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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## Thoughts for May

### Coronavirus

In these stressful times I wanted to add my weak attempts at humor.

*I need more social distancing especially between me and my refrigerator.*

*Yesterday I saw a man walking his dog and talking to the dog like it understood him. I went back inside and told my cats. We all had a good laugh.*

*Some experts have suggested that alcohol can help you survive the daily Coronavirus briefings on TV.*

There are a lot of things we cannot do right now

and may not be able to do for some time. But here are a few thoughts on things you can do based on my recent experiences.

Hardy trees are almost ready to come out of hiding and into the sun. Think about watering and feeding them. Plan for repotting. My Dawn Redwoods are leafing out right now in the Garage without much light. The trees know when it is time. We have some chilly days ahead through about April 19th. If the forecast holds I plan to move mine out on or close to the 20th.

## Midwest Bonsai May Exhibit

Due to the Corona virus the May Exhibit on the 9th and 10th is cancelled.

As we can locate them we will post links to on-line demo's and articles on Bonsai in this newsletter

Working on outdoor projects and the yard can be done while staying at home. The wife and I are cleaning out dead leaves and old dead stalks from flower beds. I put in new edging around some flower beds last week. I learned that you can go to Home Depot, get your items, self check-out and never come within 6' of another person. But, no I have not figured out what to do when I need a haircut.

**Wear a facemask when you go to a store and stay safe.**

### General Information

### THE MAY GENERAL MEETING IS CANCELLED TO HELP PROTECT OUR MEMBERS FROM THE CORONAVIRUS.

This decision will be confirmed by the Board in an on-line meeting on Monday. If something changes you will get an E-mail. The Board is looking into how we could hold a virtual, on-line General meeting in the future.

—Larry Stephan

## May MBS General Meeting Has Been Cancelled Due to COVID 19

The May meeting was originally scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 4th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

At the Board's April 13 meeting, which was held using Webex, we discussed cancelling our June meeting, as well. Decision made was to not cancel at this time but to continue to monitor the situation.

At the same time we created a subcommittee to explore the feasibility of an online general meeting for June, if not able to gather at the garden. Trying to determine best technology to use and what content could be effectively presented virtually. We will of course keep you posted on our progress.

# 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 cancelled.**

## **Saturday or Sunday May 2 or 3, 2020 BRING YOUR OWN DECIDUOUS TREE WORKSHOP with Owen Reich**

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Hidden Gardens Willowbrook, IL. Owen's work with deciduous trees is fantastic, as well as his horticultural skills. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Saturday May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 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](http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html) or call 630-655-8283.

**Monday May 4, 2020 CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19  
MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**  
For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

**Tuesday May 5, 2020  
MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**  
6:30PM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: "Whole Group Wiring Class" Steve and Brian will lead this class and take all your questions about wiring. For more Information go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/>

**Wednesday May 6, 2020  
PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**  
Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. 7:00pm, Program: Bonsai 101, Keeping Your Foliage Happy by Matt Mazza. 7:30pm, Program: Grafting by Jim Keith. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

**Saturday & Sunday, May 9 & 10, 2020 CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19  
MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY 15th ANNUAL MAY BONSAI EXHIBIT.**  
For further information, go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/may-exhibit>

**Saturday May 16, 2020  
BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**  
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**Wednesday, May 20, 2020 CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19  
CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING**  
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM, Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 North Central Park Ave, Chicago. For further information please email: [sukazu17@gmail.com](mailto:sukazu17@gmail.com) or call Susan Babyk at 773-235-9479.

