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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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[www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

## 2021 June Thoughts

Hello members, want to briefly comment on the April 24th Memorial Service for Ivan Waters. It was sad, to say the least, but it was also helpful to be able to meet in person and commemorate how Ivan touched so many lives and cope with his passing. Personally, I will miss all the lunches we enjoyed together as well as his guidance for my trees. The epiphany for me came as I struggled to trim a tree alone. I learned that his tutelage is still with me, as the longer I worked on the tree the more I remembered the steps my Sensai had taught me. The event was well attended with those, from at least three states, that knew him as a friend and teacher. Enjoyed hearing so many treasured memories shared by those that came. We also want to thank attendees that donated to the Ivan Waters Scholarship Fund.

On the lighter side we are pleased to report that while our May Exhibition was cancelled, we are going to sponsor a one day "June Bonsai Event". Event will be outside under a tent at 1708 Ashton Court in Wheaton. We want to apologize for the location, which is certainly south of where most of our members live, but in this post COVID vaccination world shouldn't we get out to enjoy new and exciting places? Location is South of Rt. 64 (North Ave) and West of Rt. 83. Barring any change in recommendations from the state, we will plan on facemasks and social distancing.

We will have vendors and a workshop. BC Bonsai will be offering a full range of tools, supplies and trees while Karen Shuman Pottery will be there with their original works of art. In addition, Victor Zurczak and Jim Baley will be selling trees from their private collections. As a Society we will be offering our traditional fare of shirts, aprons, etc. In addition, in order to raise funds for the Ivan Watters Scholarship Fund, we will be selling items from Ivan Watters tool sets and some memorabilia from his collections.

BC Bonsai will hold a workshop; "Contorted Wiring of Shimpaku Juniper Whips". The workshop cost is \$40.00. On line sign-up for the BC Workshop will be available soon on the Midwest Bonsai website, <https://www.midwestbonsai.org/>

Also wanted to share the news that, Bonsai Clubs International is currently conducting an on-line auction on Facebook. You can see it and bid on items on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/519625421753420/?ref=share>

Auction ends May 22nd. Certainly, a different way to add trees to the collection.

While still holding our collective breath, we are very pleased to announce that our the 43rd Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit at the Chicago Botanic Garden is still on track to be held

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## June Meeting Focus - Virtual Meeting via Webex

The June meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 7th, will again be conducted as a Webex meeting (similar to ZOOM). We will send out an email with invitation/link to meeting and instructions for participating.

7:00 PM - No Bonsai 101, but this newsletter does include Victor Zurczak's Bonsai 101 program "Jin, Shari and Saba-Miki". 7:00 PM - General program; Air Layering by Linda Camp. Learn how to create a new Bonsai from a donor tree. We will be able to ask questions during the meeting. Hope you can join us for this event.

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## Fred Tarnow Yard Sale

3657 North St. Louis, Chicago  
Saturday & Sunday, June 5 & 6, 2021, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

Includes sale of the balance of Fred's trees which are mostly tropicals. For further information or to arrange a private viewing contact Lil Tarnow at (773-343-3044).

on August 20th - 22nd. This year's Guest Judge will be Phil Malhiot. Vendors will occupy the courtyards and we expect to have the usual Bonsai Exhibit and competition. Most of our usual group of Vendors are planning to come with the addition of two new vendors, Yumi-En Bonsai and Ken's World of Bonsai. There will be workshops by the Guest Judge, BC Bonsai, International Bonsai, Bonsai by Fields, Golden Arrow and Lakeside Bonsai. We plan to do the Children's workshops as well. A Saturday night casual dinner will be held at the Heller Nature Center in Highland Park. There will be the usual silent auction of donated items and a raffle for the tree designed on Saturday by Phil Malhiot. A final decision on hosting is expected from the Chicago Botanic Garden in late May. Masking and Social Distancing requirements will be in line with the Illinois State requirements in place at the time of the Event.

