

---

# MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

---

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

## President's Message

Spring is one of my favorite times of the year (I usually say that about Fall, also) for reasons any Chicagoan would understand. The flowers, new leaves and even the grass growing again is cause for celebration. The magnificent bonsai collection at the Chicago Botanic Garden should be on public display again by the time you read this. But my poor crepe myrtle is having none of it. This is my second attempt here in Chicago and if this one follows the pattern of the first, none of the buds set last summer will ever

leaf out but a few latent buds will pop out once the weather turns really warm. After a couple of years of this, the tree will simply have no latent buds left, and die. Does anyone have success growing crepe myrtle here (obviously with winter protection)?

Winter has finally let go and the 2016 bonsai season is upon us, crepe myrtles or not. It may be a little early yet to move the tropicals outdoors but all your hardy trees should be out of winter storage by now—just watch out for sunburn the first few days out. Our

next MBS club meeting is Monday May 2, featuring a Bonsai 101 session on pinching & pruning followed by Chris Baker (Curator of the MBS collection) discussing pine trees. The ABS Learning Symposium in Grand Rapids will begin on May 12, but unfortunately without me—I had intentions to go but it just isn't going to happen this year.

Of course the following weekend is our very own Midwest Bonsai Society 12th Annual May Bonsai Exhibit. Please contact me or Larry Stephan if you are interested in volunteering

for this show—I assure you, it is a very rewarding experience (if you've done it before, you already know that). We will pass around a volunteer signup sheet at the May meeting. Some new members may not know that our May show is about bonsai education and we show trees that are still in development. Please note that we rely on members' trees for our May presentation—we really need members to bring their trees along with some visual aids describing the tree's history, current stage of development, or future plans. Regardless of whether you are able to volunteer or provide a tree, please visit our website and look over the schedule of events. In case you don't know, you can easily sign up for a workshop right there on our website—isn't the internet great?

A week after our show, Brussels Bonsai in Holly Springs MS hosts their annual Rendezvous. Brussel Martin is a world-class grower of both specimen and high-volume retail (aka "mall-sai") trees making for a very interesting walking tour. And the food down there isn't so bad either.  
—Jay Albright

### **BONSAI WORKSHOP—IVAN WATTERS**

Final Workshops of the Season at this location: Sunday, May 1, May 15, 2016.

9 am to 1 pm                      \$50 each

Ballard Point Recreational Center

8894 Knight Ave., DesPlaines IL 60016

(Continue South on Knight from this address to cross street. Turn Left and go to end of street. Turn Left again and go to near end of street. Rec Center is on Right just past pool. Unload at door, then park.)

Sign up for any or all now at [yasukunai@hotmail.com](mailto:yasukunai@hotmail.com)  
Questions? Email or call 817-917-0817

You can do anything now except pot tropicals. (That too if you have lights and heat mats). Washing facilities are very limited. Better to clean the roots at home, wrap the tree(s) with wet newspapers (or similar) and plastic. Bring a turntable if possible. Bring everything else you will need for your work. Need special tools? (benders, jacks, etc.). Let me know so I can bring. Protect tropical from cold.

# Events Calendar

**Sunday, May 1, 2016**

**IVAN WATTERS BONSAI WORKSHOP,**

9 am to 1 pm at Ballard Point Recreational Center, see blurb on cover or email yasukunai@hotmail.com for further info.

**Monday, May 2, 2016**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**

at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. Program: 7:00 pm: Bonsai 101, topic Pinching and pruning. 7:30 pm: General Meeting: Chris Baker, Curator of the MBS collection at the Chicago Botanic Garden, will discuss pine trees. Bring your trees, Raffle. There will also be a Club bonsai sale. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Tuesday, May 3, 2016**

**MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING,**

6:30 pm, Guest artist: Mark Fields. For further information go to [www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Wednesday, May 4, 2016**

**PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY,**

7:00pm, Bonsai 101, Maple refinement; 7:30pm, General Meeting Room TEC1038b Program: Shaping & wiring techniques. For further information go to [www.prairiestatebonsai.com](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**Thursday, May 12 – Sunday, May 15, 2016**

**AMERICAN BONSAI SOCIETY (ABS) CONFERENCE**

Grand Rapids, MI. Early registration ends in March and the workshops are filling up. Four workshops and meals are included with the price of the registration. Go to: [www.absbonsai.org](http://www.absbonsai.org) for more information.

**Sunday, May 15, 2016**

**IVAN WATTERS BONSAI WORKSHOP,**

9 am to 1 pm at Ballard Point Recreational Center, see blurb in this newsletter or email yasukunai@hotmail.com for further info.

**Saturday, May 21 – Sunday, May 22, 2016**

**MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY 12th ANNUAL MAY BONSAI EXHIBIT, Show theme: Education.**

Members invited to bring trees in various stages of training, accompanied by explanations of what processes are being used. Held in the Burnstein Hall of the Regenstein Center at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Vendors, workshops, demonstrations. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org)

**Thursday, May 26 – Monday, May 30, 2016**

**BRUSSELS BONSAI RENDEZVOUS,**

in Holly Springs, MS. (30 minutes from Memphis TN). Brussel Martin is a world-class grower of both specimen and high-volume retail (aka "mall-sai") trees making for a very interesting walking tour. For further information go to [brusselsbonsai.com](http://brusselsbonsai.com)

**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](http://www.prairiestatebonsai.com)

**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! Bring your trees, Raffle. For further information, go to [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://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](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

**Saturday, June 11, 2016, 12-8pm – Sunday, June 12, 2016, JAPAN FESTIVAL,**

12-5pm, Forest View Education Center in Arlington Heights, The Society will be represented by Jay Albright and Jim Fairchild. For further information go to [japanfest-chicago.org](http://japanfest-chicago.org)

**Saturday, September 10 – Sunday, September 11, 2016**

**5TH US NATIONAL BONSAI EXHIBITION,**

Rochester, NY. Details to follow.

