

MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

The next General meeting will be held on May 1st.

A ONCE IN A BONSAI LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY AT OUR MAY EXHIBIT!

How many times have you looked at the amazing professional and Best in Show trees in our August Exhibit and marveled at how the artist was able to enhance the beauty of the tree by removing bark without damaging the tree. On Saturday of the Exhibit

we offer a one day workshop with Will Baddeley. Lunch is also provided. Will is an International Bonsai Master, from the UK, famous for his ability to remove bark to enhance a tree. Take a look at your mature trees and see if one would be ready to be lifted up to the next level in Bonsai. On Sunday Will also has a half day workshop devoted to styling your tree.

In addition if you need a new, exciting tree think about BC Bonsai's workshops on

Saturday (Silver Cypress) and Sunday (Dwarf Alberta Spruce). All workshops can be accessed and your spot reserved on the Midwest Bonsai Website.

We still need volunteer help on Friday for tree registration, Saturday for helping with the Children's workshop, and Sunday for the Children's workshop, and docents. The links for volunteering to work at the Exhibit are now live at: <https://www.midwestbonsai.org/may-exhibit#volunteer>

[midwestbonsai.org/may-exhibit#volunteer](https://www.midwestbonsai.org/may-exhibit#volunteer)

Being a volunteer at the Exhibit has multiple benefits. If you are not a Garden Member we can get you a pass for free parking and admission to the Gardens. You receive a complimentary lunch and you get to have a lot more fun working with other members, visitors, guest Bonsai Masters and Board Members. Please go on line and sign up soon. —Larry Stephan

May Exhibit Update

Our May Exhibit is quickly approaching and I wanted to make you aware of the activities we have planned. World renowned carving artist, Will Baddeley, will be in the US

from the UK, and the Midwest Bonsai Society is sharing expenses to bring him in to our Show. He will be doing an all-day carving workshop on Saturday, May 13. This will be a Bring Your Own Tree workshop. The fee for the combined sessions is \$180 (total) and limited to 8 students. There will also be availability for 4 individuals for each session to audit the class (no questions or discussion) for \$25/session. Lunch will be available for those who sign up for the 2-session class.

He will be doing a demonstration (free) on Sunday afternoon. BC Bonsai will also be doing a Saturday morning workshop on Boulevard Cypress trees, and a Sunday morning workshop on Dwarf Alberta Spruce trees. Both classes carry \$20 material + \$50 registration fees. We will also have vendors and promising bonsai material on display, along with ongoing demonstrations by our club members.

We don't typically have guest artists like Will Baddeley at our May Exhibit, so we are hoping that our members and friends will take advantage of this opportunity to further their bonsai abilities as well as support the Midwest Bonsai Society. Please see our website for additional information. **(Continued on Page 3)**

- Free Admission
- Bonsai Trees
- Suiseki
- Workshops
- Demonstrations
- Vendors



The Midwest Bonsai Society invites you to the 17th Annual May Bonsai Exhibit
May 13 & 14, 2023
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
www.midwestbonsai.org

With Special Guest:
Will Baddeley teaching bonsai carving.



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN
1000 Lake Cook Road
Glencoe, Illinois
Parking fees apply

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

May Events Calendar

Monday May 1, 2023

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; "Wiring Techniques" presented by Victor Zurczak". 7:30 PM, Program: "Grafting" presentation and demonstration by Mark Fields via Webex from his Indianapolis Bonsai Nursery. Members are also invited to bring a tree to get advice on care or styling from Victor Zurczak or other senior members. For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. The college address is 425 Fawell Boulevard in Glen Ellyn.

7:00 PM Program; Air Layering and Grafting presentation by Mark Fields. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Saturday MAY 6, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Main Program: Air Layering. Novice Program: Repotting Your Tropical Trees. For further information go to [Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

Saturday May 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2023

SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree workshop. Bring your own tree and Mark will evaluate and help you get it to the next level. For further information go to http://www.hidden-garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday & Sunday, May 13 & 14, 2023

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY 17th ANNUAL MAY BONSAI EXHIBIT

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM in the Burnstein Hall of the Regenstein Center at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Show theme: Bonsai Education. Members invited to bring trees in various stages of training, accompanied by explanations of what techniques are being used. Vendors, workshops and demonstrations. Visiting artist Will Baddely, from Ipswich UK, specializes in carving to create beautiful deadwood on trees. He will conduct workshops and a demonstration for the exhibit. For further information, go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/may-exhibit>

Saturday May 13, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY WORLD BONSAI DAY

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Lynden Sculpture Garden. For further information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html

Wednesday May 17, 2023

MBS CHICAGO CHAPTER MEETING

6:00 PM - 7:30 at Garfield Park Conservatory, located at 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a tree to work on. For more information about the meeting or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 312-590-6049.

Wednesday May 17, 2023

BONSAI DESIGN ONLINE with Chris Baker

6:00PM - 8:00PM from the Chicago Botanic Garden via Zoom. There are many different types and styles of bonsai design. Learn about your tree's "attitude," its tension or balance, the ins and outs of negative space, and traditional versus natural styles. For more information or to register, go to: https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bonsai_design_online

Saturday June 3, 2023

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Main Program: Summer Juniper Work. Novice Program: Pruning, Partial Defoliation of Tropical Trees. For further information go to [Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

Saturday June 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2023

SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI with Mark Karczewski

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Bring your own tree and Mark will evaluate and help you get it to the next level. (Repotting and wiring are extra). For further information go to http://www.hidden-garden.net/bonsai_saturday_morning.html or call 630-655-8283.

