

BADGER NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

MEETING - March 12 2009

6:30pm -8:00pm

Olbrich Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave. Madison

MEETING AGENDA:

Discussions on Soil, Repotting, and Fertilization. Update on website progress.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is coming regardless of what the weather looks like when you read this or when our next meeting is held on March 12th

Remember our new starting time of 6:30pm SHARP, and we will work to be finished by 8:30pm. Still come even if you will not be there at 6:30. We want your company.

The focus of our meeting in March will be on Soil, Repotting, and Fertilization.

I will present an experiment that you all can do at home to better understand the soil mix you use for your trees. The test results may help you understand what changes if any you should consider for your soil and it may also answer some of your questions regarding issues or problems certain trees have been having. There will be a handout outlining the experiment for your use at home.

I would also like to review the details of fertilization once again as this action next to watering is the most important thing you can do to develop your bonsai. A good fertilization program will help your tree grow, and withstand attacks by pests and diseases. Proper fertilization will also help your tree be ready for major restyling sessions and allow it to recover quicker and with less stress being introduced because the tree was in prime health before the work started. Once again there will be a handout for you to take home.

And finally I will bring along a tree that is ready to be repotted and we will over the steps that I have found to be beneficial and helpful in re-establishing your tree in a new pot or refreshing the soil that it is growing in. We will discuss preparation prior to repotting and practices that you should embrace and avoid when repotting. We will also discuss aftercare once a repotting has occurred.



President's Message (cont.)

A final topic that we will touch on will be show preparation of your trees for our upcoming Spring Show in May, it is not too early to start your preparation and YES, another handout for you to take home with you. Make sure you bring your largest vehicle and maybe even consider bringing along a trailer for all the reading material you will have to take home.

This should give us a full evening of bonsai related topics and demonstrations.

See you in March,

Ron F

BadgerBonsai.net Updates by Devon C.

Online newsletter progress

In an effort to reduce our monthly club expenditures, we are moving the newsletter to a PDF version that can be either read online, downloaded, or printed. On our club website, badgerbonsai.net, I've created a new section under the table of contents called "Newsletter." This new section is where we will begin posting PDF versions of the monthly newsletter. Once the new issue is posted for download, I will e-mail the club to notify you of its availability. If you have not already provided your e-mail address to me, please e-mail me at info@badgerbonsai.net

I will add you to my spreadsheet.

Badgerbonsai.net Updates (cont.)

Just in case you don't have Adobe Reader installed on your computer, on our newsletter page there is a link to download the free software which will allow you to view and print PDF's. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I will help you walk through the download process on the phone if you need

Club Library

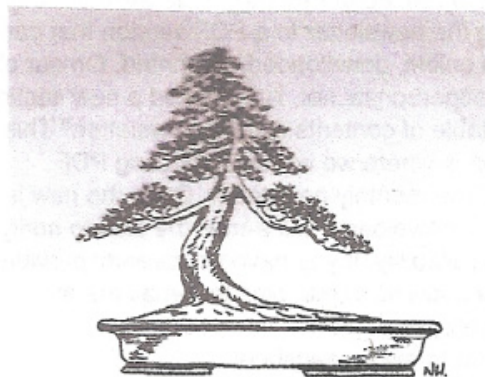
Greg and I are working on posting the club library to the website. This will be a long tedious process but there is a way you can help. We would like to have reviews of all the books, magazines, and video's. Club members are encouraged to check out a book, write a brief review, give it to Greg or I and we can connect it with the title to provide other members a little bit of information to pique their interests. Visit badgerbonsai.net/library/ then contact Greg G to request a title.

Website Content Request

Since going live at the beginning of 2009, traffic to the website has steadily increased with 168 hits in January and 374 in February! Ron and I are answering 2-3 questions a month from folks who found us online. So, I just want to take a moment to encourage members to submit content for our club website. I've already built sections for The Annual Show, Species and Styles, but that is just the beginning. We can post our photos, how-to's, progress reports on a tree, resources etc.

If you feel that you have something to offer, I will post your content. If you wish to take a more proactive roll, I will provide you with a username and log-in to post content yourself. If you desire to have a section to yourself (AKA: Greg's Greenhouse or Gary's Grotto) we can do that too. The sky is the limit, and this is your place to show the world your bonsai knowledge. Submit questions, content and ideas to: info@badgerbonsai.net

Devon



Just a note that I will bring with me to the next meeting a sampling of your library with me. If anyone would like to look at them or maybe even check some out for the next month, they will be there for you. Just looking for some participation.

