



# BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

## NEXT MEETING:

June 14 | 6:30

Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI

## MEETING AGENDA:

Brussel's Rendezvous Photographs

## CLUB OFFICERS:

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

## President's Message

### June Meeting

#### Brussel's Rendezvous

Barbara and I were at Brussel's Rendezvous this year. We had talked about the possibility of going, but really didn't commit until three days before the event started. Thankfully, they were still accepting registrations! As I have stated in the past, it is the best value for your dollar. Guest artist demonstrations were held Friday and Saturday night; twenty, or so, workshops (additional fees, but free to observe); discount on their nursery stock; and they feed you the whole time! Thanks to Barbara, we will have photographs of the rendezvous to show at the June meeting.



brussel's  
BONSAI

### July Picnic

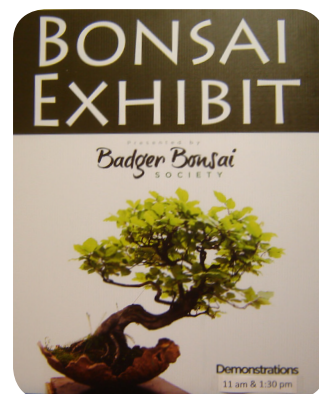
Molly has offered to host the July picnic. Details will be made available when determined. This is always pot-luck. We also do a white elephant sale, so any bonsai related stuff you want to sell/swap/give away you are welcome to bring.

### Annual Show

The show has come and gone and it was positive in all respects. First, thanks to everyone who volunteered – Gene and Linda, Derek

, Will, Wayne, Ron, Ralf and Melba, Mary and Tim, Tim, John and Molly, Barbara, Elaine, Duke, Gary, Bill and Karl.

Secondly, and without which we would have no show, thanks to everyone who brought trees to display – Gene, Derek, Will, Wayne, Ron,



## Inside This Issue

- President's Message ..... 01
- July Picnic ..... 01
- Annual Show ..... 01
- What to Buy – Tall vs Short ..... 04
- Bonsai Poetry ..... 04

Ralf, Melba, Mary, Tim, Annie/John, Barbara and Karl. Thanks to our demonstrators – Tim, Mary, Ron and Karl. Thanks to Melba, Tamaki and Elaine for providing fruit salad, cookies and drinks for the workers. Lastly, thanks to Devon for creating the show flyer, and Mary for running the whole show. Set-up and tear-down were both completed in less than one hour. We went from an empty room with a few tables left from the night before, to having all the tables set-up, aligned, draped, back drops assembled and installed, trees and stands and accent plants positioned, demo table set up with audience chairs, front table set up with flowers, background music playing – all in about one hour. Sunday afternoon we did it all again in reverse, and when we left, the room was spotless. It was a great show – great trees, good attendance, interesting demos, great help and participation, financially good. Thanks everyone! (If I have forgotten anyone, my sincere apologies. I am doing this from memory, which was never good, and not improving with age.)





Thanks to  
our demonstrators  
Tim, Mary, Ron and Karl





## What to Buy – Tall vs Short

When you are perusing the nursery catalogs wondering what to buy, you encounter many, many options – seedlings, transplants, plugs, field grown, pot grown, 2-0, 3-2, P-1, etc. etc. While each of the nurseries has their own system of identifying their material, a few things are more, or less, standard. If there are two numbers given, like 2-3, the first number indicates the number years grown in the seed bed, while the second number indicates the number of years grown after the seedling has been transplanted. So 2-3 indicates the tree was grown two years in the seed bed, and then transplanted and grown for three more years, so you are buying a five year old tree.



Oftentimes a catalog might list the same age tree, but in two different sizes. For example, *Acer palmatum*, 2-2, less than 18" tall; and *Acer palmatum*, 2-2, more than 18" tall. Usually, the taller tree is more expensive than the shorter. Which should you buy? This is not always an easy answer. On one hand the taller tree almost always will have a larger trunk, which is a good thing. On the other hand, the taller tree has grown faster, which means it will have longer internodes (the distance between branches/leaves) which for bonsai is not what we want. The taller tree will be the best choice in the short run, but the shorter tree probably will make the best bonsai in the long haul.

## Bonsai Poetry

While going through some of my older bonsai handouts I came across this poem entitled "Bonsai Botany". It appears to be from early in the club's history (judging from the logo we used to use), but it contained no attribution. Groaning permissible.

There should be no monotony  
in studying Bonsai Botany.

It helps to train and spur the brain – unless you  
haven't *gotany*.

It teaches you, does  
Bonsai Botany, to know  
the plants and *spotany*.

And to learn just why  
they live and die, in case  
you plant or *potany*.

You can wire plants in  
Bonsai Botany and learn  
to sketch and *plotany*.

You can jot down notes,  
if you know how to *jotany*.

Your good time, if you'll *allotany*, will teach  
you how and *whatany* these old trees can do or be.  
And that's the use of Bonsai Botany!

– *Author Unknown*



"The object is not to make the tree look  
like a bonsai, but to make the bonsai  
look like a tree."

– *John Naka*



"Better learn balance. Balance is  
key. Balance good, karate good.  
Everything good. Balance bad, better  
pack up, go home. Understand?"

– *Mr. Miyagi*