
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

Moving day has finally arrived! I have too many trees, so it took me three evenings to get all my trees and accents out of my root cellar and outside onto benches. But, somewhere around 200 trees and 60 accents later, they're all outside. Of course, each tree has to be looked over carefully to check its health and condition. Dead leaves that gathered during storage or weren't cleared off last fall have to be cleaned off and early

weeds pulled. Decisions on where trees need to sit on which bench, mental tallies on where I stand on repotting, etc., etc. A lot of work, but a reminder of why we're in the hobby in the first place. The swelling buds seen up close, the delicate colors of new leaves, seeing afresh the changes and advancement of prior work, all comes together in one happy thought: I love bonsai.

I hope everyone enjoyed

our guest speaker last month, Ted Matson. I'd like to send out another thank-you to the Milwaukee folks who shared him with us, and send my appreciation to the membership for their flexibility in moving our meeting date. For May, we have another guest speaker, this time shared with our friends in Prairie State. They are bringing in Dave Kruetz and sharing him with us. Dave is well known for his work with azalea bonsai, and will be speaking to us about the care and needs of azaleas throughout the year.

Folks should be deep into repotting, and while we will not have our normal repotting meeting in May (we have a guest speaker), we will be doing our repotting meeting in June. We'll focus on repotting tropical bonsai, since they are happiest being repotted in the summer months. The club provides surface, soaking tubs, and aluminum wire for the repotting meeting—all you need to bring is a tree and a pot to put it into.

Plans for the May show are in full swing. We've lined up some vendors and are going to go with a smaller number of workshops. We have added a club-sponsored

workshop for absolute beginners, and are scheduling some intro-to-bonsai lectures for the general public. For our newer members, the aim of our Spring show is education and recruitment. We show trees in different stages of training, with write-ups to accompany them to explain the processes being used. The goal is to demystify bonsai, show that it's a process that can be learned, and offer ourselves as the place where they could start learning. The general public mostly sees advanced bonsai, like the ones on display at the Garden, and has no idea of how the trees have gotten to that stage. Our aim is to show how the trees progress via different training methods. Everyone is welcome to show trees they are working on, and are encouraged to write a paragraph or two of history or explanation of the tree. This is not a formal show, so there should be no excuses of 'my tree isn't ready to display'. That's the point! Don't be shy, bring them in!

Looking forward to seeing everyone again May, please forgive me if I have dirt under my fingernails from repotting!
—Cat Nelson



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Events Calendar

Monday, May 5, 2014

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 7:00pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Fairchild Room, located in the Regenstein Center. Guest Speaker: David Kruetz. For more information go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 7:30pm. Guest Artist - Peter Tea. Peter has been to our annual exhibit in the past and has been in Japan serving as an apprentice to sharpen his skills. He is an accomplished bonsai artist and can provide an entertaining and informative demonstration. For more information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org.

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 7:30pm, Room TEC1038b. Program: Azalea demonstration by David Kruetz. 7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Ficus Namfolia by Mark Karczewski. For more information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

May 10 & 11, 2014 (Saturday & Sunday)

BONSAI SHOW at Frederik Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, Michigan, featuring internationally recognized bonsai artist Peter Tea. Register online at MeijerGardens.org/education or call 616-975-3147.

May 17 & 18, 2014 (Saturday & Sunday)

10TH ANNUAL MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY BONSAI SHOW

For more information go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

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

Monday, June 2, 2014

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 7:00pm, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Tropical Bonsai repotting - bring a tropical tree to repot. Our annual repotting meeting, but later in the year and geared towards your tropical plants.

Tuesday, June 6, 2014

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 7:30pm. Guest lecturer: Arthur Joura. For more information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

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

Chicago Bonsai Club

The Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 21, beginning at 6 p.m. The focus of the meeting has not yet been determined, but senior members of the MBS will be available to answer questions, and assist with styling and

maintaining your bonsai trees, so bring one to work on or for critique.

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 is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 5th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Fairchild Room, located in the Regenstein Center. For May, we have another guest speaker, David Kruetz. The Prairie State Bonsai Society is bringing in Dave Kruetz

and sharing him with us. Dave is well known for his work with azalea bonsai, and will be speaking to us about the care and needs of azaleas throughout the year. The meeting will begin promptly at 7 p.m. and there will not be a Bonsai 101 this month.

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The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the Midwest Bonsai 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.

The Midwest Bonsai Society's 10th Annual Spring Bonsai Show + Exhibit

Chicago
Botanic
Garden,
1000 Lake
Cook Road,
Glencoe,
Illinois



May 17 + 18,
2014
9:00 A.M. -
5:00 P.M.

