



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

NEXT MEETING DATE: August 09, 2012

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave. Madison, WI

MEETING TIME 6-9 pm

MEETING AGENDA:

Three Hour Open Workshop (bring a tree, bring some questions and lets have a great time).

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

President's Message

Happy August everyone,

I do hope that you all have been able to keep up with your bonsai maintenance through this hot dry summer. Just a handful of us made it to the July potluck meeting this year. Standing outside to look at trees was a little uncomfortable due to the heat and sunshine but we were able to share some food and fellowship in the comfort of an air-conditioned basement.

August is a good time to do some significant pruning to most trees. This gives them time to heal a little before winter and you can often get one more push of new growth that is able to harden off within the same season. It is also a good time to repot many tropical trees for the same reasons.

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Ulmus parvifolia
BBG, August 2, 2008

Last semester in my ecology class, the professor stumped a good number of students with this question; do deciduous trees live in the tropics? Can a tree be tropical and deciduous at the same time? The answer, I had recently seen first hand in Costa Rica, is yes. The western side of the country doesn't get the rain that falls on the East side of the mountains so it can be very hot and dry. Many of the trees had dropped their leaves and were in summer dormancy. A tree in front of my house downtown did the same kind of thing earlier this summer, although, this is not normal behavior for a Wisconsin tree. This behavior is fairly species specific and I'm not aware of any tropical bonsai that would require such a treatment. All plants have a temperature limit at which photosynthesis stops. I'm quite sure that we have reached this temperature a few times this year for some of the temperate trees we grow.

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Tom E, a member of BBS before moving to Japan, has sent the attached file regarding one of his azaleas to share with us.

Shuho no hikari – Ht. 20cm

平成24年3月27日

This years flower buds
March 27, 2012



平成24年5月25日

Tree with flowers in full bloom
May 25, 2012



平成24年6月9日

After removing all of the flowers
June 9, 2012



平成24年6月12日

After pruning, designing, & wiring
June 12, 2012

June 9, 2012 I removed (pinched off) the remaining flowers at the base of the flower stem, remove the moss from the top of the soil and give the tree a small amount of fertilizer. Only put beautiful Moss on top of the soil during show time. (NOTE: In Japan we use a sphagnum moss on top of the soil during the rest of the time.) In about 2 to 3 weeks I will start to give them their early summer pruning.

Around mid summer next years flowers will appear.

After you have removed all of the flowers you can eliminate the 2 or 3 week wait until you start pruning. Japanese pros do it both ways. However I believe if you have small trees (Shohin or Mini) it is best to prune after waiting at least 2 weeks.



The picture above is looking down at the first branch on the right. When your tree is as good as you can design it all branches should look like this. However because by nature azaleas are fast growers and put out branches in many places all of the time if cared for properly, the pruning, wiring and designing is a never ending care that you have to love in order to have nice looking azalea bonsai.

This brings me to another good point. If your trees are not actively growing during the hot months, do not fertilize them; it won't help. In fact, accumulating nutrients (salts) in the soil will only make things worse.

Now that I've said all of that, I know you must have some trees to work on. Is it a coincidence that we will be doing another three-hour bonsai workshop/party? I think not. This month's meeting will be a lot like the June workshop. We will have the same early start time of six o'clock and we will be able to stay until 9pm. I'm sure that Ron will be present with supplies for sale so please, bring a tree, bring some questions and let's have a great time. I hope to see you all there.

Stay cool,
Matthew

ANNOUNCEMENT

35th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit

August 17 - 19, 2012
Guest Artist Peter Warren

Centered on the Chicago Botanic Garden's Permanent Collection, featuring almost 50 world-class trees, it's a showplace of trees from across the midwest. Enthusiasts from five states bring their trees to be judged in the main hall at the Garden's Regenstein Center - with this year's Guest Master Peter Warren.

Along with this fabulous display of regional talent, there are over a dozen national vendors, workshops, free demonstrations, and a banquet with a silent auction.

No residency or membership restrictions.
Any bonsai that can make the trip to Chicago is welcome to be entered.

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Visit [www.MidwestBonsai.Org](http://www.MidwestBonsai.Org) for more details.  
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