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# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

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[www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

## President's Message

Hello again fellow Midwest Bonsai Society members. Our May show is behind us and seems to have been a success with the vendors and the public. Most of our vendors did quite well, and the Childrens Workshops drew record numbers. I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all the volunteers who got us through, especially those who took time out from Mother's Day. I realize it was a hard choice for many. I had to disappoint a few people myself. Thank you.

We are always looking for ways we can improve the May show. If you have an idea how to showcase a facet of bonsai development, please send it on to us somehow. Whether it be email or just a suggestion at one of the general meetings. We are also trying to more efficiently coordinate the displays for next year. Throughout this fall and the early months of next year, we will be looking for bonsai in stages of operations like grafting, air layering, raft planting and other processes of development. If you have a plant that fits the specifications of the request, tell us. By combining the efforts

of our membership we can bring the May show to a whole new level. But only if we quit hiding our trees.

With the May show behind us, it's tempting to put our focus ahead to August, but there is a lot to come between now and then. Next on the schedule is the Society's annual appearance at Japanfest in Arlington Heights, June 2nd and 3rd. I am pleased that we have been invited to appear once again this year, and the Japanfest organizers have even requested a scheduled demonstration this year. The board has quietly done P.R. for the Society at this event for several years, and it is an honor to be added to the other activities traditionally showcased at the festival. The festival is a unique sampling of Japanese culture and I encourage anyone with an interest in the cultural roots of our art to attend. Be sure to try the Takoyaki while you're there.

As soon as Japanfest wraps up we have our June meeting, featuring special guest Todd Schlafer. Some of you may have met Todd last year when he began vending at

our August show. Todd is the owner of First Branch Bonsai in Denver Colorado where he sells his responsibly gathered yamadori trees. Mr. Schlafer will be doing a styling demonstration for us while he talks to us about gathering trees from the wild and how he came to be a full time collector and Bonsai artist.

Plans for the August show are now in full operation. We have promotional posters and postcards ready to be distributed. They will be available at the June meeting, along with volunteer

registrations. Please think about where you can put a few to get the public interested in the show. Libraries, grocery stores, nurseries, etc. What are some other places we can advertise to really catch peoples eyes? If you have any suggestions for more places or even other forms of advertising we'd love to hear your input. We are always trying to find ways to bring more interested people into the Society.

Thanks for your support.

—Robert Wright

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## June Meeting Focus

The June meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 4, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Todd Schlafer will be doing a demonstration. There will be no Bonsai 101 but you should still bring in trees for advice and comments from expert members.

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## Chicago Bonsai Club

The June meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, June 20, beginning at 6 p.m. 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](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) or call 773-235-9479.

# Events Calendar

**Saturday June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2018**

## **BC BONSAI WORKSHOPS**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. 2nd Bucida Spinosa, 9th Dwarf Pink Crepe Myrtle Shohin, 16th Calloandra Shultzii, 23rd Procumbens Nana and 30th Canadian Hemlock. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Saturday June 2 or Sunday, June 3, 201**

## **HIDDEN GARDENS TODD SCHLAFER WORKSHOPS,**

9:00 AM - 4:00PM, Willowbrook, bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/index.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Saturday, June 2 & Sunday June 3 2018**

## **JAPAN FESTIVAL Culture of "Rykyu" Island.**

Saturday 10:00AM - 5:00PM and Sunday 11:00AM to 5:00 PM Forest View Educational Center, Arlington Heights. For further information go to <http://japanfest-chicago.org/>

**Sunday June 3,10, 17 & 24 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](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847-917-0817.

**Sunday, June 3, 2018**

## **BONSAI BASICS with Chris Baker,**

1:00PM - 3:00 PM, at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/root\\_over\\_rock\\_bonsai?range\\_start=2018-04-18](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/root_over_rock_bonsai?range_start=2018-04-18)

**Monday, June 4, 2018**

## **MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING**

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: at 7:00 PM. Todd Schlafer will be doing a demonstration. There will be no Bonsai 101. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018**

## **MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**

6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. MBS Presentation – Todd Schlafer avid collector of Colorado Yamadori. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, June 6, 2018**

## **PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

at TEC/1038b College of DuPage. Program; 7:00pm Bonsai 101, Topic Growing Superb Roots by Jim Beck. 7:30 PM, Topic Iron-man bonsai competition. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Saturday June 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2018**

## **BC MASTER BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters,**

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Wednesday, June 10, 2018**

## **PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY SPECIAL EVENT!**

Annual Club Picnic and workshop with Chris Baker 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, next to the Fabyan Japanese Garden, Batavia, IL. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Wednesday, June 20, 2018**

## **CHICAGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING, 6:00 PM,**

Garfield Park Conservatory. Bring a tree to work on or just come to watch. Senior members will be present to answer questions & give assistance. For further information, contact: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com)

**Wednesday, June 20, 2018**

## **BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Chris Baker,**

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/bring\\_your\\_own\\_bonsai\\_tree\\_workshop](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/bring_your_own_bonsai_tree_workshop)

**Sunday July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 28, 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](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com) or call 847-917-0817.

**Monday, July 2, 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: Program TBD. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Saturday July 7, 2018**

## **BC BONSAI WORKSHOP,**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Wheaton, IL - Green Island Ficus Shohin. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Saturday July 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2018**

## **BC MASTER BONSAI WORKSHOPS with Ivan Watters,**

1:30 PM - 4:00 PM, Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

**Saturday July 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2018**

## **HIDDEN GARDENS WORKSHOPS,**

9:00 AM - 12PM, Saturday Morning Bonsai with Mark Karczewski bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/index.html> or call 630-655-8283.

**Wednesday, July 11, 2018**

## **PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING**

Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. Program: 7:00pm Bonsai 101, Keeping Branches Happy by TBD. 7:30pm, Program TBD. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

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# Monthly Care Report:

## What to Do in June

All deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Your feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning routines should be in full swing by now. 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. Air-layering of deciduous and evergreens can be continued. 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.

Repotting of pines should have been completed in early May. Remember to keep them in the shade for a couple weeks. 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.

Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees as sudden frosts (which we hope have ended) can damage the young 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. 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. 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 pruning your Elms back to the first or second node.

**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. You can also root prune and repot your tropicals now.

Water routinely if we don't get rain. 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.

**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 whose main ingredient is Imidacloprid,

available at some nurseries or garden centers. This only kills non-beneficial insects. 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.

**FERTILIZE...**  
You can start on your summer feeding program soon. Young trees 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.

—Ed Hake • Fort Wayne Bonsai Club • Reprinted by Permission. Compiled from several Web articles with adaptation to our area.

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## Events Calendar

*(Continued from page 2)*

**Saturday, July 14, 2018**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY PICNIC & SWAP MEET.**

For further information go to [http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs\\_schedule.html](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html)

**Wednesday, July 18, 2018**

**TROPICAL BONSAI WORKSHOP with Chris Baker**

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Bring your own trees. Chicago Botanic Garden, Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. For further information go to [https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult\\_education/horticulture/tropical\\_bonsai\\_workshop](https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/tropical_bonsai_workshop)

**Saturday July 28, 2018**

**BC BONSAI WORKSHOP,**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Wheaton, IL - Canadian Hemlock. For further information & to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-690-0404.

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.

Midwest Bonsai Connection  
Volume 61 • Issue 5 • June 2018

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## Membership Request

Name

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Address

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City, State, Zip Code

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Telephone

Date

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Email

Please Check If Renewal

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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