

MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

On paper this has been a mild winter, nothing compared to last year's brutal cold and near-record snowfall. But boy did Old Man Winter really hit the bull's eye at the end of January—disrupting area Superbowl celebrations and causing our first club meeting of the year to be cancelled. I look forward to that first meeting each year, even if the walk across the Garden is painfully cold, so it was truly a difficult call to cancel. If anyone did not get the message about the cancellation, please let us know so we can update your contact information.

March will now be our first meeting of the year and we will begin with a brief business meeting. We have some exciting plans for the coming year. Among them is a major website redo that extends well beyond a mere update. Stay tuned over the next couple of months as the pieces all come together. It requires a huge amount of work, and if anyone is interested in becoming involved, please let Matthew Corpolongo or Larry Stephan know.

And speaking of help, we have some openings on the Board, specifically Vice

President of Programs (coordinates monthly meetings) and Public Relations (media outreach) that we would like to fill soon. These are important positions and, yes, there is work involved, but I can tell you from personal experience that the Board has sufficient depth to help newcomers get their feet on the ground. If anyone is interested in hearing more about these positions, please let me know. And if you aren't quite comfortable volunteering yet, nominate a friend!

I keep telling myself that winter will be over soon. One thing that helps is thinking ahead to the May Show, which will be here before we know it. Start thinking about what trees you'd like to show. The May Show is all about development, not finished bonsai, so write a short narrative for each tree—where it came from, how it's gotten to where it is, and any special challenges you encountered along the way. I think these write-ups really help to engage our May visitors.

Once winter lets go, we have a number of interesting bonsai events this coming year. Andy Smith will be doing one of his

very informative demonstrations at the Milwaukee Bonsai Society meeting on March 3. Brussel Martin's famous Rendezvous returns May 21-24 in Holly Springs, Mississippi, with an extensive lineup of guest artists (and yes, it's warm down there in May). American Bonsai Society hosts their Learning Symposium beginning June 11 in Ellicott City Maryland, with an equally impressive list of artists and workshops. And the Midwest Area Bonsai Association will be hosting the 2015 MABA Convention in

Indianapolis, Indiana, July 10-12—I haven't been to one of those before, but maybe this is the year.

To wrap this up, let me say that any club is the sum of parts—no more and no less. We have open positions on the Board, a wide range of volunteer positions during our May and August shows and many other opportunities for individual members to support the Club. Please think about what contribution you can make in the coming year.

—Jay Albright

Ancient Tree Appreciation

As I searched the web to find inspiration for the upcoming bonsai growing season, I came across a link on the Milwaukee Bonsai Society's webpage. The headlines read: "Woman Spends 14 Years Photographing World's Oldest Trees," and I highly recom-



end you visit this webpage: boredpanda.com to see a large selection of black and white photographs of the most awesome ancient trees in the world. I guarantee that you will be absolutely blown away.

—Susan Babyk, Newsletter Editor

<http://www.boredpanda.com/ancient-tree-photography-beth-moon/>

Events Calendar

Sunday, March 1 & Monday, March 2

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY,
9 am-12:30pm. Artist Workshops with Andy Smith. Silent
observer fees apply. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Monday, March 2, 2015

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MARCH MEETING,
7:30 pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein
Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 pm, Bonsai
101 (topic TBD). 7:30 pm, general meeting (topic TBD).

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,
6:30 pm. Guest Artist: Andy Smith. For further informa-
tion go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING,
7:30pm, Room TBATEC1038b Program: Repotting work-
shop, 7:00pm, Bonsai 101, TBA. For further information
go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING,
6:00 pm at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Contact
suekazoo@hotmail.com for further information.

Monday, April 6, 2015

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MARCH MEETING,
7:30 pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein
Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 pm, Bonsai
101 (topic TBD). 7:30 pm, general meeting (topic TBD).

Tuesday, April 7, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,
6:30 pm. Program: Tool Sharpening and Group Slashing.
For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

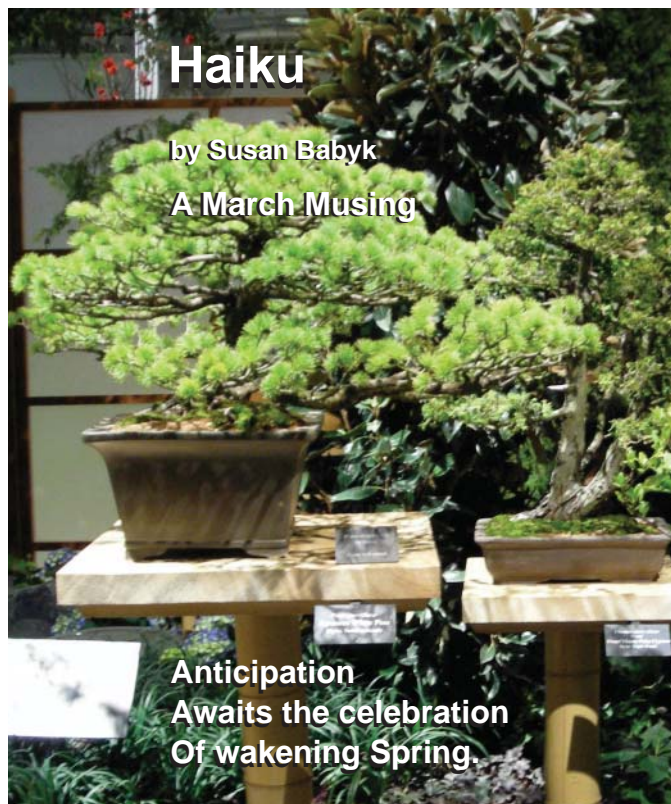
PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING,
7:30pm, Room TBATEC1038b Program: TBA, 7:00pm,
Bonsai 101, TBA. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Sunday, April 12, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY WORKSHOP,
10 am - 1 pm. Open Repotting Workshop. For further
information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING,
6:00 pm at the Garfield Park Conservatory. Contact
suekazoo@hotmail.com for further information.



