



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | August, 2011

NEXT MEETING DATE: August 11th, 2011

6:30–8:00 p.m.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave. Madison, WI

MEETING AGENDA: BRING A TREE WORKDAY.

Get advice and/or a fresh perspective. Having trouble deciding what direction to take with a tree? Maybe we can help, any tree, any style, bring it. **FEATURE ELEMENT: PINES**

CLUB OFFICERS:

President	Matthew
Vice President	Beau
Communications	Devon
Treasurer	Gary
Secretary/Librarian / Newsletter	Greg
Refreshments	Elaine
Past President	Tim

President's Message

By: Matthew

It seems like a very long time since our last regular meeting. I hope you all are enjoying your summer. We had a great time at Ancient Arts Bonsai last month. Thanks again Ron.

It sure seems like it has been unusually warm summer. July was hot and dry, so we'll see what August has in store for us. Hopefully everyone has been able to keep up with their watering. Water so that some drains through the bottom of your pot and be sure to feed your plants regularly as well. Otherwise you may rinse all the nutrients out of your soil.

August is a good time for doing fairly significant pruning on most trees. This gives deciduous trees time for the wound to heal somewhat before winter. Additionally, any new shoots and leaves should have time to harden off before winter. This month at our meeting we will be doing a bring-in-a-tree workday. This will be a good opportunity to seek advice on a tree of your own or just watch and learn from others. Also at the meeting this month, we will look at needle pines. These are the white pines, black pines, mugo pines, etc. The tree I was planning on bringing in is still planted in the ground, so if someone else could please bring in a good example it would be much appreciated.



An beautiful and ancient White Pine specimen.

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In other news, Chicago will be putting on their big show this month. To anyone who has not been there in the past, I highly recommend going. Everything about the Chicago Botanical Garden is amazing. They have a permanent collection of bonsai and a very impressive Japanese Garden. Seriously, you should go.

I hope to see you all on Thursday. Until then, **“Keep a green tree in your heart and perhaps a singing bird will come.”** -Chinese proverb

Mid-America Bonsai Show & Sale August 19-21

By: Julie | chicagobotanic.org

GLENCOE, Ill. (July 26, 2011) – The definition of bonsai is, “to plant a tree in various types of shallow containers and to take great care to enhance the innate beauty of nature.” Visitors to the 34th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Show & Sale will learn all about this living art form on Friday, August 19 through Sunday, August 21.

The Midwest Bonsai Society presents this show, renowned as the best in the Midwest and one of the top three in the country because it draws enthusiasts from all over the United States. Visitors can view a judged display of 200 bonsai trees and speak with this year’s guest master, Ryan Neil. More than a dozen vendors will offer everything bonsai related, including bonsai trees, raw nursery stock, pots, tools and supplies. Free demonstrations and lectures will be held.

The Chicago Botanic Garden’s bonsai master, Susumu Nakamura, says of bonsai, “in selecting the style, the tree must be arranged to enhance its basic beauty: to bring together the basic principles of bonsai and the beauty inherent in the tree to create a living art form. Bonsai does not contradict nature. As a tree matures in the wild, so does a bonsai tree. This element must be taken into consideration. When creating a bonsai, one must also consider that the bonsai will live fifty to one hundred years longer than the creator’s life span.”

Workshops will be held throughout the weekend to allow beginners and accomplished bonsai growers to learn more about bonsai. Two special children’s bonsai workshops will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Registration is required and materials fee varies. Visit www.midwestbonsai.org for more information on workshops.

Sale hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all three days. Show hours are from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday August 19, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 20 and Sunday, August 21. Free demonstrations and lectures will be held on Friday at 2 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Mid-America Bonsai Show & Sale is part of the American Flower Show Series, a growing national horticultural program, bringing together amateur and expert gardeners and educators by offering floral exhibits and programs that focus on America’s favorite flower groups. Juried flower shows, floral displays, complementary workshops, demonstrations, lectures and plant sales occur regularly. Plant experts and plant society members are available to answer all questions.

Admission to the Chicago Botanic Garden is free. Select event fees apply. **Parking is \$20 per car;** free for Garden members. For information about Garden programs and events, call (847) 835-5440, or visit www.chicagobotanic.org.

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Four Ways to Connect:

E-mail: info.badgerbonsai.net

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E-mail





Mugo Pine | *Pinus mugo*



White Pine | *Pinus strobus*



Mugo Pine | *Pinus mugo*



Ponderosa Pine | *Pinus ponderosa*



Scots Pine | *Pinus sylvestris*

Displaying Your Bonsai... Or What To Do In July

By: Fred M / dallasbonsai.com

Since its July, most of the time you now spend with your bonsai is spent watering. Now there is nothing wrong with playing in the water. It's relaxing and feels good when the cool water splashes on your feet in the early evening.

