



BONSAI HAI

(BONSAI YES)



Prairie State Bonsai Society, P.O. Box 2634 Glen Ellyn, IL 60138-2634, [HTTP://PRAIRIESTATEBONSAI.COM](http://PRAIRIESTATEBONSAI.COM)

Vol. XXXIV, Number 1, March 2018

Contact Editor: [Mark Karczewski](#)

General meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month in Wheaton, IL, at the College of DuPage (see map on last page), February thru November (unless noted otherwise).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 7 Mar. General Meeting – Rm. TEC 1038b**
7:00 pm, Bonsai 101: Bonsai soils by Jim Keith
7:30 pm, Program: Repotting by Phil Malhiot
- 12 Mar. Board Meeting: Nick DiBattista
- 20-21 Mar. **Walter Pall** at the Hidden Gardens (see below)
- 4 Apr. General Meeting – Rm. TEC 1038b**
7:00 pm, Bonsai 101: Fertilizers by TBD
7:30 pm, Program: Carving by Jennifer Price-Svihla
- 9 Apr. Board Meeting: Jim and Kay Erlenborn

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETINGS

At the Chicago Botanic Garden's Burnstein Hall, located in the Regenstein Center.

Monday, March 5, 2018

- 7:00PM - Bonsai 101
7:30PM - General Meeting (Topic TBD)

Monday, April 5, 2018

- Room: Burnstein Hall
7:00 PM - Bonsai 101, topic TBD
7:30 PM - Main Program, topic TBD

THE HIDDEN GARDENS 2018 VISITING ARTISTS

The following bonsai artists will be at the Hidden Gardens giving workshops. Do not miss these great opportunities to work with professional world renowned artists. For more information visit www.thehiddengardens.net or call (630) 655-8283.

- Walter Pall**, March 20-21
Owen Reich, April 14-15
Will Baddeley, May 5-6
Jan Culek, May 19-20
Todd Schlafer, June 2-3
Bjorn Bjorholm, August 4-5
Walter Pall, October 12-14
Mauro Stemberger, Early November

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

by Dean Cooper

Well, it's March already. It's not officially spring yet, but the 30 day weather forecast makes claims for spring like weather, 30 and 40's during the day and mid to low 20's at night. I am going to put at least my conifers up on my benches in the next week, assuming they are not still frozen to the ground.

Everyone should take note that, beginning with our March meeting, Bonsai 101 will return to our monthly programs. We will be basing the classes on *Modern Bonsai Practice: 501 Principles of Good Bonsai Horticulture* by Larry W Morton, with a foreword by Walter Pall. Also trees by Walter Pall.

Bonsai 101 starts at 7:00 pm, so plan to get there early. This month's class will be conducted by Jim Keith and it will be on bonsai soils.

We will be having a raffle, as usual, so do bring any bonsai related items you no longer need. And money to buy raffle tickets with.

And lastly, club dues are due in March. It is really helpful if you bring a membership form with any changes in your address or contact information, or bring one anyway, so that we may confirm we have everything correct. There's a printable form with this newsletter. It has the dues amounts on it. We haven't increased the dues for several years which makes membership somewhat of a bargain.

IN MEMORIAL: BEN OKI

By Ron McAdams



By now most of you have heard of the passing of Bonsai Master Ben Oki. Ben was a pioneer of Bonsai here in the U.S. and a good
(continued)

friend to us at the Prairie State Bonsai Society. We always looked forward to that special weekend in June when Ben would come to help us with our trees. For those of us that had the great pleasure of having worked with Ben this news is truly sad indeed. Ben was a special person. He would work on trees with the same care whether it was a classic bonsai or the most basic material someone bought from the home depot. In watching him work I was amazed to see how fast he could design a tree, trim it, wire it, draw it, explain to the owner what to do to keep it in shape and healthy. He was always happy to see everyone and looked forward to coming back here year after year. On a personal note while Ben and I were talking we found that we had more than Bonsai in common, we both had studied the Japanese art of Kendo. We exchanged stories of our sensei's, his in Japan and mine here in Chicago. He also told me about his living in Hiroshima at the time of the first Atomic bomb drop and that by going fishing instead of going to school saved his life. I know he talked to many of you over the years and told you stories that you will always remember, I know we will never forget him, because even though Ben is gone he lives on in the trees he designed for us and others around the world. Let's dedicate this years bonsai growing season to Ben Oki, our Sensei, and always take a special weekend in June to think of him.

