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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## Newsletter Thoughts

As we sit in our houses and apartments all we see outside is snow and ice. It is hard to remember that a few short months ago we were working outdoors with our trees. And the new Omicron version of the virus just adds to our anxiety and pain.

But we are in a new year and I believe things are going to get better. The Holiday pot luck dinner at the Heller Nature Center in early December went well with lots of good food and companionship. Lots of people took home interesting treasures from the raffle. We thank Jim Fairchild for running the raffle.

Happy to announce that, based on our November election results, we have virtually filled all of our board positions. After holding the position on a temporary basis, I am now officially the Board President. What made this possible was Matt Mazza's decision to volunteer as our

Vice President Special Events which occupied much of my time in the past. We also want to thank and welcome Jennifer Fonseca who volunteered as our Social Chair and Judy Doll who filled our last open Member at Large position. We have included a full list of board members elsewhere in this newsletter.

Plans are being made for the May Exhibit on May 14th and 15th at the Chicago Botanic Garden. I expect all our usual vendors will be there. Once again our exhibit will be held during World Bonsai Day on the 14th. Matt Mazza, in his new role on the board, has taken charge of the Exhibits and is working hard to get both May and August Exhibits organized.

In order to present an enjoyable experience, including for those who will be seeing our art form for the first time, we need members to participate. Please start planning

which trees you would like to display. Unlike the August Exhibit, May show is intended to give attendees a view of unfinished trees and an explanation of what we intend to do to further develop them. So, take the time to pick out one of your favorite future masterpieces and a description of your next steps or show old pictures to illustrate progress already made.

Since May is a smaller and shorter duration show we do not need as many volunteers as we do for the August Exhibit, but we still need a significant amount of time from members to help with set up, tear down and security for our trees. It is also important to have members available to answer questions from the public and to sell our MBS merchandise. So please keep an eye out for the volunteer roster and let us know how and when you can help out.

The next general meeting will be held on Feb. 7th at the Garden. Program will include Victor's Bonsai 101 presentation "Tools for the Bonsai Workshop" and the General program will be "Sharpening Your Tools" by Jim Beck from BC Bonsai. Jim will be bringing his equipment and will sharpen tools brought in by our members.

Later this month BCI magazine will be publishing an 8-page feature article on our August Exhibit. When it is published, we will send out a link so you can purchase a copy, if you are not already a subscriber. The pictures Jen Fonseca took of the trees shown at our Exhibit turned it into a beautiful article. Should be great exposure to help create interest in this year's Exhibit.

One exciting thing has happened regarding this year's August Exhibit. Mark Fields has accepted our invitation to be the Guest Judge. Mark is the owner of Bonsai by Fields and has been a vendor at our Exhibit for many years. He is also the current President of the American Bonsai Society.

As we start the new year, please know that we are always looking for ways to better serve our membership. So, if you have any suggestions for Newsletter articles or features, guest artist you would like to see, topics for meeting programs or anything else please let us know. You can do this by talking to any of our board members or send an email to [MBSBonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:MBSBonsai@yahoo.com)

Now we can just all hope for a little warm-up in the weather.

—Larry Stephan

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## Bonsai Crossing Borders: Women in Bonsai

Thursday January 27, 2021 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

As part of The North Carolina Arboretum's Adult Education program Chicago Land's very own Jennifer Price will be featured. Considering gender as a kind of border crossing, the Arboretum will talk with Jennifer about pushing through boundaries, her own or imposed by culture, to be poised where she is in her career. For more information including how to register call 828-665-2492 or go to <https://4020a.blackbaudhosting.com/4020a/AE22-Bonsai-Crossing-Borders-Women-in-Bonsai>

# February Events Calendar

**Tuesday February 2, 2022**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING –  
via ZOOM**

7:00 PM Program; Pines Presentation by Mauro Stemberger from Feltre, Italy. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

**Tuesday February 2, 2022**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

6:30 PM, Zoom Meeting. Program: Guest Artist Mark Fields on Wiring and Pulling Needles on Black Pines. For further information go to Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org

**Saturday February 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2022**

**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](http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html) or call 630-655-8283.

**Monday February 7, 2022**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY FEBRUARY MEETING**

Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein.

7:00 PM Bonsai 101 Program: Tools for the Bonsai Workshop presented by Victor Zurczak General Program: Sharpening Bonsai Tools by Jim Beck. Bring in a tool for Jim to sharpen. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

**Saturday, February 12, 2022**

**PSBS WINTER SILHOUETTE BONSAI EXHIBIT**

Cantigny Park in Wheaton IL.

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Both members and non-members are welcome to display their deciduous trees in the natural winter

stage of development. For further information including sign up for showing a tree go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/event/psbs-winter-silhouette-bonsai-exhibit/>

**Tuesday March 2, 2022**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

6:30 PM, ZOOM Meeting. Program: Guest Artist - Mauro Stemberger's presentation will cover Bonsai Design. For further information go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/Newsletters/MBS202211news.pdf>

**Saturday March 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2022**

**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](http://www.hidden.garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html) or call 630-655-8283.

