

MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

March Newsletter Thoughts

To WebEx or Not to WebEx? Each month for our General Meetings we have been offering on-line conferencing. But there is a down side to coming to a meeting on-line. You can see a lot by video but you cannot see what is happening when people separate and work on individual Bonsai projects or when someone brings in their own tree for advice. In March we will again host on-line attendance but we are encouraging members to attend in person if possible.

Now that the Covid 7 day positivity rating is down to 2.9% and the February 28th may signal the end of indoor mask mandates we may actually be able to return to some semblance of life as it used to be. We will be asking your opinions at the March meeting about continuing the WebEx option.

For the March 7 meeting Victor's Bonsai 101 session will be "General Approach to Bonsai". Our General Program will

feature Linda Camp's presentation/demo on how to create a tiny Mame style bonsai. Those that attend in person will be invited to join in the fun by creating their own Mame. For a cost of between \$30 and \$50 (depending on pot selected) BC Bonsai will provide trees, pots, soil and wire. Now you can't do that on WebEx!

We are also offering members a new option for our general meetings. Starting with the March meeting we are encour-

aging members to bring in one of their own trees to work on or to just get advice. After Linda's presentation/demo Victor Zurczak and other senior members will be happy to answer questions or provide advice on next steps for your trees.

BCI Bonsai and Stone Appreciation magazine, in their Q1, 2022 issue has published a beautiful 8 page article on our August Exhibit. The article includes 31 of Jennifer Fonseca's photos of trees displayed at the exhibit. Copies can be ordered on line at bonsai-bci.com. Since we get a copy of the BCI Bonsai magazine for our MBS library you can check it out at the March meeting.

Vendors are signing up for the May and August Exhibits. The May 14th and 15th Exhibit will need a lot of volunteer help. We will be send out sign-up information in March. Think about a project tree you might like to exhibit in May. Note that postcards advertising this Exhibit will be brought to the March meeting so members can take some to distribute.

In the meantime keep working on those tropical trees. Stay warm and watch out for ice on the sidewalks.

—Larry Stephan

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



© 2021 Ponderosa Pine, Ron McAdams, Photo by Jen Fonseca



The Midwest
Bonsai Society
invites you
to the 17th
Annual May
Bonsai Exhibit

www.midwestbonsai.org



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 Lake Cook Road
Glencoe, Illinois
May 14 & 15, 2022
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

*Garden admission applies

March Events Calendar

Wednesday March 2, 2022

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING **
Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage.

7:00 PM Program; Super-Mini Bonsai Workshop by BC Bonsai. Cost to create your own Mini is between \$30 and \$50. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Saturday March 5, 2022

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Program: Thinking About Repotting presented by club member Ron F. For further information go to [MBS202203news.pdf](https://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/news-and-events/) ([milwaukeebonsai.org](https://www.milwaukeebonsai.org))

Saturday March 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2022

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 March 7, 2022

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MARCH 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: "General Approach to Bonsai" presented by Victor Zurczak. 7:30 PM, General Program: Mame Bonsai Workshop – presentation, demo and workshop by Linda Camp. These are real "mini-mames" in thimble sized pots. Come to just observe or create your own tree. Material cost including pot, soil and tree available for \$30 to \$50 depending on pot selected. After presentation/demo senior members will be available to answer questions and provide advice about trees members bring to the meeting. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Saturday March 12, 2022

MINIATURE BONSAI WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Cost of workshop includes tree, soil and pot. For more information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday or Sunday March 12 or 13, 2022

REDWOOD FOREST WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

1:30 AM - 4:00 PM on the 12th or 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM on the 13th, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Cost of workshop includes trees, soil and pot. For more information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515

Saturday March 19, 2022

HARVESTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai.

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Harvest pine, juniper or Japanese Maple. For more information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday or Sunday March 26 or 27, 2022

HARVESTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai.

10:00 AM - sunset, at nursery in Paw Paw IL. Harvest 10 to 20 year old trees. For more information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday April 2, 2022

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: Lecture and Demo - Repotting from a Nursery Container. For further information go to [Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

Saturday April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2022

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 April 4, 2022

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY APRIL MEETING Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein

7:00 PM Bonsai 101 Program: Soil and Pot Preparation presented by Victor Zurczak General Program: Root over Rock Planting workshop by Victor Zurczak. Come to just observe or create your own tree. BC Bonsai will have trees, rocks, muck, soil and pots available for \$50.00 and Victor will guide us through the process. Please feel free to bring your own tree and material to create a root over rock or any tree from your collection to work on and get advice from Victor or other experienced members. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday April 6, 2022

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage

7:00 PM Program; TBD. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

MBS Help Line Reminder

Don't forget that we have a help line service that you can access by emailing us at MBSBonsai@yahoo.com One of our senior members will answer your questions and/or offer suggestions. We have coupled this with a new blog feature where we publish these questions and responses for all members to view. There is a direct link to the section from the left-hand navigation bar on our website Home Page labeled "Bonsai Helpline". Here is link <https://www.midwestbonsai.org/bonsai-helpline>

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. 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. Ficus can be pruned at this time of year.

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. 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 meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 7th, 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; General Approach to Bonsai presented by Victor Zurczak.

7:30 pm - General program; Mame Bonsai presentation and workshop by Linda Camp. These are real "mini-mames" in thimble sized pots. Come to just observe or create your own tree. Material cost including pot, soil and tree available for \$30 to \$50 depending on pot selected.

New meeting feature Have a tree that needs attention? After Mame presentation senior members will be available to answer questions and provide advice about trees that members bring to the meeting. So, bring a tree or create a tree.

Chicago Bonsai Club

Garfield Park is open again!! As a result, we will restart our Chicago Chapter meetings. The March meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, March 16, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a tree to work on. Chicago Bonsai Club meets at Garfield Park Conservatory, located at 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago. If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 773-235-9479.

Midwest Bonsai Society
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Highland Park, Illinois 60035-7373
www.midwestbonsai.org



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.