

MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

May will be upon us by the time you read this. Didn't think we would ever get there. The fine specimens at the Chicago Botanic Garden should be going on display soon, if not already. We are very lucky to have easy access to so many top quality bonsai and a visit to the collection always inspires me to go home and work on my trees.

Not all of my trees made it through the winter—I wish I was smart enough to know why they die but I rarely find the true cause. Did I let them get too dry? It seems like I have to water my trees more often than what I read from others. The repotting season is probably my favorite bonsai season. I try to study each and every

tree a few times during the year but you only get to study the roots during this time. For some reason I have an urge to hurry once the tree is out of the pot, but this usually results in mistakes—have you ever finished a repotting then stepped back to admire your work only to realize that the tree is sitting at the wrong angle or wrong place in the pot. I have. I'm trying to learn to slow down and be more deliberate during the process, without letting the tree dry out, of course.

As most of you know by now, we have a new website (same www.midwestbonsai.org address). If you like the new website (I sure do), please let Matthew Corpolongo know—he has put a lot of

personal time into this. I hope you will all check out the new online workshop signup tool where you can see in real time what workshops are available.

Which brings us to the 11th Annual Spring Bonsai Show, just a month away as I write this (May 16 & 17). We will probably move the show indoors again this year since the vendors seemed to like last year's format. Having everything consolidated into the Burnstein Hall definitely amped up the vibe. Volunteers are crucial to the success of the show, and it's also a lot of fun. Some people prefer to just show up and work—and we appreciate the help. But we greatly prefer that you select a time slot and send us notice in advance so we know if any times are going to be short handed. You can

email Larry Stephen or send an email to midwest.bonsai@yahoo.com. And of course, be getting your tree displays ready. The May show is about trees in development. Try writing a short history of the tree or a plan for where you see the tree going—this is the show where we let our guests look “under the hood” to see where bonsai start, and how they are developed.

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society has recently emailed to let us know that Mauro Stemberger will be the guest artist at their May 5 meeting. Mauro will spend the entire evening styling a large Andy Smith Ponderosa pine. At the Boerner Arboretum in Hale's Corner WI, 6:30pm.

I hope to see you all at the May meeting.
—Jay Albright



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Events Calendar

Sunday, May 3, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY

Intermediate Workshop - Repotting, 9 am - 3 pm. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Monday, May 4, 2015

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MAY 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, Chris Baker will be performing a demonstration on Bonsai trees.

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 6:30 pm. Guest Artist: Mauro Stemberger. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

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

Saturday, May 9, 2015

WORLD BONSAI DAY,

10 am – 4 pm, Chicago Botanic Garden. Chris Baker will be demonstrating bonsai styling and rock slab planting, and leading a walk-through of the bonsai collection. For further information, go to: chicagobotanic.org

Tuesday, May 12 or Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Ivan Watters Bonsai Workshops at the Farm. 6 week workshops. For further Information or to register, go to elawafarm.org

Saturday, May 16 & Sunday, May 17, 2015

Midwest Bonsai Society 11th Annual Spring Bonsai Show. For further information go to ww.midwestbonsai.org

Saturday May 30 & Sunday May 31, 2015

MILWAUKEE SPRING SHOW at Lynden Sculpture Garden. Go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org for further information.

Monday, June 1, 2015

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MAY 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, Phil Malhiot will be demonstrating on a Black Pine, which will be raffled off at completion.

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING, 6:30 pm. Guest Artist: Peter Tea. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

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

Ivan Watters Bonsai Workshops at the Farm

6 Weeks. Tuesdays or Wednesdays, May 12/13 to June 16/17. 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

Cost: \$250.

Limited to 15 people.

Location: Elawa Farm, 1401 Middlefork Drive, Lake Forest, IL

Experience level: Novice to Advanced. (Sorry but no beginners).

Bring your own material. Raw stock to finished bonsai are welcome.

Also bring everything you will need: tools, turntable, wire, etc.

No lectures but questions are encouraged.

Supervised work, review and evaluation at each session.

