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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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

## February Thoughts

We are past the half way point of this Chicago winter. The winter solstice is long behind us and each day we see a little more daylight than the day before. Activity in the Bonsai world is increasing. Check out the dates.

- General meetings – March 2nd, April 6th.
- April 7th – Spring opening day at Hidden Gardens
- Spring Exhibit – May 9th and 10th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

We are thankful that we once again have a Chair to direct our monthly meeting programs. Thanks again for volunteering Victor. An immediate result of this is two new items at our March 2nd meeting.

First, the general meeting features a forest planting workshop. This will provide an opportunity for members to create a forest/ grove to add to their own collection or to work with a group to create a forest available for purchase at the end of the meeting. MBS will have senior members available to help design and plant and BC Bonsai is making this a very affordable workshop providing 5 trees, training pot and soil for \$50 or a

7 tree grove for \$65. For those not ready to add a tree to their collection you can still learn while participating in a group to create a forest. There will be a wide variety of trees available to choose from. Should be entertaining and educational endeavor for all skill levels.

Second item is new monthly raffle. Our hope is that our members will use the raffle as a way to pass on Bonsai material they no longer need, to other members, and help MBS raise funds for future programs. So if you have any extra tools, or pots that you do not have a tree for, or a tree that you no longer want to care for

please consider donating same. Just bring whatever items you have and we will display during the main program and then draw winners at the end of our meeting.

In the near future we will be asking for volunteers to help with the May Exhibit. Once again you will be able to sign up for shifts on our website. The May event is taking shape with our vendor list including: BC Bonsai, Wildwood Gardens, Fred Tamow stones and pottery, Karen Shuman pottery and Jack Ken Matsumoto with his hand made scrolls. There will be a demonstration in the auditorium, tree workshops, bring your own tree workshops and children's workshops each afternoon. There will also be a new offering of Midwest Bonsai Society shirts, mugs, aprons, sweatshirts and other items for sale. Be thinking about what trees you might want to display at the Exhibit. Be sure to put May 9th and 10th on your calendar.

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of the passing of William Schuman on February 11th. William was the husband of our longtime member, former board member and vendor Karen Schuman. All our sympathy goes out to Karen and her family. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research hospital, [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org). For info : 847-256-5700.

Finally, the board wants to reiterate how much we would appreciate your feedback on how MBS can best support your interest in Bonsai. We want all members to send us their thoughts on improving our society whether it is a program topic or artist you would like to see at a general meeting or a new vendor/feature for our May or August Exhibits or whatever. Please know if you reach out to any board member we will be very grateful to hear your ideas.

—Larry Stephan

### March Meeting Focus

The March meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 2nd, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

**Program - Forest Planting Workshop.** There is no Bonsai 101 as this hands-on workshop is suitable for all skill levels. Introductory presentation by Victor Zurczak then experienced members will assist individuals or groups to create their forest. Trees, soil and training pots provided by BC Bonsai. Wire and expertise provided by MBS.

**Purchase** - and create your own forest or work with others to create a forest that will be available for purchase at the end of the workshop. Great variety of trees available (Trident, Japanese and Red maples, Red, Black and Mugo pines, English Oak, Chinese Elm, Redwood and Spruce).

**Raffle** - We have added a new feature to our meetings this year which is a raffle of items donated by members. So if you have trees, pots, tools or any other Bonsai related items (that you are ready to have another club member enjoy) please bring and donate to our raffle.

# Events Calendar

**Monday March 2, 2020**

## **MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

Chicago Botanic Garden's Pullman Room located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM, Program: Forest Planting Workshop introductory presentation by Victor Zurczak then experienced members will assist newer members to create forest. Trees and training pots provided by BC Bonsai and available for purchase after the workshop. Tree varieties available include Maples, Pines, Elm, Redwood, Spruce, Oak and Redwood. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

**Tuesday March 3, 2020**

## **MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

6:30PM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: "How to make a Saikei (forest or mix of plants for a forest)" presented by Chris Baker. Forest created during the demonstration will be auctioned at end of meeting. For more Information go to [http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs\\_latest.html](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_latest.html)

**Wednesday March 4, 2020**

## **PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. 7:00 PM, Program: Hands-On Workshop! Learn how to create your own Spruce or Japanese Maple Forest! Trees and training pots provided by BC Bonsai and available for purchase after the workshop. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

**Saturday March 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2020**

## **SATURDAY WEST SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters**

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM in Glenn Ellyn, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information or to register go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847-917-0817.