Finally, wanted to thank the board members for their efforts to get our General Meetings up and running again. Granted most of us would prefer to meet in person and enjoy our traditional format but happy to offer this alternative. Special thanks to Victor

Zurczak our VP of Monthly Programs for his planning and presentations, Mathew Corporlongo our Webmaster for scheduling and technical Webex support, Jose Fonseca our Publicity Chair for technical video support and Linda Camp one of our Members at Large for her presentations. Mathew has been recording these meetings so they will be available on our website very soon, (in new "Members Only" section).

As stated earlier while most would prefer meeting in person what we are learning from these virtual meetings may lead us to a hybrid model in the future. Many folks have problems getting to in person meetings (e.g. our Chicago contingency) but can attend virtually. In fact, one member that recently moved to Denver attended the March meeting with guest artist Bjorn Bjorholm. We may be able to develop technology and skills necessary to have live meetings, that are also available to virtual attendees.

Hope you all are enjoying getting your trees out of winter storage and on the bench. Great time of year to enjoy the art of Bonsai.

—Larry Stephan

# June Events Calendar

**Please note:** What we have shown below is a list of events scheduled as of May 15, 2021. Good to see local clubs, while still not meeting in person, are getting some virtual general meetings scheduled and some live events. BC Bonsai and Hidden Gardens are open and offering workshops and or services and supplies. Chris Baker from the Chicago Botanic Garden is offering Zoom workshops and in June he even has a live event, touring the Bonsai Courtyards. Please check all events to insure they have not been canceled or changed.

## **Saturday and Sunday, May 22 and 23, 2021 JIM KEITH BONSAI SALE.**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Contact for Location. Jim Keith a member of the Prairie State Bonsai Society, will be having a bonsai sale at his residence. Jim will have bonsai and pre-bonsai available for purchase. If you would like to attend the sale, please email Jim at sequoia65@com-cast.net and request his address.

## **Tuesday June 1, 2020**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**  
6:30 PM, Zoom Meeting. Program: Rick Garcia, Satsuki expert and owner of the North American Satsuki Bonsai Center, will be presenting a lecture with slides on post-flowering care and development of azaleas. For more Information go to [http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs\\_schedule.html](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html)

## **Wednesday June 2, 2021**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING – ZOOM MEETING DUE TO COVID 19**  
7:00 PM Program; TBD For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

## **Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and June 6, 2021 FRED TARNOW YARD SALE by Lil Tarnow**

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM 3657 North St. Louis, Chicago, IL. Includes sale of the balance of Fred's trees which are mostly tropical trees. For further information or to arrange a private viewing contact Lil at (773-343-3044).

## **Saturday June 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](http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html) or call 630-655-8283.

## **Saturday June 5, 2021**

**BLACK OLIVE WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**  
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

## **Sunday, June 6, 2021**

**BONSAI COURTYARD TOUR: with Chris Baker**  
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden in East Bonsai Courtyard. Enjoy an afternoon learning about bonsai in our two beautiful display courtyards. Explore the collection on a guided tour highlighting some of the best bonsai in the country. Basic care, style design, and display will be discussed. For more information or to register for workshop go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/deciduous\\_bonsai\\_tree\\_workshop\\_online](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/deciduous_bonsai_tree_workshop_online)

## **Monday June 7, 2021**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY JUNE MEETING – WEBEX MEEETING DUE TO COVID 19**  
7:00 PM, Program: Air Layering by Linda Camp from BC Bonsai. Learn how to create a new Bonsai from a donor tree. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

## **Saturday June 12, 2021**

**FICUS RIANNE WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**  
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

## **Saturday June 26, 2021**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY JUNE EVENT**  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, at 1708 Ashton Court, Wheaton, IL 60187. Vendors include BC Bonsai and Karen Schuman Pottery. MBS will have their normal offering of shirts, etc. as well as Ivan Waters tools and memorabilia. Individual members Victor Zurczak and Jim Baley will be selling trees from their private collections. BC Bonsai will conduct "Wiring Contorted Shimpaku Juniper Whips Workshop". More information provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

## **Saturday July 4, 11, 18 & 27, 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](http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html) or call 630-655-8283.

