
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

January Thoughts

So, the winter weather is 50 degrees one day and inches of snow and ice a few days later. That's how we know that we are living in Chicago. This time of year you can find yourself wondering what to do on a cold, wet day if you are not at work. BONSAI IS THE ANSWER. It is a good time of year to trim, fertilize and work on those tropical trees you are keeping inside. If you are unsure about what to do, bring your questions to the February General meeting on Monday, February 3rd.

Looking back at 2019 our retiring president Robert Wright let membership know that the Society needed to fill a number of open board positions. We are happy to report progress. Although we are still looking for Robert's successor and an Executive

Vice President in 2019, we had these members step up to help lead and manage MBS;

- Bob King - Recording Secretary
- Victor Zurczak - Program Chair
- Peter Buckley - Membership Chair
- Jeff Ptaceh - Social Chair
- Linda Camp, and John Marlin - Member at Large
- Open Positions - President and Executive Vice President,

Our thanks to new members listed above and to existing board members below who continue to serve to sustain and lead MBS.

- Larry Stephan - Vice President in Charge of Special Events
- Phil Troy - Treasurer
- Ivan Watters, Tony

Welninski and Eva Hernandez-Thomas - Member at Large

- Jose' Fonseca - Publicity Chair
- Matthew Corpolongo - Web Services Chair
- Amy Wright - Library Chair
- Dick Ruemmele - Editorial Chair
- Gail Thompson - Editorial Assistant

For the Bonsai events occurring during the next two months check out our Calendar of Events section of this newsletter, which emphasizes local opportunities to enjoy Bonsai. For 2020, in general, here are dates you may want to put on your calendar.

- Our Midwest Bonsai Society's general meetings - Feb. 3rd, March 2nd, April 6th.
- MBS Spring Exhibit -

May 9th and 10th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

- MBS August Exhibit - August 14th, 15th and 16th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden
 - MBS Holiday Party - December 7th, at the Takiff Center.
 - Out of town events to consider:
 - National Bonsai Exhibit, Rochester, NY, Sept. 12th and 13th. Sponsored by Bill Valavanis.
 - Global Bonsai Seminars, Washington, DC, Oct. 8th -11th, US National Arboretum. Sponsored by American Bonsai Society, Bonsai Clubs International, Potomac Bonsai Association, National Bonsai Foundation, and the US National Arboretum.
- Larry Stephan

February Meeting Focus

The February meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 3rd, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

7:00 PM - Bonsai 101: Tools for the Bonsai Workshop. 7:30 PM - General program. Pots, pot selection and preparation presented by Victor Zurczak.

Events Calendar

Saturday February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2020 SATURDAY WEST SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, in Warrenville, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information or to register go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

**Saturday February 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 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.

Monday February 3, 2020 MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM, Program: Bonsai 101 Tools for the Bonsai Workshop 7:30 PM, Program: Pots, Pot Selection and Preparation presented by Victor Zurczak. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

**Wednesday, February 5, 2020
PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**
Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. 7:00pm, Program: Critique of the PSBS August Bonsai Show at the Morton Arboretum and final planning for the February 15, 2020 Silhouette Show. For further information go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

**Wednesday, February 5, 2020
BRING YOUR OWN BONSAI TREE WORKSHOP
with Chris Baker**
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bring_your_own_bonsai_tree_workshop

**Saturday, February 15, 2020
PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY BONSAI
SILHOUETTE SHOW**
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Cantigny Park, 1S151 Winfield Road, Wheaton, Illinois. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

**Saturday February 22, 2020
MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**
9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: "Using orchids as Kusomono" presented by society member Leo. For more Information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_latest.html

**Saturday February 23, 2020
MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY WINTER
SILHOUETTE EXHIBIT**
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, at the Domes in Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. For more Information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/YC/Exhibit_Silhouette_Flyer.pdf

**Monday March 2, 2020
MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**
Chicago Botanic Garden's Pullman Room located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM, Program: Forest Planting Workshop introductory presentation by Victor Zurczak then experienced members will assist newer members to create forest. Trees for Forests and/or individual trees may be purchased at the meeting. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

**Tuesday March 3, 2020
MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**
9:00AM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: "How to make a Saikei (forest or mix of plants for a forest)" presented by Chris Baker. Forest created during the demonstration will be auctioned at end of meeting. For more Information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_latest.html

**Wednesday March 4, 2020
PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**
Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. 7:00pm, Program: Hands-On Workshop! Learn how to create your own Spruce or Japanese Maple Forest! Trees and training pots provided by BC Bonsai and available for purchase after the workshop. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

**Saturday March 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2020
SATURDAY WEST SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS
BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters**
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM in Glenn Ellyn, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information or to register go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

**Saturday March 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.hiddengarden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html or call 630-655-8283.

