



(Bonsai Yes)

BONSAI HAI!

Prairie State Bonsai Society Newsletter

Prairie State Bonsai Society Newsletter | May 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is enjoying the spring season and getting some good time in with their bonsai. This spring has been a perfect example of our temperamental Chicago weather — big swings in temperature and storms with high winds — so it's a critical time to assess your trees and make sure they're in a safe spot in your garden.

It's also a great time of year to plan out which demonstrations and classes to attend. Attending these classes has helped me continue developing the essential skills for progressing in bonsai, and they're where I've met friends from all over the country. Mauro Stemberger joined us earlier this week, and we have a fantastic reminder right in front of us of what's possible when we get to learn directly from artists of that caliber. If there's a summer workshop or class you've been considering, now is the time to mark your calendar — these opportunities fill quickly, and they're one of the best investments you can make in your bonsai journey.

Looking into June, mark your calendars for our annual picnic on June 14th from 11am to 3pm at the North Pavilion at Blackwell Forest Preserve, where we'll be joined by Chris Baker, Curator of Bonsai at the Chicago Botanic Garden, as our guest artist. We'll also have David Kreutz of Satsuki Bonsai-en Imports at our June meeting for a discussion on azaleas and their care.

We also have some great shows and events lined up this year, so it's worth taking stock now of what tools, pots, supplies, and new project trees you'll want for the season

ahead. It's always a good idea to plan ahead by creating a list, taking photos of trees, and measurements for future pots. This step can help tremendously while shopping at a show.

Thank you all for being such an engaged part of the Prairie State Bonsai Club. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in a couple of weeks at the next monthly meeting!

Alexander Surles

President, Prairie State Bonsai Society

FEATURED ARTICLE

Special Events Updates!

Craig Cronquist, Special Events Director

Reminder: Registration for 2026 Destination Asia Workshops Coming Soon!

This is to remind you to mark June 3, 2026 on your calendar if you want to register for a workshop with Peter Chan, our special guest artist at our Bonsai Show at The Morton

Arboretum's annual Destination Asia Festival, scheduled for August 1 & 2, 2026.

There are eight workshops, as follows:

August 1st , Saturday morning from 9AM to Noon:

- Guest Artist Bonsai Workshop: Dawn Redwood. Taught by **Peter Chan** and Badar Zulqarni. Cost will be \$295 for members and \$305 for non-members.
- Introduction to Bonsai Workshop: Dwarf Japanese Garden Juniper. Juniper nana class taught by Jim Beck of BC Bonsai and Nick DiBattista. Cost will be \$108 for members and \$118 for non-members.

August 1st , Saturday afternoon from 1:30PM to 4:30PM:

- Guest Artist Bonsai Workshop: Cedar Elm. Taught by **Peter Chan** and Jennifer Price. These are yamadori collected from an 800-acre cattle ranch near Houston TX. Cost will be \$230 for members and \$240 for non-members.
- Kids' Bonsai Workshop: Dwarf Japanese Garden Juniper. Juniper nana class taught by Jim Beck of BC Bonsai and Jason Davids. Limited to six kids from ages 8 to 16, each with a parent. Cost will be \$80 for members and \$90 for non-members.

August 2nd , Sunday morning from 9AM to Noon:

- Guest Artist Bonsai Workshop: Japanese Maple. Taught by **Peter Chan** and Larry Magee. Cost will be \$250 for members and \$260 for non-members.

Introduction to Bonsai Workshop: Chinese Elm. Taught by Linda Camp of BC Bonsai and Jason Davids. Cost will be \$105 for members and \$115 for non-members.

August 2nd , Sunday afternoon from 1:30PM to 4:30PM:

Guest Artist Bonsai Workshop: Bring Your Own Tree. Taught by **Peter Chan** and Badar Zulqarni. Cost will be \$90 for members and \$100 for non-members.

Kids' Bonsai Workshop: Dwarf Japanese Garden Juniper. Juniper nana class taught by Doug Bradbury and Nick DiBattista. Limited to six kids from ages 8 to 16, each with a parent. Cost will be \$80 for members and \$90 for non-members.

