
MIDWEST BONSAI CONNECTION

www.midwestbonsai.org

President's Message

I always have trouble writing this note for the March newsletter. I guess it's mostly because I put so much into the February note that I feel like I have nothing much left for March. It's like trimming and styling all your Bonsai one week when you're particularly energetic and then having to sit on your thumbs and just water for the next six to eight weeks.

I want to thank everybody who has renewed their membership this year. Your donations keep the Society going and let us book the speakers for the season. I want to point out a benefit of membership that you might not know about. If you keep a membership to the Chicago Botanic Gardens (I think most of us do), your membership in the Midwest Bonsai Society is worth a ten dollar discount on your Botanic Garden membership. To collect the discount you will need to renew your Garden membership in person at the Membership desk in the Visitors Center. Present your Society membership card to show that your membership in the Society is current and you will receive the ten dollar discount.

We had a good time at the February meeting. Rich Katz refreshed us on getting our tools ready for the upcoming busy season, and we took a tour through the development and migration of our art from its earliest practice to its first steps onto American shores. It was an interesting tour. Credit should be extended to Robert Baran and his fantastic website Magiminiland.com. His Bonsai timeline is fascinating and the rest of the website is a wealth of Bonsai resources. It is well worth a few minutes of examination.

March promises to be another chilly month this year but the outdoor season is approaching. So this month the Bonsai 101 will cover bringing your trees out of their winter quarters for the sunny season. The main program is still to be determined. Admittedly a lot of the year is still "to be determined" because we really need a dedicated Programming chairperson.

April is ready though and I really want to give the membership as much notice as possible. The speaker for April will be Mark Fields. Mark is

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March Meeting Pot Sale

At this meeting we will be offering for sale pots that have been donated to our society. Pots are primarily inexpensive, suitable for training and young bonsai. March meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 4th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

coming to talk to us about Shohin Bonsai, a subject I don't think we've had addressed in my time at the Society. But the reason I really want to give advanced notice is that we will be holding a special workshop with Mark before the meeting. From 1 to 5 p.m. Monday April 1st, we will hold an 8 seat bring your own tree workshop in Bernstein Hall. The cost for members will be \$25.00, non-members may reserve seats for \$40.00.

Registration through Eventbrite will open to members March 1st, followed by non-member registration on the 18th. This will be a test to see whether there is sufficient interest in workshops like these to add them to our regular scheduling.

That's all I have for this month. I hope to see you in March, and I thank you for your time and patience.

—Bob Wright

Things to do this month from Sumobonsaisupply.com:

- This is the month of indecision. Some years we are able to bring our trees out of storage, other years we are still in winter.
- Our lists and notes for our various trees should be completed by now.
- This is the month that repotting gets started.
- Begin to watch your trees carefully. Repot when the buds begin to swell.
- Remove wires that were left on from the previous year. The trees will experience a flush of spring growth and the wires could cut into the tree if left on.
- As you start to take your trees out of winter storage, be careful not to subject them to cold wind or frost.
- Be ready to move your bonsai back inside if the weather turns cold again.
- On those nice warm days, get out and clean up your display tables and benches.
- Keep an eye on the thermometer for those overnight lows. End of May is our average last frost day.
- Give your plants a final dormant oil or NEEM oil spray to prepare them for the beginning of bug season.

Events Calendar

Saturday March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2019
BC BONSAI MASTER 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 630-386-1515.

Saturday March 2, 16, 23, 24 or 30, 2019
BC BONSAI WORKSHOPS
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM on 9 & 16, 10:00 AM – Sunset on 23, 24 & 30. 2nd Propagation workshop, 16th TBD workshop, in Wheaton, IL. 23rd, 24th Harvesting workshop in Paw Paw, IL and 30th Hardy Tree Repotting in Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

Saturday March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2019
HIDDEN GARDENS WORKSHOPS
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Saturday Morning Bonsai with Mark Karczewski bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Sunday March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2019
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.

