

MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

Spring has sprung, sort of. I had an enjoyable weekend taking my bonsai out of storage only to have the temps drop and it actually snowed a little. Ah well, the trees are out where I can see them everyday again and that always makes me happy. I've been working on repotting, even before I brought things out, but there is always more to do. At the Garden, they are working hard to get the trees ready to go out on display at the end of April. We'll be able to start enjoying them again at our monthly meetings starting in May.

May is creeping up on us, including the May show. It's reached year nine already, not too bad for a "one time event." For those who are new, the May show started as a one time event that has just kept going. A less formal, and mainly educational show, it's been well received over the years. Our current format is based on folks bringing in trees in various states of training, with descriptions of what processes are going on. Always a great learning experience each year, we hope to have a great

turnout again this year, as well. We need more trees this year than in prior years, so I am hoping that everyone can chip in and help out. As I mentioned at the April meeting, a huge, month-long project at work is going to keep me from appearing in Chicago for the month of May. This includes the May show, and the dozen or so trees that I typically bring for the display. So, please give me a hand and bring in some of your trees for the display! We will be accepting write-ups via our email address—midwest.bonsai@yahoo.com. You can also email us to sign up for workshops, help volunteer and ask any other question that comes to your mind. Our vendors have a great line-up of workshop offerings this year, and we have our very fun banquet on Saturday night. Please come join the camaraderie!

We are still in the viewing phase of our bylaw update, the bylaws can be found on the website under the "newsletter archive" link. Comments and questions are welcome. This is mainly a 'maintenance' update on the bylaws, to incorporate items

that have already been approved by the board and have been in practice. The bylaws were last edited in 1998; we felt that it was time to clean them up a little. We'll have a vote at the June meeting for passing the updated bylaws.

Our May meeting this year will be repotting,

please bring a tree for help in repotting it. We'll have turf on hand and soaking tubs, as well as knowledgeable folks to answer your questions and help you along. Rich Helminiak will be running things in my absence. Please take care, enjoy the spring and I'll see folks again in June!
—Cat Nelson



THE MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY
invites you to the **Ninth Annual
Spring Bonsai Show and Exhibit**

www.midwestbonsai.org



- Bonsai Trees
- Workshops
- Vendors
- Raffles
- Demonstrations
- Banquet + Auction

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CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN
1000 Lake Cook Road
Glencoe, Illinois
May 18 & 19, 2013
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



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Haiku

by Susan Babyk

Awakening

Ancient Maple stirs.
Bonsai Master sighs, relieved.
The tender buds swell.

MBS By-Laws Revisions

We are still in the viewing phase of our bylaw update, the bylaws can be found on the website under the "newsletter archive" link. Comments and questions are welcome. This is mainly a 'maintenance' update on the bylaws, to incorporate items that have already been approved by the board and have been in practice. We will vote for passing the updated bylaws at the June meeting.

Chicago Bonsai Club

Chicago Bonsai Club
The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, May 15, beginning at 6 p.m. The focus of the meeting has not yet been determined, but James Fairchild and Tony Welinski will

be available to answer questions, and assist with styling and maintaining your bonsai trees.

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.

May Meeting Focus

The May meeting, scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 6, at the Chicago Botanic

Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center, will be our annual repotting meeting. Note: There will be no Bonsai 101 session in May, but come early to start repotting.

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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Monthly Care Report:

What to Do in April/May

I have been doing a lot of repotting the last couple of weeks since the weather has warmed and moderated. Remember to keep any repotted trees in the shade for a couple weeks. Trees repotted can be given their first light doses of fertilizer after they start to settle in.

Adjust your watering to match the warmer weather. Candles on pines can be pinched any time they are up enough. 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. It is critical to stay on top of maples now and pinch out that center bud just as it emerges from the middle of the first two leaves. April is still a decent month for root-pruning, and for digging trees from yard or field. Begin your feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning schedules in earnest towards the end of April and beginning of May as the weather permits. Of course, be mindful of potential cold snaps, and be ready to protect vulnerable plants.

By May most deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Watering should be adjusted by the weather as we can get lots of rain in April. Cuttings of evergreens may still be taken, some will root and

some won't. Air-layering of deciduous and evergreens can be continued. Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees as sudden frosts can damage the young leaves.

