
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

I hope everyone made it to the May exhibition this year—great weather, great turnout and lots of great things to buy. Many of you might remember a few years ago when it snowed on setup day. Well there was no snow this year. The combination of a colder-than-normal month followed by a sudden warm-up resulted in huge crowds at the Garden. As usual, the serious bonsai fans (and you know who you are) turned out on Saturday. But the highlight of our May show might just be Frank Mihalic's children's workshop on Sunday afternoon. Envision Frank and a full support team surrounded by a throng of totally excited kids and grateful parents—for three hours. The show would never happen without the considerable time and effort of dozens of volunteers over three long days. It never ceases to amaze me how all this controlled chaos comes together with very little centralized direction. I would also like to thank the club members who took time to prepare and display their trees. We are very fortunate to have an opportunity each Spring to introduce so many people

to the art of bonsai, and I am certain that everyone who passed through the room was touched in some way by these living works of art.

With May behind us, it's time to start thinking about our August show. Please make room in your busy schedule for the weekend of August 19-21. Whether you plan to volunteer, show your trees or just enjoy the atmosphere, this is a major bonsai event and should not be missed. If you do plan to exhibit a tree, you'll need to start final preparations soon. The tree should be in its final pot by now (although I'm told the fine trees at Kokufu-ten are slipped into very rare antique pots just days before the show, then immediately moved back into growing pots afterwards). And you should also begin collecting moss soon—not the coarse stuff that grows in every damp, shady corner but the really fine moss like what grows between the cracks in the sidewalks. And you'll need a stand for your tree, along with an accent plant and, of course, a stand or base for that as well. It sounds like a lot of work, and it is, but it's also a

Membership Renewal Reminder

As usual, July 1st is the renewal date for your Midwest Bonsai Society membership, so please fill out the "Membership Request" form provided on the last page, 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.

great chance to show off something you've spent hours developing.

Now that the weather has firmly turned from Spring toward Summer be sure that your trees get enough water. Anything growing in free-draining bonsai soil will need to be watered every day, and twice per day may be needed for smaller pots in direct sun. Maples, azaleas and other understory plants will benefit from afternoon shade. Avoid the temptation to repot this time of year—the heat and high sun angle place tremendous stress on the roots. Now that the foliage is out, you need to be especially vigilant for pests—tiny aphids, scale and

spider mites among others can do serious damage before you even realize they're there.

At the June meeting last year we tried something new and it worked so well, we're going to do it again. Two club members, at great personal sacrifice, have agreed to go to Brussel's Rendezvous in Mississippi and hand-select a quantity of nice prebonsai stock. These trees will be styled by club members at the meeting then raffled off afterwards. So wear something you don't mind getting dirty, bring a few tools if you can and definitely bring some cash for raffle tickets. See you there.
—Jay Albright

JAPANFEST 2016

MBS has tables at JapanFest 2016, Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12, Forest View Education Center, 2121 S. Goebbert Rd., Arlington Heights IL 60005. Lots of Japanese Cultural Activities. More information at: japanfest-chicago.org We could use a few people to help with the exhibit. June 11: 10:30-5:30. Shifts 10:30-1:30 and 1:30-5:30. June 12: 11-5. Shifts 11-2 and 2-5. Let us know if you're able to help: Ivan Watters, yasukunai@hotmail.com or 847-917-0817. It's interesting and fun. See everything before or after your shift. Great food always.

Events Calendar

Wednesday, June 1, 2016

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY,

7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Ironman Bonsai; 7:30pm, General Meeting Room TEC1038b Program: TBD. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Sunday, June 5, 2016

IVAN WATTERS BONSAI WORKSHOP,

10 am – 2 pm. \$60 each. Brendan Berry's house. 735 Cherry Lane, Lake Forest 60045. Easy off Western Avenue. Sign up or questions: yasukunai@hotmail.com or 847-917-0817. Limit 12. (see blurb in newsletter for more information).

