
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

For our next general meeting we will be covering propagation from cuttings and air layering. The next general meeting will be held at the Gardens on May 6th.

Get ready for our 18th Annual Spring Bonsai Exhibit. The dates are May 18th and 19th. The focus of the show is to educate people about

Bonsai. Please think about bringing a tree in training or project for people to view. We are more interested in works in progress than completed trees. Lots of new sales merchandise will also be available including iron on patches, silver MBS pins, Membership decals, work vests, T-shirts, baseball caps and hats with a back flap.

Midwest Bonsai Society Newsletter
Volume 67 • Issue 43 • May 2024



- Free Admission to Midwest Bonsai Society Show
- Bonsai Trees
- Suiseki
- Workshops
- Demonstrations
- Vendors

Steve Jetzer's Ponderosa Pine, 2023, photo by Jeng Fonseca.



The Midwest Bonsai Society invites you to the 18th Annual May Bonsai Exhibit

May 18 & 19, 2024
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
www.midwestbonsai.org



chicago botanic garden

1000 Lake Cook Road
Glencoe, Illinois
Garden Admission & Parking Fees Apply

As always, the Exhibit is only made possible by the volunteer efforts of our members. We have sign up volunteer slots on our website, here is link (scroll to bottom) <https://www.midwestbonsai.org/may-exhibit>

Children's workshops will be held both days for kids to get a Bonsai tree to take home. We are pleased to be able to offer Workshops presented by BC Bonsai and Kawa No Oki (Jason Parish).
—Larry Stephan

18th Annual May Bonsai Exhibit May 18-19 Update

Our May Exhibit is quickly approaching, and Burnstein Hall will be full with vendors. We have a great selection of tree and pot vendors. Please see our website for complete list. If you'll be busy repotting tropical trees, you will not want to miss our Spring Show. Additionally, BC Bonsai will be doing a Saturday and Sunday morning workshops, and Kawa No Oka Bonsai will be doing a Saturday afternoon workshop. Please see our website for details and sign-up information.

We will need members who are willing to bring their Trees-In-Training for display. The show is not judged, but the trees will help improve the public interest in our craft.

I will bring a sign-up list for volunteers at our May General Meeting. We had too few sign-ups at the April meeting. Please consider helping us out for an hour or two over the weekend. If you cannot make it to the May meeting, please consider signing up for a volunteer position online through our website <https://www.midwestbonsai.org/may-exhibit>

Volunteers will receive a weekend pass. I will hand them out at

the May meeting. If you are not there, all you have to do is tell the guard that you are volunteering for our show, and you will get your pass inside. Lunches will be provided for volunteers working just before and during lunchtime. Please see the list below and consider giving a little time to your Society.

At the very least, come to see the vendors and their merchandise. It's going to be a very good May show.

Show Volunteers, May 18-19

Greeters: Members willing to staff the Exhibit entrance desk, provide handouts, distribute membership forms, do sales transactions, 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 (5/18/24) 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday (5/19/24) 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.

—Matt Mazza, VP-Special Events Midwest Bonsai Society

May Events Calendar

Saturday, May 4, 2024

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. Main Program: "Group Slash" with Ron F. For further information go to [Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org](http://ScheduleforMilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org)

Saturday, May 4, 11, 18, & 25, 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.

Monday, May 6, 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, May 15, 2024

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

Lecture Hall (HSC-1234) in the Health and Science Building at the College of DuPage. The college address is 425 Fawell Boulevard in Glen Ellyn. 7:00 PM Program; Styling demonstration by Mauro Stemberger an internationally respected Bonsai artist from Italy. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

Thursday to Sunday, May 9 to 12, 2024

ABS LEARNING SEMINARS and MEIJER GARDENS MICHIGAN ALL-STATE BONSAI SHOW

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, at Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Annual Bonsai Show enhanced this year with ABS Learning Seminars. Workshops, vendors from around the country, New talent competition and Bonsai Exhibition. For further information or to register go to <https://www.meijergardens.org/events/meijer-gardens-michigan-all-state-bonsai-show/>

Wednesday, May 15, 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.

Wednesday, May 15, 22, and 29, 2024

BEGINNER TROPICAL BONSAI WORKSHOP with Chris Baker

5:00PM - 8:00PM at the Chicago Botanic Garden - Bonsai Studio in Grainger Gallery. In this beginner class, you

will learn the basics of tropical bonsai care as well as the techniques to style and design your very own tree. Each session will include a lecture and hands-on workshop time to create a bonsai from your tree. All materials provided, including a tree of \$75 value. For more information or to register, go to: https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/beginner_tropical_bonsai_workshop

Saturday & Sunday, May 18 & 19, 2024

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY 18TH ANNUAL MAY BONSAI EXHIBIT

9:00 - 5:00 at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall in the Regenstein Center. Vendors offer an amazing selection of trees, accent plants, pots, stands, tools and Bonsai books and literature. There are also workshops, including a children's workshop, and bonsai demonstrations. For more information or to sign-up for workshops or to volunteer go to <https://www.midwestbonsai.org/may-exhibit>

Saturday, May 25, 2024

TROPICAL TREE REPOTTING WORKSHOP at BC Bonsai

9:30 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, June 1, 2024

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING

9:00 AM, Boerner Botanical Gardens. "Focus: "Preparing a thread graft for next Spring". Main Program: "Members bring in trees for styling advise (6-8 tables) Hands-On". For further information go to [Schedule for MilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org](http://ScheduleforMilwaukeeBonsaiSociety.org)

Saturday, June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 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.

Monday, June 3, 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: "Jin, Shari and Saba-Miki" presented by Victor Zurczak. 7:30, General Program: "Pinching, Pruning and Azalea Care After Blooming". For more information or updates go to <http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings>

Wednesday, June 5, 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; Root over Rock Demonstration. For more information or updates go to <https://prairiestatebonsai.com/news-and-events/>

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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 can be bad this time year if we have a 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

May Events

(Continued from Page 2)

Saturday or Sunday, Date To Be Announced OWEN REICH WORKSHOPS

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook, IL. Owen will be back again this year. Owen's workshop will focus on deciduous trees. This is a good time to work on these trees as the spring growth has harden off. Bring your trees in for styling and maintenance. For further information go to <https://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 8 & 9, 2024 MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY 53rd/ANNUAL BONSAI EXHIBIT

at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Whitnall Park 9400 Boerner. MBS is honored to have President of the Japanese Satsuki Association, Rick Garcia as their guest artist. Rick continues with studies to the present day and has been teaching Satsuki Bonsai for over 23 years. For more information or updates go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/ae/index.html>

Wednesday, June 19, 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.

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 6th, 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: "Propagation from Cuttings" presented by Victor Zurczak.

7:30 pm - General program: "Air Layering Demonstration", also by Victor Zurczak.

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, May 15, 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
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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.