

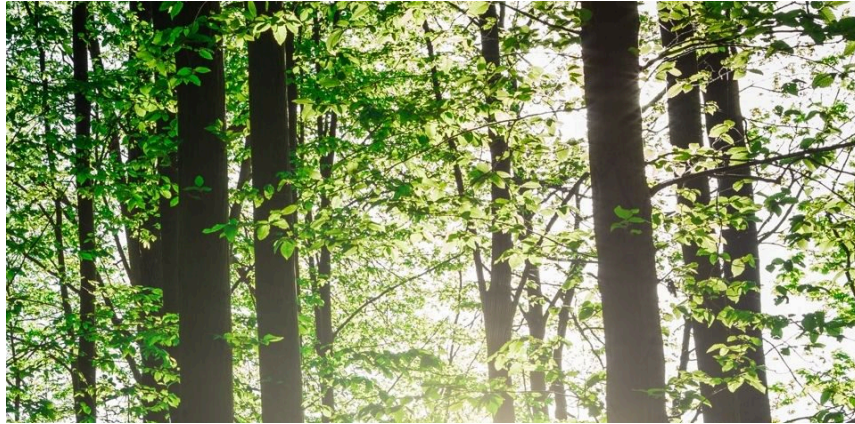


(Bonsai Yes)

BONSAI HAI!

Prairie State Bonsai Society Newsletter

Prairie State Bonsai Society Newsletter | June 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is enjoying the first day of summer! We had a great meeting with David Kreutz of Satsuki Bonsai-en Imports. Our members asked sharp questions and came away knowing a lot more about azaleas and their care. Thank you, David, for sharing your expertise with us!

We also held our annual picnic on June 14th at Blackwell Forest Preserve, with Chris Baker, Curator of Bonsai at the Chicago Botanic Garden, as our guest artist. The day was a huge success. Special thanks to Craig Cronquist for spearheading the planning, and to Bill Imlah for manning the grill. Thanks as well to Doug Bradbury for making the signs. Thank you, Chris, for working with our members. It was great to see everyone learning side by side, enjoy a meal together, and make new friends.

A quick note on Destination Asia: our workshop spaces are selling out fast. If you've been thinking about it, now is the time to claim your spot.

Our July meeting is all about getting your trees ready for the show. Larry Magee will demonstrate how to moss up a tree, and Phil Malhiot will walk through preparing a tree for display. So, bring your trees! Even trees in training are welcome — this is a great time to get input on design and direction.

Thank you all for being such an engaged part of the Prairie State Bonsai Club. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in July!

Alexander Surles

President, Prairie State Bonsai Society

FEATURED ARTICLE

Special Events Updates!

Craig Cronquist, Special Events Director

2026 Picnic Retrospective

It seems everyone enjoyed the PSBS Picnic on Sunday, June 14th at Blackwell Forest Preserve of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. By my count we had 33 people attending the event. The food was delicious, ranging from hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and hot dogs provided by the club, to delectable deviled eggs, desserts, homemade Filipino egg rolls, and so much more provided by the people attending the event.

Many people brought trees to work on and received valuable suggestions from Chris Baker, of the Chicago Botanic Garden. Chris has been a regular guest at our picnics in recent years.

We have many people to thank for making the event a success. Bill Imlah was barbecue chef extraordinaire in grilling the hamburgers and hot dogs for all. Doug Bradbury and Badar Zulqarni were responsible for producing and posting signs so people could more easily find the location. Alex Surles kept us all hydrated by providing beverages for all. Jason Davids had fans at the ready because we had very hot weather in 2025, but those were not needed this year because the weather was very mild. And all people attending brought great food to share. Thank you all!

The picnic is already scheduled for Sunday, June 13, 2027 at the same location, the North Shelter. June dates fill up quickly and we have already obtained our picnic permit for next year. We may add some more hamburgers next year as the hot dogs did not move as they had in previous years. Perhaps there were fewer kids at this year's event.

If anyone has suggestions for other ways to improve the picnic event in 2027, please mention those ideas to me or any board member. See you next year!



2026 Destination Asia Workshop Update

As expected, interest in the four workshops led by Peter Chan was extraordinary. All 60 slots in those workshops have been reserved.

If you are new to bonsai, there are still spots available for the introductory bonsai workshops, either with Chinese Elms or Juniper Nanas (Dwarf Japanese Garden Junipers in Arboretum parlance) and taught by Linda Camp and Jim Beck. In addition, if you have a young child or relative, there are slots available in the two Kids' workshops, also working on Juniper Nanas. An adult is required to register with the child, so perhaps you can pass the bonsai bug on to the next generation. Working on a tree with your young relative may provide a bond and a fun afternoon. Spaces are available for both Saturday and Sunday afternoons, August 1st and 2nd.

Register on The Morton Arboretum website or by calling 630-719-2468. Members of PSBS get a \$10 discount on their registration if they call in to register.

Please consider showing a tree or two at the festival. Our July general meeting will be focused on preparing your trees.

Thanks,

Craig.

CLUB MEETINGS

JULY CLUB MEETING

Show Prep for August Exhibition

July 8th | 7:00 - 9:00 pm | College of DuPage TEC 1038B | ZOOM

Prepare your trees for our August Exhibition!

This will be a working session, so please bring your trees, tools, and wire. The first half of the meeting will cover the basics of show prep and displaying trees. For the rest of the meeting, experienced members will be available to evaluate your trees and help you work on them.

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.

[June meeting review - Dave Kreutz Demo](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

BC Bonsai workshops



Upcoming Events at our Wheaton location:

Events:

June 27th 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.

July 4th closed

July 11th BYOT workshop. \$25. 1:30 to 4:00. Call us at 630-386-1515 for more information and to reserve a spot.

July 18th BYOT workshop. \$25. 1:30 to 4:00. Call us at 630-386-1515 for more information and to reserve a spot.

July 25th 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 70 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.



Milwaukee club show this weekend

If you are looking for something to do this weekend, the Milwaukee club is having its spring show with special guest Andy Smith.

Saturday, June 27, 10 am - 4 pm

Sunday, June 28, 10 am - 3 pm
Lynden Sculpture Garden
2145 W Brown Deer Rd, Milwaukee, WI
(414) 446-8794
Under the Tent



55th Annual Exhibit Schedule of Events

Saturday

Exhibit.....	10am – 4pm
New Talent Contest.....	9 am – 12pm
Andy Smith – Workshop.....	9am – 12pm
Raffle Drawing.....	12 pm
Andy Smith – Demo.....	1pm – 3:30pm
Andy Smith-Demo Tree Auction.....	3:30 pm
Raffle Drawing.....	4 pm

Sunday

Exhibit.....	10am – 3pm
Andy Smith – Workshop.....	9am – 12pm
Raffle Drawing.....	12pm
Andy Smith – Workshop.....	1pm – 4pm

Botanic Garden workshops



Tropical Bonsai Workshop

Summer is the best time to work on your tropical bonsai trees. This comprehensive workshop covers all aspects of tropical tree care including species used, styles, and soil types. Bring your tree ready for critique, styling, and repotting, and set a course for the future of your bonsai tree. You will need to provide your own tree, tools, and soil if repotting.

Thursday, July 16, 2026, 5 – 8 p.m.

Chris Baker, curator of bonsai, Chicago Botanic Garden
Bonsai Studio, Grainger Center

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](#)