**Saturday March 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2020**

## **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 [http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai\\_saturday\\_morning.html](http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html) or call 630-655-8283.

**Saturday March 14, 2020**

## **1ST CLASS OF THE INTERMEDIATE BONSAI COURSE at BC Bonsai**

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. This is a 6 week course with classes every Saturday except for Easter weekend, For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**Saturday March 14, 2020**

## **HARDY TREES REPOTTING CLASSES at BC Bonsai**

Starting at 1:00 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bonsai soil provided. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**Wednesday, March 18, 2020**

## **CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING**

6:00 PM, Garfield Park Conservatory. For further information please email: [sukazu17@gmail.com](mailto:sukazu17@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, March 18, 2020**

## **FOREST PLANTING WORKSHOP with Chris Baker**

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. Trees and a pot are provided; each student will leave with their own completed forest. For further information go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/forest\\_planting\\_workshop](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/forest_planting_workshop)

**Saturday March 21, 2020**

## **PINES OUT OF STORAGE STYLING WORKSHOP**

**at BC Bonsai**

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bring your own tree or purchase one at workshop. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**Saturday and Sunday March 21 or 22, 2020**

## **TREE HARVESTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**

10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, at Nursery in Paw Paw, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**Monday March 23, 2020**

## **CONTINUING BONSAI EDUCATION CLASS**

**with Mark Karczewski**

6:30 AM – 8:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. This is a 6 week course with classes every Monday. Please Note: Starting dates may be advanced a week until minimum class levels are met. For further information or to register go to [http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai\\_classes.html](http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai_classes.html) or call 630-655-8283.

**Wednesday, April 1, 2020**

## **PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. 7:00pm, Program: Bonsai 101 Repotting your Bonsai. 7:30pm, Program: Grafting by Jim Keith. For further information go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

**Wednesday, April 1, 2020**

## **BONSAI AIR LAYERING WORKSHOP with Chris Baker**

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. Watch a demonstration and then practice the technique on your own trees. Please bring a tree to class. For further information go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/bonsai\\_air\\_layering\\_workshop](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bonsai_air_layering_workshop)

**Saturday April 4, 11, 18 & 25 2020**

## **SATURDAY WEST SUBURBAN MASTERCLASS BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters**

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, in Warrenville, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information or to register go to [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847-917-0817.

**Saturday April 4, 11, 18 & 25 2020**

## **SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski**

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Saturday April 4, 2020**

## **STYLING JUNIPERS OUT OF STORAGE WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bring your own tree or purchase one at workshop. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**Saturday and Sunday April 4 or 5, 2020**

## **TREE HARVESTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**

10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, at Nursery in Paw Paw, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**Monday April 6, 2020**

## **MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM, Program: Bonsai 101 Guidelines for preparing bonsai soil and a bonsai pot. 7:30 PM, Program: Transplanting/repotting workshop. Raffle will follow. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

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# Monthly Care Report:

## What to Do in March

If any of your deciduous trees need to be repotted this year, you will be able to do the repotting as soon as the winter breaks and the ground thaws, which will be soon, end of March and into April. Look to your trees for signs that they are waking. Look for swelling buds and white growing tips at the end of your roots.

Those deciduous trees that you were unsure about pruning can probably be safely pruned, but protect them from heavy frost. Avoid repotting any larch trees that are showing green. If they are showing green, it is best to wait until next year.

Generally there is no need

to begin fertilizing your trees yet. Let them leaf out, and for your repotted trees, begin your feeding regime at least one month after repotting. You may want to keep them sheltered under the eaves of the house and out of cold winds. By the end of March, depending on weather conditions, trees can be gradually brought out of winter shelter. Evergreens may be fertilized lightly now in April and, in general, you may spray for fungus and insects on a warm day. 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.