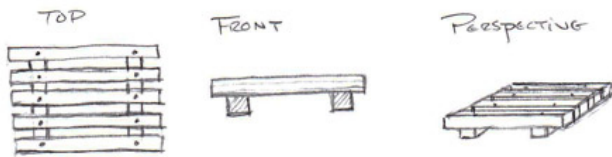
There is, however, another way to enjoy the bonsai hobby during the hot, hot days of summer: by building things for your plants – like stands and benches!

Now, I'm not trying to turn you into a carpenter, but it's actually quite an easy thing to do. Since the Japanese style of architecture is so simplistic, you can make some really attractive pieces with very little effort.

So, here are some ideas I've been toying with. Maybe they will inspire you to create some of your own which are even better suited to your unique situation. These drawings may be a little warped, but I think you get the idea. Like I said, hopefully, these will start your mind going on how you might be able to create something even better.

Table top display stand

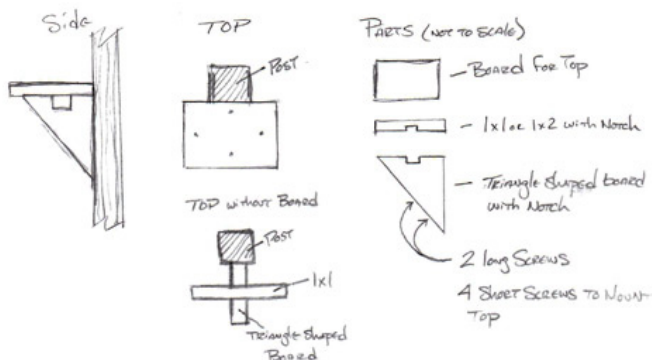
When I have a bonsai on a table, I like to dry the table off after I water. I found that by putting a couple 1x1 pieces of wood together with a couple small screws, you can make an attractive display stand and make it easy for the table to dry off.



You can make this any length and width that you want and it looks very attractive. You can take pine and stain it teak or oak. It's very attractive and depending upon how you treat it, it could be all-weather proof for 2 – 3 years.

Fence-Post Stand

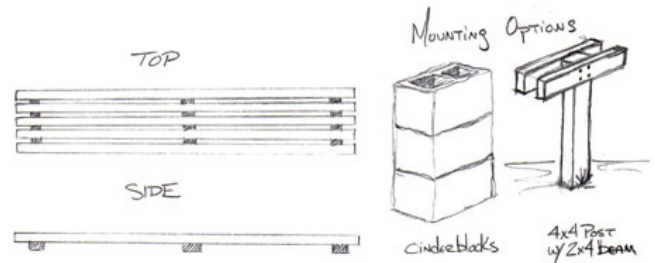
What do you do when you have a hilly, fenced backyard? Either develop a standalone bench from a 4x4 post sticking vertically out of the ground, or use the fence. It may not be very oriental looking, but you



can make a very nice stand out of a triangle shaped piece of wood, a short 1x1, a small rectangular board, 2 long screws and 4 short screws. This stand will require you to turn your plant depending upon which direction it is facing, but that's actually a good thing and, it's really attractive to see all the bonsai on the fence posts.

Benches

If you take the design idea from the table top stand above, you can easily scale it up to create long benches. These benches are not only attractive, they are easy to build. The only issue is figuring out how you will mount them. Here are two options:



You can use cinder blocks. Just stack them on each other and as long as they are sitting firmly on the ground, they will not move.

You can bury a 4x4 post sticking up vertically out of the ground and use a pair of 2x4's to make a "T", then you can mount the top deck you made to those. If you place the 4x4 "T's" close enough together, you could hold hundreds and hundreds of pounds this way. If you need more support in the "T", you can make triangle pieces which go between the two 2x4's and mount them to both the 2x4's and the 4x4 post.

If you have animals, like cats, you know how they like to get up on stuff and knock everything off. The great thing about these designs is you can take wire and wire your plant to the stand and thus secure it down so it won't move.

Well there you have it; A couple ideas to get your mind thinking about ways to display your outdoor bonsai. This way, you can do more than just water. If you have any ideas that you think are exceptionally helpful or attractive, please send them to me at dallasbonsai.com. I'd love to see them (or read about them as the case may be.)

www.DallasBonsai.com

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