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March Meeting Focus

The March meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on

Monday, March 2, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00pm - Bonsai 101, topic TBD; 7:30pm: A short Business Meeting, followed by the general meeting, topic TBD.

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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.

Monthly Care Report: What to Do in March

It may not seem like it at this writing, but spring is on the way. February, so far, has been Arctic, but soon the tree buds will start to swell. We can repot like crazy, as the weather warms. Look at your trees for signs of swelling buds and white growing tips at the end of your roots.

March is the perfect time to repot, and to branch and root-prune. Deciduous trees between 5 and 20 years old may be repotted every other year, and trees over 20 should be repotted every 3 years. By the end of March, depending on weather conditions, trees can be gradually brought out of winter shelter. Evergreens may be fertilized now and, in general, you may spray for fungus and insects on a warm day. March is really the last

month deciduous trees can be lifted from the ground, as buds have not yet broken. Evergreens can be lifted until the end of April. March and April are also good months to dig trees from the wild, keeping as much fibrous root attached as possible. Keep your trees cool. Don't be in a hurry to encourage early growth, as it can still get cold. A late freeze can really damage your new growth. March is a great month for repotting, and for digging planted trees and collecting field grown ones. This time of year is my favorite, with all the trees budding out in that spring green color. The maples start with their red samaras (as the seeds start to form),

POTTING: Don't get in too much of a hurry to do

your tropicals, they can be done all summer. Transplanting from one pot to another is generally done for aesthetic reasons, but soil changing is necessary for the health of the tree. Some rapidly growing trees should have their soil changed annually. Some trees can go two, maybe up to three years. Slower growing conifers and some evergreens may not need their soil changed more than every three to five years. A younger tree, still in development, will need it sooner, where an older tree less often. You also must consider the size of the pot. However, the best indicator of a need for soil change is not time, but the condition of the tree. A vigorous, healthy tree does not need its soil changed and should not be disturbed.

FERTILIZING: Do not feed your deciduous trees yet. If you feed them too early you will get a big flush of growth, which translates to long internodes and larger leaves. For your repotted trees, begin a feeding schedule at least two weeks after repotting. You may want to keep them sheltered under the eaves of the house.

PRUNING: Deciduous trees can probably be safely pruned. Seal all substantial cuts with paste and protect them from heavy frost. If your larch has green showing, though, it is best to wait until next year.

Always prune in front of the bud that is growing in the direction you want the branch to grow. If any of the internodes towards the tip of any branch are spaced farther apart, then towards the beginning of the branch (closest to the trunk) prune back to where that elongation begins. A branch should be styled just like a tree, the secondary branches on a main branch should get smaller and closer together as you go towards the tip. The tertiary branches on your secondary branches should do the same. Proper directional pruning of your bonsai is a must, to increase ramification and for good taper. Tropicals will still need regular pruning and cuttings may be started. Always be on the lookout for and insects that may show up after the mild winter.

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

Chicago Bonsai Club

The first meeting in 2015 of The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be on Wednesday, March 18, beginning at 6 p.m., the program has not yet been determined.

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 January, 2015

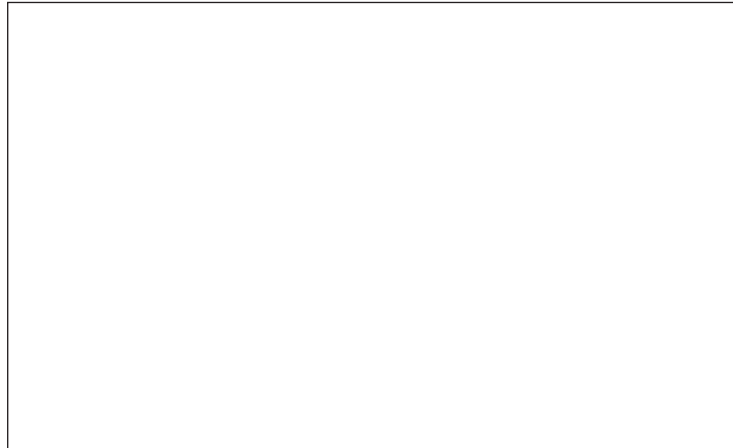
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Midwest Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 1373
Highland Park, Illinois 60035-7373
www.midwestbonsai.org

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.

Midwest Bonsai Connection
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Membership Request

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone

Date

Email

Please Check If Renewal

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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