

MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

Hello again, ladies and gentlemen. By the time you read this February should be almost over. At the moment there is plenty of snow cover on the ground, and I for one hope it stays to protect my trees for the rest of the cold season. I hope everyone is doing well and that your collections are safe and happy wherever you decided to keep them over the long dark.

February's meeting kicked off the new year with a bit of a whimper, thanks in no small part to the 6 inches of snow doing its' best to bury us while we were still moving. Kudos to everyone who braved the weather though. The reward for the night's courage was a very intimate session with Mr. Chris Baker, the current curator of the Chicago Botanic Garden bonsai collection. Lots of time was available for specific questions and advice. I think everyone came away with some new and useful information.

For our March 5th meeting the Garden has requested we move to the Pullman Room at the North end of

the Regenstein Building. We will start the night with a brief 101 discussion of basic bonsai display etiquette. Following the 101, Mr. Ivan Watters, former curator of the Chicago Botanic Garden bonsai collection and bonsai instructor, will talk to us about the last minute winter work we should do before the spring season gets underway. We are fortunate to be able to draw on Mr. Watters 40+ years of bonsai experience.

February also sees the start of some workshops and the month of March will see them enter full swing. Mr. Watters continues his Sunday workshops in Lake Forest. B.C Bonsai will be having a wiring workshop the 24th. March 3rd will see Mr. Watters beginning a new series of workshop sessions at B.C. Bonsai on Saturday afternoons. March 10th and 11th B.C. Bonsai

is building forests with Acer Palmatum trees, and March 20th and 21st will see Walter Pall visiting the Hidden Gardens Nursery in Willowbrook to help you with your tree design.

May show volunteer forms were ready at the February meeting, but there are still a lot of positions we need to cover. Be on the lookout for an e-mail detailing what's needed and let us know where you can help. The sheets will also be at the March meeting for your signup convenience. The board is working hard to get

the show together, but all the planning won't help anything if there aren't enough hands to do the necessary work.

Lots of things are in the works this year, our meeting plans are developing quickly, so keep your eyes on the newsletter and the website to stay up to date with all the latest program details.

Thank you for your attention, and hope to see you all next month.

—Robert Wright

- Free Admission
- Bonsai Trees
- Suiseki
- Workshops
- Vendors
- Demonstrations



www.midwestbonsai.org

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The Midwest
Bonsai
Society
invites you
to the 14th
Annual May
Bonsai
Exhibit



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 Lake Cook Road
Glencoe, Illinois
May 12 & 13, 2018
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Parking fees apply

Events Calendar

Saturday March 3, 10, 17, 24 & March 31 BC BONSAI WORKSHOP: Ivan Watters Bring Your Own Tree

(1:00 PM - 4:00 PM), Wheaton, IL. For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Sunday March 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2018
BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters,**
(10:00 AM – 2:00 PM), Brendan Berry's residence.
For further information or to register go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

**Sunday March 4, 2018
BC BONSAI WORKSHOP: Shohin Mimosa**
(9:30 AM – 12:00 PM), Wheaton, IL. For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Monday, March 5, 2018
MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Pullman Room,
located in the Regenstein Center. Program: at 7:00
PM, Bonsai 101, Topic TBD. 7:30 PM: Ivan Watters will
give a presentation on "Late Winter Work." For further
information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018
PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**
Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. Program; at
7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Bonsai soils by TBD 7:30pm,
Program: Repotting by Phil Mahliot. For further
information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

**Saturday March 10 or Sunday March 11, 2018
BC BONSAI WORKSHOPS: Forest Planting**
(9:30 AM – 12:00 PM Sat or Sun; 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Sunday), Wheaton, IL. For further information & to
register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call
630-690-0404.

**Sunday March 18, 2018
BC BONSAI WORKSHOP: Harvesting Field Grown Trees**
(9:30 AM – 3:00 PM), Paw Paw, IL. For further
information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com>
or call 630-690-0404.

**Tuesday March 20 or Wednesday, March 21, 2018
HIDDEN GARDENS WALTER PALL WORKSHOPS,**
6:00 PM – 9 PM, bring your own tree workshop. For
further information go to [http://www.hiddengarden.net/
index.html](http://www.hiddengarden.net/index.html) or call 630-655-8283.

**Saturday, March 24, 2017
MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY Intermediate class**
session 1 of 5. For further information go to [www.
milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Sunday, April 1, 8, 15, & 22, 29 2018
BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters,**
(10:00 AM – 2:00 PM), Brendan Berry's residence. For
further information or to register go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

**Monday, April 2, 2018
MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located
in the Regenstein Center. Program: at 7:00 PM, Bonsai
101, Topic TBD. 7:30 PM, Topic TBD. For further infor-
mation, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

**Tuesday, April 3, 2018
MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**
6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. MBS Presenta-
tion – Austin Heitzman custom bonsai stands. For further
information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

**Wednesday, April 4, 2018
PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**
at TEC/1038b College of DuPage. Program: at 7:00 PM,
Bonsai 101, Topic Fertilizers by TBD. 7:30 PM, Topic
Carving by Jennifer. For further information go to [www.
prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Saturday, April 7 or Sunday April 8, 2018
BC BONSAI HARVESTING WORKSHOPS:**
Starting at 10:00 AM in Paw Paw, IL. For further informa-
tion & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call
630-690-0404.