WALTER PALL AT THE HIDDEN GARDENS

Fresh from Germany, legendary Walter Pall will be performing, for two nights, bring-your-own tree workshops at the Hidden Gardens, Tuesday and Wednesday, March 20-21, 6-9pm. Do not miss this opportunity to pick the brain of one of the best bonsai artists of our time. If you have never experienced Walter you are in for an inspirational treat. Learn his approach to natural looking bonsai including his "Fairy tale" style invented by him. An achievement

no other bonsai artist outside of Japan can claim. You will definitely view bonsai at a higher level. This is a workshop experience for all levels. Cost is \$75 per workshop. Contact [The Hidden Gardens](http://www.thehiddengardens.com), (630) 655-8283, for more information.

2018 FALL SHOW GUEST ARTIST FRANK MIHALIC

by Nick DiBattista

I would like to take a moment to introduce our guest master for the Prairie State Bonsai Society's 2018 show, Frank J Mihalic.

Frank has been immersed in the world of bonsai since birth. As the son of bonsai master Tony Mihalic (who started practicing bonsai in 1946) Frank is one of a handful of second generation bonsai artists in the United States. Joining the family bonsai business at the age of 10 Frank began to perfect his skills under the ever watchful eye of his father. Frank specializes in single tree bonsai styles. Frank routinely travels the world teaching workshops. He also acts as a guide for bonsai tours and buying trips to the Far East.



Frank Mihalic

(continued)

BONSAI RESOURCES



BC BONSAI

B. C. BONSAI

Bonsai starters - Hardy & Tropical
By appointment only. Call **Linda Camp** or **Jim Beck** at (630) 690-0404.
Workshops, check website for more info.
<http://www.bcbonsai.com/index.html>



THE HIDDEN GARDENS

16W658 S. Frontage Road
Willowbrook, Illinois 60527-7013
(630) 655-8283
Bonsai, pre-bonsai, pots, tools and soils
Open M-S 7-5pm, Sun 10-3pm
Closed Dec. - March
www.thehiddengardens.net

BONSAI FOR SALE

By appointment only. Call **Phil Malhiot**
(708) 705-7768. Bonsai Trees For Sale
and lessons also available

NATURAL LIVING

Bonsai lessons, landscape design and
consultation. **Dan Kosta** (708) 865-1342
snipologist86@gmail.com

VERN GOERS GREENHOUSE, INC.

5620 Oak St., Hinsdale, Il. 60521
(630) 323-1085 Dan Kosta
Bonsai, Pots, Tools. Closed Sunday
www.verngoersgreenhouse.com

SATURDAY MORNING BONSAI

and a **SIX-WEEK PROGRAM**
for beginners with **Mark Karczewski**.
(held at The Hidden Gardens),
Call (630) 254-8841 or email,
coolhand500@comcast.net
You can contact Hidden Gardens as well,
just ask about "Saturday Morning Bonsai
and/or the Six-week program!"

OUR FRIENDS OUTSIDE THE CHICAGO AREA:

BRUSSEL'S BONSAI

8125 Center Hill Road
Olive Branch, MS 38654
(800) 582-2593
www.brusselsbonsai.com



CASS BONSAI GARDENS, LLC

Edwardsville, IL 62025
(618) 656-9087
<http://www.cassbonsaigardens.com/>

STONE LANTERN

Bonsai supplies
<http://www.stonelantern.com/default.asp>
<http://bonsaiark.com/>

NATURE'S WAY NURSERY

Bonsai, Pots, Tools, Supplies, Classes
Pleasant Hill Rd., Harrisburg Pa.
1-717-545-4555
www.natureswaybonsai.com

Interested in both bonsai and Jewelry he applies his talents to both bonsai and bonsai jewelry. Studying at jewelry academies both in the US and Italy Frank now teaches jewelry workshops as well.

In 3 different years Frank had his tree selected as one of the top 100 hundred bonsai trees in the world by Japan Airlines & the Nippon Bonsai Associations.

