



BONSAI HAI

(BONSAI YES)

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

Vol. XXX, Number 1, April 2014

[Contact Editor: Mark Karczewski](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 2 Apr.** **General Meeting – 7:30 pm – Rm. TEC 1038b**
Refining finished bonsai by Ivan Watters
Bonsai 101 – 7:00 pm
Douglas Fir by Dan Kosta
- 7 Apr. Board meeting – 7:30 pm - Erlenborn
- 7 May.** **General Meeting – 7:30 pm – Rm. TEC 1038b**
Azaleas by David Kreutz
Bonsai 101 – 7:00 pm
Ficus Nariifolia by Mark Karczewski
- 12 May. Board meeting – 7:30 pm - Keith
- 4 June.** **General Meeting – 7:30 pm – Rm. TEC 1038b**
Iron Bonsai featuring Jim Keith, Jennifer Price-Svihla and Dan Turner
Bonsai 101 – 7:00 pm
Crabapple by Jim Keith
- 8 June PSBS display, picnic and Ben Oki workshop at the Fabian Forest Preserve, Kane County**
- 9 June Board meeting – 7:30 pm - Cooper

MIDWEST BONSAI SOCIETY MEETING SCHEDULE

****Note Change in Date** March 31, 2014**

We've moved our April meeting to take advantage of this opportunity!

7:00pm - Guest Speaker Ted Matson

May 5, 2014

Burnstein Hall

7:00pm - Guest Speaker TBA

June 2, 2014

Burnstein Hall

7:00pm - Tropical Bonsai repotting - bring a tropical tree to repot. Our annual repotting meeting, but later in the year and geared towards your tropical plants.

<http://www.midwestbonsai.org/meetings.html>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome spring! Well, at least that what the calendar says it should be. Usually by this time I have started with my repotting. This year I will probably wait until mid April to get started. I always begin with my deciduous trees in order to work on them before the buds burst. This has been one of the latest winters I can remember. I saw on the news that the cherry blossoms in Washington D.C. have not opened for the annual Cherry Blossom Festival. They are not expected to open for another couple of weeks. Keep an eye on the weather and night time temperatures as you begin to repot your trees. You may need to protect newly repotted trees if the temps look like they will dip below freezing.

This month we have a great program lined up. Dan Kosta will give a Bonsai 101 presentation on Douglas Fir. The general meeting will feature Ivan Waters who will discuss refining finished bonsai. For anyone not familiar with Ivan Waters he has been practicing the art of bonsai for more than fifty years.



Ivan Watters

Ivan is curator of the Bonsai Collection at the Chicago Botanic Garden and is a bonsai master recognized internationally for his work and teaching. In 2012 Ivan, co-authored a book titled *Bonsai A Patient Art: The Bonsai Collection of the Chicago Botanic Garden*. The chapter on "The Art of Trust" notes that:

Bonsai is perhaps the ultimate collaboration, bringing together human mastery and nature's mystery. The merger is both formal and spiritual: as the tree grows and is shaped by the eye and the hand, a relationship develops. Artifice, at the heart of bonsai, is convincing only when knowledge of the original is thorough. The bonsai artist studies the full-size tree to guide the miniature; the bonsai responds to the touch and vision of the artist. The collaboration unfolds over decades, even over a succession of caretakers, as the tree is usually longer lived than its human partner.

When passed through generations, bonsai becomes truly an art of stewardship. An artist becomes custodian of a life, nurturing it and then passing on its care. Bonsai is an art of trust.

This month's meeting is a unique opportunity to hear first hand from a well known and respected bonsai master how to take your

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trees to the next level. It's an opportunity you will not want to miss. Hope to see you at the meeting.

Jim Keith

Sequoia65@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2014 - DUE

Membership dues for 2014 were due in March. If you want to continue being a member of the club, you can pay your dues at the general meeting or by sending a check along with a Membership Enrollment Form, located towards the end of the newsletter, to Prairie State Bonsai Society, PO Box 2634, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138-2634. Please be sure to fill out the enrollment form completely.

If you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail the dues are \$30 for an individual and \$35 for a family.

If you wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter by way of the US Postal Service the dues are \$40 for an individual and \$45 for a family.

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

Outdoor: This is a very busy month for the bonsai grower. The trees can be taken out of winter storage once the temperatures remain above 30 degrees at night. Once the trees leaf out they will need to be watered more often. The rising temperatures will increase the need for water.

Fertilization can begin but be careful that it does not contain excessive nitrogen. Too much nitrogen during spring growth

can cause the leaves to become too large. Be careful adding or removing wire while the buds are expanding and the new growth is lengthening. These tissues are very delicate and could easily be knocked off by wiring work.

This is the prime season for repotting. Hopefully you have your pots and soil ready so that you can begin as the trees signal their readiness. It is best to begin repotting just before the new growth expands. When the buds begin to swell this is a good time to repot. If the tree is going back into the same pot clean the inside of the pot before placing the tree back into it.

Once a tree has been repotted it will need to be kept in a warm, sheltered location. Direct midday sun or strong winds can hinder the tree's ability to recover from transplanting. Cold temperatures will inhibit new root growth and this will also prolong the recovery. Wetting the foliage occasionally can help if the tree has had substantial root pruning.

Indoor: It is still too cold outside to move these trees to the outdoors. Indoor trees will also begin to use more water as the days lengthen and temperatures warm up. Fertilization can take place with trees in all indoor situations; windowsill, under lights, etc.. The trees may be pruned and wired as needed. It is too early to repot these trees. It is better to do this in the summer.

WORKS CITED

Editor, Dan Kosta. (Vol. XXIX, Number 1, April, 2012). Things To Do This Month. *Bonsai Hai*. Prairie State Bonsai Society.

BONSAI RESOURCES



BC BONSAI

B. C. BONSAI

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



THE HIDDEN GARDENS

16W658 S. Frontage Road
Willowbrook, Illinois 60527-7013
(630) 655-8283
Bonsai, Pots, Tools, Soil and Classes
Open M-F 7-7, Sat. 7-5, Sun 10-3
Closed Dec. - April
www.hiddengarden.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
dekay525@yahoo.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!

Bonsai lessons, all levels,
(held at Hidden Gardens, 9-Noon),
with **Mark Karczewski**.
Call (630) 254-8841 or email,
coolhand500@comcast.net
You can contact Hidden Gardens as well,
just ask about "Saturday Morning Bonsai!"

OUTSIDE THE CHICAGO AREA:

BRUSSEL'S BONSAI

8125 Center Hill Road
Olive Branch, MS 38654
(800) 582-2593
<http://www.brusselsbonsai.com>



CASS BONSAI GARDENS, LLC

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(618) 656-9087
<http://www.cassbonsaigardens.com/>

STONE LANTERN

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

NATURE'S WAY NURSERY

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

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

NAME _____

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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

All memberships expire as of March 1.

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

PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SOCIETY OFFICERS 2013 - 2014

President: Jim Keith

Programs: Phil Malhiot

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