at the Chicago Botanic Gardens since the easing of some pandemic restrictions. We put on the largest Bonsai Exhibit that will be held in the US this year between New York and California. But we still had high points and low points.

First the High Points:

- We had 21 vendors. Six were either new or coming after a long absence. Several vendors commented on Sunday afternoon that financially this was the most successful show they have ever had. Sara Raynor had almost no pots left by Sunday afternoon.
- Once again, Frank Mihalic conducted the Children's Workshops on Saturday and Sunday. 60 kids went away with miniature, potted and styled Bonsai trees
- The trees in competition in Nichols Hall appear to be the most impressive collection we have ever seen at one of our events. Andy Smith won Best Professional Tree and Tim Scott of Michigan won Best in Show in the Open category.

- Phil Malhiot did a great job as the Guest Judge. He also hosted Bring Your Own Tree Workshops and styled a Scotch Pine tree in a free demo in the auditorium.
- The Saturday night dinner at the Heller Nature Center went very well and raised money for Midwest Bonsai through silent auctions and a raffle. We will try to use them for more dinner events in the future.

Low Points:

- On Sunday afternoon many of our General Members and Board Members let us down. Some people were

September Meeting Focus

This month we will again have a live meeting but our visiting artist will be there via Zoom. This gives us the hope, that we will be able to offer members the option to attend in person or via Zoom. If we can facilitate simultaneous Zoom meeting we will send out invite via email.

The September meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 30th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

There will be no Bonsai 101 this month due to guest artist presentation. 7:00 pm - General meeting program will feature Shohin Bonsai presentation by Mike Lane from Wigerts Nursery in North Fort Myers, FL. If time permits we will also offer photos and videos from our August Exhibition.

taking down trees well before 5 pm. This is not allowed and we will fix that next year.

- At 5 pm most of our volunteers and helpers vanished into the sunset. On Thursday it took 13 people to set up the exhibit (table cloths, risers under tables, table skirts, building the Tokonama, etc.). By 5:30 on Sunday we had 5 people left to take it all down. It ended with

3 people at the off-site storage locker at 10 pm. **THIS MUST BE CORRECTED GOING FORWARD.**

- One nefarious person stole a demo tree from a vendor between Friday night and Saturday morning while the Exhibit was closed.

Overall the Exhibit was a success but going forward we still need to work on a few issues. —Larry Stephan



Ponderosa Pines were very prevalent at our show this year. Above Pine on left shown by Andy Smith won Best of Show in Professional Category and tree on right shown by Tim Cox received the same honors in the Open Category. See more Exhibit Winners on pages 3 + 4.

September Events Calendar

Monday August 30, 2021

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY SEPTEMBER MEETING

Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM General Program: Zoom Shohin Bonsai presentation by Mike Lane from Wigerts's nursery. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday September 1, 2021

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING – Zoom Meeting

7:00 PM Program: Presentation by guest lecturer Rodney Clemmons. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Wednesday September 1, 2021

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

6:30 PM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: Club Ponderosa Pine's Repotting and State Fair Winners. For further information go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org>

Saturday September 5, 12, 19 & 26, 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, Sunday September 11, 12, 2021

7th U.S. NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION

12:00 PM - 5:00 PM Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday and 9:00 AM to 4:00 Sunday, Total Sports Experience Arena, East Rochester, New York. Features 11 nationally and internationally renowned bonsai artists providing Demonstrations and Critiques. In addition to over 200 museum quality bonsai, suiseki and kusamono there will be an indoor soccer field with more than 40 vendors from throughout the United States. For further information including links to workshops and tree registration go to <https://www.usnationalbonsai.com/>

Saturday, Sunday September 11, 12, 17 and 18, 2021

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY and PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GARDEN WALK at Various Members Homes

9:00 to 5:00 gardens located in Metro Chicago. Exact locations will be available early in September. For updates and further information go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/event/psbs-mbs-june-garden-walk-joint-venture/>

Saturday, Sunday or Thursday September 11, 12 or 16, 2021

BEYOND BASICS COURSE at BC Bonsai

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Sunday and Thursday or 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, Saturday at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Course runs for 6 weeks and in each class a different tree will be covered in depth. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday September 18, 2021

ADVANCED WIRING AND BENDING 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 September 25, 2021

BASIC CARVING 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 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 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.

Wednesday October 5, 2021

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

6:30 PM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: TBD. For further information go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org>

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: TBD. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

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.

Monday October 11, 2021

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY AUGUST MEETING

Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM Bonsai 101 Program; TBD 7:30 PM General Program; Satsuki Azaelia 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>

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.

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.

Monthly Care Report - What to do in September

We've lost about an hour and a half of daylight and the all trees know it. Many leaves are changing color and some are dropping off. So, the gradual entering of the dormancy is beginning.

I always think of mid-September as the beginning of a short vacation from regular bonsai work and arbitrarily pick the fifteenth to begin the big changes. No more trimming of anything but tropicals. Continue to watch for tight wire as there is rapid wood growth taking place.

Change to a low Nitrogen fertilizer. 3-4% is about right. 10-20% range of Phosphorus and Potassium is good. Continue to fertilize until the trees are put into winter storage. This will help the trees progress into dormancy with plenty of stored energy for new spring growth. This is also good for tropicals as it helps prepare them somewhat for the move indoors

Never use a fertilizer with no Nitrogen. The chemistry states that hardly any other

elements will work without it. It is also known that Nitrogen is quickly depleted from containers that are constantly watered. That little bit of Nitrogen keeps everything in balance and the trees healthy. Without it most of the other elements build up and the medium can become toxic. Your bonsai are actually being starved.

Rain is forecast to be very sparse this month with daytime temperatures about normal, but night temperatures will be warm and retard the dormancy process somewhat. Some afternoon watering again will be needed on a few

days. The warm nights will allow the tropicals to stay outside all month.

Insects can be a big problem in September. They too know the winter is coming and are in a feeding frenzy. The warm nights will be very beneficial for continuing their feasts. Spider mites and mealy bugs are very active as are the chewers. The grasshoppers and katydids are full grown and can chomp down a whole lot in a day. Good insecticide with contact and systemic properties will do the job well. My favorite is Bayer's.

—Ivan Watters



Phil at the end of his demonstration where he styled this Scotch Pine. This tree was raffled off at Saturday Night's Dinner. The winner of the raffle was our Best of Show Winner, Tim Cox.



Boulevard Cypress shown by Victor Zurczak.



Steve Carini won his Award of Merit with another Ponderosa Pine.

More Exhibit Winners



Itoigawa Shimpaku Juniper shown by Tim Priest won 2nd place in Professional Category.



Mark Karczewski's Rocky Mountain Juniper above won 3rd place in Professional Category.

Exhibit Winners (continued on page 4)

Exhibit Winners

(continued from page 3)



Our very own and former MBS President Cat Nelson won 2 Awards of Merit. One for her Ficus Retusa on the left and one for Triple Trunk Prostrata Juniper on right, which she is caring and training for John Daufeldt.



Charles Barker, Windswept Japanese Hornbeam.

Chicago Bonsai Club

The September meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on September 15th, 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@hotmail.com or call 773-235-9479.

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.