Frank has also written books on Bonsai, as well as started the first internet bonsai magazine (www.bonsaionlinemagazine.com). Frank and his father own and operate Wildwood "Bonsai" Gardens in Chardon, Ohio, USA. (Wildwoodgardens.com)

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2018

Last year memberships expired on March 1, unless you signed up at the August show last year, in which case your membership includes this year. You can pay your dues at the general meeting or by sending a check along with a Membership Enrollment Form to the Prairie State Bonsai Society, PO Box 2634, Glen Ellyn, Il. 60138-2634. Please be sure to fill out the enrollment form below.

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____

Type of Membership:

- Individual, newsletter received by e-mail.....\$30
- Family, newsletter received by e-mail.....\$35
- Individual, newsletter received by USPS.....\$40
- Family, newsletter received by USPS.....\$45
- Lifetime Membership.....\$500
- Lifetime Family Membership.....\$550
- Supporting Membership.....\$120
(Three year membership)
- Supporting Family Membership.....\$150
(Three year membership)

The Lifetime and Supporting Membership levels include the member's name being recognized and included in the monthly newsletter.

All memberships expire as of March 1.

Send form and dues to: **Prairie State Bonsai Society**
PO Box 2634
Glen Ellyn, Il. 60138-2634

SAVE THE DATES

GATEWAY TO BONSAI

APRIL 19 - 22, 2018

COLLINSVILLE, ILLINOIS

JURIED EXHIBIT, \$1,000 CASH PRIZE FOR BEST IN SHOW

IKEBANA EXHIBIT, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, CRITIQUES

JOSHUA ROTH CONTEST, DEMOS, RAFFLE

AUCTIONS AND VENDORS GALORE


Collinsville, Illinois

Just 10 minutes east of Saint Louis, Missouri


Register at www.absbonsai.org

E-mail absconvention@frontier.com

812 . 922 . 5451



GATEWAY TO
BONSAI
Saint Louis, Missouri



Follow us on Facebook

Presented by American Bonsai Society and the Bonsai Society of Greater Saint Louis

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

Outdoor: The situation here is the same as it was last month. Leave trees in winter protection and water as needed. Do not fertilize. Deciduous trees and pines may be wired. If your trees can be moved you may bring them indoors for up to eight hours for work. Be aware of possible flooding in in-ground cold frames.

Indoor: Sunlight has been scarce lately so be sure to give indoor trees as much light as possible. Trees at windowsills could use some supplemental artificial light to compensate for the cloudy weather. Check the soil moisture daily and water as needed. Trees that are putting out strong new growth can be fertilized. Provide extra humidity with a humidifier, vaporizer, pebble tray, or other device.

WORKS CITED

Editor. (Vol. XXII, Number 2, March, 2005). Things To Do This Month. *Bonsai Hai*. Prairie State Bonsai Society.

LIFETIME MEMBER(S)

James Bailey

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY OFFICERS

2017 - 2018

President: Dean Cooper

Programs: Jennifer Price-Svihla

Special Events: Nick DiBittista

Membership: Jim Beck

Publicity: Jay Kletsky

Treasurer: Jim Erlenborn

Corresponding/Recording:

Secretary: Werner Kiuntke

Library: Badar Zulquarni

COD Liaisons: Jim & Kay Erlenborn

Grow Plot Manager: Matt Mazza

Newsletter Editor/Webmaster: Mark Karczewski

Members-at-Large: 1. Dan Kosta

2. _____

3. _____

Bonsai Pendant Workshop

Every Person will receive hands on, one on one detailed instruction. You will receive a Block of wax to carve and a detailed instruction book to follow. The workshop takes 2.5 to 3 Hours.



All the tools needed will be provided for the students to use. You can use your personal design or use a stock design.



You DO NOT have to be an Artist to take this workshop. Everyone can make a Great looking Bonsai or Suiseki Pendant. No two pieces are alike, even if you use the same pattern.

NO experience Needed!



Each Student Creates and carves their Bonsai or Suiseki Pendant with the help of the Instructor. After which the Instructor takes these carvings home, adds a pendant loop to the back of each piece, and casts them into Sterling Silver. Then the pieces are carefully removed from the mold and polished.

Then Each piece is shipped US Priority Mail with a tracking number back to each student.

Here are some of My students Wax Creations :



(440) 749-4252

Workshop Photos by: Katherine Owyong

Club meeting building/room TEC 1038b



Produced by mapformation for College of DuPage. Last updated Sept. 2016/cod.