Monday, March 4, 2019
MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101, Program: Bringing your trees out of their winter quarters for the sunny season. 7:30 PM, Program: Guest Master Ivan Waters reviewing selected trees from August Exhibition. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Tuesday, March 5, 2019
MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING
6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. Program: TBD. For further information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html

Thursday, March 7, 2019
PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. 7:00pm, Bonsai 101: Pot selection by Phil Malhiot. 7:30pm, Program: Repotting by Jim Keith. For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Wednesday, March 20, 2019
FOREST PLANTING WORKSHOP WORKSHOP with Chris Baker
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, at Chicago Botanic Garden Horticulture Conference Room, Rice Plant Resource Center. You can either bring your own trees and pots, or we will provide them for you for an additional fee. For further information go to https://www.chicagobotanic.org/adult_education/horticulture/forest_planting_workshop

Tuesday March 26, 2019
HIDDEN GARDENS WALTER PAUL WORKSHOPS
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM, Evening bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday or Sunday March 30 or 31, 2019
HIDDEN GARDENS Will Baddeley WORKSHOPS
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Monday, April 1, 2019
MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY BRING YOUR OWN TREE WORKSHOP with Mark Fields
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM. The cost for members will be \$25.00, non-members may reserve seats for \$40.00. Registration through Eventbrite will open to members March 1st, followed by non-member registration on the 18th. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Monday, April 1, 2019
MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING
at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall located in the Regenstein Center. 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101 Program: TBD. 7:30 PM, Program: Guest Master Mark Fields. For further information, go to www.midwestbonsai.org

Tuesday, April 2, 2019
MILWAUKEE BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING
6:30 PM. Boerner Botanical Gardens. Program: TBD. For further information go to http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/mbs_schedule.html

Wednesday, April 3, 2019
PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
Room TEC/1038b College of DuPage. 7:00 PM, Bonsai 101 Program: Tool Maintenance by Jim Beck. 7:30 PM, Program: Repotting Workshop, Members can bring a tree to repot! For further information go to www.prairiestatebonsai.com

Wednesday, April 3, 2019
BONSAI AIR LAYERING 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/bonsai_air_layering_workshop

Saturday April 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2019
BC BONSAI MASTER 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 630-386-1515.

Saturday April 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2019
HIDDEN GARDENS WORKSHOPS
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Saturday Morning Bonsai with Mark Karczewski bring your own tree workshop. For further information go to <http://www.hiddengarden.net/bonsai.html> or call 630-655-8283.

Saturday April 6, 13, 14, & 27, 2019
BC BONSAI WORKSHOPS
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM on 6 & 27, 10:00 AM – Sunset on 13, 14. 6th Workshop spring styling of your hardy trees coming out of winter storage, in Wheaton, IL. 13th, 14th Harvesting workshop in Paw Paw and 27th Workshop Pine styling and spring tasks, bring your own tree in Wheaton, IL. For further information or to register go to <http://www.bcbonsai.com> or call 630-386-1515.

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Monthly Care Report: What to Do in March

If any of your deciduous trees need to be repotted this year, you will be able to do the repotting as soon as the winter breaks and the ground thaws, which will be soon, end of March and into April. Look to your trees for signs that they are wakening. Look for swelling buds and white growing tips at the end of your roots. Those deciduous trees that you were unsure about pruning can probably be safely pruned, but protect them from heavy frost. Avoid repotting any larch trees that are showing green. If they are showing green, it is best to wait until next year.

Generally there is no need to begin fertilizing your trees yet. Let them leaf out, and for your repotted trees, begin your feeding regime at least one month after repotting. You may want to keep them sheltered under the eaves of the house and out of cold winds. By the end of March, depending on weather conditions, trees can be gradually brought out of winter shelter. Ev-

ergreens may be fertilized lightly now in April and, in general, you may spray for fungus and insects on a warm day. Evergreens can be lifted until the end of April. March and April are also good months to dig trees from the wild, keeping as much fibrous root attached as possible. Keep your trees cool. Don't be in a hurry to encourage early growth, as it can still get cold.

