

MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

The 45th annual Midwest Bonsai Exhibit is over. This may have been our best overall Exhibit ever. First, I want to thank all the many volunteers who make the event a success year after year. Congratulations to Matt Mazza on being awarded the Ladany Trophy for 2023 for all of his efforts in organizing and improving our shows year after year. Congratulations to all the medal and ribbon winners in the tree competition. William (Bill) Valavanis, of International Bonsai won Best Professional Tree with his beautiful Japanese maple. Steve Jetzer of Michigan won Best Tree in the non-professional group with an amazing Ponderosa Pine. This year's trees may be the best we have ever seen. Out wonderful guest judge, Bjorn Bjornsson commented on high quality of the entered trees. He noted that it was not just the trees but the entire display of pots, stands, accent plants and scrolls that is elevating the quality to a very high level.

He also commented on the Chicago Botanic Gardens as being one the best venues in the US for an exhibit.

Our many fine vendors must also be included in thoughts about the Exhibit. We had more than 25 vendors from 11 states. Vendors came from as far away as New York, Penn., Min., Ark. And S. Dakota (Andy Smith, or course). Most of the vendors were doing good business selling to sizeable crowds of visitors. Our dinner on Saturday night at the Heller Nature Center for vendors and members was a sell out with close to 90 people dining on pizza, ribs and fried chicken. Everyone had a great time socializing and bidding on items donated by vendors in a silent auction. Except for the air conditioning breaking down at the Botanic Gardens on Sunday it was a beautiful three days.

It is easy to forget about one of the most important points. Events like this are fun and



Visiting Master Bjorn Bjorholm with Ponderosa Pine styled during Saturday's demonstration. All photos by Jeng Fonseca.



"Before" photo on left of this tree. Finished tree was raffled off at Saturday evening's banquet. One of our MBS members Charles Barker was the lucky winner of this tree.

they also increase interest in Bonsai. Over the last several the Midwest Bonsai Society has increased by adding new members. Most of these new members sign up at the May and August Exhibit.

Remember, the Exhibit is over but the trees still need your attention, especially in these times of unstable, changing weather.

—Larry Stephan



On Left Steve Jetzer's Ponderosa Pine won Best of Show in the Open category. Steve also won Best of Show last year. On the right is a clump style Japanese Maple, shown by William Valavanis, that won 1st Place in the Professional Category.

September Events Calendar

Saturday September 2, 16, 23 & 30, 2023

SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. Bring your own tree and Mark will evaluate and help you get it to the next level. For further information go to http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday September 2, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Program: Breakdown of the differences between the many different pine types and how they should be handled. Focus: Getting trees ready for their winter homes. For further information go to Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org

Wednesday September 6, 2023

BONSAI SEASONAL STORAGE with Chris Baker

6:00PM - 8:00PM This class will be taught online via Zoom. In this class, we will discuss the steps necessary to prepare your bonsai trees for the fall and winter seasons. Proper feeding, pruning, and winter storage options for both temperate and tropical bonsai will be covered. For more information or to register, go to: https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bonsai_seasonal_storage_online

Saturday & Sunday, September 9 & 10, 2023

U.S. NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION

9:00AM - 4:00PM Total Sports Experience Arena East Rochester, New York. Join people from around the world for the 8th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition where over 200 of the finest Bonsai in the country will be on display. For more information or to register go to U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition (usnationalbonsai.com)

Monday September 11, 2023

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL 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, Bonsai 101 program; "Autumn Tree Care" presented by Victor Zurczak. 7:30 PM, Program: "August Exhibit Tree Critique" by visiting artist and exhibit judge Bjorn Bjorholm. This is a video presentation recorded at the show. Members are always invited to bring a tree from their collection to get advice on care or styling from Victor Zurczak or other senior members. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

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; How to prepare tropicals for winter. Then a hands-on styling workshop will be presented with the opportunity to purchase a pre-bonsai tree. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Saturday, September 16, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY BEGINNERS WORKSHOP

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Boerner Botanical Garden, Milwaukee, WI. Get your feet wet (and hands dirty) by attending our Next Beginner Workshop. Members of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society will be on hand to help with the creation of your first Bonsai 'mas-

terpiece! For more information or to register go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-public-workshop-tickets-645376417237>

Saturday, September 16, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY IN GRANT PARK SOUTH MILWAUKEE

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Area 5 at the Brown Pavilion, Milwaukee, WI. Come to this free art, horticulture and educational event. Learn how almost all trees can be made into a bonsai, how to start one, care for it, and keep it for a lifetime or generations. For more information or to register go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/SL/GrantParkFlyer.pdf>

Wednesday September 20, 2023

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: suka-zu17@gmail.com or call 312-590-6049.

Monday October 2, 2023

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL 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, Bonsai 101, TBD. General program; TBD Members are, as always, invited to bring a tree to get advice on care or styling from Victor Zurczak or other senior members. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

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 October 7, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: Breakdown of the differences between the many different pine types and how they should be handled. Focus: Getting trees ready for their winter homes. For further information go to Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org

Saturday October 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2023

SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree and Mark will evaluate and help you get it to the next level. (Repotting and wiring are extra). For further information go to Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL or call 630-655-8283.

Sunday October 15, 2023

BONSAI COURTYARD TOUR with Chris Baker

1:00PM - 3:00PM Join us in the bonsai courtyards for a curated tour. Take an in-depth look at trees and how they are displayed and get additional information about other pieces in the collection. For more information or to register, go to: https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bonsai_courtyard_tour

Wednesday October 18, 2023

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: suka-zu17@gmail.com or call 312-590-6049.

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 chemis-

try 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

August Exhibit Photos

All photos courtesy of Jeng Fonseca



Jack Sustic from Matthai Botanic Garden won 2nd Place in the Professional Category and a First Place Innovation ribbon with this Juniper Horizontalis "Prostrata".



Japanese Maple Award of Merit Winner shown by Travis Falls.



Larry Magee showed this Blue Spruce and won one of our 5 Award of Merit ribbons.



Award of Merit Tiger Bark Ficus above presented by Mandy Parrish.



This beautiful Award of Merit Boulevard Cypress was only one of several trees shown by Victor Zurczak.



Jose Escobedo's Award of Merit Midnight Ficus Grove on a slab.

Midwest Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 1373
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www.midwestbonsai.org



September Meeting Focus

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 11th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center and via WebEx. Note meeting is delayed one week due to the holiday. WebEx Invitations will be sent to all members via email.

7:00 pm - Bonsai 101 program; "Autumn Tree Care" presented by Victor Zurczak.

7:30 pm - General program; "August Exhibit Tree Critique" by visiting artist and exhibit judge Bjorn Bjorholm. This is a video presentation recorded at the show.

Remember you are always invited to bring in a tree of any sort, as Victor and other senior members will be available to answer questions and provide advice. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Chicago Bonsai Club

The September meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 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 or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.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.