
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

We had a great May Show this year—a big THANK YOU! to everyone who helped. There is so much to get done in a short amount of time and we simply couldn't do it all without you. Everyone seems to like the new indoor format. And it's not just comfort (the weather was much better than last year) but there is something exciting about having all the activity in a limited space. I heard one long-time vendor say it was their most successful May show ever. We had one new vendor at the show this year, Stands and Stones, who drove all the way from southern Florida to check out the midwest bonsai scene. Apparently, the scene is good because they are now making plans to attend the August show. If you didn't see their stands in May you really should look for them in August—the quality is exceptional and Mark has an encyclopedic knowledge of decorative woods.

I know I've said it before but the new website is such a major leap forward for the club. Online workshop signup and membership renewal went smoothly and is much easier than it used to be. Maybe that's part of the reason for the

outstanding workshop turnout this year. I also think the workshop material was a cut above what has been offered in some past workshops as well.

We signed up quite a few new members at the show and hopefully we will see them at future meetings. Speaking of meetings, the next meeting on June 1 will feature a black pine demonstration by Phil Maillot. The finished tree will be raffed off at the meeting (I promise).

Brussel's Rendezvous, a major bonsai event every year, has just ended and I look forward to hearing from club members who were lucky enough to go. The next major event this year will be the ABS Learning Symposium beginning June 11 in Maryland. Closer to home, the Indianapolis Bonsai Club will host the Mid-America Bonsai Alliance (MABA) Convention, beginning July 10 in Indianapolis.

I'm no expert on tropicals but I'm told it is time to move them outside now. Of course, they should be introduced to full sunlight gradually. Be sure to check all your trees for any insects or disease after the long winter indoors. I try to

avoid over-using powerful insecticides and fungicides but I'm coming to accept that these chemicals are vital to growing healthy bonsai. So now I am trying to educate myself on how to apply them safely - if anyone in the club has had professional training, I would like to hear from you. Pines should be extending candles by now and deciduous trees should be pushing new growth. Once the new leaves harden off, it will be time to begin your full summer feeding schedule. The sun is getting higher in the sky and the days are quickly (and thankfully) getting warmer - proper watering technique will become critical in the coming weeks. Some mornings I'm in a hurry to get to work and am tempted

to just dowse them really well, and go. But bonsai trees, particularly those in smaller pots and older trees that have not been repotted in a while, can be damaged or killed in a single day of neglect.

Remember that August will be here soon, maybe too soon. After showing a tree for the first time last year I now realize how much preparation goes into showing a tree successfully. Start thinking now about which trees you plan to show and work out your plans well in advance so the tree (and pot, stand, accent plants, moss, scroll,...) looks it's very best on August 14.

I hope to see you all at the June meeting.
—Jay Albright



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Ivan Watters to Receive Award

Our own Ivan Watters will be receiving the prestigious Cultural Service Award from the Japan America Society of Chicago. The presentation will take place during the 85th Anniversary Celebratory Dinner on Thursday evening, June 11, at the Union League of Chicago. If you would like further information or would like to attend, please go to their website: www.jaschicago.org.

Events Calendar

Saturday May 30 & Sunday May 31, 2015
MILWAUKEE SPRING SHOW at Lynden Sculpture Garden. Go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org for further information.

Monday, June 1, 2015
MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY JUNE MEETING, 7:30 pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 pm, Bonsai 101, candle pruning & azalea care, after they bloom. 7:30 pm, Phil Malhiot will be demonstrating on a Black Pine, which will be raffled off at completion.

Tuesday, June 2, 2015
MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 6:30 pm. Guest Artist: Peter Tea. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, June 3, 2015
PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING, 7:30pm, Room TBATEC1038b Program: Iron Bonsai, participants TBA, 7:00pm, Bonsai 101, TBA. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Wednesday, June 17, 2015
CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING, 6:00 pm, at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Focus will be on summer care, and there will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a plant to work on. For further information, contact: suekazoo@hotmail.com

Saturday, July 18 & Sunday, July 19, 2015
JAPAN DAY, 12 – 5 pm each day, Arlington Race Track. MBS Members will be present, working on their own trees. For further information go to: japandaychicago.org/july-18-19-at-arlington-race-track/

June Meeting Focus

The June meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 1, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

7:00pm - Bonsai 101, topic: candle pruning & Azalea care after they bloom; 7:30pm: General Meeting, topic: Black Pine demonstration by Phil Maliot (followed by raff e).

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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 in 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.

- Stay on top of pruning to increase ramification.
- Cut Bougainvillea back before all of the flowers are spent to keep it blooming.
- Keep growth tips pinched on Maples.
- Keep pruning Elms back to the first or second node.

FERTILIZE... You can start on summer feeding program soon. Young trees need more nitrogen, older ones need 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 overwater, 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. Reprinted by Permission.

*Compiled from several web articles and adapted to our area.
—Ed Hake.*

Chicago Bonsai Club

The June meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be on Wednesday, June 17, beginning at 6 p.m. We will be focusing on watering and fertilizing, and 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.

Midwest Bonsai Society Board Members

as of April 2015

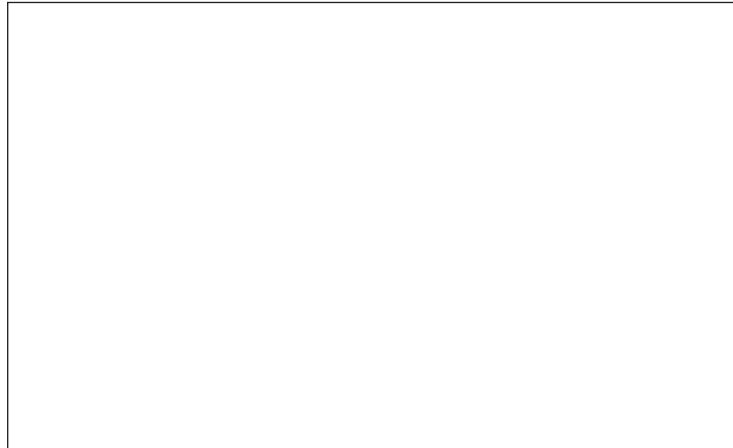
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Midwest Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 1373
Highland Park, Illinois 60035-7373
www.midwestbonsai.org

Membership Information

To become a member of the Midwest Bonsai Society or renew your current membership (July is the month to renew), please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on the last 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

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone Date

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Please Check If Renewal

Please make check payable to: **Midwest Bonsai Society**

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