

May
2010



Springfield
Bonsai Society

SPRINGFIELD BONSAI SOCIETY

Palmatum Press

Future Tense May Meeting

I hope you are enjoying all the bonsai events we have planned so far. The guest artist workshops, bonsai exhibitions etc.

The next marquee event is a workshop with Erik Wigert on Saturday May 8th. This workshop will be held at Cass Bonsai Gardens in Edwardsville. There will be two sessions, 9am and 1pm. The morning session is mostly full, but spots remain for the afternoon session.

Erik always has some great trees. He will be bringing some select Bougainvilleas and Nia Buxofolias for the Springfield club. Trees will be priced around \$75 for SBS members with upgrades available. The workshop is free for SBS members. If you wish to ride share to Cass please email BonsaiSBS@yahoo.com – when you reply make sure this address is in the reply to so the entire group can get your response.

The May 10th meeting will include a presentation on “Insects in Bonsai” by Phil Nixon and a workshop on de-budding pines by Roland Folse. The tree of the month is Pine, so bring a pine or two to learn about de-budding techniques. If you have a tree with insects or disease you might want to bring some pictures that show the problem tree / insect!

Trammell (gary.trammell@uis.edu).

Phil Nixon has degrees from Lincoln Land Community College, Southern Illinois University, and Kansas State University. As an entomologist with University of Illinois Extension, Dr. Nixon has statewide responsibilities for pesticide safety education and the integrated pest management of landscape and household insect pests. He has been active with bonsai since 1976. He has been the secretary of the Bonsai Society of Central Illinois since its inception in 1997. He and his wife, Carie, maintain about 100 bonsai and pre-bonsai.

The beginners bonsai workshop through LLCC Community Education was cancelled due to low attendance. Thank you to all who volunteered to help out with this workshop.

The MABA 2010 Convention will be held from Friday, June 25 through Sunday, June 27 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in **Grand Rapids, Michigan**, hosted by the West Michigan Bonsai Club. There will be a large bonsai exhibit (judged and non-judged), a suiseki exhibit, individual tree critiques, workshops (including one for children), demonstrations, raffles, auctions, a banquet, and vendors from around the midwest and beyond.

Registration for the MABA 2010 Convention is now open. Full registration is currently \$235 per person. After June 1 registration will be \$250. Kathy Shaner will be headlining along with other bonsai artists and vendors.
<http://mababonsai.org/pages/convention.html>

Past Tense April Meeting

April meeting focused on styling and repotting maples. The highlight of April was the workshop with Michael Persiano. Michael also worked with some area members on their personal collection. Gary and Rita Trammell hosted the workshop attendees for a potluck dinner after the workshop.



SBS hosted a Bonsai Exhibit at Prairie Art Alliance's new art exhibit opening on Saturday May 1st. The setup was completed on Friday thanks to a U-Haul truck rented by Gary. We had a good selection of trees. The Azaleas had not bloomed yet, so we missed the usual show stoppers.

State Journal Register's "Springfield's Own" magazine staff interviewed the SBS crew about bonsai. The article should be published in the June/July issue of the magazine.



Our club website has received a facelift. Please visit <http://www.bonsaisbs.com/>. There is a spot for member galleries as well as a discussion forum.

Calendar of Events and Links will keep you informed about upcoming events. You can register to post your own bonsai photos and start new discussions.



MABA – Mid America Bonsai Alliance Letter from Steve Moore, MABA Vice President

Janine is the current secretary of MABA and asked if we can select a delegate to receive MABA communications and attend the MABA meeting at the upcoming convention in Grand Rapids, MI. www.mababonsai.org

ASK A QUESTION OF THE MABA LEADERSHIP, and we'll try to give you an answer. The President of the Midwest Bonsai Society asked about the list of regional artists on the MABA website. That led to the discovery that our list is somewhat out-of-date, and we're working to update it!

In connection with that, I'm asking for your help. (Yes, you.) Would you be willing to speak, or do a demonstration, at another club or bonsai group? If you are, we will, with your permission, add your name and contact info to the MABA information base.

Please don't let this idea frighten you. Frankly, you probably know more than you give yourself credit for. Most people do. Please read over the following questions. As you do, please refer to these descriptions:

Novice: no bonsai knowledge or experience. (This includes the general public.)

Beginner: some knowledge, but still mastering the fundamentals of bonsai care and styling, such as watering, fertilizing, winter care, and wiring.

Intermediate: comfortable with the fundamentals, but seek help/advice with advanced techniques such as grafting, and with some of your styling.

Advanced: comfortable with all but the most unusual techniques; usually don't need advice on styling.

1. What do you think is your level of bonsai knowledge? (Novice, beginner, intermediate, or advanced?)
2. At what level(s) would you be willing to teach and/or demonstrate?
3. On what topic(s) are you comfortable speaking/ teaching?
4. Are you willing to speak/demonstrate for other groups, at your specified level and on your specified topics?
5. How far are you willing to drive (one way) to speak to another group?

Here are my own answers to these questions. 1. Intermediate. 2. Novice or beginner. 3. Basics of soils; tropics; yews as bonsai; choosing nursery stock; styling demonstrations. 4. Yes. 5. Two hours, give or take.

Think about it, and decide if you can help us in this way. Then send me your answers by email, please, at treebeard20@gmail.com. You can number your answers as I did; I'll keep a record of the questions. I would appreciate getting answers by the end of April.

Thanks for considering this, and for any help you can give to help promote the love of bonsai in the MABA region! Frankly, I'll be happy with one or two positive responses: most of our people see themselves as beginners, I think. That's one reason my piece is so long: I was trying to be as reassuring as possible as I wrote!

But one new "visiting speaker" here, another there, a couple more yonder, could all add up.

Best regards,
Steve

May Bonsai Care Tips

Disclaimer: This is a general guide. Times can vary as much as a month depending on the weather trends. Some species of trees do not follow the general category guidelines of deciduous, evergreen or tropicals. Know your trees!

- Wire conifers.
- All repotting should be finished by first week, except junipers that can be repotted through early summer.
- Pinch pine candles starting with small ones and finishing with larger ones a week or so later. Spruce and juniper may need first pinching.
- Trim deciduous new growth back to 2 or 3 buds.
- Check watering daily while keeping an eye on pests. Feed on regular basis.



SPRINGFIELD BONSAI SOCIETY

Gary Trammell, President

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Upcoming Events

May 8 - Guest Artist Workshop w/ Erik Wigert @ Cass Bonsai Saturday, two sessions. 9am and 1pm email gary.trammell@uis.edu to register.

June 25-27, MABA Convention, Grand Rapids Michigan www.wmbonsai.org. Another long drive but some more Bonsai workshops, demos, exhibit and vendors. Kathy Shaner, headliner.

May 10 – SBS Meeting. De-budding Pines, Insects in Bonsai Roland Folse and Phil Nixon presenting.

May 15 - 16 - Midwest Bonsai Society Spring Show Chicago Botanic Garden, Exhibition, Workshops, Vendors.

May 28- 30 Brussel's Rendezvous, Olive Branch, MS. A long drive but great trees and great workshops.

Administrivia

Your 2010 Officers are:

President – Gary Trammell 217-741-4849 (M)
Vice President – David Kerwin
Treasurer – Tom Applebee
Secretary – Manish Sumant 217-652-9619 (M)
& newsletter editor

Annual membership is \$20 (family \$30).

Email msumant1@netscape.net to sign up or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BonsaiSBS/>