
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

First of all, I would like to welcome Victor Zurczak as the new Vice President of Programs, in charge of planning and scheduling our club meetings. If you have ideas for future meetings, see Victor. I believe we will also have filled the Public Relations position on the Board by the time you receive this newsletter.

We are now getting into one of the more dangerous seasons for our trees (in the top four, anyway)—trying to determine when to take them out of winter protection and what kind of temperature drop would prompt a quick return. For hardy trees, overnight temperatures around 30F seem to pose little risk but a dip to 25F or so last Spring right after bringing it out cost me a nice Yew (and my first Yamadori). Lesson learned, and I can manage with the few trees I have, but what do folks do who have 40+ trees in your collection?

I'm told now is the time to collect Larch. Apparently they have a very narrow window of time after the ground thaws but before the buds swell significantly. Most other native species have a broader window of time for collection. We may not have the mountains

and bogs of other locations but urban Yamadori?—we've got that. Digging a nice-sized tree and healthy rootball from the ground is physically demanding work but does come with bragging rights.

Our April meeting will focus on repotting. After a demo of the new website (more on that below) we will do an introductory session on why we must root-prune and repot bonsai, and how to know when your tree needs it. Then we break out the soil and start repotting trees. You are strongly encouraged to bring a tree and the pot you'd like to put it in. The club will provide the soil and we have a few pots for members who may not have one, but no guaranteeing we will have the right size and shape. While we may have a limited selection of pots, there will be no shortage of advice from more experienced members.

The new website is now "live," so be sure to take a look. We expect to have a demonstration at the meeting if we can get the electronics talking to each other. The new website now gives you the ability to easily confirm workshop availability, register, and

get immediate confirmation that your registration was accepted. You can renew your membership online as well. Another benefit of the new site is that it is very easy to update. That may not sound like much but it was a serious task to put any new content on our old website. I'm not sure what we'll do with this new-found freedom but I hope that our members will get involved

The May show must be getting near because we're seeing the first inquiries and workshop registration requests show up on the club email account. Larry Stephan says the vendor placements and workshop rooms are fully booked so now it's just a matter of time—and signing up

volunteers. If you have volunteered before, you know how rewarding it can be, and how necessary to the success of the show. If you haven't volunteered before, May is a great chance to get involved and see the show from the inside. As you bring your trees out of storage and look them over, be thinking about which ones you would like to display in May. As has been said before, the May show is all about development and the process of creating bonsai. Let us share in your tree's journey from first wiring all the way through to a future August Best-in-Show.

I hope to see you all at the April meeting.
—Jay Albright



Victor Zurczak

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Events Calendar

Friday, March 27

SOIL SCIENCE & FERTILIZATION CLASS,
9 am – 12 pm, Chicago Botanic Garden, taught by Chris Baker.
For more info go to chicagobotanic.org

Saturday & Sunday, March 28 & 29

(rain dates: April 11 & 12)
BC Bonsai Nursery, Paw Paw, IL. Harvesting Workshop,
10 am – 5 pm. Learn to dig & pot your yamadori. For further
information, to reserve your spot, or get directions, call 630-
690-0404 or 630-386-1515.

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING,
7:30pm, Room TBATEC1038b. Program: Repotting workshop.
7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Pot selection. For further information go
to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Monday, April 6, 2015

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY APRIL MEETING,
7:30 pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located
in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 pm, Bonsai 101 Why we repot;
7:30 pm, Repotting hands-on workshop. Bring trees & pots.

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,
6:30 pm, Program: Tool Sharpening and Group Slashing. For
further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Saturday, April 11, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY Novice Class 4,
9 am – 1 pm. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Sunday, April 12, 2013

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY Open Workshop - Repotting,
10 am – 1 pm. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING,
6:00 pm at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Hands-on repotting
workshop. Bring plants and pots. Contact suekazoo@hotmail.com
for further information.

Friday, April 24

BONSAI REFINEMENT WORKSHOP,
9 am – 12 pm, Chicago Botanic Garden, taught by Chris Baker.
Bring your own tree. For more info go to chicagobotanic.org

Sunday, May 3, 2015

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY Intermediate Workshop -
Repotting,** 9 am - 3 pm. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Monday, May 4, 2015

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MAY MEETING,
7:30 pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall,
located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 pm, Bonsai 101 (topic
TBD). 7:30 pm, general meeting (topic TBD).