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 until leaves have hardened off. That means not until all the leaves are out and branch tips are starting to grow. If you feed them too early you

will get a big flush of growth, which translates to long internodes and larger leaves. Too much nitrogen will go to the leaves and not the roots, hence too large of leaves. You fertilize bonsai for optimum health, not for growth per se like other plants. You need to tailor a fertilization program based on your trees' individual needs. - You can start feeding your tropicals a bit more, but it is too early to move them outside. I have pruned some of my Ficus

PRUNING... You should have already taken a good look at your trees over the winter, now knowing where you want to go with them. If you have a branch or apex you want to thicken, try to divert more energy to it by keeping your other branches trimmed back and letting that one grow. If all your main branches are good, then work on your ramification by pruning your secondary and tertiary branches back. 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.

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

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## Events Calendar

*Continued from Page 2*

**Monday April 6, 2020**

**BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Walter Pall**  
5:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Hidden Gardens Willowbrook, IL. Join us for an evening of bonsai with our friend and guest artist from Germany. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Tuesday April 7, 2020**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**  
6:30PM, Boerner Botanical Garden. Program: Group Discussion Artist with Different Styles. Brian and Leo will also discuss Fertilizing, Chemical or Organic. For more Information go to [http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs\\_schedule.html](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html)

**Wednesday, April 15, 2020**

**CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING**  
6:00 PM, Garfield Park Conservatory. For further information please email: [sukazu17@gmail.com](mailto:sukazu17@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, April 15, 2020**

**ROOT OVER ROCK BONSAI with Chris Baker**  
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. In this workshop, we will attach a tree to a rock so the roots will take hold. A tree and a rock are provided; each student will leave the workshop having taken the first and most important step in the process. For further information go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/root\\_over\\_rock\\_bonsai](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/root_over_rock_bonsai)

**Saturday April 18, 2020**

**STYLING MAPLE & DECIDUOUS TREES OUT OF STORAGE WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**  
1:00 PM – 3:30 PM, 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Bring your own tree or purchase one at workshop. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

**Saturday or Sunday April 18 or 19, 2020**

**BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Will Baddeley**  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Hidden Gardens Willowbrook, IL. Will is from the United Kingdom and has traveled internationally teaching bonsai. A fantastic artist and one of the best at creating natural looking deadwood. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Saturday or Sunday April 18 or 19, 2020**

**TREE HARVESTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai**  
10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, at Nursery in Paw Paw, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-254-8841.

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## Chicago Bonsai Club

The March meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, March 18, beginning at 6 p.m. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a tree to work on or just come to observe.

Chicago Bonsai Club meets at Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago.

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

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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.

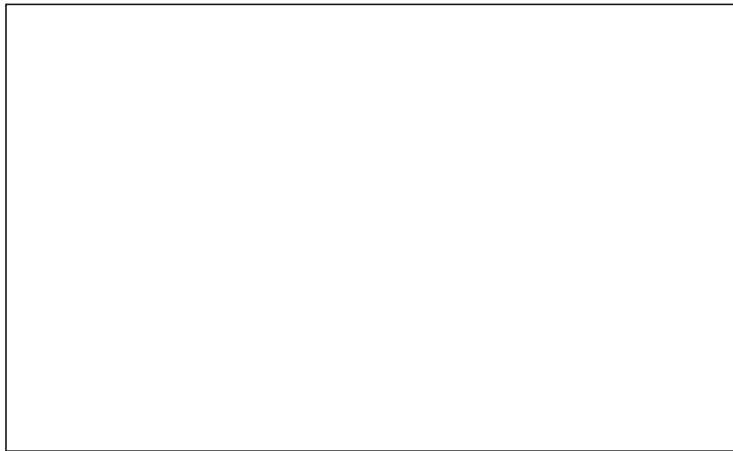
All meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Bonsai 101 presentations commence at 7:00 PM.

**Library Resources**

MBS has a fine collection of Bonsai books and journals which are available for loan. Please contact the Librarian for information.

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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

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Date

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Email

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Please Check If Renewal

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

Send to: Midwest Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 1373

Highland Park, Illinois

60035-7373

Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

**\$35** Electronic Newsletter **OR \$45** Newsletter by Mail

**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.