Monday June 5, 2023

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, No Bonsai 101. General program; "Deciduous Bonsai Development" presented by Sergio Cuan via Webex, from his bonsai garden in New Jersey. Members are as always invited to bring a tree to get advice on care or styling from Victor Zurczak or other senior members For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. The college address is 425 Fawell Boulevard in Glen Ellyn. 7:00 PM Program; TBD. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Wednesday June 21, 2023

MBS CHICAGO CHAPTER MEETING

6:00 PM - 7:30 at Garfield Park Conservatory, located at 300 N. Central Park Ave. (at Lake Street) in Chicago. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance, so bring a tree to work on. For more information about the meeting or to join the club, please contact: sukazu17@gmail.com or call 312-590-6049.

Sunday June 25, 2023

BONSAI BASICS with Chris Baker

6:00PM - 8:00PM from the Chicago Botanic Garden Plant Science Lab located in the Regenstein Center. Learn the horticulture, art, and philosophy of bonsai through the history, fundamental aesthetic elements, and basic style types. You will learn about tools, wiring, soils, fertilizers, and year-round care. A walk to view part of the Garden's Bonsai Collection is included. Dress for the weather. For more information or to register, go to: https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bonsai_basics

Monthly Care Report - What to Do in May

By May, most deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning schedules should be in full swing by now. 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.

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, as leafy trees may suffer from transplant shock, so roots should be left intact as much as possible. 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.

Larches are past the time we can do anything other

than pluck the tips. Fingers are best. You must be very careful not to cut into individual needles as they will turn brown.

Junipers can be thinned carefully with scissors. Cut out all long, spindly, vigorous growth. Cedar Apple Rust is very bad this year because of the cold and wet season. Treat with sprayed on fungicide. Systemic is best. Continue monthly treatments until the trees go into storage in fall.

Pines, Spruces, Firs, Yews and Hinoki Cypress continue to de-candle, pluck or pinch new growth as it develops. You will need to do this with Yews a few times. Pines need special techniques that are different for 2-3 needle and 5 needle species. Watch professional bonsai growers on YouTube or get Stone Lantern's book on Pines. Or find someone knowledgeable to show you. 2-3 needle pines require the most work. 5 needle pines are less. I think the beauty of these trees is worth the effort.

Deciduous—Broadleaf Evergreen. Continue trimming, defoliation and major pruning. 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. 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.

Tropicals. Your trees can go outside now if night temps below 50 are not forecast. Be prepared to dance the Bonsai Tango, if forecast changes and temps are expected to dip below 50. You may begin to feed now. Use time release or High Nitrogen fertilizer.

Fertilizer. A brief note if you are using low Nitrogen fertilizer, keep it up until about 6/15 then switch to higher N. If you want to use time-release now is the time to begin.

Water routinely if we don't get enough rain. Spring and early summer are usually the worst for drying out trees. Do not be fooled, check your trees daily...

an old Japanese saying; "Never count on Buddha to water your bonsai."

Insects. Check 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. Soapy water can usually take care of both those problems but is only a temporary relief. Check all your tropicals, deciduous and broadleaf evergreens for Thrips (folding in of the leaves) if they have been a problem in the past. Check your Junipers for mites. We use a granular systemic insecticide whose main ingredient is Imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid pesticide, available at some nurseries or garden centers. This kills almost all insects and is highly toxic to honeybees, birds and fish. (See University of Florida IFAS Extension, EDIS). Careful use of insecticides and fungicides becomes increasingly useful at this time of year. Always read and follow manufacturer's directions. Don't use less because it may not be effective. Don't use more because it may cause damage or death.

—Ivan Waters, May 2020

Exhibit Update (Continued from Page 1)

May Show Volunteers, May 13-14

In order to make the MBS May Exhibit at Chicago Botanic Gardens a success, we need Members who are willing to offer time and energy to represent the Society throughout the exhibit. We specifically need:

Greeters: Members willing

to staff the Exhibit entrance desk, provide handouts, distribute membership forms, and refer visitors to the various attractions.

Docents: Members who are willing to answer visitors' questions about the Art of Bonsai and the nature of trees on exhibit.

Children's Tree Styling: We will need a members on Saturday and Sunday afternoon to assist with potting

and watering styled miniature trees. We will also need one or possibly two members who are willing to assist in styling.

Set-Up/Take-Down Crew(s): Members available to help set up and take down the exhibit.

Show times are Saturday (5/13/22) 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday (5/14/22) 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Vendor unloading is scheduled for Friday from 8 a.m. to noon.

Take down will begin promptly at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. We will need assistance on all 3 days.

We'll send a sign-up sheet around at the next general meeting, and we also have a sign-up link on the website. Also feel free to just show up and lend a hand. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

—Matt Mazza, VP-Special Events

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



May Meeting Focus

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 1st, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center and via WebEx. WebEx Invitations will be sent to all members via email.

7:00 PM - Bonsai 101 program; "Wiring Techniques" presented by Victor Zurczak.

7:30PM - General program; "Grafting" presentation and demonstration by Mark Fields. Mark will join us via Webex from his Indianapolis Bonsai Nursery. For those that did not attend last year's August Exhibit, Mark was well received as our featured Artist.

Remember you are always invited to bring in a tree of any sort, as Victor and other senior 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 May meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 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.

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.

Not for Profit • Copyright • Disclaimer

The Midwest Bonsai Connection is an official publication of the Midwest Bonsai Society, Inc., an Illinois Not for Profit Corporation. This Newsletter is published monthly and may not be reproduced in whole or in part by any means without the written permission of the Midwest Bonsai Society. The views and opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the Midwest Bonsai Society membership or the Board of Directors.



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.