**Saturday or Sunday May 23 or 24, 2020  
BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Mauro Stemberger**  
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Hidden Gardens Willowbrook, IL. This is a chance to learn repotting of collected material or how to style your tree with this Italian artist. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Saturday May 23, 2020  
TROPICAL TREE REPOTTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**  
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Pick a time and plan to spend ½ to 1 hour to complete repotting. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**Sunday, May 31, 2020  
BONSAI BASICS with Chris Baker**  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden, Plant Science Lab, Regenstein Center. You will learn about tools, wiring, soils, fertilizers, and year-round care. For further information go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/bonsai\\_basics](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bonsai_basics)

**Monday June 1, 2020  
MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**  
**Chicago Botanic** Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM, Program: Bonsai 101 TBD. 7:30 PM, Program: TBD. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

**Tuesday June 2, 2020  
MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**  
6:30 PM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: Group Stash. This year 12 deciduous trees will be supplied. We will break into small groups to design the trees. No charge and the trees will be judged then auctioned off. For more Information go to [http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs\\_schedule.html](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html)

**Wednesday, June 3, 2020  
PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**  
Room TEC/1038a College of DuPage. 7:00pm, Program: Bonsai 101: Bonsai Soil by Landen Gibbs. 7:30pm, 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**  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, in Warrenville, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information or to register go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

**Sunday 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, 2019  
SUNDAY NORTH SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters**  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Bring your own tree workshop. For further information or to register go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto: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

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# Monthly Care Report: What to Do in May

By May, most deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning schedules should be in full swing by now. Watering should now be done routinely. Cuttings of evergreens may still be taken. Air layering of deciduous and evergreens can be continued. Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees, as late frosts can damage young leaves.

Candles on pines can

be pinched any time as they elongate. Start with weak buds and do strong buds a week or so later. Spruce, juniper and larch shoots are probably ready for their first pinching of the season. Watch new growth on your deciduous trees and trim back to 1-2 pairs of leaves. It is critical to stay on top of maples now and pinch out the center bud as it emerges from the middle of the first two leaves. Watch wired branches carefully to avoid unsightly spiral scars

from bark growing over wires—deciduous trees in particular can expand very quickly in May and June.

May is not too late for repotting or field collecting, but this requires increasingly careful after-care as the season progresses. Trees repotted or collected in May should be protected from strong sun and wind until strong growth is observed, as leafy trees may suffer from transplant shock, so roots should be left intact as much as possible. Finish repotting pines early in the month. Remember to keep them in the shade for a few

weeks. Trees repotted in April can be given light doses of fertilizer.

Continue to patrol for insects, and adjust watering to match warmer weather. Careful use of insecticides and fungicides becomes increasingly useful at this time of year. Always read and follow manufacturer's directions, but keep in mind that trees in containers may do better with slightly diluted formulations.

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

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## Events Calendar

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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

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM, Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 North Central Park Ave, Chicago. For further information please email: [sukazu17@gmail.com](mailto: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](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

10:00 AM - 9:00 PM Thursday, 8:30 AM - 10:00 PM Friday and Saturday, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Sunday at Four Points by Sheraton Milwaukee North Shore, 8900 North Kildeer Court, Milwaukee, WI, 53209. Headlining Artists Francois Jeker from France and Ted Matson from California. Guest Artists are Byron Myrick (Mississippi), Jennifer Price (Illinois), Todd Schlafer (Colorado), Steve Carini (Wisconsin) and Ron Fortmann (Wisconsin). Join other enthusiasts and enjoy Vendors, Workshops, Demonstrations and displayed trees. For further information or to register go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/index.html>

The following article was in the Prairie State Newsletter last month. We contacted Matt Mazza and he agreed to let us publish same in our newsletter so that our members could take advantage of this information during CORVID-19 lock down.

## ONLINE RESOURCES By Matt Mazza

The intent of this section is not only to give you something to do while our State is engulfed in "Shelter at Home" to curtail COVID-19, but to give you constant resources for new information relating to bonsai care and design. These blogs/ websites are great at any time, but especially during the winter when you have some spare time away from the trees. I'll outline a bit below with the information to get yourselves signed up.

### Bonsai Bark (Free) by Wayne Schoech at Stone Lantern <https://stonelantern.com/blogs/bonsai-bark>

There is a "Subscribe to our newsletter" option on the right side of the screen. Anytime they post something to the Bonsai Bark blog, you will get an email notification.