**Friday, April 13 – Sunday, April 15, 2018
MID-ATLANTIC SOCIETIES SPRING FESTIVAL,**
Cromwell, CT. For further info go to <http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org/>

**Saturday April 14 or Sunday, April 15, 2017
HIDDEN GARDENS OWEN REICH WORKSHOPS,**
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, Willowbrook, bring your own tree
workshop. For further information go to [http://www.hid-
dengarden.net/index.html](http://www.hiddengarden.net/index.html) or call 630-655-8283.

**Wednesday, April 18, 2018
ROOT OVER ROCK:**
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Chris Baker at Chicago Botanic
Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant
Resource Center. For further information go to [https://
www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/
root_over_rock_bonsai?range_start=2018-04-18](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/root_over_rock_bonsai?range_start=2018-04-18)

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Society membership or
the Board of Directors.

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 presenta-
tions 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.

Monthly Care Report:

What to Do in March

If any of your deciduous trees need to be repotted this year, you will be able to do the repotting as soon as the winter breaks and the ground thaws, which will be soon, end of March and into April. Look to your trees for signs that they are waking up. Look for swelling buds and white growing tips at the end of your roots. Those deciduous trees that you were unsure about pruning can probably be safely pruned, but protect them from heavy frost. Avoid repotting any larch trees that are showing green. If they are showing green, it is best to wait until next year.

Generally there is no need to begin fertilizing your trees yet. Let them leaf out, and for your repotted trees, begin your feeding regime at least one month after repotting. You may want to keep them sheltered under the eaves of the house and out of cold winds. By the end of March, depending on weather conditions, trees can be gradually brought out of winter shelter. Evergreens may be fertilized lightly now in April and, in general, you may spray for fungus and insects on a warm day. Evergreens

can be lifted until the end of April. March and April are also good months to dig trees from the wild, keeping as much fibrous root attached as possible. Keep your trees cool. Don't be in a hurry to encourage early growth, as it can still get cold.

Transplanting from one pot to another is generally done for aesthetic reasons, but soil changing is necessary for the health of the tree. Some rapidly growing trees should have their soil changed annually. Some trees can go two, maybe up to three years. Slower growing conifers and some evergreens may not need their soil changed more than every three to five years. A younger tree, still in development, will need it sooner, where an older tree less often. You also must consider the size of the pot. However, the best indicator of a need for soil change is not time, but the condition of the tree. A vigorous, healthy tree does not need its soil changed and should not be disturbed.

FERTILIZING...

Do not feed your deciduous trees until leaves have hardened off, that means

not until all the leaves are out and branch tips are starting to grow. If you feed them too early you will get a big flush of growth, which translates to long internodes and larger leaves. Too much nitrogen will go to the leaves and not the roots, hence too large of leaves. You fertilize bonsai for optimum health, not for growth per se like other plants. You need to tailor a fertilization program based on your trees' individual needs. You can start feeding your tropicals a bit more, but it is too early to move them outside. I have pruned some of my Ficus.

PRUNING...

You should have already taken a good look at your trees over the winter, now knowing where you want to go with them. If you have a branch or apex you want to thicken, try to divert more energy to it by keeping your other branches trimmed back and letting that one grow. If all your main branches

are good, then work on your ramification by pruning your secondary and tertiary branches back. Always prune in front of the bud that is growing in the direction you want the branch to grow. If any of the internodes towards the tip of any branch are spaced farther apart, then towards the beginning of the branch (closest to the trunk) prune back to where that elongation begins. A branch should be styled just like a tree, the secondary branches on a main branch should get smaller and closer together as you go towards the tip. The tertiary branches on your secondary branches should do the same. Doing this will help create proper ramification and taper. Proper directional pruning of your bonsai is a must, to increase ramification and for good taper.

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

March Meeting Focus

The March meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 5, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Pullman Room, located in the Regenstein Center.

Bonsai 101 begins at 7 pm. Program TBD. At 7:30 pm, Ivan Waters will talk about Late Winter Work.

Chicago Bonsai Club

The first meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, March 21, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a plant to work on.

Chicago Bonsai Club meets at Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago. Contact: suekazoo@hotmail.com or call 773-235-9479.

Midwest Bonsai May Exhibit

The May Exhibit on May 12th and 13th will be here before you know it. We are counting on your support to make the Exhibit successful. Volunteer help is needed on Friday, May 11th to set up the room and bring in trees. On Saturday and Sunday we will need volunteers to act as docents, man tables and

help with the Children's workshops. If you are available please do one of the following. You can sign up on the volunteer sheet at the March General Meeting or you can E-mail Larry Stephan at lstephan1@comcast.net Just indicate what days and times you are available and what you would like to do.

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

Membership Information

To become a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society or re-new your current membership (July is the month to renew), please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on this page of this newsletter, and mail it in with your check. 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.

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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