



# BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

**Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | November 2017**

## **NEXT MEETING:**

**November 9 | 6:30**

Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI

## **MEETING AGENDA:**

Annual Elections, Winter Preparations

## **CLUB OFFICERS:**

**President** .....Karl  
**Vice President** .....Mary  
**Treasurer** .....Gary  
**Communications** .....Devon  
**Librarian** .....Derek  
**Refreshments** .....Elaine

## **President's Message**

I don't have a definite program arranged for our November meeting, but I am working on a few things that I think you will find interesting. Among the things I'm looking at are several you-tube videos. There are a lot of bonsai videos that our fellow hobbyists have produced – some very good, and some not so good. I am working my way through several possibilities looking for those that would be appropriate.

Elections – Our By-laws require us to have elections in November. Anyone interested in running for any of the offices, don't be shy. Step forward. If



someone else wanted to be president, I would gladly step aside.

## **Inside This Issue**

- **President's Message** ..... 01
- **Bonsai Colors** ..... 02
- **Scale & Storage** ..... 03

(Continued on page 2)

## Bonsai Colors

Every once in awhile it helps to get a reminder about why I love bonsai. As I look out into my backyard, the colors are just gorgeous. The ginkgos are a wonderful monochromatic gold. It has been about a week since they turned color. They are very reliable in this sense – I don't ever recall an autumn when they didn't produce great color. They even stayed on the trees through the few days we had rain and pretty strong winds. But, I know it won't last much longer. It is a good metaphor for enjoying the present.

My Japanese maples also are producing their usual fine color, but I am struck by how varied the different cultivars are. My cut leaf green-leafed 'viridas' is still green and shows little evidence of any color change. Most of the species are a wonderful red. Another of the cultivars (sorry, I don't remember its name right now) is a beautiful pale yellow.

The beauty berry has again produced brilliant iridescent pea-sized fruit. The three plants that I have are not very good bonsai – the native types have leaves that are too large, and the Japanese variety dies back to the ground each year. But, even with their shortcomings as bonsai, the fruit is just spectacular.

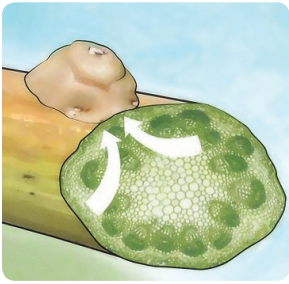


The hackberry are all naked now. I don't recall that the foliage was anything special. They were the first to drop their leaves.

Barbara brought some of her trees for over-wintering in the bomb shelter, one of which was a hinoki cypress. The green color of its foliage defies any verbal description. Many of the conifers lose their normal green color in the fall and winter – how many of you fret when your junipers (the 'red cedar' variety) turn purple in the winter? But, the hinoki looks as good as it did the summer.



## Scale, The Pesky Pest



In spite of spraying with insecticide before bringing them in, and in spite of two rounds of spraying with Safer soap and alcohol after the plants were indoors, I am battling scale.

Again. This outbreak seems to be earlier than other years. If there is any 'upside' to this war, the little buggers seem to prefer the schefflera to the other tropicals. Scale can be grouped into 'hard-shell' and 'soft-shell' varieties. Only the soft-shell produce honey dew, so that is what I have. In researching this I was shocked to discover that the female scale can reproduce with or without a male counterpart. What? No wonder there are so many! Now, most of the animal kingdom requires partners - male and female - and that millions of dollars be spent on expensive perfumes, chocolates, oysters, fancy dinners, alcohol and assorted other aphrodisiacs in the hopes of getting your genes mixed with another set of genes. But, why do the scales get a free pass? They get 'off-spring on demand'. It's outrageous and unfair. At least if we saw two scales dining by candlelight we might be able to squish them before they procreated and made more of themselves. Ugh!



## Winter Storage

Be sure your trees are well hydrated when you put them away for the winter. Like everything in bonsai it's the Goldilocks concept – not too much, not too little – but just right. Too wet and you might be asking for mold and rot problems. Also remember that not all 'hardy' trees are equally hardy. Root temperatures of 23 F is about as cold as trident maples can tolerate. As a general rule conifers can tolerate colder temperatures than broad-leafed species, but you can probably find many exceptions to this.