Registration Process

Registration can be accomplished online or by telephone. Members of The Morton Arboretum and members of Prairie State Bonsai Society are eligible for a \$10 discount. If you are a member of the Arboretum, you can register online and receive your discount using your membership number. Members of PSBS who are not Arboretum members must call in to register to receive their discount. If you find yourself on hold for a while you may just want to register online and skip the \$10 discount. Later we can apply for a \$10 refund.

Descriptions of the eight workshops will be displayed on the Arboretum's website beginning on May 27, 2026, but only donors giving more than \$1500 per year can enroll during that week.

Enrollment for members and the general public will begin on **June 3, 2026 at 10:00AM**. Online registration can be accomplished by opening The Morton Arboretum webpage at www.mortonarb.org. **Go to Explore / Things To Do / Adult Programs** and look by date for the workshop you want. The two Kids' workshops will be included under a single listing, so just register for the date you desire.

If you have difficulty finding the workshops online, you can also call in to register. The telephone number is **630-719-2468** from 9AM-4PM M-F, but will not be available on the 3rd until after 10AM.

I will keep PSBS members advised of further updates as they occur between now and registration. Contact me at craig_cronquist@yahoo.com or at 630-244-0155 if you have further questions.

2026 Prairie State Bonsai Society Picnic on June 14th

The Society's annual picnic will be held at the North Pavilion of the Blackwell Forest Preserve, part of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District, and located just west of Winfield Road on the north side of Butterfield Road in Warrenville. The picnic will be held on **Sunday, June 14, 2026 from 11AM to 3PM**.

The Society will provide:

Hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, buns and condiments;

- Drinks (soda and water), and ice;
- Plates, plasticware, napkins; and,
- Bonsai wire.

You bring:

- Your family; and,
- A dish to share.

Important Note: Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in DuPage County Forest Preserve District facilities.

Chris Baker, curator of the bonsai collection at Chicago Botanic Garden, will attend. Bring a tree and your tools. Get advice from Chris or from other experienced members about your tree.

Detailed driving directions are as follows:

Directions to Prairie State Bonsai Society Picnic June 14, 2026, 11AM to 3PM
Blackwell Forest Preserve, North Shelter

The entrance to the forest preserve is on the north side of Butterfield Road (IL Route 56), just west of Winfield Road.

The North Shelter is 0.8 miles after the first stop sign.

Staying on the main road, you will pass:

Two Stop signs

Sign for the South Shelter on your right

Sign for the Boat Launch on your right

Sign (on the right) pointing to the West Shelter (on your left)

Sign on your left for the West Division Ranger Office

Immediately after the road curves to the right around the lake, you will see the sign for the North Shelter on your right.

The North Shelter has two parking lots connected by a short lane. It has bathrooms with sinks and flush toilets.

If you get to the Family Campground, you have gone too far.

See you there!

FEATURED ARTICLE

BC Bonsai workshops



Upcoming Events at our Wheaton location:

Events:

May 30th, tropical tree repotting workshop drop in from 10 am to 5 pm. In Wheaton. Bring your tree(s) in and learn how to repot them. Cost \$15 to \$30 includes soil. Pots extra. Call us at 630-386-1515 for more information and to reserve a spot.

June 6th to July 25th 7-week course on Bonsai Basics meets every Saturday from 9:30 to noon. Costs \$185. Please call us at 630-386-1515 for more information and to sign up for a spot.

June 6th Bring Your Own Tree (BYOT) workshop. \$25. 1:30 to 4:00. Call us at 630-386-1515 for more information and to reserve a spot.

June 14th closed

June 20th BYOT workshop. \$25. 1:30 to 4:00. Call us at 630-386-1515 for more information and to reserve a spot.

June 27th BYOT workshop. \$25. 1:30 to 4:00. Call us at 630-386-1515 for more information and to reserve a spot.

Learn the art of bonsai from prize winning artists with 60 years combined experience. BC Bonsai is where you can find over 2000 trees and bonsai pots. Open 7 days a week by appointment. Call 630-386-1515 or 630-386-7585.