Monday, June 6, 2016

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program, 7:00 PM – Bonsai 101: Jin, Shari and Saba-miki; 7:30 PM – MBS workshop with trees from Brussel's Bonsai. Afterwards, the trees will be raffled off. Always a fun event, come and participate! For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Tuesday, June 7, 2016

MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,

6:30 pm, Bring Your Tree. For further information go to www.milwaukeebonsai.org

Saturday, June 11, (12-8pm) - Sunday, June 12, 2016, (12-5pm)
JAPAN FESTIVAL,

Forest View Education Center in Arlington Heights, The Society has a table at the fest and will be represented by Jay Albright and Jim Fairchild. Volunteers are needed (see blurb in this newsletter). For further information go to japanfest-chicago.org

Saturday, June 11, 2016

DAVID MARTINEZ WORKSHOP, Hidden Gardens, Willowbrook, IL,
9am – 12pm. Bring-Your-Own-Tree workshop. For further information, go to www.thehiddengardens.net

Sunday, June 12, 2016

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC and workshop with Chris Baker,

10am – 4pm, Next to the Fabyan Japanese Garden, Batavia, IL. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB, Garfield Park Conservatory, 6 – 8pm. We will be showing off new materials that we bought at this year's May Exhibit, or bring another tree to work on. There will be senior members available to answer your questions and provide assistance. Contact: suekazoo@hotmail.com or call 773-235-9479.

Sunday, June 19, 2016

IVAN WATTERS BONSAI WORKSHOP,

10 am – 2 pm. \$60 each. Brendan Berry's house. 735 Cherry Lane, Lake Forest 60045. Easy off Western Avenue. Sign up or questions: yasukunai@hotmail.com or 847-917-0817. Limit 12. (see blurb in this newsletter for further information)

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

CHRIS BAKER WORKSHOP,

6 – 9 pm, Bring Your Own Tree Workshop at the Chicago Botanic Garden, Production Headhouse. For further information or to register go to <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/education/adulted> and type in "bonsai" in search box.

Monday, July 11, 2016 (Note: meeting moved due to holiday)

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: 7:00 pm, Bonsai 101, topic – daily care of bonsai; 7:30 pm, General Meeting – Guest Master David Martinez will do a presentation and demonstration. Afterwards, the demonstration tree will be raffled off. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Saturday, September 10 – Sunday, September 11, 2016 5TH US NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION, Rochester, NY. Details to follow.

David Martinez Bring-Your-Own-Tree Workshop, Hidden Gardens Bonsai June 11th 9:00am until 12:00

David Martinez-Moreno is a Bonsai professional trained in Japan at Fujikawa Kouka-en. During his time as an apprentice under the tutelage of Keiichi Fujikawa and the camaraderie of Bjorn Bjorholmand Naoki Maeoka-san, David developed an extensive and deep knowledge of Japanese Bonsai.

David has been practicing Bonsai for over 15 years, as an Art Historian, David was fascinated by the relationship between Bonsai and Art. David's goal is to explore the relation between contemporary western art and the Bonsai that is being created today internationally. He is currently an MFA candidate, at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, with the intention to present Bonsai as a cultural product. For this workshop bring 2 trees, one to work on and the other for guidance. David is bilingual and an excellent teacher. With his Spanish and English he can communicate with everyone.

This is an opportunity to work with a great international Bonsai professional. Also he will be giving a demo on July 11 at the MBS meeting. For further information, go to www.thehiddengardens.net

June Meeting Focus

The June meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 6, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

Bonsai 101 begins at

7 pm, topic: Jin, Shari and Saba-miki. At 7:30 pm, workshop with trees from Brussel's Bonsai. Afterwards, the trees will be raffled off. Always a fun event, come and participate!

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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.