**Saturday March 14, 2020
1ST CLASS OF THE INTERMEDIATE BONSAI
COURSE at BC Bonsai**
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. This is a 6 week course with classes every Saturday except for Easter weekend, For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**Saturday March 14, 2020
HARDY TREES REPOTTING CLASSES at BC Bonsai**
Starting at 1:00 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bonsai soil provided. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**Wednesday, March 18, 2020
FOREST PLANTING WORKSHOP with Chris Baker**
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. Trees and a pot are provided; each student will leave

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Monthly Care Report: What to Do in February

In our area, early February can be very severe weather-wise and late February can be the beginning of early spring. It is a bit too early to repot, but if you need to repot, be sure to be vigilant about not letting your repotted trees freeze, since a cold snap can be just around the corner. When there is a break in the weather, you can wire your deciduous

trees while the buds are still small.

Get your tools ready by sharpening them. Consider your soil needs for repotting. If you need soil, come to the February Midwest Bonsai Meeting to purchase some. You can begin to prune deciduous trees taking care to be sure that remaining branches and shoots are in good health.

If in doubt as to whether buds on a particular branch or shoot are viable, then wait to prune until you see some bud-swell. Don't forget to sterilize your tools with alcohol before going on to another tree in order to avoid spreading diseases and/or pests.

If the ground has thawed it is also possible to lift trees from the ground and do some undercutting. Leave evergreens until later. Branch pruning of deciduous and evergreen trees can be done (except Japanese maples and pines). Any major redesign and reshaping of trees can be done now. Can't wait to see what February has in store for us. Also, I stress for everyone to know and

study each species of tree you have. Knowing their natural environment and growing conditions will enable you to take much better care of that tree.

My tropical trees seem to know that the days are getting longer as I can see a little more growth and some need a little pruning. My thermometer in the basement ranges from the low 50s to the mid 60s this time of year. So far, I have not seen any pests on my plants, but I remain vigilant in checking under leaves and along stems.

—Ed Hake. Fort Wayne Bonsai Club. Reprinted by Permission. Compiled from several web articles and adapted to our area.

Events Calendar

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with their own completed forest. For further information go to https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/forest_planting_workshop

Saturday March 21, 2020 PINES OUT OF STORAGE STYLING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

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

Saturday and Sunday March 21 or 22, 2020 TREE HARVESTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM, at Nursery in Paw Paw, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

Monday March 23, 2020 1ST CLASS OF BEGINNERS BONSAI COURSE with Mark Karczewski

6:30 AM - 8:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. This is a 6 week course with classes every Monday. For further information or to register go to http://www.hidden-garden.net/bonsai_classes.html or call 630-655-8283.

Chicago Bonsai Club

There will not be a meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, in February. The next meeting will be Wednesday March 18th at the Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago.

If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 773-235-9479.

BONSAI SILHOUETTE SHOW

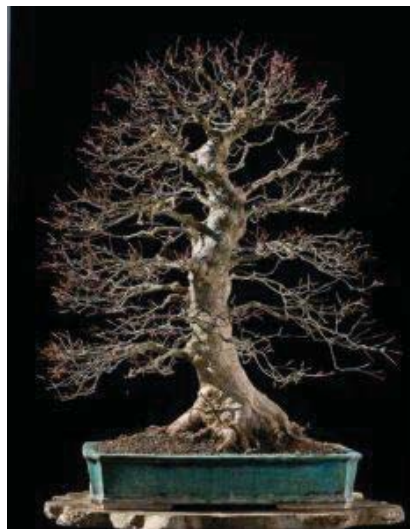


Photo Courtesy of Walter Pall Bonsai

The Prairie State Bonsai Society
Invites you to their first
Bonsai Silhouette Show
Saturday, February 15, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Cantigny Park
1S151 Winfield Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60189

Admission is Free (\$5/car parking fee)
Bonsai Vendors selling trees, pots, tools
& other materials will be at the exhibit.

Midwest Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 1373
Highland Park, Illinois 60035-7373
www.midwestbonsai.org

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General Meetings

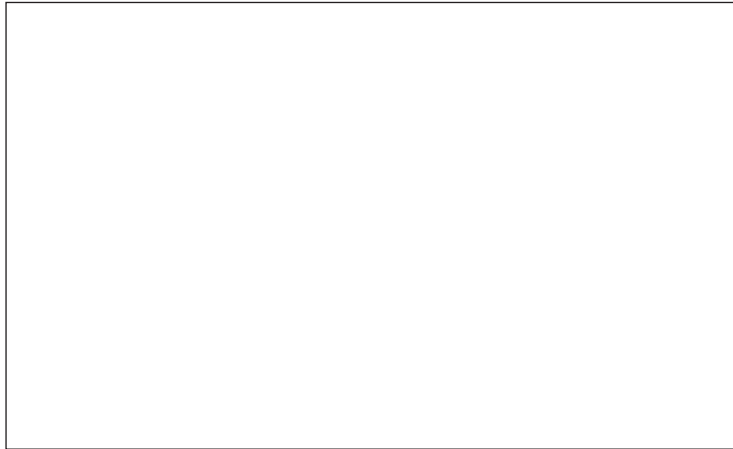
Meetings of the Midwest Bonsai Society are held at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

All meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Bonsai 101 presentations commence at 7:00 PM.

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 Request

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone

Date

Email

Please Check If Renewal

Please make check payable to: **Midwest Bonsai Society**

Send to: Midwest Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 1373

Highland Park, Illinois

60035-7373

Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

\$35 Electronic Newsletter **OR \$45** Newsletter by Mail

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.