
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

COLD, COLD, COLD!
It has been a frosty few weeks. I hope everyone's survived the bitter cold. I have had a space heater running in my garage 24 hours a day for most of the freezing temperature days.

Normally I would be writing about getting ready for our May Exhibit but this year the Botanic Gardens had thrown us a curve ball. The Gardens is asking the Midwest Bonsai

Society and each of our vendors for both the May and August Exhibits to take out an insurance policy that protects the Gardens from liability of any kind in the range of a million dollars. Such insurance is obtainable but it is not inexpensive. We view this requirement as putting our Exhibits at risk due to the added costs. Even our largest vendors have told us that they are not required to provide such protection at other Bonsai

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shows around the country.

I hope to meet with staff from the Gardens in the next few weeks to explain our concerns and discuss any possible solutions. In the meantime, we will be looking for alternatives to holding our Exhibits at the Gardens. I will share the results of our efforts with you as more information becomes available.

So in closing, stay warm and take care of your

trees. This is a great time to work on your tropical trees. In preparation for our busy spring bonsai season Victor Zurczak will be presenting programs on Soil Preparation and Pot Selection at our February 5, meeting. Both items that can be done before the weather improves. Hope you can make it in person but if not, you can also join via Zoom meeting.

—Larry Stephan

February Meeting Focus

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 5th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center and via WebEx. WebEx Invitations will be sent to all members in an email.

7:00 pm - Bonsai 101 program; "Soil Preparation" presented by Victor Zurczak.

7:30 pm - General program; "Pot Selection" by Victor Zurczak.

Remember you are invited to bring your own tree to the meeting as Victor and other experienced members will be available to answer questions and provide advice. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

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 Wednesday March 20.

Please come join our monthly bonsai club meetings at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Learn about the ancient art of growing bonsai from the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society. Bring your bonsai trees to work on or just come to watch. There is no fee for this program.

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

February Events Calendar

Saturday February 3, 2024

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Main Program: "Introducing your tree to a Bonsai Container" by Ron F. Focus: "Chopsticks (bullet nose vs others) Fertilizing Y/N". For further information go to Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org

Saturday February 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2024

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 https://www.thehiddengardens.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html or call 630-655-8283.

Monday February 5, 2024

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL 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, Bonsai 101 program; "Soil Preparation" presented by Victor Zurczak. 7:30 PM, Program: "Pot Selection", also by Victor. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Room HEC #1020 in the Homeland Security Center at the College of DuPage. The college address is 425 Fawell Boulevard in Glen Ellyn. 7:00 PM Program; TBD. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Saturday February 17, 2024

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MAKE A POT WORKSHOP

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, at Boerner Botanical Gardens, lower-level Multipurpose Room. Brian L will lead workshop. Details not yet available. For further information or to register go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html

Saturday February 24, 2024

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY 4th ANNUAL WINTER SILHOUETTE EXHIBIT

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, IL. A Silhouette exhibit displays the bonsai without leaves which may seem a little strange, but it is a great time to see the trees' structure, especially the ramification. Both members and non-members are welcome to display their deciduous trees in the natural winter stage of development. Everyone is welcome to visit the exhibit at no charge. There is a \$5.00 charge for parking collected at

the gate. For more information go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/event/winter-silhouette-exhibit-2024/>

Sunday February 25, 2024

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY WINTER SILHOUETTES BONSAI DISPLAY

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, in the Atrium on the First Level at The Domes in Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. In addition to the joys of snow during the winter and early spring months, we in the Midwest have an opportunity to view our landscape in the 'raw', that is, without the dressing of buds, leaves and flowers. For further information or to register go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/docs/YC/Exhibit_Silhouette_Flyer.pdf

Saturday March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2024

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 https://www.thehiddengardens.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday March 3, 2024

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Main Program: "Wound Care and Proper Use of Tools and Cut" with Ron F. Focus: "Unwrapping a pot with an Air-Layer". For further information go to Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org

Monday March 4, 2024

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL 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, Bonsai 101 program; "Pot Preparation" presented by Victor Zurczak 7:30 PM, Program: "Exposed Roots Demonstration and Workshop" by Linda Camp. Bring your own tree, tools and pot if you would like to participate. Soil and wire will be provided. Linda will also bring trees (Trident Maple and Black Pine) and pots for those wishing to purchase same. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Room HEC #1020 in the Homeland Security Center at the College of DuPage. The college address is 425 Fawell Boulevard in Glen Ellyn. 7:00 PM Program; TBD. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY - CHICAGO CHAPTER MEETING

at the Garfield Park Conservatory. 6:00 PM, There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a tree to work on. If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 773-235-9479.

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. Remember what Jim Beck, from BC Bonsai, taught us at our November Meeting

with his sharpening demonstration. Consider your soil needs for repotting. If you need soil, you can 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 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 environment 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.

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 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.midwest-bonsai.org/bonsai-helpline>

The Midwest Bonsai Society Officers & Chairpersons

President: Larry Stephan

Executive Vice President: James Fairchild

Representative of Chicago Botanic Garden: (Open)

Vice President Monthly Programs: Victor Zurczak

Vice President Special Events: Matt Mazza

Treasurer: Phil Troy

Membership Chair: Jeng Fonseca

Recording Secretary: Judy Doll

Member at Large: Bob King

Member at Large: Linda Camp

Member at Large: Bill Imlah

Editorial Chair: Dick Ruemmele

Assistant Editorial: Gail Thompson

Librarian: Amy Wright

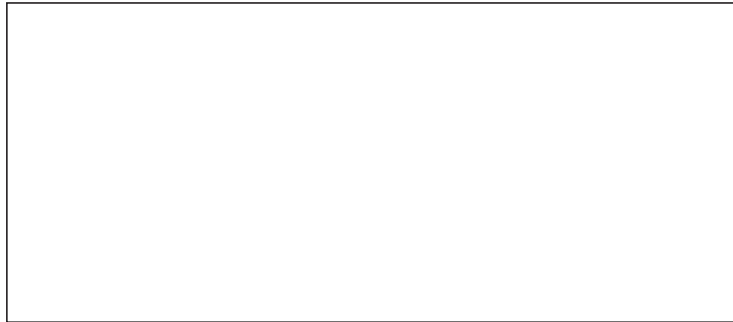
Public Relations Chair: Jose Fonseca

Social Chair: Robert Wright

Webmaster: Matthew Corpolongo

These are the folks, with your help as volunteers, that keeps MBS going. Interested in serving on the board? Feel free to talk to a board member at the next general meeting. We are always looking for a few good members to help out!

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



Membership Request

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

Email _____

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.