
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

Newsletter Thoughts

Ivan Watters Memorial Service will be held at the Kolssak Funeral Service, 189 So. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling on April 24th from 12 to 2 pm. The service will start at 12:30. Please do not send flowers. If you wish to make a donation please contribute to either the Ivan Watters Scholarship Fund (see below) or to the Midwest Bonsai Society. You are also invited to bring a small tree or Suiseki to display at the service. Time will be available during the service for anyone who wants to say a few words in memory of Ivan. Facemasks and social

distancing are expected to be in effect.

June Bonsai Event, Wheaton, IL, June 26th, 10 am. to 4 pm. It will be held at 1708 Ashton Court, Wheaton, IL 60187, South of Rt. 64 (north Ave.) and West of Rt. 83 (Robert Kingery Expressway). Vendors will include Linda Camp, BC Bonsai, Karen Shuman Pottery, Ken Matsumoto Scrolls. Victor Zurczak plans to sell some of his trees. BC Bonsai will hold a workshop with wiring of Shimpaku Juniper whips. The workshop cost is \$40.00. Midwest Bonsai Society will bring some

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shirts and other items for sale. In addition, we will be selling items from Ivan Watters tool sets and some memorabilia from his collections. Until further notice from the state we will plan on facemasks and social distancing.

The August Bonsai Exhibit at the Chicago Botanic Garden is still on track to be held 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.

Board of Directors - We have two slots open on the Board of Directors. Please let us know if you have an interest.

Ivan Watters Scholarship Fund. A member of the Midwest Bonsai Society has made a generous donation to open this fund. The Fund will work to support Bonsai Education and Studies to serious Bonsai students. It will be administered by the Midwest Bonsai Board or a special committee thereof.
—Larry Stephan

May Meeting Focus - Virtual Meeting via Webex

The May meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM on Monday, May 3rd, 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 "Wire and Wiring". 7:00 PM - General program; Demo of Rock Planting by Victor Zurczak. We will be able to ask questions during the meeting.

Hope you can join us for this event.

May Events Calendar

Please note: What we have shown below is a list of events scheduled as of April 20, 2021. Where we have information on cancellations due to COVID 19 we have included same. Good to see local clubs, while still not meeting in person, are getting some virtual meetings scheduled. In addition, 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 or Sunday, May 1 or 2, 2019

BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOPS with Owen Reich
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Hidden Gardens Willowbrook, IL. Owen is from Nashville, TN. He studied at Kouka-En in Japan. Owen favorite trees are deciduous but is capable of working on any species. For further information go to <http://www.hidden-garden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Monday May 3, 2021

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MAY MEETING - VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID 19

7:00 PM - No Bonsai 101 Program. Note that again we have included Bonsai 101 program "Wire and Wiring" in this Newsletter. 7:00 PM - General program; Demo "Rock Planting" by Victor Zurczak. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Tuesday May 4, 2020

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

6:30 PM, Zoom Meeting. Program: Michael Hagedorn will make his first appearance as an artist in Milwaukee. He will be discussing his book "Bonsai Heresy" published in 2020. He uses Mark Twain's quote "Education consist mainly in what we have unlearned" to describe it. For more Information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html

Wednesday May 5, 2021

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING - ZOOM MEETING DUE TO COVID 19

7:00 PM Program: Air Layering Propagation presented by Linda Camp - For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Saturday May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 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 or call 630-655-8283.

