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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## President's Message

You might notice the newsletter is a little early this month. That's because, thanks to a scheduling conflict with the Garden, our annual repotting meeting which usually falls on the first Monday of April will instead fall on the last Monday of March—the 27th to be exact. So, I hope everybody got all the info on soils, pot preparation, and finding the front of your trees so that we can bring it all together at the meeting. March looks to be a cold month this year, despite the pleasantly warm February we had, so it is not yet time to take those trees completely out of winter storage. It is, however, a good time to pull those wires that are getting close to biting. The trees will start their spring growth spurt shortly and those wires will bite fast and hard if we're not ready for it.

Looking ahead to the May meeting—we've taken some of your feedback to plan the menu. A lot of people asked about the care of conifers, so we've taken the opportunity to have Phil Malhoit present a program comparing and contrasting the care of Pines (the experienced level plant) versus Junipers

(the beginners plant). Bring your notebooks. Also in May will be our annual spring exhibit. Posters and signage are ready, and will be available at the general meetings. Also available is the volunteer signup sheet, and while the May Exhibition is not as intensive in its staffing requirements, many hands make light work. Finally don't forget to check out and register for the workshops available at the show on the Society website: [MidwestBonsai.org](http://MidwestBonsai.org). The workshops this year are geared toward beginner and intermediate students and are a good way to acquire trees and some in-depth knowledge about their care in one place.

In other news, we've gained a candidate for Public Relations Officer, and we are very grateful to have his interest. Sadly, however, our Vice President of Programs has decided to vacate the position for personal reasons. I'm going to take this opportunity to thank him for his service. He has been a worthy asset to the Society. Thank you for your time and effort, Victor.

If anyone has an interest in

stepping into the shoes of Vice President of Programming, please drop a note to the Society E-mail at [Midwest.Bonsai@Yahoo.com](mailto:Midwest.Bonsai@Yahoo.com). There are no hard qualifications for the position, but there are several skills that would be useful. The first would be good contacts in the Bonsai community at large. The more people you know the easier it is to fill the schedule. The next thing would be teaching experience. Having experience teaching or forming a lesson plan will make it easier to put together a targeted series of programs for the year. Another very useful skill to have would be the rarest—public speaking. If you have any or all of these, fantastic, we'd love to hear from you.

If you don't, apply anyway, because the most necessary thing to have is a willing heart.

Coming up for late March/early April, Ivan Watters is holding Beginner and Experienced classes at the Morton Arboretum starting April 1st. Check the Arboretum website for details. Also on April 1st B.C. Bonsai will be holding a harvesting workshop at their nursery in Paw-Paw, IL. Contact B.C. at 630-690-0404 to register ahead. Finally, Walter Pall is appearing at Hidden Gardens April 19th. Again, see the Hidden Gardens website for details.

*Sincerely,  
Robert Wright*

### Chicago Bonsai Club

The April meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, April 19, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a plant to work on.

Chicago Bonsai Club meets at Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago. Contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) or call 773-235-9479.

# Events Calendar

**Monday, March 27, 2017**

**NOTE: The April meeting will be on Monday, March 27  
MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program begins at 7PM, our annual repotting program. Bring your trees, soil provided. There will be no Bonsai 101 but bring trees for advice and comments from expert members. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Saturday, April 1, 2017**

**INTERMEDIATE BONSAI LEVEL 1 WORKSHOPS**

with Ivan Watters, (6 Saturdays, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM), Morton Arboretum. For further information see insert in this newsletter. To register go to [www.mortonarb.org/education](http://www.mortonarb.org/education) or call 630-719-2468.

**Saturday, April 1, 2017**

**BONSAI FOR BEGINNERS WORKSHOPS**

with Ivan Watters, (6 Saturdays, 1:00-4:00 PM), Morton Arboretum. For further information see insert in this newsletter. To register go to [www.mortonarb.org/education](http://www.mortonarb.org/education) or call 630-719-2468.

**Saturday, April 1, 2017**

**HARVESTING WORKSHOP,**

B C Bonsai, Paw Paw, IL. To register call 630-690-0404

**Tuesday, April 4, 2017**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI MEETING,**

6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. MBS Presentation, Jin/Shari/Carving. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, April 5, 2017**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

General Meeting 7:30pm, Room TEC1038b Program: TBD. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Friday, April 7 – Sunday, April 9, 2017**

**MID-ATLANTIC SOCIETIES SPRING FESTIVAL,**

Cromwell, CT For further information go to [www.midatlanticbonsai.org](http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org).

