
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

May and June Thoughts

HELLO ALL!

Greetings to all you CV-19 survivors. My sympathy to those who haven't and their families. I recently met the first person, I now know, who has tested positive or had the disease and survived it.

We're ending one of the craziest months of May I can remember. Snow, hot, cold and high winds. But it's going to get better.

COVID-19

This has been pretty grim but appears to be getting slowly better. Public events and schools are being cancelled to the end of this year or held online when possible. The MBS board will make a final decision in the next 30 days about the August show. In my opinion we need to be prepared for a long and slow transition.

So my suggestion is to get really up close to your bonsai—no social

distancing necessary—and experience some spiritual renewal. I've been telling people for years that this is a huge part of what bonsai is about.

Another great thing that will help your need for a bonsai fix is that BC Bonsai and Hidden Gardens are open for business daily on a one-on-one appointment basis. Call and go for your own personal fix. Ahhh! Hug your trees!

LUCIA HEYWORTH

The bonsai world has lost a huge supporter

Lucia Heyworth, a strong MBS supporter for many years, died in her sleep, May 8 from a short, but devastating disease a few months before her 95th birthday.

She was very active, a strong supporter and contributor to the Society for many years using her associations to advance our interests behind the scene.

She was modest, with extremely high standards, and didn't often enter her trees into competitions. However when she did, the trees received two Best of Show and three Professional awards from MBS and many other organizations. She has many trees of that quality.

I have the pleasure of knowing and working with her for 45 years. We learned so much together and I will always miss her.

SO WHAT ABOUT MAY?

Not much good in first half—unbelievably low temps day and night. 75 degrees. Snow. Couple of frosts after temps in late April said take trees out of storage and the long range forecast supported that. Many danced the Bonsai Tango, taking trees out when weather was warm and bringing them back in when cold. Second half will be better.

Now is the best time to do major pruning, branch removal and design work. Begin fertilizer application. Keep up on these items and the warming trend will support you. Watch wired branches carefully to avoid unsightly spiral scars from bark growing over the wires as deciduous trees in particular can expand

very quickly from May through September

I have a Japanese Black Pine (JBP), young and very vigorous, that was stored in a very cold greenhouse (often went below 30) that is barely moving after being put outside April 25. By contrast, last week I began breaking candles on two JBP's that were brought inside to cool room temps and full sun in the middle of February. This is a very important step if you want 2-needle pines to complete growing twice in one year.

JUNE WORK

First the caveat. Never do anything maintenance-wise unless your bonsai is healthy and vigorous. Weak trees should be lightly fertilized, maybe up potted without cutting any roots, put in light shade and watered well. Watch them regain vigor and good health. This could take more than one growing season

This month, which is busy enough on its own, we will have to play catch up for the work we couldn't do in May. Forecast indicates we can pot until 6/15 and possibly longer. 50-60 degree nights and days below 75 are what the plants like.

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Events Calendar

Please note: What we have shown below is a list of events scheduled as of April 20, 2010. Where we have information on cancellations due to Covid 19 we have included same. Please check all events, if you want to participate in same to insure they have not been canceled.

Monday June 1, 2020 - Canceled due to Covid-19 MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM, <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Tuesday June 2, 2020 - Canceled due to Covid-19 MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

6:30 PM, Boerner Botanical Garden. For more Information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 - Canceled due to Covid-19 PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Room TEC/1038a College of DuPage. 7:00 PM, Program: Bonsai 101: Bonsai Soil by Landen Gibbs. 7:30 PM, Program: Air-Layering. For further information go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Saturday June 6, 13, 20 & 27 2020

SATURDAY WEST SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters - Canceled due to Covid-19

but one on one, bring your own tree workshops are available by reservation any day of the week not booked. For further information go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Saturday June 6, 13, 20 & 27, 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.

Saturday June 6 thru July 25, 2020 BONSAI BASICS at BC Bonsai

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Covers history, styles, tree selection and development, wiring, trunk and branch manipulation, soils and fertilizers, pest control, pot selection, and propagation. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

Sunday June 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2020

SUNDAY NORTH SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters - Canceled due to Covid-19

but one on one, bring your own tree workshops are available by reservation any day of the week not booked. For further information go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Saturday or Sunday June 13 or 14, 2020

BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Andy Smith
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Hidden Gardens Willowbrook, IL. Andy Smith from Golden Arrow Bonsai, in Deadwood, South Dakota, is one of the finest collectors of trees for bonsai in the United States. Andy's saying "if it ain't fun it ain't bonsai" describes what his workshops are like. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING - Canceled due to Covid-19
Meetings for Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, have been postponed indefinitely due to Covid. If you would like further information about or to join. For further information please email: sukazu17@gmail.com or call Susan Babyk at 773-235-9479.

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

BONSAI PEST MANAGEMENT with Chris Baker
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. You will become

familiar with common maladies affecting bonsai, learn prevention methods, and explore how to treat your trees if necessary. For further information go to https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bonsai_pest_management

Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday June 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2020

MABA 2020/MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY 50th ANNUAL EXHIBIT CELEBRATION - Canceled due to Covid-19

The MABA Milwaukee Convention committee is currently developing a plan for rescheduling the event in 2021 with the same artists and vendors. The tentative re-schedule date will be June 10 - 13, 2021. Please hold this date. For further Information or to register go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/index.html>

Saturday July 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2020

SATURDAY WEST SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters - Canceled due to Covid-19

but one on one, bring your own tree workshops are available by reservation any day of the week not booked. For further information go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Saturday July 4, 11, 18, & 25, 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.

