



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | November 2011

NEXT MEETING DATE: **November 10, 2011**

6:30–8:00 p.m.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave. Madison, WI

MEETING AGENDA:

OFFICER ELECTIONS AND OTHER CLUB POLITICS

November is the annual elections and club business meeting.

FEATURE ELEMENT: JUNIPERS

CLUB OFFICERS:

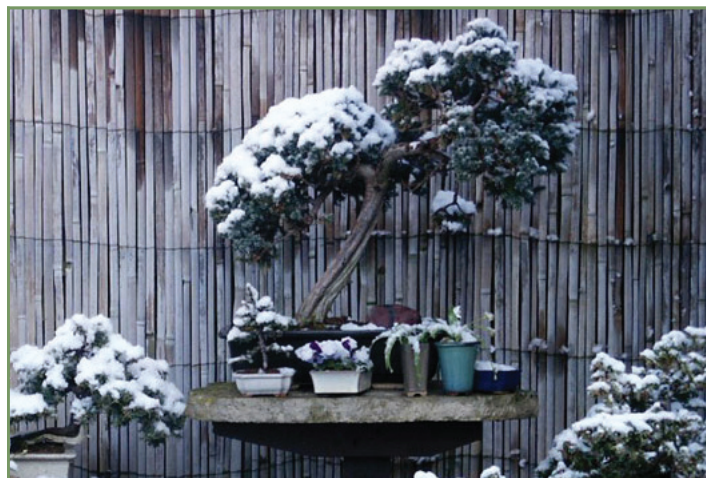
President	Matthew
Vice President	Beau
Communications	Devon
Treasurer	Gary
Secretary/Librarian / Newsletter	Greg
Refreshments	Elaine
Past President	Tim

The President is on Message

By: Matthew

Greetings fellow bonsai enthusiasts,

Another Wisconsin growing season has come to pass. It is time to consider and implement your plans for wintering your trees. During last month's meeting, I focused on how best to maintain your tropical plants in an artificial indoor environment with an emphasis on lighting. Hopefully, by now all tropical trees in Wisconsin are indoors. Downtown Madison has not seen frost yet, but I think that's the exception.



A hardy and healthy juniper can handle the first snow fall to remind you winter is here, but for the smaller, and more tender bonsai snow and ice storms could prove fatal. Don't get caught with your pants down bonsai out!

With the passing of another summer comes the passing of another term for our club officers. Taking on a position of leadership can be a rewarding way to contribute to and influence a small club like ours. You don't need to be a bonsai master to hold an official position, but perhaps holding such a position could lead you down the path to becoming a bonsai master. Some of our officers have been diligently tending to their duties for quite some time now. Let's give some of them the opportunity to simply enjoy the meetings without the additional responsibility of official club politics.

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Democracy is the only system that persists in asking the powers that be whether they are the powers that ought to be. ~Sydney J. Harris

Serving as the Badger Bonsai Society's president for a year has been challenging at times but more so rewarding. It has been a great honor

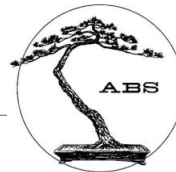
to share with you some of my background and knowledge in horticulture and the art of bonsai. Likewise, the opportunity to learn from all of you has truly been inspirational. This sharing of ideas is, after all, the reason we gather together in the first place. We as a club are blessed to have such talent in our members.

I look forward to serving you for another year as your club president. I have some ideas that I feel could grow our club, strengthen relations with Olbrich Gardens, and educate the world in the art of bonsai. With your support, I'd like to get us into the Garden Expo in February. I'd like to get video of demonstrations on the web and linked into our website. I'd like to work with Olbrich and set-up an introductory class on bonsai. All of this and more is possible with your support.

On November 10 Vote **Mat t & Beau**
I'm Matthew and I approve this message.

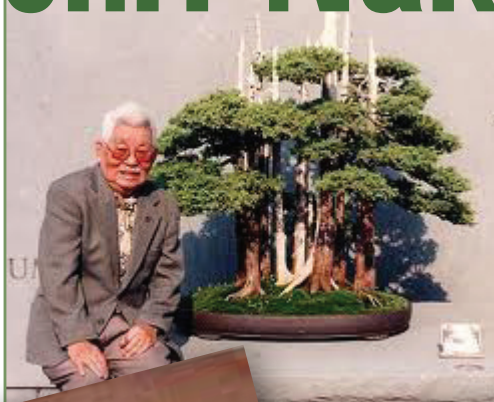


John Naka Best Show Award 1954 *Bonsai Magazine* Jan/Mar 2005



John Y. Naka Design Award
Entry Deadline April 1, 2012
 By: www.absbonsai.org (American Bonsai Society)

John Naka



The American Bonsai Society in fellowship and remembrance of our American Grand Master is pleased to announce that the 2012 John Y. Naka award program is now open and accepting photographic entries from across the North American continent. The program is open to both professionals and hobbyists, competing separately, **using either Native American plant material or plant material grown entirely in North America.** All North American regional associations, local clubs, study groups and professional Bonsai educators are encouraged to enter trees of members or students of their organizations who exhibit the spirit of artistic design taught by John Naka. **Entry deadline is April 1, 2012.** Visit the ABS website for details. www.absbonsai.org



Naka's masterpiece, *Goshin*, is on display at the United States National Arboretum.