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING,**

6:00 PM, Garfield Park Conservatory. Bring a tree to work on to prepare for the May MBS Exhibit. Senior members will be present to answer questions & give assistance. For further information, contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com)

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

**HIDDEN GARDENS PRESENTATION,**

6:00 PM, Walter Pall will speak. For further information go to [www.thehiddengardens.net](http://www.thehiddengardens.net) or call 630-655-8283

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

**FOREST PLANTING WORKSHOP,**

6:00 PM, Chris Baker at Chicago Botanic Garden.

For further information go to [www.chicagobotanic.org/education](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/education) or call 847-835-8261

**Monday, May 1, 2017**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: at 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101, topic TBA. 7:30 PM: Phil Malhoit will compare/contrast care of pines vs junipers. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI MEETING,**

6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. Brian Huddleson, Plant diseases. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, May 3, 2017**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

General Meeting 7:30pm, Room TEC1038b Program: TBD. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Tuesday, May 16, 2017**

**BONSAI: BEGINNER BASICS & FUNDAMENTALS,**

(6 Saturdays, 6:00 – 9:00 PM), Chris Baker at Chicago Botanic Garden. For further information go to [www.chicagobotanic.org/education](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/education) or call 847-835-8261

**Saturday, May 20 – Sunday May 21, 2017**

**13TH ANNUAL MBS MAY BONSAI EXHIBITION,**

9:00 – 5:00PM, Chicago Botanic Garden. For further information to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Thursday, May 25 – Sunday, May 28, 2017**

**AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY (ABS)**

**LEARNING SEMINAR**

Orlando, FL. For more information, go to [www.absbonsai.org](http://www.absbonsai.org).

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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.

## Bonsai for Beginners H121

Learn the art of bonsai during this six-week hands-on course. Discover principles and techniques to appreciate and practice the craft of bonsai. Each session includes detailed instruction from bonsai expert practitioner Ivan Watters and individualized assistance with design, styling and wiring.

**Instructor:** Ivan Watters

Six Saturdays, April 1, 8, (no class on April 15)  
22, 29, May 6, and 13, 2017  
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Thornhill Education Center

\$183 member/\$229 nonmember

## About the Instructor



Ivan Watters has been practicing bonsai for over fifty years and teaching it for over forty years. He has studied under nationally renowned bonsai instructors in the United States and abroad, and he travels to Japan each year to further hone his skills. A past president of the

Prairie State Bonsai Society and a member of the board of the Midwest Bonsai Society, Ivan brings his passion and experience back to The Arboretum this summer.



## Intermediate Bonsai Level 1 H221

For those with considerable familiarity and experience with the fundamentals of bonsai, take your practice to the next step. Learn development techniques during this six-week hands-on course. Each session includes detailed instruction from bonsai expert practitioner Ivan Watters, supervised work on trees, and critique of work completed during the course.

**Instructor:** Ivan Watters

Six Saturdays, April 1, 8, (no class on April 15)  
22, 29, May 6, and 13, 2017  
9:00 a.m. to noon  
Thornhill Education Center

\$209 member/\$255 nonmember

**Space is limited! Register online at [mortonarb.org/education](http://mortonarb.org/education) or call 630-719-2468 today.**





# The Midwest Bonsai Society invites you to the 13th Annual May Bonsai Exhibit

- Free Admission
- Bonsai Trees
- Suiseki
- Workshops
- Vendors
- Demonstrations



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

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CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 Lake Cook Road • Glencoe, Illinois  
May 20 & 21, 2017 • 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**Parking fees apply**



# Monthly Care Report:

## What to Do in the 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, wa-

tering, 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.

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



### April Meeting Focus

**Monday, March 27, 2017**

**NOTE: The April meeting will be on Monday, March 27.**

This will be a chance for you to do some repotting, so bring your trees (and

pots, if you have them). Soil will be provided. There will be no Bonsai 101 but, if you do not want to repot, you should still bring in trees for advice and comments from expert members.

#### Midwest Bonsai Society Board Members

President	Robert Wright (interim)
Executive Vice President	Kurt Nykaza
Vice President Programs	Vacant
Vice President Special Events	Larry Stephan
Treasurer	Phil Troy
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Members at Large	Eva Hernandez-Thomas
	Ivan Watters
	Tony Welninski
Prairie State Representative	Vacant

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 re-new your current membership (July is the month to renew), please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on this 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

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Address

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City, State, Zip Code

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Telephone

Date

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Email

Please Check If Renewal

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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