



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

NEXT MEETING:

Nov. 8 | 6:30

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI

MEETING AGENDA:

Matthew Gerdt: All Things Bonsai

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

President's Message

November Program

Matthew G, past president of the Badger Bonsai Society and our only member with an actual degree in horticulture, will be our November speaker. He will attempt to relay everything he has learned about bonsai over the years. Matthew writes, 'I'll review some stuff about pruning and plant hormones, water chemistry, soil physics and chemistry, plant anatomy, chlorophyll, environmental impact on plant health AKA placement, insect control....'

Matthew's current interest and passion is in brewing beer, and he is alternating time in Bayfield with time in Madison. We are thankful he is able to do this presentation.

Web Master

Wayne has volunteered to be the Web Master for the club internet site. Like many



Matthew Presenting a Bonsai Lecture at an Annual Club Show at Olbrich Gardens

other web sites, if not attended to regularly, they quickly become out of date. If you have ideas about what should, or should not, be on our club site Wayne would welcome your thoughts and ideas. I think a calendar of future club events/speakers, a historical record of club show trees, a historical record of demo trees from the show, and a repository of the club newsletters would all be an improvement. Other ideas???

Elections

November is the month we hold club elections. If anyone is interested in serving as a club officer, I don't think any current officer would put up much, if any, opposition. I know I would like to be 'just a member' rather than president.

Inside This Issue

- **President's Message** 1
- **Tie Pots** 2
- **Club Website** 3

Tie Pots

Wayne Schoech of Stone Lantern has recently advertised Tie Pots. No, not Thai pots – tie pots. Why no one thought of this sooner I have no idea, but it is, I think, a good idea. The pots have nubs around the rim to which anchor wires can be attached. These are training pots, of course, so you wouldn't want to use these for a finished bonsai. Here is what Wayne's site has to say about these:

NEW Tie Pots make growing bonsai easier. NOTE: ORDER NOW FOR FIRST COME FIRST SERVE SHIPPING WHEN OUR NEXT SHIPMENT ARRIVES ABOUT NOV 1st. The product those of us who grow your own bonsai have been waiting for. Each one features sturdy anchor points for precise guy wiring, and perhaps best of all Air-Pruning for accelerated growth, no circling roots, more feeder roots, more buds and shoots and healthier plants. Air pruning does the root pruning for you and encourages fine feeder roots to spread throughout the soil, instead of on the ends of long wrapped around roots you find in conventional nursery pots. We can't wait to try ours out. Made of durable, high impact plastic with special grooves for directing roots to aeration holes. 11" x 4.5" (28cm x 11.5cm) SPECIAL ONLY 16.00 EACH FOR 3 - 9 POTS or 15.00 FOR 10 OR MORE (discount computed at checkout)"

I am not offering any endorsement of these, and these pots are not inexpensive, but I think they are a good idea.

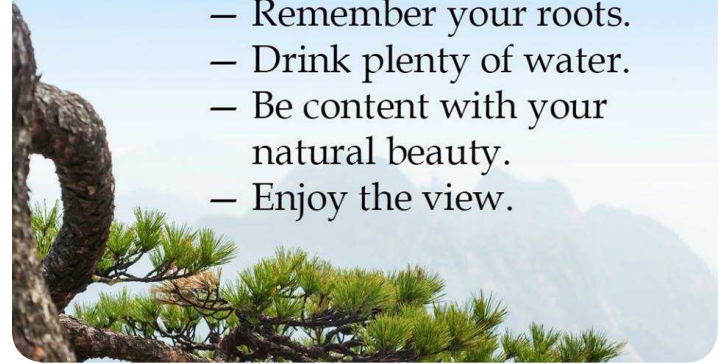


Advice From A Tree

This comes from Derek

ADVICE FROM A TREE:

- Stand tall and proud.
- Go out on a limb.
- Remember your roots.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Be content with your natural beauty.
- Enjoy the view.



Food for Thought

A question based on a Nov. 2017 email from a UW-Madison student: Should we offer a membership discount for students?