John Naka

From Wikipedia: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Naka

John Yoshio Naka (August 16, 1914 f t. Lupton, CO-May 19, 2004 Whittier, CA) was an American horticulturist, and bonsai cultivator.

He was born a Nisei Japanese-American, but at age 8 moved back to his parents' home country, where he extensively studied the art of bonsai due to his grandfather's influence.

He returned to the United States near Boulder, Colorado in 1935, and then in late 1946 settled in Los Angeles, California. In Orange County, Naka and four friends founded a bonsai club in November, 1950, which is known today as the California Bonsai Society. He became a very important force in American bonsai art in the 1950s-60s. He was a driving force in the spread of bonsai appreciation and the practice of bonsai art in the West and elsewhere. n aka traveled and taught extensively around the world, at conventions and clubs, but refused to hold classes in Japan (where bonsai had been highly developed along certain lines over the centuries), saying "They want me to teach, and I tell them it's like trying to preach to Buddha.

A very few of his many accomplishments are the following: he published two books, entitled:

Bonsai Techniques and *Bonsai Techniques II*, texts that are revered as being the bibles of western bonsai to many artists. These books would be translated into French, German, Italian, and Spanish by 1990. h e contributed articles, forewords, and photographs to a number of specialty magazines and books. In 1985, Emperor Hirohito of Japan bestowed upon Naka the most prestigious award for a non-Japanese citizen, The Fifth Class of the Order of the Rising Sun. Nina S. Ragle's compilation of 287 proverbs presented in both Japanese and English from Naka, *Even Monkeys Fall Out of Trees*, was published in 1987. (The title refers to the little recognized fact that, yes, even bonsai masters can make a mistake.) He was a founding director of the World Bonsai Friendship Federation (WBFF) and a co-signer of the Constitution of the Latin-American Bonsai Federation (LABF). h e was an honorary advisor to the National Bonsai Foundation. Naka was chosen in 1992 as one of thirteen honorees to receive a National Heritage Fellowship, the first bonsai artist to receive this prestigious award. At the time he received his fellowship, he said, "It has a beginning but no end. A bud today becomes a branch tomorrow." he was awarded a 1992 National Endowment for the Arts fellowship.

Other quotes of his included "Bonsai is not the result: that comes after. Your enjoyment is what is important"; "It must have philosophy, botany, artistry, human quality behind it to be a bonsai"; "The bonsai is not you working on the tree; you have to have the tree work on you"; and "Leave room for the birds to fly through" the branches of your bonsai. Of Naka's many works, the most recognizable composition is *Goshin*, which means "protector of the spirit." It is a group planting of eleven foemina junipers, each tree placed to represent one of n aka's grandchildren. The planting can be seen on display at the National Arboretum. About a month before he died, Naka donated his very first bonsai, a Montezuma Cypress, to the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. In May 2005, a collection of over 80 of his drawings of how he envisioned the future development of various workshop participants' trees was published as *John Naka's sketchbook*, edited by Jack Billet and Cheryl Manning.

In 2001, a portrait bust, by Bonnie Kobert-Harrison, was unveiled at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.

He was awarded a 2009 Pacific Pioneer Award posthumously. The American Bonsai Society named the John Naka Award for him.[6] An endowment fund was established in his name.

Bonsai Techniques I & II by John Naka

www.dallasbonsai.com/store/bonsai_books_mags.html

Over Wintering Bonsai

by Brent W

<http://www.evergreengardenworks.com/overwint.htm>

Introduction

Bonsai need protection from killing cold temperatures in winter. The degree of protection depends upon the severity of the winter in your area the species that you grow. This protection can be simple as bringing them inside the house a few times during the coldest nights of the winter to a complex scheme to store your entire bonsai collection for the whole winter.

Do I Need Winter Protection?

If you grow only temperate climate plants (those that freeze in the winter in their native habitats) and you live in US DA Zones 8 and above you will rarely need freeze protection. I have a rule of thumb that has worked very well for me in determining the degree of protection: no winter protection is needed for temperate climate woody plants until the temperature falls below 15F (-10C).

Below this point some kind of freeze protection is needed. I live in US DA Zone 8 and each year I prepare all of my container plant areas for freeze protection by programing the irrigation system to come on if I expect the low temperature to approach 15F. When water freezes it actually releases a good deal of heat. Of course the ice doesn't heat up, but what does happen is that the temperature of the ice does not fall until all this heat is released and radiated into the surroundings. In addition to this, the ice forming on the plant can also insulate it somewhat, protecting it from falling air temperatures. This form of frost protection is widespread in the orchards and vineyards of our area.

