
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

It is all good news this month. Matt Mazza and I met with the Garden management and resolved the liability insurance issues. We are good to go for both exhibits. Dates for May are the 18th and 19th, with set up on the 17th.

Karen Schuman, one of our favorite local potters

has decided not to take a booth at the May show. We will look for creative ways to display and sell any remaining pots in her inventory without making her take a table.

One positive change will happen in May. While we will still use the Garden's catering service for coffee, lemonade, tea etc., we will

be trying a change in the food. We will order and purchase sandwiches, and other items from the Garden cafeteria. This means some set up work on our part but it will result in much improved food quality for our volunteers working the Exhibit and our vendors. It also promises to reduce our food costs for both Exhibits.

The next General meeting will be held on March 4th. It will include pot preparation in Bonsai 101 and Linda Camp's program on exposed root bonsai. In the meantime, stay warm and take care of the trees. This is a great time to work on your tropical trees.

—Larry Stephan

March Meeting Focus

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 4th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center and via WebEx. WebEx Invitations will be sent to all members in an email.

7:00 pm - Bonsai 101 program; "Pot Preparation" presented by Victor Zurczak.

7:30 pm - General program; "Exposed Roots Demonstration and Workshop" by Linda Camp from BC Bonsai. Use your own tree for workshop or buy one at the meeting. Linda will be bringing Trident Maple and Pine trees

As always, you are invited to bring your own tree to the meeting as Victor and other experienced members will be available to answer questions and provide advice. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Chicago Bonsai Club

The next meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 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.

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

If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 773-235-9479.

March Events Calendar

Saturday March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2024

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 https://www.thehiddengardens.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday March 3, 2024

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Main Program: "Wound Care and Proper Use of Tools and Cut" with Ron F. Focus: "Unwrapping a Pot with an Air-Layer". For further information go to [Schedule for Milwaukee Bonsai Society.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

Monday March 4, 2024

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center or via WebEx Meeting (Invitation to be sent via email). 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101 program; "Pot Preparation" presented by Victor Zurczak 7:30 PM, Program: "Exposed Roots Demonstration and Workshop" by Linda Camp. Bring your own tree, tools and pot if you would like to participate or come just to observe. Soil and wire will be provided. Linda will also bring trees (Trident Maple and Black Pine) and pots for those wishing to purchase same. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
Room HEC #1020 in the Homeland Security Center at the College of DuPage. The college address is 425 Fawell Boulevard in Glen Ellyn. 7:00 PM Program; Board Elections and then Jim Beck and Linda Camp of BC Bonsai are leading a hands-on forest planting workshop. Trees/ pot, soil, and wire are included. Species available are Dawn Redwood, Trident Maples, Japanese Maples, Black Pines, Larch. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Saturday or Sunday March 9 or 10, 2024

EXPOSED ROOT WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Tree (multiple varieties), soil and pot provided. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday or Sunday March 9 or 10, 2024

FOREST PLANTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. Trees, soil and pot provided.. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday or Sunday March 16 or 17, 2024

TREE HARVEST WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL. on the 16th and 10:00 - 4:00 in Paw Paw IL on the 17th. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY – CHICAGO CHAPTER MEETING
at the Garfield Park Conservatory. 6:00 PM, There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a tree to work on. If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 773-235-9479.

Thursday March 21, 2024

SPRING BONSAI CARE with Chris Baker
6:00PM - 8:00PM at the Chicago Botanic Garden - Bonsai Studio in Grainger Gallery. Explore the seasonal care of deciduous, evergreen, and tropical bonsai starting with the emergence of winter dormancy and continuing through the growing season. Topics will include soil and repotting, spring growth, and pest management. For more information or to register, go to: https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/spring_bonsai_care

Saturday March 23, 2024

HARDY TREE REPOTTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai
9:30 AM - 4:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL Bring your own trees and tools, if you have them. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

Monday April 1, 2024

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center or via WebEx Meeting (Invitation to be sent via email). 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101 program; "Propagation from Cuttings" presented by Victor Zurczak. 7:30 PM, Program: "Air Layering Demonstration", also by Victor. Members are encouraged to bring their own trees to be air layered. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
Room HEC #1020 in the Homeland Security Center at the College of DuPage. The college address is 425 Fawell Boulevard in Glen Ellyn. 7:00 PM Program; Tree Repotting Demonstration and Bring Your Own Tree Workshop. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Saturday or Sunday, April 6 or 7, 2024

JULIAN SAI WORKSHOPS
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, at Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree workshops or buy one. For further information go to <https://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday April 6, 2024

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. "Focus: "Curved Chisel Use". Main Program: "Dawn Redwood Forest Creation" with Steve C. For further information go to [Schedule for Milwaukee Bonsai Society.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

Saturday April 6, 2024

PINE TREE STYLING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai
9:30 AM -12:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL Bring your own tree and tools, if you have them. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday April 6, 2024

EVERGREEN WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai
1:30 AM - 4:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL Bring your own tree or buy one and tools, if you have them. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday April 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2024

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 https://www.thehiddengardens.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html or call 630-655-8283.

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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 up. 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 gradu-

ally 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. Ficus can be pruned at this time of year.

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

March Events

(Continued from Page 2)

Saturday April 13, 2024

STYLING MAPLES/DECIDUOUS TREES WORKSHOPS at BC Bonsai

9:30 AM - 12:30 or 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL Bring your own tree (or buy one) and tools, if you have them. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY – CHICAGO CHAPTER MEETING at the Garfield Park Conservatory. 6:00 PM, There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a tree to work on. If you would like further information about or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 773-235-9479.

Saturday April 20, 2024

STYLING AND CARE OF JUNIPERS WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

9:30 AM - 12:00, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL Bring your own tree and tools, if you have them. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday April 27, 2024

STYLING TREES FRESH FROM BRUSSELS WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

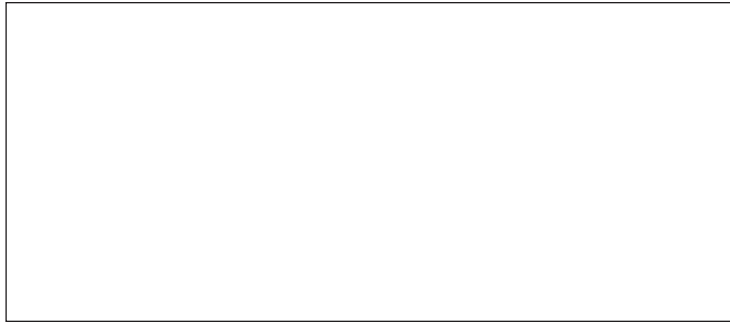
9:30 AM - 12:00, at 2250 Durham Drive, Wheaton, IL Bring your own tools, if you have them. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com/calender.html> or call 630-386-1515.

Sunday, April 28, 2024

MAPLE FOREST WORKSHOP with Mark Karczewski

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, at Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Workshop includes, instruction, five trees, pot, and soil. For further information go to <https://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

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



Membership Request

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

Email _____

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

Please Check If Renewal

Send to: Midwest Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 1373
Highland Park, Illinois
60035-7373

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

Midwest Bonsai Connection

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 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.