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Garden
Photo by: Tim Priest
M.Photog.Cr

Workshop Schedule for the 2014 Spring Show

All workshops are \$50, plus the listed materials fee from the instructor. Exceptions to this are noted in workshop description. To register for workshops online go to the following website and select "registration form" <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/mayworkshop.html>

Saturday, May 17th, 9:00am - 12:00pm

1) Saturday, May 17 - 9am: FRANK MIHALIC
Our longest running vendor and respected national bonsai artist Frank Mihalic will hold a Bring Your Own Tree workshop. Bring a tree that you'd like some help and guidance with.
Skill Level: All
Material Fee: N/A
Location: TBA
Availability: Not Open Yet

Saturday, May 17th, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

2) Saturday, May 17, 1:00pm - MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY
An intro to bonsai hands-on workshop with members of the Midwest Bonsai Society. If you've ever been interested in learning about bonsai, this is your chance to have a hands-on workshop aimed at teaching you the basics of bonsai with beginner friendly material.
Skill Level: Beginner
Material Fee: TBA
Location: TBA
Availability: Not Open Yet

Saturday, May 17th, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

3) Saturday, May 17 - 1pm: BRIAN CISKOWSKI - Prunus mume "Contorta"
Work with Brian Ciskowski on some lovely Prunus mume "Contorta" - Japanese Flowering Apricot - stock.
Skill Level: Intermediate
Material Fee: \$90
Location: TBA
Availability: Not Open Yet

Sunday, May 18th, 9:00am - 12:00pm

4) Sunday, May 18 - 9am: LINDA CAMP and JIM BECK
Work with Linda Camp and Jim Beck on some junipers - either shohin or cascading.
Skill Level: Beginner
Material Fee: \$25
Location: TBA
Availability: Not Open Yet

Sunday, May 18th, 1:00pm - 4:00pm

5) Sunday, May 18th, 1:00pm: FRANK MIHALIC - Children's Workshop
Bring your children for a Juniperus chinensis workshop, there is no registration fee for this workshop.
Material Fee (the only fee for this workshop): \$10
Location: Regenstein Center
Availability: Still Available

Vendors

BC Bonsai
Cass Bonsai Gardens, LLC
Fred Tarnow
Karen Schuman
Wildwood Gardens

Please Hold The Date



The Midwest Bonsai Society invites you to the 37th Annual **Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit**



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

**Guest Master:
Rodney Clemons**

© 2013 Chicago Botanic Garden
Photo by: Tim Priest M.Photog.Cr



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 Lake Cook Road • Glencoe, Illinois

August 15, 2014 • Noon - 5:00 P.M.

August 16 + 17, 2014 • 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

www.midwestbonsai.org

Monthly Care Report: What to Do in May

Continue repotting deciduous trees through April and wrap up any repotting of pines by early in the month of May. Remember to keep them in the shade for a couple weeks. Trees repotted in April can be given their first light doses of fertilizer.

Continue to patrol for insects and adjust your watering to match the warmer weather. Candles on pines can be pinched any time they are big 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. Continue feeding your trees on a regular basis.

By May most deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Watering schedule may be started. Cuttings of evergreens may still be taken. Air-layering of deciduous and evergreens can be continued. Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees as sudden frosts can damage the young leaves. Your feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning schedules should be in full swing by now. May is not too late for repotting or field collecting, but this requires increasingly careful after-care as the season

progresses. Trees repotted or collected in May should be protected from strong 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.

Careful use of insecticides 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.

PRUNING... After our winter months some trees have wanted to grow out of proportion, especially Ficus, which are indoors. Still a little too early to set outside. So now is the time to prune for shape. You can also root prune and repot your tropicals now. Now is when you really have to keep on top of your pruning to increase ramification. Even though your Serissa might be blooming, prune back for better ramification and many more blooms later in the summer. After each branch on your Bougainvillea is bloomed out, cut those branches way back. Keep the growth tips pinched on your Maples. Keep pruning your Elms back to the first or second node.

FERTILIZE... You can start on your summer feeding program late May. All of

your deciduous trees are hardened, so feed them. Young trees more nitrogen, older ones a more balanced food to maintain them. Any tree you have 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 over water, 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... You should be checking 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. You can use a granular systemic insecticide which main ingredient is Imidacloprid. This only kills non beneficial insects.

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

Haiku

by Susan Babyk

At Last
Nanking Cherry blooms.
Dawn Redwood leaves
out, lime green.
What a lovely thing.



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

Membership Renewal Reminder

July was the time to renew your Midwest Bonsai Society membership, so if you haven't already, please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on the last page of this newsletter. If you do not renew your membership by the end of the year you will no longer receive newsletters via email or snail mail. Your renewal is important in order for us to keep our mailing lists up-to-date. Thank you for your ongoing support. 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

Email

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 \$40** Newsletter by Mail