Register and pay at: <https://www.elawafarm.org/programflowers.html>

May Meeting Focus

The May meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 4, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00pm - Bonsai 101,

topic: watering & fertilizing; 7:30pm: General Meeting, Chris Baker, curator of bonsai, Chicago Botanic Garden, will be performing a demonstration on Bonsai trees.

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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.

The Midwest Bonsai Society Invites You to the 11th Annual



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

Spring Bonsai Show & Exhibit Chicago

May 16 • 17, 2015

Please visit www.midwestbonsai.org for more information.

Standard, Prescreened Particles



Small, Prescreened Particles Ideal for Shohin bonsai (4"-12" trees)



PROFILE® Professional Bonsai Growing Medium

Provides the moisture, drainage and plant support bonsai need.

From the manufacturers of Turface®, Profile Products brings you two new specially formulated bonsai growing mediums. Both feature a prescreened, uniform particle size that provides moisture, drainage, aeration and plant support. Profile® Bonsai Growing Medium is an inorganic, pH neutral ceramic particle that won't break down. Thousands of pores retain nutrients and hold water and oxygen in a nearly perfect 50/50 balance. Bonsai growers have come to depend on Profile to help grow beautiful bonsai trees that can be enjoyed for years!

BENEFITS:

- Allows roots to thrive by balancing air and water
- Drains water quickly
- pH Neutral
- 100% natural—won't break down
- Retains nutrients with high CEC

PACKAGING:

1 gallon (3.79 liters) Approximately 5-6 pounds

INGREDIENTS:

Arcillite Both products now available at www.ProfileGrow.com

NOTE:

Representatives of Profile will be giving away free samples of their product at the Spring Show, so be sure to stop by and get your sample.

11th Annual Spring Bonsai Show Workshops

May 16-17, 2015

All workshops are \$50.00 (except the Children's Workshop for which there is only a materials fee). Register online at our website: www.midwestbonsai.org using Eventbrite via the link accompanying each of the listings (except the Children's workshop which is available only in-person day-of). Materials fees are paid directly to the vendor at the time of the workshop.

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Yamadori Style Shimpaku Workshop - Brian Ciskowski

May 16, 2015 9:00am – 12:00pm

Work with Brian Ciskowski, noted Bonsai artist, on Yamadori style Shimpakus. Trees From: Cass Bonsai Gardens - www.cassbonsaigardens.com

Skill Level: Beginner to advanced Limit: 10 participants

Materials fee: \$125.00 (paid directly to vendor at beginning of workshop) Location: Regenstein Center – Linnaeus Room

Mame Boxwood Workshop - Frank Mihalic

May 16, 2015 9:30am – 12:30pm

Wildwood Gardens. Frank Mihalic, nationally recognized Bonsai artist will work with you on Mame Boxwood trees. The trunks are ¾" to 1" Trees From: Wildwood Gardens - www.wildwoodgardens.com

Skill Level: Beginner to advanced Limit: 10 participants

Materials fee: \$45.00 (paid directly to vendor at beginning of workshop) Location: Regenstein Center – Auditorium Stage

Larch Workshop - Linda Camp and Jim Beck

May 16, 2015 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Work with Linda Camp and Jim Beck, founders of BC Bonsai on Larch from their nursery and growing fields. Trunks are 3" to 4". Trees are in 5 gallon pots. Trees From: BC Bonsai - www.bcbonsai.com

Skill Level: Beginner to advanced Limit: 8 participants

Materials fee: \$100.00 (paid directly to vendor at beginning of workshop) Location: Regenstein Center – Linnaeus Room

Various Tropicals - Jim Fairchild - Midwest Bonsai Society

May 16, 2015 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Jim Fairchild of the Midwest Bonsai Society will do a workshop with a variety of Tropical trees. Workshop fee of \$35.00 includes the material fee. Trees From: Midwest Bonsai Society Stock

Skill Level: Beginner to advanced Limit: 12 participants

Materials fee: (included in registration fee)

Location: Regenstein Center – Plant Science Lab

Sunday, May 17, 2015

Weeping or Slanting style Maple Workshop - Linda Camp and Jim Beck

May 17, 2015 9:00am – 12:00pm

Linda Camp and Jim Beck will work with you on weeping or slanting style Maples from their nursery. Trees From: BC Bonsai - www.bcbonsai.com