This month I will finally make the effort to start and finish making the rain barrel that I wrote about a few months back. Just saw a small blurb on DYI network today, and said to myself, "SELF", I better get this rain barrel project done and soon. Also got out to the back yard today and I noticed that a few of the boards on the display area fence that I built last year started to warp and separate. Will need to start working to fix the fence soon also. These projects added to repotting and the other needs of my trees will mean a busy March and April.

In Ron's Presidents message he mentioned that we would cover repotting, fertilization, and soil make up. Some of the other monthly topics that we will cover will be, but not necessarily written in stone, are:

MARCH- Repotting, soil, water retention, and fertilization. Sign up to purchase tree for June workshop. Tree type and price need yet to be determined.

APRIL- Bring your own tree to work on, also bring your own supplies or make arrangements to get some, make sure to bring a table covering to help reduce the mess. Discussion on properly dressing cuts and wounds. Sign up for June workshop.

MAY- Air Layer Demo, Preparation techniques for Spring show. Bring your tree or trees to work on if you feel they need more help for display

JUNE- Boxwood or Juniper(?) Workshop

JULY- Summer picnic location yet to be determined

AUGUST- Trip to State Fair to view Bonsai exhibit and discuss tree critiques, time for departure to be discussed.

SEPTEMBER- Bring your own tree to work on and get help from other members.

OCTOBER- Bring your own tree to work on and get help from other members.

NOVEMBER- Officer elections. Monthly planning for 2010 meetings.

DECEMBER- Bring your favorite holiday treats to share with other members.

Again these are not set in stone, bring your own ideas speak up, get involved, this is your club. Also I would be much appreciated to get back some criticisms or ideas for upcoming newsletters, I would even relish someone providing an article or a project that you have done and would like other members to try.

Greg

TREE OF THE MONTH by Bob E

Murraya paniculata Jasmine Orange

Murraya paniculata is a native of India, which has sweet smelling white flowers that come out on young shoots, and small orange fruit which give it the common name of Jasmine Orange.

It has delicate compound leaves and the bark is smooth, and pale brown. This has made it one of the most popular species for bonsai in China, where most of the imports are produced.

Being a true tropical it has no dormant season to speak of when growing in the wild. If grown in a temperate climate as we have up here it must be kept inside from early fall until spring when there is no longer a chance of frost (like the middle of June). Just joking about the middle of June. I hope!

When you do put it outside again acclimate it slowly by gradually increasing the amount of sunlight you give it each day. You can only leave it outside in the middle of summer without fear of losing it.

When it is very hot out shade the pot to prevent the roots from overheating. In the wild the roots are constantly shaded by canopies of this and other trees around it.

Because the jasmine grows all year long a well-balanced fertilizer is the best to use, as it needs a fair amount of water and nutrients. This will depend on the location of your bonsai sunlight, wind, etc. This is one of the things that you have to adjust for yourself. The main rule of thumb is water and light, but not soaking wet. If the growth slows down in the winter you must slow on the watering and fertilizer. Your Jasmine will tell you when to water it, just as most bonsai do, if it stays wet for a longer period of time let it get a little dry on top but be sure the roots do not dry out.

Murraya paniculata is one of the sweetest smelling bonsai you can have in your house, if you have ever been in Florida around the orange groves when they are in bloom this is what your house will smell like.

About the only pests you have to worry about are Aphids and Red Spider Mites which like young shoots.

Pruning may be done at anytime. The bark separates easily from the hardwood, so use a sharp pruning tool to make a clean cut, and seal it with cut paste. It is best to seal most cuts you make on your bonsai, but really important on tropicals as the bark seems to separate more than it does on hardy species.

I have seen some Jasmine out at Felly's from time to time, and most of them you could separate, and get three or four trees from one pot. You can also easily air layer them in a short period of time.

Again *Murraya paniculata* makes a very nice sweet smelling bonsai. I am looking for a nice large one, whenever I am down south I check the nurseries that have tropicals

Bonsai Bob



2009 CLUB OFFICERS

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