**Monday March 7, 2022**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MARCH MEETING**

Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center or via WebEx Meeting (Invitation to be sent via email).

7:00 PM General Program: Mame Bonsai Workshop – by Linda Camp. Come and just observe or create your own tree. Material cost including pot, soil and tree available for \$30 to \$50 depending on tree selected. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

**Saturday March 12, 2022**

**MINIATURE BONSAI WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. For more information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

**Saturday March 19, 2022**

**HARVESTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai.**

9:30 AM - 3:30 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Harvest pine, juniper or Japanese Maple. For more information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

## MBS Help Line Reminder

Don't forget that we have a help line service that you can access by emailing us at [MBSBonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:MBSBonsai@yahoo.com) One of our senior members will answer your questions and/or offer suggestions. We have coupled this with a new blog feature where we publish these questions and responses for all members to view. There is a direct link to the section from the left-hand navigation bar on our website Home Page labeled "Bonsai Helpline". Here is link <https://www.midwestbonsai.org/bonsai-helpline>

# Monthly Care Report - What to do in February

In our area, early February can be very severe weather-wise and late February can be the beginning of early spring. It is a bit too early to repot, but if you need to repot, be sure to be vigilant about not letting your repotted trees freeze, since a cold snap can be just around the corner. When there is a break in the weather, you can wire your deciduous trees while the buds are still small.

Get your tools ready by sharpening them. Jim Beck

from BC Bonsai will be at our February meeting demonstrating how to sharpen tools and has offered to sharpen tools brought in by members. Consider your soil needs for repotting. If you need soil, contact BC Bonsai or Hidden Gardens to purchase some. You can begin to prune deciduous trees taking care to be sure that remaining branches and shoots are in good health. If in doubt as to whether buds on a particular branch or shoot are viable, then wait to prune until you

see some bud-swell. Don't forget to sterilize your tools with alcohol before going on to another tree in order to avoid spreading diseases and/or pests.

If the ground has thawed it is also possible to lift trees from the ground and do some undercutting. Leave evergreens until later. Branch pruning of deciduous and evergreen trees can be done (except Japanese maples and pines). Any major redesign and reshaping of trees can be done now. Can't wait to see what February has in store for us. Also, I stress for everyone to know and study each species of tree you have. Knowing their natural environ-

ment and growing conditions will enable you to take much better care of that tree.

My tropical trees seem to know that the days are getting longer as I can see a little more growth and some need a little pruning. My thermometer in the basement ranges from the low 50s to the mid 60s this time of year. So far, I have not seen any pests on my plants, but I remain vigilant in checking under leaves and along stems.

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

## The Midwest Bonsai Society Officers & Chairpersons

**President:** Larry Stephan

**Executive Vice President:** James Fairchild

**Representative of Chicago Botanic Garden:** Open

**Past President:** Robert Wright

**Vice President Monthly Programs:** Victor Zurczak

**Vice President Special Events:** Matt Mazza

**Treasurer:** Phil Troy

**Membership Chair:** Peter Buckley

**Recording Secretary:** Bob King

**Member at Large:** Eva Hernandez-Thomas

**Member at Large:** Linda Camp

**Member at Large:** Judy Doll

**Editorial Chair:** Dick Ruemmele

**Assistant Editorial:** Gail Thompson

**Librarian:** Amy Wright

**Public Relations Chair:** Jose Fonseca

**Social Chair:** Jennifer Fonseca

**Webmaster:** Matthew Corpolongo

**Prairie State Bonsai Society Representative:** Open

If any member is interested in any of the above referenced open positions contact a current board member or make your interest known at the February meeting.

## February Meeting Focus

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 7th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

7:00 pm – Bonsai 101 program; Tools for the Bonsai Workshop presented by Victor Zurczak.

7:30 pm - General program; Sharpening Bonsai Tools presented by Jim Beck. You are invited to bring in a tool for Jim to sharpen.

## Chicago Bonsai Club

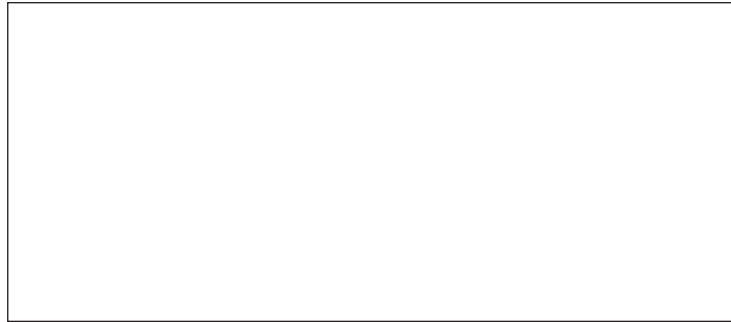
There will not be a meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, in February. Our first meeting of the year is normally March, however this year we have not yet found an available location. We will provide more information in the March Newsletter.

If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 773-235-9479.

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

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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

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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.