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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## President's Message

News, news, news, news. April is full of news for the Society. Starting with the **April General Meeting**, we have a headliner all the way from the west coast. **Austin Heitzman**, craftsman of fine furnishings and some of the most avant garde bonsai stands today (see his work at [www.austinheitzmanfurniture.com](http://www.austinheitzmanfurniture.com)) will be talking to us about stands and displays. Austin's works have supported numerous prizewinning displays across the U.S. from the Artisans Cup on the west coast to the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition near Rochester, New York, to our own Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition. Austin works closely with Ryan Neil of Bonsai Mirai to craft stands that evoke the spirit of the tree for which they are designed. It should be a very interesting talk. Join us **April 2nd** in the **Bernstein Room** at the **Chicago Botanic Gardens**.

April will also see the debut of the Society's new multimedia projector. After almost 3 years of debate and study, the Society has acquired a projector unit with brighter, more colorful, and far more detailed images. The new projector will pair with the handheld camera acquired last year

to allow us to get close in to the action during critiques and demonstrations, some of you may remember a few meetings in the last couple of years where we experimented with the live camera and we had a lot of positive feedback from the attempts. It is our hope in the future to be able to online for those who can't attend the meetings in person for various reasons.

Late April should see temperatures stabilize enough to bring out our trees and start working on them for the **May Exhibition** just five weeks after our April meeting on **May 11th, 12th, and 13th**. I look forward to seeing your trees and the creative displays you're planning. Watch your E-mail for the list of open **volunteer positions**, we have a lot of holes to fill yet. We especially need **Docent** volunteers to interact with the public and provide watchful eyes for our trees. We seem to have an especially hard time getting volunteers on Sunday mornings, so if you are able to fill in at that time, it would be most appreciated.

The end of the May Exhibition will start our 3 month

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countdown to the **41st Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit**. It really seemed like the show was years away in January, but my how the time flies. Our Guest Judge, **Naoki Maeoka**, (my apologies if I didn't get that spelled correctly) is coming direct from Japan this year, keep that in mind while you prepare your displays.

Two new books are available in the **library**. The well-recommended "**Bonsai Survival Guide**" by Colin Lewis, and "**Tropical Green Sheets 2**" by Martha Goff. Both are packed with horticultural information on bonsai species. Mr. Lewis' book focuses on commonly used species, while "Tropical Green Sheets 2" has a number of rarer species listed along with a plethora of other information ranging from using sphagnum moss to soil sifting and repotting to a year-long lead up for preparing exhibit trees. Both these books should

be useful for beginner and experienced hands alike and I think they are a good addition to the stacks.

Intermediate classes are still in session with Ivan Watters. Saturday afternoons at B.C. Bonsai have a limited number of 5 seats available due to limited parking conditions. So call ahead to reserve your seat. Sunday mornings see him instructing at the residence of Brendan Barry in Lake Forest. There are more seats available Sunday, but again, call ahead to be sure of a seat. B.C. Bonsai are also holding harvesting workshops at their Paw Paw, Illinois grow fields on March 31st, April 1st, April 7th, and April 8th. Cost starts at \$20 and may go up depending on the tree you choose. For more details call B.C. Bonsai.

That's all I have for this month. I look forward to seeing you at the meeting April 2nd. —*Robert Wright*

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## Midwest Bonsai Society Board Members

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# Events Calendar

**Sunday, April 1, 8, 15, & 22, 29 2018**

**BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters,**  
10:00 AM-2:00 PM, Brendan Berry's residence. For further information or to register go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847-917-0817.

**Monday, April 2, 2018**

**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 TBD. 7:30 PM, Austin Heitzman, a studio furniture maker from Portland, Oregon, will talk about Bonsai Stands. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Tuesday, April 3, 2018**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**  
6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. MBS Presentation – Austin Heitzman custom bonsai stands. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, April 4, 2018**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**  
at TEC/1038b College of DuPage. Program: at 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101, Topic Fertilizers by TBD. 7:30 PM, Topic Carving by Jennifer. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Saturday, April 7 or Sunday April 8, 2018**

**BC BONSAI HARVESTING WORKSHOPS,**  
Starting at 10:00 AM in Paw Paw, IL. For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Friday, April 13 – Sunday, April 15, 2018**

**MID-ATLANTIC SOCIETIES SPRING FESTIVAL,**  
Cromwell, CT. For further info go to <http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org/>

**Saturday April 14 or Sunday, April 15, 2017**

**HIDDEN GARDENS OWEN REICH WORKSHOPS,**  
9:00 AM to 4 PM Willowbrook, bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/index.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Wednesday, April 18, 2018**

**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 18, 2018**

**ROOT OVER ROCK,**  
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Chris Baker at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/root\\_over\\_rock\\_bonsai?range\\_start=2018-04-18](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/root_over_rock_bonsai?range_start=2018-04-18)

**Thursday, April 19 – Sunday, April 22, 2017**

**AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY (ABS)  
2018 GATEWAY TO BONSAI COVENTION**  
Collinsville, IL. For more information, go to <http://absbonsai.org/events>

**Tuesday, May 1, 2018**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**  
6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. MBS Presentation – TBD. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, May 2, 2018**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**  
Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. Program; at 7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Understanding Biostimulants and Other Such Chemicals by TBD 7:30pm, Program: Wiring/styling by Mark Karczewski. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Monday, May 5, 2018**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**  
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Pullman Room, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: at 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101, Topic TBD. 7:30 PM: Program TBD. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Saturday, May 5, 19 & 26, 2018**

**BC BONSAI HARVESTING WORKSHOPS:**  
Starting at 10:00 AM in Paw Paw, IL. For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Saturday May 5 or Sunday, May 6, 2018**

**HIDDEN GARDENS WILL BADDELEY WORKSHOPS,**  
9:00 AM to 4 PM, bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/index.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Sunday May, 6, 20 & 27, 2018**

**BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters,**  
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Brendan Berry's residence. For further information or to register go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847-917-0817.

**Saturday, May 19 or Sunday April 20, 2018**

**BC BONSAI WORKSHOPS: Spring Candling Of Pines**  
For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Saturday May 19 or Sunday, May 20, 2018**

**HIDDEN GARDENS JAN CULEK WORKSHOPS,**  
9:00 AM to 4PM, Bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/index.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Saturday May 26, 2018**

**BC BONSAI WORKSHOP: Repotting Tropical Trees.**  
For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

# Monthly Care Report:

## What to Do in 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, pinch-

ing, 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. In April you may want to start some plants from seeds.

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

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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.

## Chicago Bonsai Club

The April meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, April 18, 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 or call 773-235-9479.



The Midwest Bonsai Society invites you to the 14th Annual May Bonsai Exhibit



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 Lake Cook Road  
Glencoe, Illinois  
May 12 & 13, 2018  
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Parking fees apply

## Midwest Bonsai May Exhibit

The May Exhibit on May 12th and 13th will be here before you know it. We are counting on your support to make the Exhibit successful. Volunteer help is needed on Friday, May 11th to set up the room and bring in trees. On Saturday and Sunday we will need volunteers to act as docents, man tables and help with the Children's workshops. If you are available please do one of the following. You can sign up on the volunteer sheet at the March General Meeting or you can E-mail Larry Stephan at lstephan1@comcast.net Just indicate what days and times you are available and what you would like to do.

## April Meeting Focus

The April meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 2, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Bonsai 101 begins at 7 pm. Program TBD. At 7:30 pm, Austin Heitzman, a studio furniture maker from Portland, Oregon, will talk about Bonsai Stands.

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

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