



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | February 2018

NEXT MEETING:

February 8 | 6:30

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI

MEETING AGENDA:

Tool Sharpening 101

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

February 2018 Newsletter

Tool Care

Our monthly meeting will be a session on tool sharpening (I hope). If you have a chance to watch a video, or two, before the meeting it would be helpful. There are lots of youtube videos out there, but here is one I particularly like:

How to sharpen your bonsai tools, Feb. 2017

You might have to search under Nigel Sanders, The Bonsai Zone or visit: <https://goo.gl/9fBHuu> when you have some time to watch a video.



'Hong' in plaid shirt is the gentleman giving the presentation. I hope to have sharpening materials for you to use at the meeting. Bring your tools and let's see if we can get them back to their original sharpness.

January Dinner Review

On Thursday, January 11, the BBS held our annual dinner at the Imperial Garden Restaurant. In keeping with our past history of foul weather on the day of the event, the national weather service was predicting rain changing to snow and temperatures right at the freezing point. What materialized was certainly unpleasant, but not nearly as bad as had been predicted. So we dodged a bullet. We had sixteen members and spouses in attendance – a good turnout given the predicted weather. "Thank you" to Santa Ron for

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bringing all the gifts, but wrapping them as well! Among the gifts was David DeGroot's book on bonsai design – you know, the one selling for \$500 on ebay! Well, okay, the \$500 version is for the first edition, which this one wasn't, but it still was a very nice present!

Collecting Opportunity

Tim O has offered to allow members to collect trees from his property in Middleton on Saturday, April 14. He has amur maple, mulberry, and the

ever-ubiquitous honeysuckle. No, you can't dig up trees he has planted for landscaping. But, he does have trees that can be removed. This date, of course, is weather dependent and is subject to change if Mother Nature is uncooperative.

Speaking of mulberry, I am amazed at how variable the shape of mulberry leaves can be, even on the same tree. I can't think of another tree with this degree of variability. I wonder what is going on at the genetic level.

Considering how common honeysuckle is, one would think we would see it more often as bonsai. The leaves are reasonable small, and it buds back reasonably well. It certainly doesn't live as long as most bonsai species, but a couple decades is acceptable.



amur maple



mulberry



honeysuckle

Conventions/Shows

April 13-15

Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Convention
Cromwell, CT

April 19-22

American Bonsai Society
St. Louis

May 25-27

Brussel's Bonsai Rendezvous
For the money, this is the best bonsai gathering!

Oct. 10-12

BCI
Mulhouse, France

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Book Review

Indoor Bonsai, by Paul Lesniewicz;

First published in 1985; newest edition 2014

If you want to grow bonsai indoors, this is a good book to start with. Lesniewicz offers several dozen species of plants that work well as indoor bonsai. The book has photos and diagrams on virtually every page, so if you are visual learner, or just want to flip through its pages, this is a good book. After some general remarks about all bonsai, the bulk of the book lists alphabetically those species Lesniewicz deems do-able as indoor bonsai. The trees shown are a nice mix of quality bonsai along with beginner bonsai. One drawback to some bonsai books showing only the best bonsai is that the average beginner has no idea how to achieve what is being shown. This book definitely does not have that problem; some of the trees are shown are trees right out of the nursery pot with little or no training. A beginner would say, "Hey, I can do that".

Be aware that this book was originally published in Germany. Many of the references are for European suppliers. Some of the species listed I have never seen available here in the U.S.

With LED lights readily available and emitting lots of light, you could eliminate placing your trees outdoors for the summer. LED's are not covered in this book.

