

MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

It's past the Spring Equinox, but it doesn't feel that way yet outside. In fact, the forecast for the week during which I'm writing this is calling for near-record low temperatures. But, April is sneaking up around the corner and I see some 50s and possibly 60-degree days on the horizon. Bonsai is supposed to be the art of patience, but I find that I tend to run out of it at this time of year. I have pots that I bought last year for specific trees that I have been waiting this long to put to use, so watching the weather stay too cold for repotting has been tiresome. There are only a few more weeks to wait and then we can jump right into spring repotting!

We do have a treat in store for us this month still—our meeting on March 31. We're trying to repeat it as much as possible, to make sure that we catch everyone. Our April meeting will actually be held on Monday, March 31 to

take advantage of speaker Ted Matson from CA. He's studied with many of the big names in California bonsai, was a co-founder of the CA Shohin Society, and was the Chair of the GSBF at the Huntington

Gardens, to name a few of his accomplishments.


Planning is going full steam ahead for the May show. We will be able to keep a very similar format to past years, as

we did manage to find enough vendors. We will be reducing the number of workshops, with an emphasis on beginner workshops for those new to bonsai. This is one of our major outreach efforts of the year, aimed at promoting bonsai as a hobby and recruiting new members. Please think of trees in training that you'd like to display, as this show is aimed at education. We want to show the various stages that trees go through, to demonstrate that it is a process. A process that people can actually learn if they are interested. So, don't worry about wire, training pots or the fact that you don't think the "tree is ready" to show. That's not the goal! This is not a formal show like August, this is an educational exhibit, and all trees are welcomed and encouraged.

So, remember that there's **no** meeting on April 7! It's been moved to March 31! I'll see you all then.
—Cat Nelson




**The Midwest Bonsai Society
Invites You to the 10th Annual
Spring Bonsai Show & Exhibit**



- Bonsai Trees
- Workshops
- Vendors
- Raffles
- Demonstrations

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CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN
1000 Lake Cook Road • Glencoe, Illinois
May 17 + 18, 2014 • 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
www.midwestbonsai.org

Events Calendar

Monday, March 31, 2014

(NOTE* MBS April meeting moved to March 31)

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY APRIL MEETING, 7:00 pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Guest Speaker Ted Matson.

Tuesday, April 1, 2014

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 7:30 pm. "Revisit Ginkos and Repot" Discussion and demonstration. For more information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 7:30 pm, Room TEC1038b. Program: Refining finished bonsai, presented by Ivan Watters. 7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Douglas Fir by Dan Kosta. For more information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING, 6 pm at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Contact suekazoo@hotmail.com for further information.

Monday, May 5, 2014

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 7:00 pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Guest Speaker TBA. For more information go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 7:30 pm.

Guest Artist – Peter Tea

Peter has been to our annual exhibit in the past and has been in Japan serving as an apprentice to sharpen his skills. He is an accomplished bonsai artist and can provide an entertaining and informative demonstration.. For more information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org .

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 7:30pm, Room TEC1038b. Program: Azalea demonstration by David Kreutz. 7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Ficus Namfolia my Mark Karczewski. For more information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

May 10 & 11, 2014 (Saturday & Sunday)

BONSAI SHOW at Frederik Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, Michigan, featuring internationally recognized bonsai artist Peter Tea. Register online at MeijerGardens.org/education • or call 616-975-3147.

May 17 & 18, 2014 (Saturday & Sunday)

10TH ANNUAL MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY BONSAI SHOW
For more information go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Chicago Bonsai Club

The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 16, beginning at 6 p.m. We will be repotting trees, so bring a tree and a pot. There will be senior members present to assist

beginners.

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.

April Meeting Focus

****Note Change in Date**
April Meeting Moved to
March 31!**

We've moved our April meeting to March 31, 2014 to take advantage of the opportunity to share a guest speaker: Ted Matson. Please make a note on your calendar. The April meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31st, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Fairchild Room, located in the Regenstein Center.

Ted Matson is a bonsai master who has studied with John Boyce, Ben

Suzuki, Shig and Roy Nagatoshi, Melba Tucker, Warren Hill and John Naka. Today he teaches across the U.S. and gives demonstrations and workshops at major bonsai conventions. A biography article published on the Bonsai Societies of Florida website states that "...a primary goal in his lectures and demonstrations is to help others improve their own abilities to recognize potential bonsai stock. And, he works to help people understand how to realize that potential through creative design and proper styling techniques."

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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.

Monthly Care Report: What to Do in April

By the end of March, depending on weather conditions, trees can be gradually brought out of winter shelter.

April is a great month for repotting, and for digging planted trees and collecting field grown ones. Begin your feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning schedules in earnest. Of course, be mindful of potential cold snaps, and be ready to protect vulnerable plants. This is the time we've all been waiting for!

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. Avoid repotting any larch that are showing green. If they are showing green, it is best to wait until next year.

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.

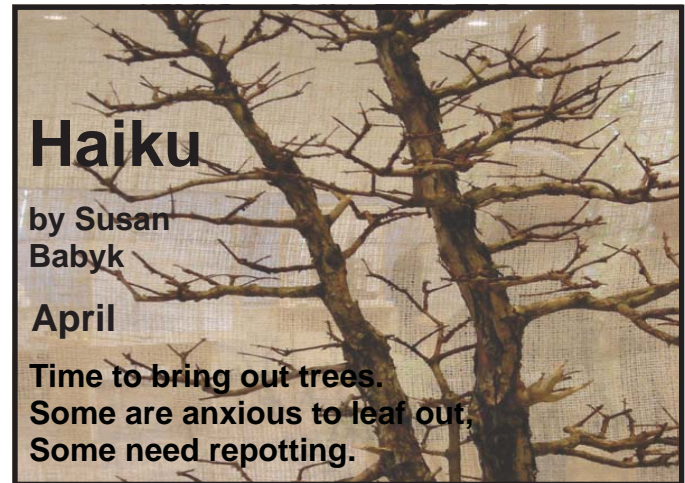
FERTILIZING... Do not feed your deciduous trees until the leaves have hardened off, that means not until all of the leaves are out and branch tips are starting to grow. If you feed them too early you will get a big flush of growth, which translates to long internodes and larger leaves. You could literally waste a season getting them back. You can start feeding your tropicals a bit more, but it is too early to move outside. 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.

PRUNING... Proper directional pruning of your bonsai is a must, to increase ramification and for good taper. 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. Those deciduous trees that you were unsure about pruning can probably be safely pruned in April, but protect them from heavy frost.

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



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Membership Renewal Reminder

July was the time to renew your Midwest Bonsai Society membership, so if you haven't already, please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on the last page of this newsletter. If you do not renew your membership by the end of the year you will no longer receive newsletters via email or snail mail. Your renewal is important in order for us to keep our mailing lists up-to-date. Thank you for your ongoing support. 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

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60035-7373

Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

\$35 Electronic Newsletter **OR \$40** Newsletter by Mail