CLUB MEETINGS

JUNE CLUB MEETING

Satsuki Azalea Demonstration

June 3rd | 7:00 - 9:00 pm | College of DuPage TEC 1038B | ZOOM

Guest Artist: Dave Kreutz

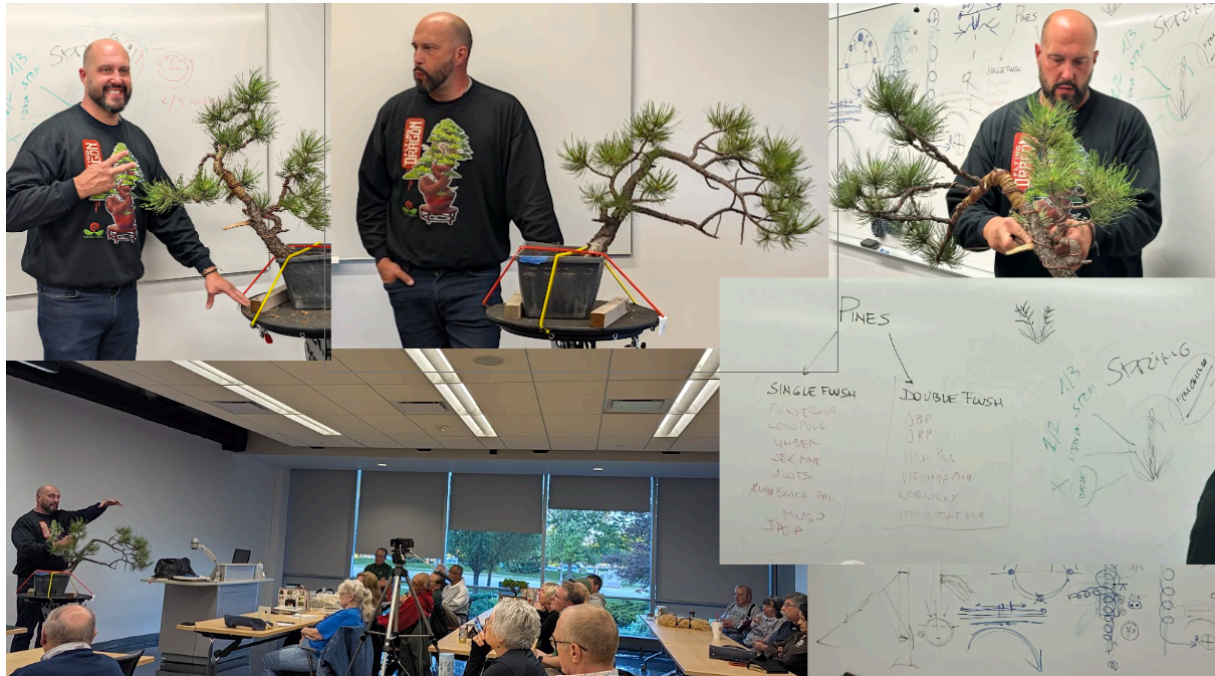
Dave Kreutz operates Satsuki Bonsai-en in the St. Louis metro area and is a recognized specialist in satsuki azalea bonsai. He completed formal training under Tatemori Gondo at the El Dorado Bonsai School in California during the 1990s, graduating from a three-year program to become a certified satsuki bonsai instructor. He grows and imports diverse satsuki varieties and supplies, with much of his inventory sourced directly from Japanese nurseries.

Dave will demonstrate styling and care techniques for azalea bonsai and typically brings trees and supplies for sale — a great opportunity to add a flowering species to your collection.

RAFFLE Come to the meeting for a chance to purchase raffle tickets and win trees and other bonsai goods!

NEED ADVICE? Bring a tree to the meeting you have questions about. Members are always encouraged to bring personal trees to the meetings for advice on care or styling from our many club artists.

May meeting review - Mauro Stemberger Demo



NOT A MEMBER YET? JOIN NOW!

Enjoy all the benefits of membership and special access to videos when you join.

MORE INFORMATION & CONTACT: See our club's website for more sources of bonsai supplies and trees. Also listed on the website are fine bonsai publications to assist you in your bonsai endeavors.

RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

Would you like to become more involved in the club? Do you have skills or other abilities that could help the club? Want to just learn more about bonsai? Consider volunteering to help with things such as the website or emails.

Contact PSBS: PSBSPresident@gmail.com

JOIN THE CLUB



[View email in browser](#)

©Copyright 2026.

[update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)