Transplanting from one pot to another is generally done for aesthetic reasons, but soil changing is necessary for the health of the tree. Some rapidly growing trees should have their soil changed annually. Some trees can go two, maybe up to three years. Slower growing conifers and some evergreens may not need their soil changed more than every three to five years. A younger tree, still in development, will need it sooner, where an older tree less often. You also must consider the size of the pot. However, the best indicator of a need for soil change is

not time, but the condition of the tree. A vigorous, healthy tree does not need its soil changed and should not be disturbed.

FERTILIZING... Do not feed your deciduous trees until leaves have hardened off, that means not until all the leaves are out and branch tips are starting to grow. If you feed them too early you will get a big flush of growth, which translates to long internodes and larger leaves. Too much nitrogen will go to the leaves and not the roots, hence too large of leaves. You fertilize bonsai for optimum health, not for growth per se like other plants. You need to tailor a fertilization program based on your trees individual needs. You can start feeding your tropicals a bit more, but it is too early to move them outside. I have pruned some of my Ficus.

PRUNING... You should have already taken a good look at your trees over the winter, now knowing where you want to go with them. If you have a branch or apex you want to thicken, try to divert more energy to it by keeping your other

branches trimmed back and letting that one grow. If all your main branches are good, then work on your ramification by pruning your secondary and tertiary branches back. Always prune in front of the bud that is growing in the direction you want the branch to grow. If any of the internodes towards the tip of any branch are spaced farther apart, then towards the beginning of the branch (closest to the trunk) prune back to where that elongation begins. A branch should be styled just like a tree, the secondary branches on a main branch should get smaller and closer together as you go towards the tip. The tertiary branches on your secondary branches should do the same. Doing this will help create proper ramification and taper. Proper directional pruning of your bonsai is a must, to increase ramification and for good taper.

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

March Meeting Focus

March meeting is scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 4th, at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center. 7 pm - Bonsai 101 program Bonsai 101 will cover bringing your trees out of their winter quarters for the sunny season. 7:30 pm - General meeting program will feature review, by Ivan Waters, of selected trees from August 2018 Exhibition.

Events Calendar

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Sunday April 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2019

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.

Saturday or Sunday April 13 or 14, 2019

HIDDEN GARDENS OWEN REICH WORKSHOPS

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

Monday April 1, 2019 Workshop with Mark Fields

Special workshop with Mark before our April meeting. From 1 to 5 p.m. Monday April 1st, we will hold an 8 seat bring your own tree workshop in Bernstein Hall. The cost for members will be \$25.00, non-members may reserve seats for \$40.00. Registration through Eventbrite will open to members March 1st, followed by non-member registration on the 18th. This will be a test to see whether there is sufficient interest in workshops like these to add them to our regular scheduling.

Chicago Bonsai Club

The March meeting of the Chicago Bonsai Club, a chapter of the Midwest Bonsai Society, will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 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 or call 773-235-9479.

Midwest Bonsai Society
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General Meetings

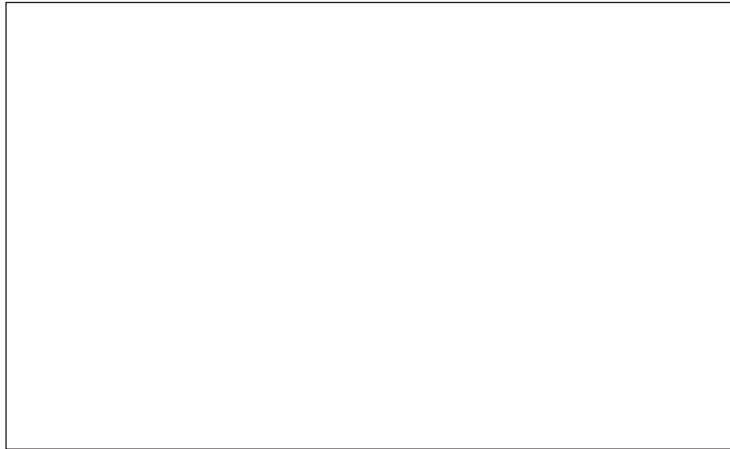
Meetings of the Midwest Bonsai Society are held at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

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.

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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

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.