
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

Midwest Bonsai Society Newsletter
Volume 66 • Issue 1 • February 2023

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

It is 2023 and it looks like another exciting year. Take a look at the list of upcoming events. There are lots of them to choose from. The next General meeting will be held on February 6th. We will have Bonsai Artist Will Baddeley joining

us for our May exhibit on Mother's Day weekend.

It is cold outside but this is still a good time to get some work done on any tropical trees that you are keeping inside. It is also a good time to read a little

bit about Bonsai. I just finished two books by Michael Hagedorn. The first was **Post Dated** in which he relates in great detail what his experience was like working as an apprentice to a Japanese Bonsai Master in Japan. Wow, it was an eye opener. The other book was **Bonsai**

Heresy in which he addresses a number of items about Bonsai that everyone believed in that turned out not to be correct. I recommend both.

Keep those little trees safe, watered and fertilized.

—Larry Stephan

The Midwest Bonsai Society Officers & Chairpersons

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Prairie State Bonsai Society Representative: (Open)

February Events Calendar

Wednesday, February 1, 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 February 4, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Main Program: "Creating Root Over Rock Planting" by Houston Sanders. Novice Program: "Tools" What are the basic tools needed and how to properly use them. For further information go to [Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org](http://ScheduleforMilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org)

Saturday February 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2023

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 February 6, 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; "Tools and Supplies for the Upcoming Season" presented by Victor Zurczak.
7:30 PM, Program: "Repotting and Scheduling", by Linda Camp. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Saturday February 11, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY HOW DO I BEGIN TO SHOW MY TREES WORKSHOP
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, at Boerner Botanical Gardens, lower-level Multipurpose Room. Kris Z will lead discussion. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information or to register go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/SL/Workshop_HowToShow.pdfm

Saturday February 18, 2023

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY 3rd ANNUAL WINTER SILHOUETTE EXHIBIT
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, IL. Both members and non-members are welcome to display their deciduous trees in the natural winter stage of development. Everyone is welcome to visit the exhibit at no charge. There is a \$5.00 charge for parking collected at the gate. For more information go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/event/winter-silhouette-exhibit/>

Sunday February 26, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY WINTER SILHOUETTES EXHIBIT
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, at the Domes in the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, 524 S. Layton Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53214. In addition to the joys of snow during the winter and early spring months, we in the Midwest have

an opportunity to view our landscape in the 'raw', that is, without the dressing of buds, leaves and flowers. For further information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/YC/Exhibit_Silhouette_Flyer.pdf

Wednesday, March 1, 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 March 4, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Main Program: Guest Artist Rick Garcia, author of "Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Fundamental Study" will discuss Azaleas. Novice Program: "Repotting Basics" Discussion of why do we repot? For further information go to [Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org](http://ScheduleforMilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org)

Saturday March 4, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY AZALEA CRITIQUE AND DISCUSSION WORKSHOP
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM Boerner Botanical Gardens. Bring your own tree workshop. Artist Rick Garcia will critique and set a clear design objective for your tree. For further information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/SL/Workshop_AzaleaCritique_Flyer.pdf

Saturday March 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2023

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.

Sunday March 5, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY AZALEA SPRING MAINTENANCE WORKSHOP
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Boerner Botanical Gardens. Bring your own azalea for refinement and suggestions with guest artist Rick Garcia. For further information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/SL/Workshop_AzaleaMaint_Flyer.pdf

Monday March 6, 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; "Pot and Soils Preparation." 7:30 PM, Program: "Hardy Repotting". Bring your own tree and tools. We will provide soil, KLN solution and senior members to answer questions and offer assistance. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Saturday April 1, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY "URBANDORIE" DIG
12:00 PM - 3:30 PM Boerner Botanical Gardens. Join Bryan to dig up burning bushes to fill your forest and for other styles, after the general meeting, For further information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html

Monthly Care Report - 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. Remember what Jim Beck, from BC Bonsai, taught us at our November Meeting

with his sharpening demonstration. Consider your soil needs for repotting. If you need soil, you can contact BC Bonsai or Hidden Gardens 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.

August 2022 Exhibit Photo



Chris Baker, curator of Chicago Botanic Garden's Bonsai collection, created this grove at a demonstration Saturday, August 20, 2022.

February Meeting Focus

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 6th, 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; "Tools and Supplies for the Upcoming Season" presented by Victor Zurczak.

7:30 PM - General program; "Repotting and Scheduling" by Linda Camp.

Remember you are invited to 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
P.O. Box 1373
Highland Park, Illinois 60035-7373
www.midwestbonsai.org



Chicago Bonsai Club

There will **not** be a meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, in February. Our first meeting of the year is Wednesday March 15.

Please come join our monthly bonsai club meetings at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Learn about the ancient art of growing bonsai from the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society. Bring your bonsai trees to work on or just come to watch. There is no fee for this program.

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.