This blog offers tidbits on just about anything bonsai. Examples include early development of trees, wiring and pruning, tree critiques, yard presentations, or a how a master decides on what pot to use for a particular tree. There are also photos of fantastic trees that you can think about for improving your own designs. You'll never get bored

### Bonsai Tonight (Free) by Jonas Dupuich <https://bonsaitonight.com/>

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## Chicago Bonsai Club

Due to the COVID-19 closures, the May meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be CANCELLED on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. We hope to meet on June 17 but watch for further information in your June MBS newsletter.

Chicago Bonsai Club meets at Garfield Park Conservatory, 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](mailto:sukazu17@gmail.com) or call Susan Babyk at 773-235-9479.

# Online Resources

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Sign up at the bottom of the page at: <https://bonsaitonight.com/beginners/>

I think Bonsai Tonight may be the best free online resource out there (not that I know many of them). If you go to the blog site, you will find loads of articles written about just about everything. An email is typically sent to you every 3 to 7 days of the latest posting so that you don't even have to go to the website. However, I suggest that you do for an index of past topics. The expanse of topics is too great to cover here.

## **Bonsai Empire (Paid Online Courses) <https://www.bonsaiempire.com/>**

While there is a blog and some free information on this website (not as good as the two previous resources), the meat and potatoes are the online courses, which I think are fantastic. The courses range from beginner to intermediate to advanced levels, and then there are special courses related to specific types of trees, i.e., deciduous or coniferous bonsai trees at the intermediate level.

What's very nice about this site is that when you purchase a class, it's yours for as long as Bonsai Empire is in existence. You just login and watch your class(es) as often as you would like. There is not an annual subscription; it's a one time course fee. Course fees range from \$15 to \$30 for beginners and \$50 to \$70 for intermediate and advanced levels. Time commitment involved is 1-1.5 hours for each beginner course to between 2 and 10 hours per course for the intermediate and advanced levels. The classes are taught by a number of different world-famous artists. I've gotten through most of the classes, and I can say firsthand that the classes are a real worthwhile bargain. Since I have purchased most of the classes, when a new class is offered, I typically get a something like a 30% discount on it (if I act quickly enough).

## **Eisei-En Bonsai-U (Online Donation for classes) by Bjorn BJORHOLM <http://bjornbjorholm.com/bonsai-u/>**

I believe that there are 8 classes in Bonsai-U. I haven't watched them yet, so maybe you can let us know what you think. I do like Bjorn BJORHOLM a lot as I can related well to his instruction. He does a number of video classes through Bonsai Empire, and that's how I know. He also has an Intensive on-site school at his shop in Tennessee. I would like to go there someday. I know one of our members already does and he highly recommends it. You can go to the Eisei-En website to learn more.

## **Bonsai Mirai (Online Subscription classes) by Ryan Neil**

**Website:** <https://www.bonsaimirai.com/>

**Classes:** <https://live.bonsaimirai.com/>

I'm probably going to get creamed by people for saying what I'm going to say here. Ryan Neil certainly has a lot of fans out there. He's earned it. He's truly an inspirational artist. He's extremely knowledgeable, and I'm impressed with his ability to properly use the English language. However, for my tastes and time availability, there is too much talk going on. The classes are live-streamed if you can watch them on schedule, or he has each of them recorded and cataloged on the site. I would love to get through all of them, but that's an impossibility for me especially with my commitments. The usual weekly sessions can last 2 hours or more. There are many videos that take much less time. My difficulty is that there needs to be a balance between time, talk and action. Too much time is taken talking during actions that could be reduced in time...but they can't be reduced because much of this is live-streamed. It would take significant amounts of editing to reduce the time in these streams for watching them as videos later.

The other thing that I don't like is that you can't pay for a class and 'own' it like you do with Bonsai Empire. You have to keep subscribing if you want to watch a particular class again...which I often do. Pricing is \$18/month for the Standard Level and \$30/month for the Pro Level. I'll let you go to the website to see the benefits of both.

Ryan provides great information and insights in these classes. Many people really prefer the way they are now. Personally, I need them more streamlined. Honest opinion, folks. That's why I'm paid the big bucks for this job. I do subscribe to the Standard Level, I watch whenever I can (or go back to oldies when I need to know how to do something), and I think that's fine for the vast majority of us.

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The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the Midwest Bonsai 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 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.

# 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

**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.