Monthly Care Report:

What to Do in June

Repotting of pines should have been completed in early May. Remember to keep them in the shade for a couple weeks. Trees repotted in April can be given light doses of fertilizer. Continue to check for insects and adjust your watering to match the warmer weather. Candles on pines can be pinched any time. 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. Stay on top of maples now and pinch out the center bud just as it emerges from the middle of the first two leaves.

All deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Water routinely if we don't get rain. Air-layering of deciduous and evergreens can be continued. Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees as sudden frosts (which we hope have ended) can damage the young leaves. Your feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning routines should be in full swing by now. 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 the wires, deciduous trees in particular can expand very quickly in May and June. Spring and early summer are usually the worst for drying out trees, low humidity, windy, with somewhat cooler temperatures, gives a false sense that they don't require as much water, but do not be fooled, check your trees daily. The nights are warm enough now, staying in the 60's, so it is time to work on tropicals.

We are starting our very active growth season, so proper pruning, feeding and watering through the summer months will be essential. Any wiring you did this winter should be checked and probably removed now.

PRUNING tropicals...
After our winter months some trees have wanted to grow out of proportion, their leaves have enlarged and some branches have elongated due to lower light. So now is the time to prune for shape. Some deciduous species can handle defoliation, usually early summer, it will greatly reduce their leaf size and create better ramification. If the tree needs to be brought back further, do it now. 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.
- Cut your Bougainvillea back before all of the flowers are spent to keep it blooming.
- Keep 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 soon. Young trees need more nitrogen, older ones a more balanced food to maintain them. Any tree you have defoliated or 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... 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. Check your Ficus for Thrips (folding in of the leaves) for they have been a problem in the past. Check your Junipers for mites. We use a granular systemic insecticide which main ingredient is Imidacloprid. This only kills non-beneficial insects. Available at some nurseries or garden centers.

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

Chicago Bonsai Club

The next meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, June 15, beginning at 6 p.m. We will be showing off new materials that we bought at this year's May Exhibit, or bring another tree to work on. There will be senior

members available to answer your questions and provide assistance.

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

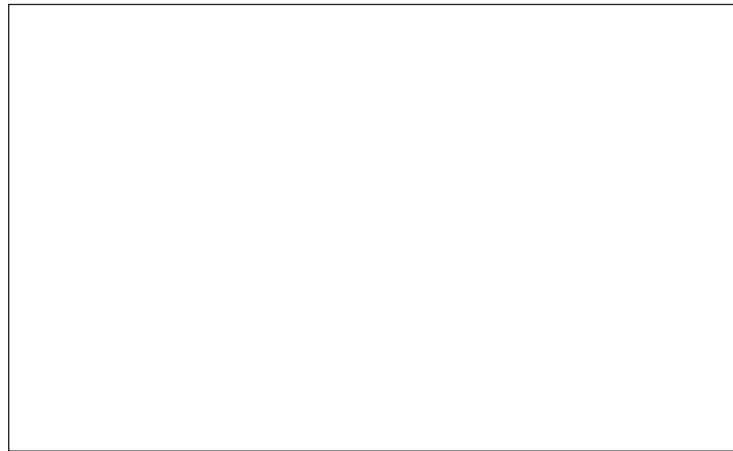
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Midwest Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 1373
Highland Park, Illinois 60035-7373
www.midwestbonsai.org

IVAN WATTERS—NEW BONSAI WORKSHOP LOCATION

June 5 and 19. 10 am to 2 pm. \$60 each. (There will be workshops throughout the summer and fall.) Brendan Berry's house. 735 Cherry Lane, Lake Forest 60045. Easy off Western Avenue. Sign up or questions: yasukunai@hotmail.com or 847-917-0817. Limit 12. Inside or outside depending on weather. Plenty of room for workshop and parking. Warm water for washing roots. BRING YOUR TURNTABLE. Bring all your supplies. If you need special tools, let me know so I can bring them. You should have a cart for moving your trees.

Midwest Bonsai Connection
Volume 59 • Issue 5 • June 2016



Membership Request

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Please Check If Renewal

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