



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | March 2012

NEXT MEETING DATE: **March 8, 2012**

6:30–8:00 p.m.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave. Madison, WI

MEETING AGENDA:

Time to repot. Last year we went in-depth into our soil, but this year we'll get back to techniques. We'll try to answer the how's and the why's.

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

President's Message

By: Matthew

Hello Friends,

It's hard to believe that it's already March. It feels like we've had four months of November and winter must still be coming. All this time I've found myself saying, "This global warming thing really isn't so bad." Based on Madison's low temperature so far this winter, we went from a zone 4 or 5 to a solid zone 7. I fear though that we've not seen the worst of it yet. After all, we are still in Wisconsin and it is still winter (according to the calendars anyway).



While a mild winter is good for our trees now, beware, it is also good for overwintering insect pests. When things do start to really thaw out in the next month or two, keep a vigilant eye open for pests and don't be afraid to do some preventative spraying. It wouldn't hurt to apply some systemic insecticides if you have them.

This year, as many of you know, we participated in the annual Garden Expo at the Alliant Energy Center. Thank you, again, to everyone who gave of his or her time and resources to make this happen. This is the first

time, since I have been a member of the club that we have been involved in this event. Over the course of the weekend, over twenty thousand garden enthusiasts from all over the Midwest came through to see what might spark their interest. Overall, I think we had a pretty good response. Our hobby, in my opinion, is unique among gardening hobbies. It's more than just good horticulture or fancy art. It's a per-

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sisting and pliable union of the two. We are a fortunate group to have found ourselves involved in this ancient bonding of tree and man (or woman). My point is, we have something special and we should share it.

In other news, there will be a slight change in our schedule for the month of April; we will meet at Olbrich Gardens on the FIRST Thursday. There was a schedule conflict so to keep our meeting on a Thursday; I bumped it up a week. Again, **In April, we will meet at Olbrich on 4/5/12 at 6:30 PM.**

This month we will be focusing on repotting during our monthly meeting. It's a little early for most trees since they're still frozen but I have a tropical tree to demonstrate on and Ron will bring in the Lilac that you will see throughout the year. Repotting is one of the most crucial steps in the art of bonsai and absolutely essential for the health of your trees. Last year we went somewhat in depth into the aspects of the potting media we use for our trees. This year we'll focus more on techniques and why it is that we don't just repot them like every other potted plant. If you are a firm believer that you should never disturb the root-ball of a plant, prepare yourself for an eye-opening display. We will be disturbing some root-balls, I promise.

During our April meeting, which will be on the fifth rather than the twelfth, we will look at classic bonsai styles and try to develop an understanding of how we can use these as models for training our own trees. Remember, bonsai is art; there is not just one way to approach it. Not all bonsai will look like or fit into classical styles. These are simply guidelines. As part of this, I would like all of you, if you are able, to take pictures of "wild" trees that inspire you. Please e-mail me these pictures and I will assemble some kind of slideshow or something to share with the group. If time permits me, I will try to sketch some bonsai interpretations of the trees. Also in preparation for the April meeting, some of you may find this web book entertaining, I did. Here's the link, www.andyrutledge.com/book/index.html.

There are still a lot of tee shirts available, mostly large and extra large. They will be for sale at all the upcoming meetings until they are gone. There is not a large profit margin, but what profit there is goes to the badger bonsai society with the hopes to bring in another master to give a demo or workshop.

See you all soon,
Matthew

Annual Dues

If you've not already paid your annual dues, now is the time.
See Matthew for a receipt.

Membership dues are
\$25/year (individual)
or \$35/year (family).

More information here:
badgerbonsai.net/membership



GARDEN Expo

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- Matthew 2:28:12

The Men in Black



Bonsai Announcements

Little Trees Gone Postal

With these five stamps, the U.S. Postal Service celebrates the beauty of bonsai, a horticultural art form that has become quite popular in the United States. The word bonsai is Japanese for plant in a pot. It also refers to the practice of cultivating plants, usually trees, in trays, pots, or other containers. One of the common styles of bonsai is depicted on each stamp:

- (1) a Sierra Juniper in semi-cascade style,
- (2) a Trident Maple in informal upright style,
- (3) a Black Pine in formal upright style,
- (4) an Azalea plant in multiple-trunk style, and
- (5) a Banyan in cascade style.

John Dawson painted the stamp art. Ethel Kessler was the art director.

about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2012/pb22328/html/info_020.htm | © 2011 USPS



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Vendor News

Ancient Arts Bonsai will be able to accept major credit cards for your purchases in 2012, see Ron Fortmann for exact details.

