
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

Hello again fellow Bonsai enthusiasts. I hope you've had a pleasant holiday break and that you're rested and recharged for the 2018 season. Winter has been a tough customer this year with the deep cold snap in late December and early January. The lack of snow cover for most of January will make it harder for plants that are heeled in outside to stay hydrated. Be sure they're well protected from the winter winds and check that their roots aren't drying out. While you're doing that, don't forget to take a good look at your wired branches and remove anything that is beginning to bite into the bark.

Weather permitting, our first meeting of the new year will be February 5th. Chris Baker will be talking to us about soil compositions and preparation. A timely topic as the cold months are best moment to prepare for the spring repotting season. We will be following that up in the March meeting with a presentation from Ivan Waters about necessary winter work for your bonsai. We are fortunate to have such a deep well of knowledge for our society to draw upon.

Preparations are well underway for our May Exhibition. Due to the cancellation of the annual antique show, the dates for our show have moved. Instead of the third weekend of May, this year our show will be on May 12th and 13th. The second weekend of May. We hope that this change will bring a significant increase in traffic to the Exhibition as May 12th is "World Bonsai Day" and the 13th is "Mother's Day" which is typically one of the heaviest attendance days of the year at the Chicago Botanic Gardens. We want to make an interesting showing to all the people who will be seeing our art for the first time, so please start considering what you would like to display. We're not looking for perfect specimens for May, we want works in progress and a demonstration of where you are trying to go with the piece. The biggest difficulty in that is that it takes time and effort to put together a good demonstration. So it's a good idea to start working on it sooner rather than later. While the May Exhibition is a little lighter on staffing requirements than our August Exhibition, we still need a significant amount

of help to keep the show running and the exhibits safe. So please keep an eye open for the volunteer roster and let us know when you can help out. Every hand is a welcome addition.

The elections last November brought us some shake ups on the Board. I'd particularly like to welcome Mr. Ruemmele who has stepped up to take over the assembly and editing of our monthly newsletter. Ms. Babyk is now handling the programming for the monthly meetings, and Ms. Michal has taken over the handling of the membership lists. Please extend your thanks to them for their service and your patience as they feel their way into the new positions.

In addition, if you have suggestions for content for either the Newsletter or the Monthly Meeting, please let us know through the society E-mail or in person at the meetings. We want to make the society as interesting and engaging as it can possibly be. We want to make this year interesting and educational for all of our members at all levels of progress, and we have a number of presenters under consideration, but our plans are still evolving. So keep your eyes open on the website and here in the newsletter to stay informed about our upcoming meetings.

I look forward to seeing and working with you all in the upcoming season.
—Robert Wright

February Meeting

NOTE: The February meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 5, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

Program: 7:00 pm: Bonsai 101, Topic TBD.

7:30 pm: Chris Baker will give a presentation on Soil and Root Health.

For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Events Calendar

Sunday, February 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2018

BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters,
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Brendan Berry's residence. For further information or to register go to yasukunai@hotmail.com or call 847-917-0817.

Sunday, February 4, 2018

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY
Winter Silhouettes Bonsai Display:
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM at The Domes, Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. For more information go to <http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org>

Monday, February 5, 2018

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: at 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101, Topic TBD 7:30 PM: Chris Baker will give a presentation on Soil and Root Health. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,
6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. MBS Presentation - TBD. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP:
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Chris Baker at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to www.chicagobotanic.org/education or call 847-835-8261.

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
7:30 PM, Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. Program: Carving by TBD. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Sunday February 18, 2018

BC BONSAI WORKSHOP: Dwarf Barbados Cherry
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

Saturday, February 24, 2017

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY Novice class
session 1 of 5. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Sunday March 4, 2018

BC BONSAI WORKSHOP: Shohin Mimosa
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

Midwest Bonsai Connection

Haiku

by Susan Babyk

High Qi

- I. Everything Bonsai
Turning on the shape and form
So awesome, don't cry.
- II. Bonsai plant and pot
If balanced, hefty, lofty...
Lifts us toward the top.
- III. Bonsai: take and free
The essence within a tree
And show it simply.

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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.

Chicago Bonsai Club

The first 2018 meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, March 21, beginning at 6 p.m. There is no February meeting. 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.

Monthly Care Report:

What to Do in February

In our area, early February can be very severe weather-wise, and late February can be the beginning of early spring. It is a bit too early to repot, but if you need to repot, be sure to be vigilant about not letting your repotted trees freeze, since a cold snap can be just around the corner. When there is a break in the weather, you can wire your deciduous trees while the buds are still small.

Get your tools ready by sharpening them. Consider your soil needs for repotting. If you need soil, come

to the February Midwest Bonsai Meeting to purchase some. You can begin to prune deciduous trees taking care to be sure that remaining branches and shoots are in good health. If in doubt as to whether buds on a particular branch or shoot are viable, then wait to prune until you see some bud-swell. Don't forget to sterilize your tools with alcohol before going on to another tree in order to avoid spreading diseases and/or pests.

If the ground has thawed it is also possible to lift

trees from the ground and do some undercutting. Leave evergreens until later. Branch pruning of deciduous and evergreen trees can be done (except Japanese maples and pines). Any major redesign and reshaping of trees can be done now. Can't wait to see what February has in store for us. Also, I stress for everyone to know and study each species of tree you have. Knowing their natural environment and growing conditions will enable you to take much better care of that tree.

My tropicals seem to know that the days are getting longer as I can see a little more growth and some need a little pruning. My thermometer in the basement ranges from the low 50s to the mid 60s this time of year. So far, I have not seen any pests on my plants, but I remain vigilant in checking under leaves and along stems.

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

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



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The Midwest
Bonsai
Society
invites you
to the 14th
Annual May
Bonsai
Exhibit



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

1000 Lake Cook Road
Glencoe, Illinois
May 12 & 13, 2018
9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Parking fees apply

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 re-new your current membership (July is the month to renew), please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on this 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

60035-7373

Annual Membership • July 1st thru June 30

\$35 Electronic Newsletter **OR \$45** Newsletter by Mail