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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## President's Message

The spring show has come and gone again, and I'd like to thank everyone who came and helped. Going into the weekend I was a little worried about the forecast, but bringing the vendors inside turned out to be a very workable idea that turned this into one of our best May shows in memory. Our shows are some of the best in the region, and it's all thanks to your help (newbie and old hand) that we can keep offering these great events to the Society and I want to say how much we appreciate your participation. I want to thank everyone who as able to send or bring a write-up about his or her trees, this really brings it home to folks that this is a do-able hobby, and not an expensive decoration. As education and outreach are the main goals of the Spring show, I think we achieved them this year.

Next up in our calendar is our June meeting, where we'll be having a belated repotting meeting. Due to the late spring and a series of guest speakers, we were not able to have our normal spring repotting session. So we figured that we'd take advantage of the later date and invite

the membership to bring in tropical trees for repotting. The society will provide turface and some organic leaf mold, as well as soaking tubs for the trees. We will also have folks who are available to go around the room and help individuals with their trees.

On the national calendar, this is an unusually slow summer with most of the major shows happening late summer /early fall. August starts out the parade brings with Prairie State's show at the Morton Arboretum on August 2 & 3, and then our very own show on Aug. 15-17. September brings the 4th National Exhibit in Rochester, NY on the 13th

& 14. The big bang of the year comes late, starting on Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, and that's ABS's Learning Seminar. ABS teamed up with the Golden State Bonsai Federation to host an event in Sacramento, CA which promises to be one of the biggest bonsai shows in the country. All of these should be exciting events, I hope that you can make some of them. Details about each of the above mentioned events can be found at our website: [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org) or you can ask me at the next meeting.

The weather is finally settling down, and your tropicals should be

outside. I always look forward to "moving day" – the day that the tropicals come out. It lets me get re-acquainted with each tree, and I can do work that I hold off on doing over the winter. I only do light pruning of my tropicals in the winter since I use florescent lighting and I don't want to encourage large amounts of growth. Growth under lights tends to be weaker, with long internodes and large leaves. I'll give my tropicals a hard prune shortly after going outside. Sometimes I'll even use a heavy prune or defoliation to skip the acclimation period for my ficus. If they're defoliated they can go straight into their full-sun positions without having to spend time acclimating. Since many ficus drop their leaves anyway when moved to a new environment, this just hastens the process. My outdoor trees have been growing very well this year, and I am spending a lot of my spare time pruning. I hope everyone has been able to get out and enjoy the weather, and I look forward to seeing the trees that folks bring to our next meeting.  
—Cat Nelson



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# Events Calendar

## Monday, June 2, 2014

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY June MEETING, 7:00 pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Tropical Bonsai repotting—bring a tropical tree to repot. Our annual repotting meeting, but later in the year and geared towards your tropical plants.

## Tuesday, June 3, 2014

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 6:30 pm. Guest Artist—Arthur Joura, "Doing Bonsai like a Native." For more information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org).

## Wednesday, June 4, 2014

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING Room TEC1038b. 7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Crabapple by Jim Keith; 7:30pm, Program: Iron Bonsai, Participants will be Jim Keith, Jennifer Price-Svihia, and Dan Turner. For more information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

## Saturday, June 7, 2014

32nd Annual JAPAN FESTIVAL, 10am-6pm, Forest Educational Center in Arlington Heights. For more information, go to <http://japanfest-chicago.org/>

## Sunday, June 8, 2014

32nd Annual JAPAN FESTIVAL, 10am-5pm, Forest Educational Center in Arlington Heights. For more information, go to <http://japanfest-chicago.org/>

## Sunday, June 8, 2014

Annual PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY PICNIC/SHOW and workshop with Ben Oki, 10am to 4pm, Next to the Fabyan Japanese Garden, Batavia, IL.

## Wednesday, June 17, 2014

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING, 6 pm at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Contact [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) for further information.

## Wednesday, July 2, 2014

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, Room TEC1038b, 7:00pm, Bonsai 101, TBA; 7:30pm, Program: Forest Planting (possible *Ficus benjamina*). For more information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

## Monday, July 7, 2014

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY July MEETING, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center, 7:00 pm, Bonsai 101—Heat Stress in Trees; 7:30 pm. Jim Fairchild talks about creating raft-style trees.

