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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## President's Message

Writing these notes is an interesting challenge. Knowing that you're not going to read it until a week after an event that hasn't happened yet makes it doubly challenging. I think I'll do what I usually do, which is hedge my bets and avoid gray areas. That being the case I'd like to extend my thanks to all the volunteers who consistently pull us through these events. From the Docents who safeguard our trees and patiently explain why the trees aren't in dirt for the hundredth time, to the Table Staff who point out the restrooms while explaining how to register for the workshops and where they're located, to the brave and bold who staff the Children's Workshops, we can't pull these events off without you. Thank you.

One of the things I've seen past Presidents pull to pad these notes is tell the membership what they should do with their trees in the upcoming month. I tried it once, but really, I haven't been doing this long enough to tell you guys what to do. So instead, I'll tell you about all the likely inadvisable things I've done so far and you can decide whether you want to gamble with me or not. After doing my usual annual research on the temperature toler-

ances of plant "x" for every "tropical" I keep, I put most of them outdoors. It turns out that most of mine can handle temps down to 40, and some down to 30. So they're out there and I'm watching the temps fairly closely for the next couple weeks. The rest of my indoor trees will take lows around 50, so I hope those will follow their friends out sometime around our June meeting.

Speaking of our June meeting, the informed and observant among you might have noticed that Hidden Gardens is hosting Owen Reich the weekend before our June 5th meeting. I'm pleased to announce that Owen will also be coming to our meeting to refresh us on summer work on deciduous trees. He'll be demonstrating for us on a Korean Hornbeam generously donated by Lorraine May. The tree will be raffled off at the end of the meeting. There will also be a number of recently donated trees and pots for the raffle as well.

For the July meeting we'd like you, the members, to bring the trees you plan to show in August for last minute advice on refinement and clean up by a special guest. In August,

former president Cat Nelson will return to talk to us about display and accent pieces. We'll have just enough time to fine tune our displays before the August show.

Our review of the membership questionnaires gave us some direction for the year, but we would really like your continued input. If you've already filled one out there is no need to put your full

information down. Just put your name at the top of the form and give us your feedback on what you've seen so far this year. Or just send us your feedback via e-mail at [Midwest.bonsai@yahoo.com](mailto:Midwest.bonsai@yahoo.com). Keep the communication flowing.

Thanks again everybody. We'll see you June 5th.

—Robert Wright

### Chicago Bonsai Club

The June meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, June 21, 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.

### June Meeting Focus

**NOTE:** The June meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 5, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

**Program:** at 7:00 pm. Owen Reich will refresh us on summer work on deciduous trees. He'll be demonstrating for us on a Korean Hornbeam generously donated by Lorraine May. The tree will be raffled off at the end of the meeting. There will also be a number of recently donated trees and pots for the raffle as well. Work on Society-provided trees in groups. Trees will be auctioned at end of meeting. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

# Events Calendar

**Saturday or Sunday, June 3 or 4, 2017**

**HIDDEN GARDENS,**

9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Owen Reich bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to [www.thehiddengardens.net](http://www.thehiddengardens.net) or call 630-655-8283.

**Saturday, June 3, 2017**

**EUROPEAN OLIVE WORKSHOP,**

B C Bonsai, Wheaton, IL. For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Sunday, June 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2017**

**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.

**Sunday, June 4, 2017**

**BONSAI BASICS,**

1:00 – 3:00 pm, Chris Baker, at Chicago Botanic Garden Plant Science Lab, Regenstein Center. For further information go to [www.chicagobotanic.org/education](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/education) or call 847-835-8261.

**Monday, June 5, 2017**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: 7:00 pm. Owen Reich will speak about summer work on deciduous trees, and demonstrate on a Korean Hornbeam donated by Lorraine May. This tree and a number of recently donated trees and pots will be raffled off at the end of the meeting. Work on Society-provided trees in groups. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Tuesday, June 6, 2017**

**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, June 7, 2017**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY General Meeting**

and "Bonsai 101" 7:30pm, Room TEC1038b Program: Iron Bonsai. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Sunday, June 11, 2017**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY Special Event!**

Annual Club Picnic and workshop with Chris Baker 10am, Next to the Fabyan Japanese Garden, Batavia, IL. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Saturday & Sunday, June 17, 18, 24 & 28, 2017**

**B C BONSAI WORKSHOP: Candling Of Pines Step 2,**

Paw Paw, IL. For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Wednesday, June 21, 2017**

**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING,**

6:00 pm, Garfield Park Conservatory. Program TBD. For further information, contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com)

**Wednesday, June 21, 2017**

**BRING YOUR OWN BONSAI TREE WORKSHOP,**

6:00 – 9:00 pm, Chris Baker at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to [www.chicagobotanic.org/education](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/education) or call 847-835-8261.

**Saturday or Sunday, June 24 or 25, 2017**

**HIDDEN GARDENS,**

9:00 am to 4 pm, Todd Schlafer bring your own tree workshop. For

further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/index.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Sunday, July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2017**

**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.

**Wednesday, July 5, 2017**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY General Meeting**

7:30 pm, Room TEC/1038b Program: Chris Baker. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Friday & Saturday, July 7 & 8, 2017**

**MABA 2017 CONVENTION,**

8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Clarion Waterfront Hotel and Conference Center, Indianapolis, Indiana. Headlining Artist: Matt Reel, bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.mababonsai.org/event-schedule.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Saturday, July 8, 2017**

**THE SECRET GARDENS OF**

**WAUWATOSA AND BONSAI EXHIBIT,**

10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Kneeland-Walker house. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Monday, July 10, 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, Daily care of bonsai, Fertilizing and feeding. 7:30 pm: Bring your trees as we talk about Tree Preparation for our August Exhibition. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Saturday, July 15, 2017**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY**

**OPEN WORKSHOP: Tropical Repotting**

Bring a tropical tree to repot and enjoy the company of friends. 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Boerner Botanical Gardens. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Saturday & Sunday, July 15 & 16, 2017**

**BC BONSAI WORKSHOP: Developing and styling trees**

**while they continue to grow in the ground,**  
Paw Paw, IL. For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Tuesday, July 18, 2017**

**BONSAI: INTERMEDIATE-THE NEXT STEP,**

(6 Tuesdays, 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.

**Wednesday, July 19, 2017**

**TROPICAL BONSAI WORKSHOP,**

6:00 – 9:00 pm, Chris Baker at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to [www.chicagobotanic.org/education](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/education) or call 847-835-8261.

**Wednesday, July 19, 2017**

**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING,**

6:00 pm, Garfield Park Conservatory. Bring a tree to work on to prepare or just come to watch. Senior members will be present to answer questions & give assistance. For further information, contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com)

**Saturday, July 22, 2017**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY SPECIAL MEETING:  
Picnic and Swap Meet.**

For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

# 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.

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

## Midwest Bonsai Society Board Members

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Vice President Special Events	Larry Stephan
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Prairie State Representative	

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

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Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

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