## **Monday July 5, 2021**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY JULY MEETING - VIRTUAL MEEETING DUE TO COVID 19**  
7:00 PM Program: Bonsai 101, Topic TBD. 7:30 PM: Program TBD. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

## **Wednesday July 26, 2021**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC**  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Cantigny. This will be the usual PSBS summer picnic, however, Cantigny has also asked us to set up a few display tables so that visitors can see the bonsai trees in the summer setting as opposed to the winter setting of the silhouette show. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/> <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

# Monthly Care Report - What to do in June

All deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Your feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning routines should be in full swing by now. Trees repotted in April can be given light doses of fertilizer. Continue to check for insects and adjust your watering to match the warmer weather. Air-layering of deciduous and evergreens can be continued. The nights are warm enough now, staying in the 60's, so it is time to work on tropicals. We are starting our very active growth season, so proper pruning, feeding and watering through the summer months will be essential. Any wiring you did this winter should be checked and probably removed now.

Repotting of pines should have been completed in early May. Remember to keep them in the shade for a couple weeks. Candles on pines can be pinched any time. Start with the weak buds and do the strong buds a week or so later. Spruce, junipers and larch shoots are probably

ready for their first pinching of the season. Watch the new growth on your deciduous trees and trim back to 1-2 pairs of leaves.

Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees as sudden frosts (which we hope have ended) can damage the young leaves. Stay on top of maples now and pinch out the center bud just as it emerges from the middle of the first two leaves. Some deciduous species, can handle defoliation, usually early summer, it will greatly reduce their leaf size and create better ramification. If the tree needs to be brought back further, do it now. Now is when you really have to keep on top of your pruning to increase ramification. Cut your Bougainvillea back before all of the flowers are spent to keep it blooming. Keep pruning your Elms back to the first or second node.

**PRUNING tropicals...** After our winter months some trees have wanted to grow out of proportion, their leaves have enlarged and some branches have elongated due to lower

light. So now is the time to prune for shape. You can also root prune and repot your tropicals now.

Water routinely if we don't get rain. Spring and early summer are usually the worst for drying out trees. Low humidity, windy, with somewhat cooler temperatures, gives a false sense that they don't require as much water, but do not be fooled, check your trees daily... 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. Check your Ficus for Thrips (folding in of the leaves) for they have been a problem in the past. Check your Junipers for mites. We use a granular systemic insecticide whose main ingredient is Imidacloprid, 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.

Watch wired branches carefully to avoid unsightly spiral scars from bark growing over the wires, deciduous trees in particular can expand very quickly in May through September.

**FERTILIZE...** You can start on your summer feeding program soon. Young trees more nitrogen, older ones a more balanced food to maintain them. Any tree you have defoliated or cut back hard, place in shade until new growth starts and wait till they have flushed back out to feed them. Be careful not to over water, trees need leaves to transpire water. Blooming varieties can be fed with a fertilizer with a higher middle number. You want your trees healthy to prepare them for the hot summer months.

—Ed Hake • Fort Wayne Bonsai Club • Reprinted by Permission. Compiled from several Web articles with adaptation to our area by Ivan Waters.

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## Bonsai 101 Jin, Shari and Saba-Miki

**JIN:** JIN means a dead tip on a trunk or branch. In some cases, the entire branch can be made into a JIN. When it is necessary to reduce the height of a tree, or reduce the length of a branch, instead of cutting it clear back, in some cases it is more effective to make a JIN. It gives a natural lightning-struck effect, such as an old tree growing in the high mountains or seaside. It is mostly done on hardwood trees such as juniper and oak. It can also be done on pine,

spruce, cedar, fir and yew. It is seldom done on deciduous trees. On the hardwood trees the JIN should last longer without rotting. To make a JIN branch, break the tip toward the front so the grain will show and give it a natural look. Taper to a point by peeling off small pieces at a time. Trim off all the foliage on a conifer, and the branch will die back naturally. The bark will come off by itself later on. A JINNED branch should be trained in the same way as a live branch. Wire the JIN into

position before it dries up. If it becomes dry, wire it first then apply a hot wet towel. Wait a few minutes and the JIN should become pliable enough to bend. A JIN can also be made by first removing all the foliage on a branch or trunk and then cutting the bark down to the hardwood with a knife or concave cutter on the selected spot where you want the JIN to end. Then crush the bark with a JIN plier to loosen and peel the bark (cambium, inner bark and all) off to the hardwood. Use a pointed nose plier or a concave cutter to grasp the tip of the JIN and start peeling the wood down to the live portion

of the tree. Continue peeling until it tapers to a point.