May is not too late for repotting, but this requires increasingly careful after-care as the season progresses. Trees repotted in May should be protected from stronger sun and wind until strong growth is observed, and leafy trees may suffer from transplant shock, so roots should be left intact as much as possible. 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.

FERTILIZE... You can start feeding most of your trees in May. I will be putting our club made fertilizer blocks on all of my trees. Wait until the leaves have hardened off on your deciduous trees before feeding them. It may be a little early to take your tropical trees out in the first part of May as we can get some cold nights even into the middle of May. Also wait on any of your tropicals that you plan on defoliating. I apply a timed release fertilizer now. You can incorporate a little into the soil and then top dress the soil to hide it. When using a timed release fertilizer be careful not to use too much and watch for any salt build up. It is wise to learn about fertilizing your

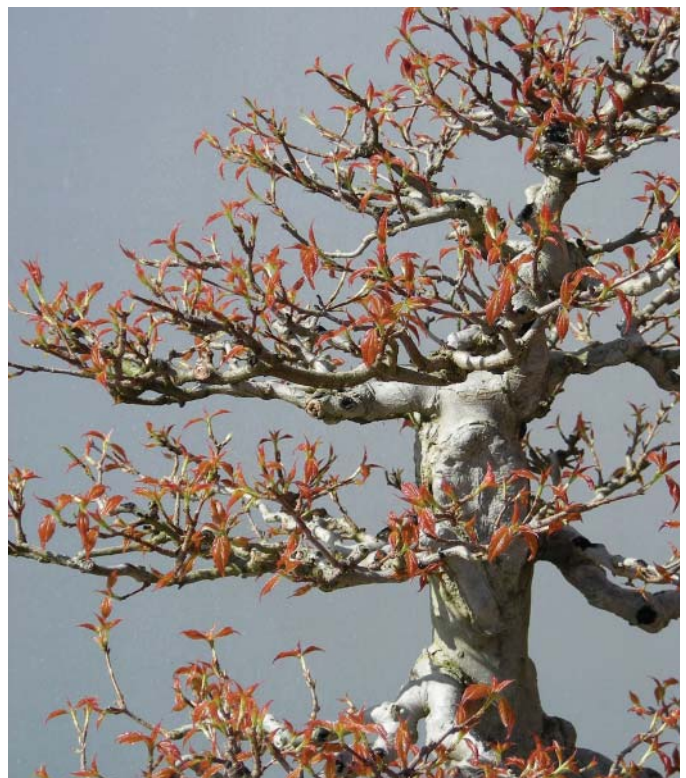
trees, there are so many variables when it comes to fertilizing a bonsai. If you want to thicken branches or the trunk, you can feed it more nitrogen. If you have an older tree with fine ramification, you don't want to feed it anymore then you absolutely have to for optimum health. You do not want to overfeed your trees, it will promote too much growth that you will end up drastically having to prune off later in the season, increase your leaf size and lengthen the internodes.

PRUNING... If you have maples and junipers you should be very busy pinching the growth tips back, this is a frequent task this time of year, but it is the only way to keep your internodes short. Your pine candles will be extending and should be pinched back as much as 2/3rds. Elms will need to be steadily pruned back to the first

or second node. Your tropicals coming out of winter can be pruned back hard, prune farther back than your original style to improve taper and allow for rapid growth, or you will be doing it again soon. You can start defoliating some of your tropicals now to reduce the leaf size if needed, if not, keep your larger leaves pruned and keep pinching those growth tips off.

INSECTS... Along with the flush of new growth come those pesky little bugs wanting to eat it. Now is when you should pay careful attention so as to prevent infestations. Aphids love new growth and come out with a vengeance now, spraying them with a little soapy water will get them.

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



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Membership Renewal Reminder

As usual, July 1st is the renewal date for your Midwest Bonsai Society membership, so please fill out the "Membership

Request" form provided below, 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.

Membership Request

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone

Date

Email

Please Check If Renewal

Please make check payable to:

Send to: Midwest Bonsai Society

Midwest Bonsai Society

P.O. Box 1373

Highland Park, Illinois

Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

60035-7373

\$35 Electronic Newsletter **OR \$40** Newsletter by Mail

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