Tropical bonsai, in general, need protection from freezing. This means bringing them in the house in the winter or keeping them in a greenhouse. subtropical species which are tender but can tolerate some freezing must be protected from temperatures which will kill their small branches or roots. This varies by species and you must do some research to find out just how low a temperature they can tolerate. In general, these spe-

cies have shallow or no dormancy requirements and can be brought into the house if a suitable environment can be established.

Other simple, temporary freeze protection measures include placing a tarp or plastic film over the plants for the night and removing it during the day, or moving the plants to an unheated, but protected area. These are methods for minimal freeze protection.

If you live in Zones colder than 8 and experience low winter temperatures below 15F, then you need more protection.

Zone Numbers for Species to Determine Freeze Protection Levels

The numbers given in the US DA Zone system are for mature top growth. This is fine for landscape purposes, but it doesn't really work for container plants including bonsai. Roots do not undergo the cold hardiness acquisition the top of the plant experiences. In general they are much more tender and susceptible to freezing temperatures. This is not much of a problem when the roots have the great insulating capacity of the earth, but in container plants the roots experience the same freezing temperatures as the top of the plant. This is the reason I use the 15F degree rule of thumb for all temperate plants in containers. Some species can indeed survive root temperatures lower than this, but it makes a good guideline for the majority of temperate species.

Why Can't I Just Bring Them in the House?

Temperate climate woody plants must go through a period of cold dormancy to survive. This is not just a good idea, it is a matter of necessity. If you do not give them this cold dormant period they will die. For a more in depth discussion of this problem, and for giving temperate plants a dormant period in the refrigerator, see Dormancy and Indoor Bonsai.

Serious Freeze Protection In Cold Areas

In areas colder than Zone 8, you must prepare your plants for winter protection. This begins in the fall by allowing your plants to experience the full brunt of the early freezes to trigger their cold hardiness mechanisms (see the article Freeze

Damage in Woody plants). Let them stay outside and unprotected until the low temperatures start to fall below about 20F. At this point, begin your cold protection plan.

In areas of heavy snowfall, nature will do most of the work for you. Make sure that your plants are well watered before the freezes and snows hit. Before the earth freezes, heel your plants into the ground and cover the tops of the pots and lower stems with a mulch such as pine, cedar or fir bark. After the first snowfall, cover your plants with snow and make sure that they stay covered with snow all winter. It's as easy as that.

If you don't get a lot of snowfall, or you can't depend on a regular snowfall, then other measures must be taken. One method is to build a cold frame to house your plants in the winter. There are many plans for cold frames and all of them will work as long as they keep the temperature from falling below 15F. I strongly recommend that you place a minimum-maximum thermometer in the cold frame to monitor the temperature. Cold frames do have one serious disadvantage, they can heat up if the sun can shine through a transparent housing. For this reason it is best to place it out of direct sunlight or construct the covering with translucent, not transparent materials. You do not want the temperature to rise above 40F for any appreciable period of time. This you can monitor with your min-max thermometer. In very cold areas, heating cables can be installed in the floor of the cold frame.

Another method of freeze protection is to house your plants in an unheated garage, basement or other structure for the winter. Again, it should be monitored to make sure that the temperature does not fall below 15F. Small space heaters can be installed with a good low reading thermostat to heat the enclosure when the temperature starts to fall below 20F. High temperatures should not rise above 40F for more than a few days at a time.

A more bizarre, but perfectly acceptable method of over wintering is to keep your plants in the refrigerator during their dormant period. This works well if you only have a few plants and you need to give them the required dormant period

and plan to return them to an indoor environment in late winter. The constant 35 to 40F temperature of most refrigerators is ideal for winter storage.

What About the Need for Light?

Dormant deciduous trees have no leaves and do not need light until they begin growing again. Dormant evergreens do not need light as long as the temperature does not rise above 40F for very long. Evergreens stored in the dark at temperatures around or below freezing (32F) will survive the winter nicely.

Do I Need to Water?

Many areas will have warm spells during the winter that will warm the earth and your bonsai above freezing. This is a good opportunity to uncover them and check for dryness. If they need water, give them a good soaking and replace the mulch and coverings. Always check to make sure that the bonsai itself is getting water. Mulch has a way of shedding water and it may not get through to your plants.

When Should I Bring Them Out?

After dormancy requirements have been satisfied and the temperature is allowed to rise above 40F for more than a few days, temperate climate plants will begin to grow. This will occur in the total dark. Therefore, you should plan to have your plants introduced to sunlight when temperatures reach this level. In some areas, spring weather can fluctuate wildly and you must be prepared to protect plants from sudden freezes.

And finally

Bonsai is a wonderful and diverse art. They can be grown indoors and outdoors, stored for the winter, or manipulated to give them dormant periods. There is no reason to let your natural environment limit your possibilities. But you must pay attention to the needs of the individual species and the limitations of your space.