**SHARI:** SHARI means the bark has been peeled on the trunk, branch or on exposed rootage to give an effect of an old tree struck by lightning and weathered by many years of rain and wind. The unpeeled portion of the trunk or branch must be living. The branch or trunk is not completely dead as in the JIN. To make a SHARI, select a tree that has been partially trained for several years. Remove all the foliage from any branch that

*(continued on page 4)*

# Midwest Bonsai Society June Event

**Saturday June 26th, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at 1708 Ashton Court, Wheaton, IL 60187, South of Rt. 64 (north Ave.) and West of Rt. 83 (Robert Kingery Expressway).** Until further notice from the state we will plan on facemasks and social distancing for this outside event. Midwest Bonsai Society will bring some shirts and other items for sale. In addition, we will be selling items from Ivan Watters tool sets and some

memorabilia from his collections. Vendors will include BC Bonsai and Karen Shuman Pottery. Victor Zurczak and Jim Baley will be selling trees from their private collections. BC Bonsai will hold a workshop; "Contorted Wiring of Shimpaku Juniper whips. The workshop cost is \$40.00. On line sign-up for the BC Workshop will be available soon on the Midwest Bonsai website <https://www.midwestbonsai.org>

## Jin, Shari and Saba-Miki (continued from page 3)

will be made into a JIN. Gently peel the bark starting from a JINNEED branch. Follow the grain so it will not damage any live branches. Continue peeling the bark to the base of the tree. It is easier to peel the bark during the active season when the cambium is loose. Let the JIN and SHARI dry out completely before applying a preservative.

### SABA-MIKI

SABA-MIKI means a hollowed trunk or split trunk. It also gives a lightning struck effect or an aged tree that has been damaged on the trunk

and hollowed out by time and weather. This method is used mostly on deciduous trees or evergreens. For an example, a front branch is removed. Instead of leaving the ugly scar to heal over, it is hollowed out with a chisel. The trunk is also scarred and hollowed to give it a more natural effect.

### Preserving JIN or Shari:

June, July or August is a good time to treat JIN or SHARI with lime sulphur to prevent rotting. Lime sulphur in a liquid form is normally used to prevent mildew or curled leaves on fruit trees

## Chicago Bonsai Club

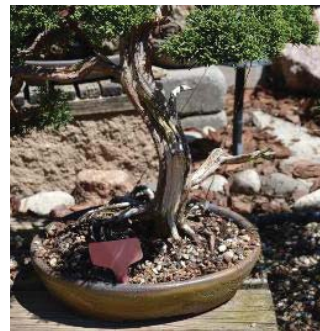
Our next regularly scheduled meeting, in June 15th, has been cancelled due to closure of the Garfield Park Conservatory, because of COVID-19. Hopefully, we will be able to find an alternative space for future meetings or Garfield Park will reopen. Please watch for more information in the MBS newsletter. If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: Susan at [sukazu17@gmail.com](mailto:sukazu17@gmail.com) or call 773-235-9479. Susan can also provide you with invitation/link and instruction for joining the general meeting.

or as a dormant spray. Apply lime sulphur in mid-day on a very sunny or hot day when both JIN and SHARI are very dry. Use it straight, applying it with a brush. Use a plastic sheet to cover the surface so it will not harm any roots, and try not to drop it on the soil. This application should be applied twice a year about a month apart during the hot summer months. Repeat for two years, after that

use as needed to keep JIN and SHARI in a preserved condition. It will look white right after the application, but gradually the white will fade and turn natural.

(India ink can be added to the lime sulphur to darken it if you chose to give the JIN and SHARI and instant natural look.)

Here are a few examples of Jin, Shari and Saba-Miki:



## 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.