Updating the BBS Website

By Wayne

In a recent discussion, the topic of updating the Badger Bonsai website has come up. First off, a great thank you for Devon and Orion's efforts over the years – this is not an easy thing to keep up with. Karl, Wayne and Devon have discussed the website, and in light of Devon's current workload, Wayne is going to take a shot at keeping this site up to date, as well as trying to update the structure and content to provide increased usability and value for BBS members and internet users interested in bonsai around Madison-WI. However, this is going to require participation from members of the BBS for ideas and content over the upcoming year. Your participation will begin with you thinking about the following questions, and be prepared to speak up with your thoughts and ideas at the November meeting.

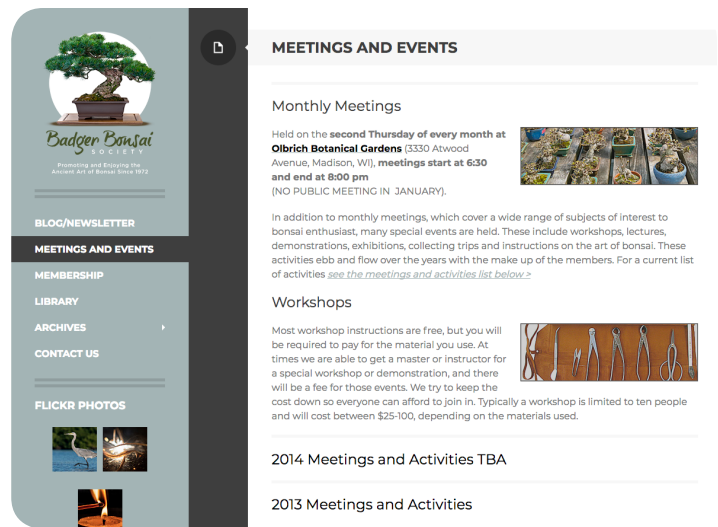
How many of you have examined the Badger Bonsai website? (I will ask for a show of hands, so limber up.) The site is at: badgerbonsai.net

- What are your opinions of the website?
- Does it provide value to you? How and Why?

When you look at other websites related to bonsai, what do you find appealing (or unappealing)? What things would you like to see changed on our website to:

- Make it more appealing / beneficial to you?
- Make it more appealing to someone other than you?
- Make it appealing to someone that is a “newbie” ...
- or are we better suited to share links to better sites?

Would you / could you provide a “blog article” on a bonsai related topic



Upon reviewing the site with Devon this past week, some of ideas for consideration include:

- Update pages to make it easier to find current information
- Archive/remove outdated or obsolete information
- Improve page layout
- Organize images (includes cleanup of “not-our-images”)
- Include an Annual Show summary
- Image slide-show
- Might be able to post videos ... but this could be a restriction of free-tier or even \$4-tier
- Improve responses to “feedback” comments left ...
 - This is an “undiscovered country” of what I term missed opportunities, I will provide a summary of our 95 recovered items at the Nov meeting (note, these were never responded to, because no one knew these existed)
 - Need list of people that can help in answering these questions
- General area location of club members ... not specific addresses
- Update relevant links ... any guidelines?
 - for example WPT video of Bob E. from ‘03
 - live link to Derrick’s library listing
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section
 - Bonsai introduction
 - Purchase Bonsai trees or stock and supplies around Madison

- “Finding” stock suitable for bonsai in Wisconsin (or elsewhere)
- Wisconsin wintering guidelines and tips
- Other ideas

In addition, I would like to propose that we upgrade from a free website, to a \$4/month plan. Some of the advantages of doing this would include, but not be limited to:

1. Eliminate Wordpress Ads
2. Live chat and support for website
3. Enables mail forwarding ...
(need to confirm this is in \$4 plan)
4. Activity log for 30 days
(currently only last 20 events)
5. Increased storage space
6. Increase site speed and provide protection from spammers
7. Basic layout customization and free themes
8. Custom domain name (would not show “wordpress” in URL)



Fall Color Explosion

Harvey C has been working with Bill V in Rochester, New York, for a long time. The fall colors produced by the trees in his collection are absolutely breath-taking. To get so many trees at peak color at the same time doesn't happen very often.