Skill Level: Beginner to advanced Limit: 8 participants

Materials fee: \$30.00 (paid directly to vendor at beginning of workshop) Location: Regenstein Center - Plant Science Lab

Green Mound Juniper Workshop - Brian Ciskowski

May 17, 2015 9:30am – 12:30pm

Work with Brian Ciskowski, noted Bonsai artist, on gallon sized Green Mound Junipers. Trees From: Cass Bonsai Gardens - www.cassbonsaigardens.com

Skill Level: Beginner to advanced Limit: 10 participants

Materials fee: \$45.00 (paid directly to vendor at beginning of workshop) Location: Regenstein Center - Auditorium Stage

Children's Shimpaku Juniper Workshop - Frank Mihalic

May 17, 2015 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Frank Mihalic of Wildwood Gardens will lead a workshop in which children can create a beautiful Bonsai from Shimpaki Juniper stock. Pot, wire and soil are included. Register at the Show. Trees From: Wildwood Gardens - www.wildwoodgardens.com

Skill Level: Beginner

Materials fee: \$10.00 (total fee, there is no registration fee)

Location: Regenstein Center - Plant Science Lab

Monthly Care Report: What to do in May

By May, most deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Watering should now be done routinely. Cuttings of evergreens may still be taken. Air layering of deciduous and evergreens can be continued. Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees, as late frosts can damage young leaves.

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 increas-

ingly 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, as leafy trees may suffer from transplant shock, so roots should be left intact as much as possible. Careful use of insecticides and fungicides 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 wires--deciduous trees in particular can expand very quickly in May and June.

Finish repotting pines early in the month. Remember to keep them in the shade for a few weeks. Trees repotted in April can be given light doses of fertilizer.

Continue to patrol for insects, and adjust watering to match warmer weather. Candles on pines can be pinched any time as they elongate. Start with weak

buds and do strong buds a week or so later. Spruce, juniper and larch shoots are probably ready for their first pinching of the season. Watch 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 the center bud as it emerges from the middle of the first two leaves. Continue feeding trees on a regular basis.

*Compiled from several web articles and adapted to our area.
—Ed Hake.*

Chicago Bonsai Club

The May meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be on Wednesday, May 20, beginning at 6 p.m. We will be focusing on watering and fertilizing, and there will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a plant to work on.

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 April 2015

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World Bonsai Day

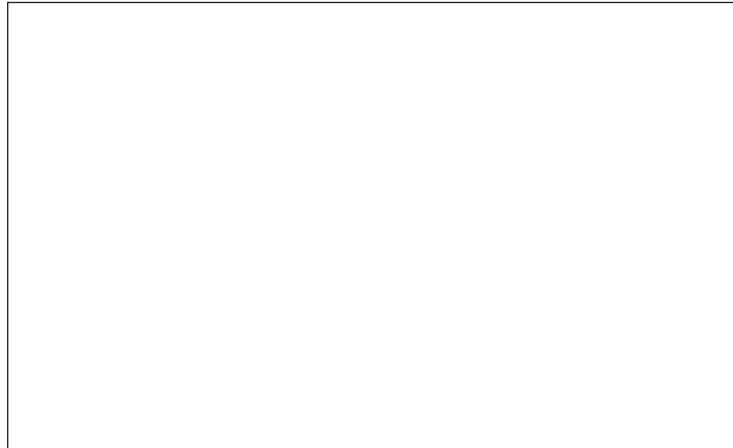
May 9, 2015
Location: Chicago Botanic Garden in the East Courtyard.
Presenter: Chris Baker, Bonsai Curator for Chicago Botanic Garden
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – Demonstration: Creating a Bonsai Tree
1 p.m. – Spring Garden Walk: Bonsai Collection Special Spring Highlights showcasing selections from the Garden's world-class bonsai collection. (Note: hopefully, the Korean lilac, wisteria, crabapple or azalea bonsai will be in bloom)
1:30pm – 4 p.m. – Demonstration: Bonsai Landscape Planting of multiple bonsai on a rock slab.

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.

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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

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Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

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