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

BONSAI DESIGN WORKSHOP: ONLINE with Chris Baker

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden via ZOOM. There are many different types and styles of bonsai design. Learn about your tree's "attitude", if it has tension or balance, the ins and outs of negative space, and traditional vs. natural styles. For more information or to register for workshop go to https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/deciduous_bonsai_tree_workshop_online

www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bonsai_design_online

Saturday, Sunday or Thursday May 15, 16 or 20, 2021
START DATE - 6 WEEK BEYOND BASICS BONSAI COURSE at BC Bonsai

Each week a different tree will be covered in detail: care, styling, advanced wiring/bending techniques and more at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday May 22, 2021

BRING YOUR OWN TREE 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 May 29, 2021

TROPICAL TREE REPOTTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

9:30 AM - 5:00 PM, Bring your own tree workshop. Timing is flexible. Plan at least 45 minutes per tree at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

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

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/>

Monday June 7, 2021

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY JUNE MEETING - WEBEX MEETING DUE TO COVID 19

7:00 PM, Program TBD. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

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 or call 630-655-8283.

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

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.

Bonsai 101

Wire and Wiring

Wire

Copper wire is the best. It is not only easy to handle but can be reused if it is heated or annealed. Galvanized wire is too springy and hard to handle, and may damage the branch. Aluminum wire was considered too bright and distracting, but now there is some on the market with a dull copper-like or black finish which is considered very good.

Wires come in all different sizes, and each size is needed for a different size branch. Gauges 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6mm and gauges 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26 are mostly used for bonsai.

Wiring

First, select the right size of wire in relation to the branch being wired. The thickness of the wire should be about 1/3 of the thickness branch or trunk,

being wires. Measure the length of the branch or trunk and add another 1/3 to it before cutting.

Always start with the trunk first, then wire all the primary branches before starting any secondary or smaller branches. Starting at the base of the trunk, continue wiring each branch, using different size wire as needed. Finish off at the tip.

Always wire towards the front, not sideways or backwards. In other words, stand in front of the branch that is to be wired and wire forward. This will improve view to avoid crushing any leaves or twigs that might get underneath the wire.

When wiring the trunk, start wiring from behind the trunk, by inserting the wire about 1 1/2 to 2 inches diagonally into the soil or until the wire is secure.

Angle of the wire should be 45 degrees. Do not

wire too far apart, not close together, not so uneven and not too tight. Not too loose. Wind in one direction only. Right turn or left turn. Do not cross wires.

If a large wire is not handy, several smaller gauge wires may be used. Use two or three, but wire one at a time. Do not leave space between each wire.

Do not continue wiring on extremely small branch, even if there is wire left over. It will damage the branch. Always anchor the wire tightly at the base (2 turns) and wind the wire with quick sharp turns to secure. Anchoring too loosely will not hold the branch in position. When wiring two same size branches with one wire, start from the trunk and wire separately (one clockwise and the other counterclockwise).

When bending branch downward, bring wire over and then under the branch. When bending branch upward, bring wire under and then over the branch. When bending a branch to the right, wire the branch

counter clockwise. When bending the branch to the left, wire the branch clockwise.

When to Wire

Watch the season. Some trees are brittle and some are flexible. Most conifers should be bent during the active season. If it needs drastic shaping, do not bend in mid-summer because there is a chance that it might loosen the bark, inner bark, cambium and sapwood, which would weaken or kill the plant.

Most deciduous trees should be bent in the spring before any sprouting, or just before dormancy. During dormancy most trees become very brittle. During the growing season it is hard to see the shape of the tree because of the leaves, also because the bark becomes very loose at this time. Do not bend during the flowering season, wait until it finishes blooming. Some deciduous trees, such as maple, elm and a few others can be bent and shaped after leaf cutting.

Chicago Bonsai Club

Our next regularly scheduled meeting, in May, 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. Please watch for more information in the MBS newsletter.

Please note that our MBS General meeting is virtual on June 3rd at 7:00 PM - General program; Demo "Rock Planting" by Victor Zurczak. This presentation was prepared by Chris Baker, Curator of Bonsai at Chicago Botanic Garden. Chicago Chapter members can join without the need to drive to the garden. See "May Meeting Focus" announcement.

If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: Susan at sukazu17@gmail.com or call 773-235-9479. Susan can also provide you with invitation/link and instruction for joining the general meeting.

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.