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,
6:30 pm. Guest Artist: Mauro Stemberger. For further informa-
tion go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING,
7:30pm, Room TBATEC1038b Program: Show prep, 7:00pm,
Bonsai 101, TBA. For further information go to [www.prairies-
tatebonsai.com](http://www.prairies-
tatebonsai.com)

Saturday, May 9, 2015

WORLD BONSAI DAY, 10 am – 4 pm, Chicago Botanic Garden.
Chris Baker will be demonstrating bonsai styling and rock slab
planting, and leading a walk-through of the bonsai collection.
For further information, go to: chicagobotanic.org

New Website Now Online

With the expert help of our Webmaster, Matthew Corpolongo, the Midwest Bonsai Society has rolled out its new, improved website. The new website gives you the ability to easily confirm workshop availability, register online, and get immediate confirmation that your registration was accepted. You can renew your membership online as well. The address will remain the same.

April Meeting Focus

The April meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 6, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00pm - Bonsai 101, topic: introductory session

on why we must root-prune and repot bonsai, and how to know when your tree needs it; 7:30pm: General Meeting, topic Repotting Session. You are strongly encouraged to bring a tree and the pot you'd like to put it in. The club will provide the soil and we have a few pots for members who may not have one.

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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 end of March and into April

When the temperature is consistently 65 degrees and sunny you can bring your trees out of their winter storage area. Get started repotting your deciduous trees. Junipers are OK to do, and pines can be started any time during the month. Continue to provide good after-care, by protecting repotted trees from frosts, which will still happen in April.

You can begin fertilizing trees repotted in April. Keep your initial fertilizer mix on the light side for those first couple doses of fertilizer. April is still a decent month for root-pruning, and for digging trees from yard or field. 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.

Tropical trees will be showing new growth, even under lights. Cuttings will be easier to root now that the days are lengthening. Use a rooting hormone as an aid. As always, keep a close watch for insects, which may show up fast as the weather warms. As April gets closer you may want to start some plants from seeds.

Compiled from several web articles and adapted to our area.—Ed Hake.

Haiku

by Susan Babyk

At Last



**As the cycle spins,
Spring stirs most contentedly,
Reawakening.**

© 2010 Chicago Botanic Garden

Chicago Bonsai Club

The April meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be on Wednesday, April 15, beginning at 6 p.m. We will be repotting trees, and providing soil and assistance, so bring a plant and a pot.

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.

Midwest Bonsai Society Board Members

as of April 2015

President, Jay Albright
Executive VP, Rich Helminiak
Past President, Jim Fairchild
VP Special Events, Larry Stephen
VP Programs, Victor Zurczak
Treasurer, Phil Troy
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Assistant Editorial, Gail Thompson
Community Outreach, Eva Hernandez-Thomas
Member at Large, Ivan Watters
Member at Large, Tony Welninski
Prairie State Representative, Dan Turner
Webmaster, Matthew Corpolongo

World Bonsai Day

Save the date:
May 9, 2015

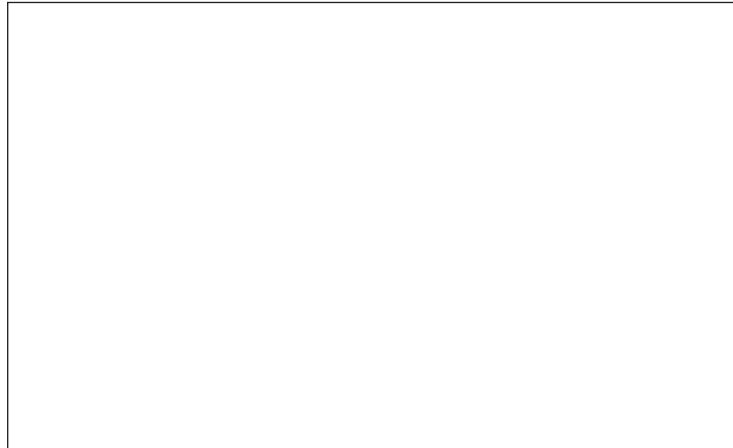
Location: Chicago Botanic Garden in the East Courtyard. Chris Baker, Bonsai Collection Curator, will show how major tree shaping is done with a plant being formed into a bonsai. He will demonstrate how to create a "landscape planting" with multiple bonsai on a rock slab. And he will lead a tour through the bonsai collection courtyards. For specific times go to chicagobotanic.org or look for schedule in our May newsletter.

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

Membership Information

To become a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society or renew your current membership (July is the month to renew), please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on the last page of this newsletter, and mail it in with your check. 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

Highland Park, Illinois

60035-7373

Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

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