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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## President's Message

The next General meeting will be held on March 6th. The meeting will focus on re-potting hardy trees. Bring a tree or two and some tools. It should be a fun meeting.

The May Exhibit is coming together nicely for Mother's Day weekend. We will have Bonsai Artist Will Baddeley joining us on Saturday and Sunday. Will is a Bonsai Master

whose specialty is carving trees with power tools. Some unusual workshops will be planned. By the first of March we will have information available for volunteering over the two days of the Exhibit.

The August Exhibit is also shaping up with a large number of vendors similar to last year's attendance. This year both Sara Raynor and Andy Smith will be

back with us. And we looking forward to Bjorn being our guest judge.

Be sure to check out all the upcoming events as listed in this newsletter. We are also working on establishing a closer relationship with the Milwaukee club. In fact they have invited our members, as well as Prairie State's, to attend a free Yamadori Dig (i.e. collecting trees in the wild), in Milwaukee. Location is only a little over an

hour from the Chicago Botanic Garden. There is an article later in Newsletter that provides more detail, on this unique opportunity.

It will be an interesting year after the unusually warm winter we have had so far. I wonder how soon the hardy trees will be showing new growth. Take care of your trees and they will bring you joy for many years to come.

—Larry Stephan

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## "URBANDORIE" DIG

Bryan Lorentzen, a member of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society, is hosting a Yamadori Dig on April 1st, 2023, and has invited our members to attend. They have also invited Prairie State and Madison Bonsai club members.

Here is a little history about the site of the dig. While walking in the woods, near the Boerner Botanical Garden, three years ago he came across a large group of burning bushes. In many places, they are considered an invasive species. The Milwaukee Public Schools own the woods. When he contacted the caretaker of these woods, he was given permission to

dig up as many of the trees as he wanted.

Their club has been collecting for two springs and are not making a dent. They dug maybe 50 last Spring. They make great bonsai. The trees flower in the spring, get red berries, bud back, and ramify easily, and of course, the leaves turn red in fall. This last fall, when the leaves were changing color, MBS members were there. The red trees stood out in the woods, and there were more than a thousand of them. Some are 4" in diameter.

You can dig up trees for an upright, slant style or other.



Bryan's plan for this year is to make forests. He will make some oval pots that you can buy for the forest at a reasonable price, and he has some other pots for sale as well.

You will need branch cutters, shovels, bags, a saw

if you choose a large tree, and maybe a cart because the woods are a couple of hundred yards from the parking lot. Be prepared with soil and pots for when you get home.

The event starts after their Saturday meeting on

April 1st, 2023. The meeting goes from 9-12 noon at the Boerner Botanical Visitor building on the lower level. Go to the meeting if you want, or you can wait in the parking lot for them to come out. If you need more information contact Bryan at 414-364-5253.

# March Events Calendar

**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; ZOOM presentation by Mike Knowlton and Chris Consenza on Tanuki or Phoenix grafting. 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 "Not an actual repot at this time but a discussion of: Why do we repot? For further information go to Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.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](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/SL/Workshop_AzaleaCritique_Flyer.pdf)

**Saturday March 4, 2023**

**SEAGREEN JUNIPER WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Learn about care and styling of this tree. Tree included in cost of workshop. Soft foliage makes these trees a pleasure to work on. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

**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 and Mark will evaluate and help you get it to the next level. (Repotting and wiring are extra). 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.

**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](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/SL/Workshop_AzaleaMaint_Flyer.pdf)

**Sunday March 5, 2023**

**HARVESTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Harvest pine, juniper or Japanese Maple. Trees are 10 to 20 years old. Bring your own shovel and saw and potting tool if needed. For more information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

**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; "Repotting Hardy Tree Demonstration" by Victor Zurczak 7:30 PM, Program: "Hardy Tree Repotting Workshop". 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 March 18, 2023**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY ROOT-OVER-ROCK WORKSHOP**

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Boerner Botanical Gardens. Members have a chance to create their own Root-Over-Rock creation. Artist Houston Sanders will provide the know-how. For further information go to [http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/SL/Workshop\\_RootRock.pdf](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/SL/Workshop_RootRock.pdf)

**Saturday March 18, 2023**

**HARVESTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Harvest pine, juniper or Japanese Maple. Trees are 10 to 20 years old. Bring your own shovel and saw and potting tool if needed. For more information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

**Saturday April 1, 2023**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Main Program: Watering, Fertilization and Pest Management. Novice Program: "How to bring your trees out of winter care". For further information go to Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org

**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](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html)

**Saturday April 1, 2023**

**1st DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR MAPLES & DECIDUOUS TREES at BC Bonsai**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bring your own tree or buy one at workshop. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

**Saturday April 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2023**

**SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski**

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree and Mark will evaluate and help you get it to the next level. (Repotting and wiring are extra). 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.

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# Monthly Care Report - 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. 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 with adaptation to our area

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## March Events

*(Continued from Page 2)*

**Monday April 3, 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; "Forest Design" presented by Victor Zurczak. 7:30 PM, Program: "Forest Planting Workshop", by Linda Camp from BC Bonsai. Bring your own trees or purchase package from BC Bonsai, which includes trees, soil and pot. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

**Wednesday, April 5, 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 April 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2023**

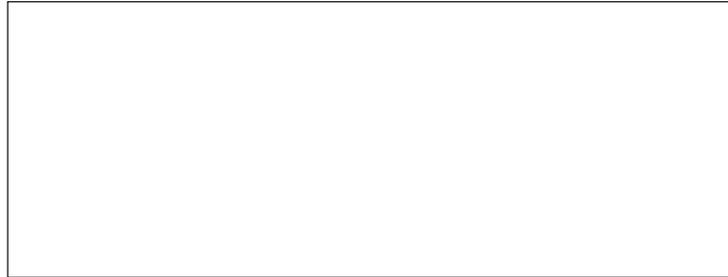
**1st DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR TREE TBD at BC Bonsai**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bring your own tree or buy one at workshop. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

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

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## Chicago Bonsai Club

The March meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 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.

## March Meeting Focus

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Monday, March 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; “**Repotting Hardy Tree Demonstration**” presented by Victor Zurczak.

**7:30 PM** - General program; “**Hardy Tree Repotting Workshop**”. Bring in your own hardy trees, with buds that are starting to swell, and repot them. In addition to trees bring tools and a pot. MBS will provide turface for soil, aluminum wire and tubs with KLN for soaking roots and to water tree after potting. Victor and other Senior members will be available to answer questions and provide advice.

For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings/>

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## 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.