## Sunday, July 20, 2014

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY OPEN WORKSHOP, Time TBA. For more information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

# Chicago Bonsai Club

The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, June 17, beginning at 6 p.m. The focus of the meeting has not yet been determined, but senior members of the MBS will be available to answer questions, and assist with styling and

maintaining your bonsai trees, so bring one to work on or for critique.

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.



## Haiku by Susan Babyk

At Last  
Massive Bristlecone,  
Once struggled on the high cliff,  
Now thrives in the pot

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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 in June

Repotting of pines should have been completed in early May. Remember to keep them in the shade for a couple weeks. Trees repotted in April can be given light doses of fertilizer.

Continue to check for insects and adjust your watering to match the warmer weather. Candles on pines can be pinched any time. Start with the weak buds and do the strong buds a week or so later. Spruce, junipers and larch shoots are probably ready for their first pinching of the season. Watch the new growth on your deciduous trees and trim back to 1-2 pairs of leaves. Stay on top of maples now and pinch out the center bud just as it emerges from the middle of the first two leaves.

All deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Watering routinely if we don't get rain. Air-layering of deciduous and evergreens can be continued. Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees as sudden frosts (which we hope have ended) can damage the young leaves.

Your feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning routines should be in full swing by now. Careful use of insecticides and fungicides becomes increasingly useful at this time of year. Always read and follow manufacturer's directions, but keep in mind that trees in containers may do better with slightly diluted formulations.

Watch wired branches

carefully to avoid unsightly spiral scars from bark growing over the wires, deciduous trees in particular can expand very quickly in May and June.

Spring and early summer are usually the worst for drying out trees, low humidity, windy, with somewhat cooler temperatures, gives a false sense that they don't require as much water, but do not be fooled, check your trees daily. The nights are warm enough now, staying in the 60's, so it is time to work on tropicals. We are starting our very active growth season, so proper pruning, feeding and watering through the summer months will be essential. Any wiring you did this winter should be checked and probably removed now.

**PRUNING** tropicals... After our winter months some trees have wanted to grow out of proportion, their leaves have enlarged and some branches have elongated due to lower light. So now is the time to prune for shape. Some deciduous species, can handle defoliation, usually early summer, it will greatly reduce their leaf size and create better ramification. If the tree needs to be brought back further, do it now. You can also root prune and repot your tropicals now.

- Now is when you really have to keep on top of your pruning to increase ramification.

- Cut your Bougainvillea back before all of the flowers are spent to keep it blooming.

- Keep growth tips pinched on your Maples.
- Keep pruning your Elms back to the first or second node.

**FERTILIZE...** You can start on your summer feeding program soon. Young trees more nitrogen, older ones a more balanced food to maintain them. Any tree you have defoliated or cut back hard, place in shade until new growth starts and wait till they have flushed back out to feed them. Be careful not to over water, trees need leaves to transpire water. Blooming varieties can be fed with a fertilizer with a higher middle number. You want your trees healthy to prepare them for the hot summer months.

**INSECTS...** check daily for any insect problems. Aphids love spring growth and can get out of hand before you know it. Look for scale on the underside of the leaves. Soapy water can usually take care of both those problems. Check your Ficus for Thrips (folding in of the leaves) for they have been a problem in the past. Check your Junipers for mites. We use a granular systemic insecticide which main ingredient is Imidacloprid. This only kills non beneficial insects. Available at some nurseries or garden centers.

*Compiled from several web articles and adapted to our area  
—Ed Hake, Fort Wayne Bonsai Club.  
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## June Meeting Focus

The June meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 2, 2014, 7:00 pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Fairchild Room, located in the Regenstein Center. It is our annual repotting

meeting, but scheduled later this year and geared towards your tropical plants—bring a tropical tree to repot. The meeting will begin promptly at 7 p.m. and there will not be a Bonsai 101 this month.

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Highland Park, Illinois 60035-7373  
www.midwestbonsai.org

# Membership Renewal Reminder

July was the time to renew your Midwest Bonsai Society membership, so if you haven't already, please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on the last page of this newsletter. If you do not renew your membership by the end of the year you will no longer receive newsletters via email or snail mail. Your renewal is important in order for us to keep our mailing lists up-to-date. Thank you for your ongoing support. 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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Please Check If Renewal

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