---

## Wanted: Newsletter Editor or Intern

The Midwest Bonsai Society is looking for a volunteer Newsletter Editor or trainee to take over editing our monthly newsletter. This requires some writing, proof-reading and editing ability; an eye for detail; and a commitment to gathering all pertinent information from various sources and keeping the Newsletter Archive up-to-date. Fortunately, the newsletter is laid out elsewhere (thank you, Gail Thompson). Alas, I've been editor for 5 years now and am ready to move into doing Public Relations for the Club. I will work with anyone who is interested. Please contact me at: [suekazoo@hotmail.com](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com), or see me or any of the Board members at the next meeting, or the May Exhibit. —*Susan Babyk*

---

## 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.

## 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 May

Wrap up any repotting of pines by early in the month of May. Remember to keep them in the shade for a couple weeks. Trees repotted in April can be given their first light doses of fertilizer.

Continue to patrol for insects and adjust your watering to match the warmer weather. Candles on pines can be pinched any time they are big enough. 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. It is critical to stay on top of maples now and pinch out that center bud just as it emerges from the middle of the first two leaves. Continue feeding your trees on a regular basis.

By May most deciduous trees have come into leaf and new candles on pines have sprouted. Watering schedule may be started. Cuttings of evergreens may still be taken. Air-layering of deciduous and evergreens can be con-

tinued. Pinch back long shoots of deciduous trees as sudden frosts can damage the young leaves.

Your feeding, pinching, watering, and pruning schedules should be in full swing by now. 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, and leafy trees may suffer from transplant shock, so roots should be left intact as much as possible. Careful use of insecticides 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.

**PRUNING...** After our winter months some trees have wanted to grow out of proportion, especially

Ficus, which are indoors. Still a little too early to set outside. So now is the time to prune for shape. You can also root prune and repot your tropicals now. Even though your Serissa might be blooming, prune back for better ramification and many more blooms later in the summer. After each branch on your Bougainvillea is bloomed out, cut those branches way back. Keep the 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 late May. All of your deciduous trees are hardened, so feed them. Young trees more nitrogen, older ones a more balanced food to maintain them. Any tree you have 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 you trees healthy to prepare them for the hot summer months.

**INSECTS...** You should be checking 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. You can use a granular systemic insecticide which main ingredient is Imidacloprid. This only kills non beneficial insects. —*Ed Hake. Fort Wayne Bonsai Club. Reprinted by Permission. Compiled from several web articles and adapted to our area.*

## Midwest Bonsai Society Officers + Chairpersons

President	Jay Albright
Executive Vice President	Kurt Nykaza
Vice President Programs	Victor Zurczak
Vice President Special Events	Larry Stephan
Treasurer	Phil Troy
Recording Secretary	Robert Wright
Membership	Lorraine May
Librarian	Eileen Michal
Editorial	Susan Babyk
Assistant Editorial	Gail Thompson
Public Relations	vacant
Webmaster	Matthew Corpolongo
Past Presidents	Jim Fairchild
	Ivan Watters
Members at Large	Eva Hernandez-
	Thomas
	Tony Welninski
Prairie State Representative	Dan Turner

## Chicago Bonsai Club

The next meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 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](mailto:suekazoo@hotmail.com) or call 773-235-9479.

## May Meeting Focus

The May meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 2, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

Bonsai 101 begins at 7 pm, topic: pinching and pruning. At 7:30 pm, Chris Baker (Curator of the MBS collection at the Chicago Botanic Garden) will discuss pine trees.

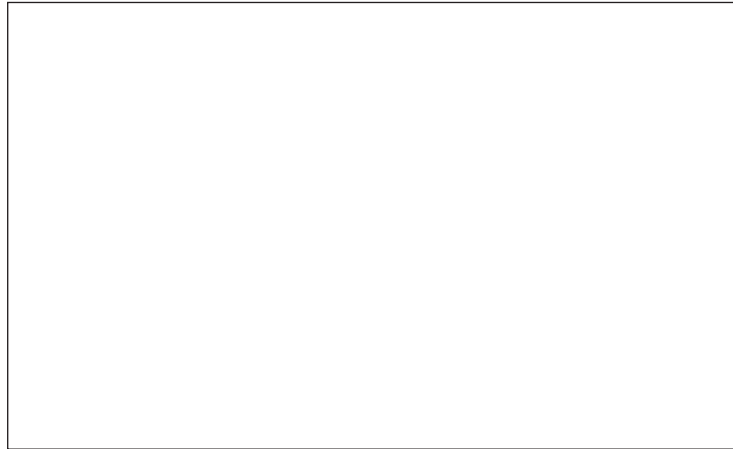
Midwest Bonsai Society  
P.O. Box 1373  
Highland Park, Illinois 60035-7373  
www.midwestbonsai.org

## Membership Renewal Reminder

August begins the new membership year. We appreciate the renewals already received in July, and encourage everyone else to send yours in August. Renewing is easier than ever—simply go to the club website at [www.midwestbonsai.org](http://www.midwestbonsai.org), click on Membership and enter your payment information. Of course, we still accept checks at club meetings or by mail, and you can fill out the “Membership Request” form provided on the last page of this newsletter. If you do not renew your membership by the end of the year you will no longer receive newsletters via email or snail mail. Your renewal is important in order for us to keep our mailing lists up-to-date. Thank you for your ongoing support. 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 59 • Issue 4 • May 2016

---



## 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 \$40** Newsletter by Mail