Sunday July 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2019

SUNDAY NORTH SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters - Canceled due to Covid-19

but one on one, bring your own tree workshops are available by reservation any day of the week not booked. For further information go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Monday July 6, 2020 - Canceled due to Covid-19

Virtual Meeting - TBD, MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

At this time we are exploring possible virtual Demonstration with Mark Fields. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Tuesday July 7, 2020

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY PICNIC MEETING ON HOLD Due to Covid 19

Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: "Yamadori Talk". For more Information go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/Newsletters/MBS202005news.pdf>

Wednesday July 8, 2020

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. 7:00 PM, Program: Bonsai 101, TBD. 7:30 PM, Program: TBD. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Wednesday, July 15, 2020 - Canceled due to Covid-19

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING

Meetings for Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, have been postponed indefinitely due to Covid. If you would like further information about or to join please email: sukazu17@gmail.com or call Susan Babyk at 773-235-9479.

By Reservation Only in June or July

ONE ON ONE WORKSHOPS at BC Bonsai

Time TBD, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Pick a time and plan to spend 1 to 2 hours in one on one workshop with your tree or ours. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

By Reservation Only in June or July

FREE LESSONS ON TREES IN THE GROUND at BC Bonsai Nursery

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Thoughts

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Larches are past the time we can do anything other than pluck the tips. Fingers are best. You must be very careful not to cut into individual needles as they will turn brown.

Junipers can be thinned carefully with scissors. Cut out all long, spindly, vigorous growth. Cedar Apple Rust is very bad this year because of the cold and wet season. Treat with sprayed on fungicide. Systemic is best. Continue monthly treatments until the trees go into storage in fall.

Pines, Spruces, Firs, Yews and Hinoki Cypress continue to de-candle, pluck or pinch new growth as it develops. You will need to do this with Yews a few times. Pines need special techniques that are different for 2-3 needle and 5 needle species. Watch professional bonsai growers on YouTube or get Stone Lantern's book on Pines. Or find someone knowledgeable to show

you. 2-3 needle pines require the most work. 5 needle pines are less. I think the beauty of these trees is worth the effort.

Deciduous—Broadleaf Evergreen. Continue trimming, defoliation and major pruning. This year I had the opportunity to use a spring pruning technique I learned many years ago called "Freeze Pruning". Conditions aren't often just right for this to work. Night temps have to be 25-30 degrees and day time should go to 35 or above and the trees should have significant growth of new leaves and branches. Leave tree out over night so that the frost kills the new growth. Protect trees from further frosts and wait up to a week until you see new buds forming. Then trim back to a bud growing in the direction you want. You get terrific interior bud break doing this. Remember—only for strong and vigorous trees!

Tropicals. Per AccuWeather your trees can go outside now as night temps below 50 are not forecast. Be prepared to dance the Bonsai Tan-

go, if forecast changes and temps are expected to dip below 50. You may begin to feed now. Use time release or High Nitrogen fertilizer

Fertilizer. A brief note if you are using low Nitrogen fertilizer, keep it up until about 6/15 then switch to higher N. If you want to use time-release now is the time to begin.

Water routinely if we don't get enough rain. Spring and early summer are usually the worst for drying out trees. Do not be fooled, check your trees dail an old Japanese saying; "Never count on Buddha to water your bonsai."

Insects. Check daily for any insect problems. Aphids love spring growth and can get out of hand before you know it. Look for scale on the underside of the leaves. Soapy water can usually take care of both those problems but is only a temporary relief. Check all your tropicals, deciduous and broadleaf evergreens for Thrips (folding in of the leaves) if they have been a problem in the

past. Check your Junipers for mites. We use a granular systemic insecticide whose main ingredient is Imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid pesticide, available at some nurseries or garden centers. This kills almost all insects and is highly toxic to honeybees, birds and fish. (See University of Florida IFAS Extension, EDIS). Careful use of insecticides and fungicides becomes increasingly useful at this time of year. Always read and follow manufacturer's directions. Don't use less because it may not be effective. Don't use more because it may cause damage or death.

Weather Looks to be a pretty nice summer for people and bonsai with no 90 degree temps through 8/8, per long-range forecast. Comfortable nights too. Enjoy! To assist you in tracking the weather, to plan work on your trees, here is link to AccuWeather's long range forecast for June <https://www.accuweather.com/en/us/highland-park/60035/daily-weather-orecast/328778?day=20>
—*Ivan Waters*

Events Calendar

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Time TBD, Paw Paw, Illinois. Though out the summer you can come out to the nursery and work on the development of as many trees as you would like. We will give you free lessons and training on bonsai techniques to develop trees in the ground. Then you can come back in the early spring to harvest only those trees that you like. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-7585.

Chicago Bonsai Club

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING - CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19

Meetings for Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, have been postponed indefinitely due to Covid. For further information please email: sukazu17@gmail.com or call Susan Babyk at 773-235-9479.

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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.

Midwest Bonsai Connection
Volume 63 • Issue 5 • June 2020

June MBS General Meeting Has Been Canceled Due to COVID-19

The June meeting was originally scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 1st, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

At the Board's May 11 meeting, which was held using Cisco WebEx virtually meeting technology, we decided we needed to cancel our July meeting, as well.

At the same time we created a subcommittee to explore the feasibility of an online general meeting for July. We are trying to determine best technology to use and what content could be effectively presented virtually. Any suggestion would be appreciated. Email your suggestions to our Programming Chair board member Victor Zurczak at manofnature2002@yahoo.com We will of course keep you posted on our progress.



Membership Request

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

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Date _____

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Please Check If Renewal

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

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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.