



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | NOVEMBER, 2010

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 11th, 2010

6:30–8:00 p.m.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Ave. Madison, WI

MEETING AGENDA: END OF YEAR BUSINESS/OFFICER

ELECTIONS This is the yearly business meeting for the club.

We hold nominations/elections for officer seats. We will also begin mapping out the 2011 activities calendar. **ALSO:** Tool care and White Elephants (see pres message for more detail).

CLUB OFFICERS:

President	Tim
1st Vice President	Matthew
2nd Vice President	Devon
Secretary	Duke
Treasurer	Gary
Librarian / Newsletter	Greg
Refreshments	Elaine
Past President	Ron

LET'S TALK

Let's talk about what you would like from the club. First, remember that this is election month for the Badger Bonsai Society. We will also be considering topics for next year's programming. Do you feel meetings should be run differently? How about the way money or paperwork is organized? Would you be willing to step forward to manage these areas? This is OUR club, i.e. you, me, and everyone else.

Would you be willing to lead a program? How about bug management, geology, carving, grafting, or copious trivia on individual tree species? This could be cool. An evening could consist of four separate 15-minute talks on individual tree species. If well prepared, much information could be presented. Four different people presenting could make it even more exciting. How about photography or ceramics? Someone knowledgeable could talk about the differences between porcelain, terracotta, or stoneware. Even if you could not fill in an entire hour, how about a half hour or 20 minutes (just let the President know ahead of time)? Or for those with the guts to do so, how about a talk concerning the influence of the moon or garden spirits, with bonsai at least partially in mind? Or what about plant or style symbolism, perhaps with Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, or Islam in mind? For example, iris leaves represent swords, the spots on lungwort represent Mary's milk, and the triangle shape of junipers represent the Buddhist trinity. We could use someone with guts and diplomatic abilities to deal with Olbrich to keep our club's interests considered and satisfied.

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This month's meeting will begin with nominations and elections. Please give me a call or send me an email before the November meeting if you are interested in running for an office. My contact information is below. After elections, we will talk about our likes and dislikes over

this past year followed by a discussion of possible programming ideas for next year.

Greg G will then give us a short talk about tool upkeep. We might have another short talk on a particular area of photography (pending speaker confirmation).

We'll end our meeting with a "white elephant" sale or trade. Please bring bonsai related items you are interested in either selling, trading, or giving away (pots, wire, plants, books, etc.)

There will be some time at the end of the meeting devoted to trade, however, if people want to come early to start trading before the meeting starts, they are more than welcome to do so.

With something to give,
Tim

November Announcements

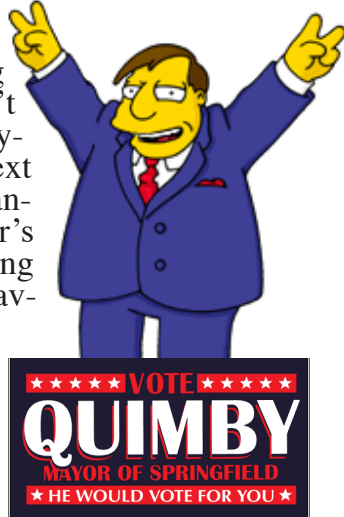
By: Devon

Well, It's getting cold! Thanksgiving is coming and you should have a winter protection plan in full swing by now.

The last two meetings we discussed various methods for keeping our bonsai safe during the coldest part of the year, now it's time to make sure you are ready for our first ice storm (that seems to be winter's preferred introduction these past few years),

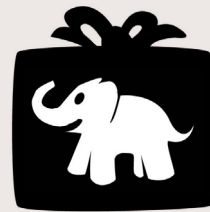
Our bonsai year is coming to a close, but that doesn't mean we don't have anything to do! For this next meeting, we are holding annual elections, next year's event planning, discussing tool maintenance and having a white elephant sale/trade/giv-away.

So, please join us November 11th, and remember, Vote Quimby!



Trees of the Month White Elephants!

Please bring bonsai related items you are interested in either selling, trading, or giving away (pots, wire, plants, books, etc.).



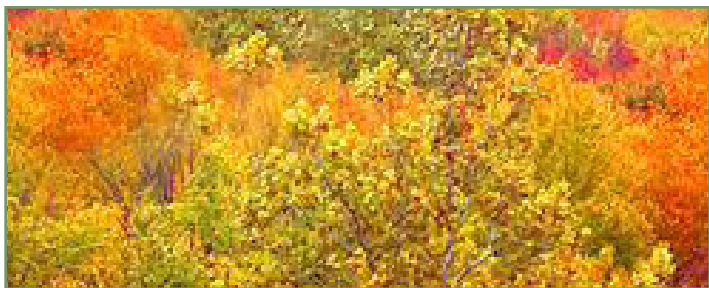
Reds, Yellows and Oranges

By: Greg

Fall has seemed to pass us by and only a few leaves are hanging on. If one looks around a few Sugar Maples are still cloaked in bright orange or red, Autumn Purple Ash are still dressed in purple, and Gingkos and Larches sport bright yellow. How about your Bonsai? Autumn colors should be just as visible in your collection as in your neighborhood. If cared for right there should be no reason that they would be even be more brilliant. After all it is just sugar!

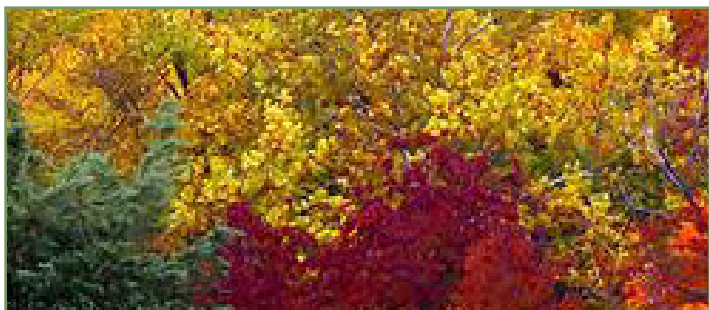
How and why does nature make this spectacle, is this palate of colors just for us, is there something mystical happening. I look up in wonder, when my dog "The Keeper of the Trees" looks up does he wonder also at the colors or is he happy that he can just see the squirrels easier now. Or is it just simple chemistry and It Doesn't Amount to a Hill of Beans (I just love Casablanca.)

Deciduous trees have leaves which contain pigments which aid the tree in making food or energy which the tree uses to grow, stay strong and reproduce, which is the goal of all living things on this planet. Without getting into complex biological mumbo jumbo (Kreb's Cycle, photosynthesis, turning carbon dioxide into oxygen and sugars, etc, etc, ad nauseum, all of which I had to learn in Biology Classes by the way) leaves contain a pigment called chlorophyll. This chlorophyll is green, and in the spring and summer there is a lot of this pigment in the cells



of the leaves. This is why the leaves are green at this time. Kermit the Frog has a song "It's Not Easy Being Green." Tree leaves also contain other pigments such as xanthophyll which is yellow, and carotenes which are orange-red.

During summer there is an over abundance of chlorophyll so the leaf color is green. As Autumn progresses and the days grow shorter and the temperature drops, chlorophyll production gradually ceases and the allows the pigment xanthophyll to show through. Exhibited by ginkgo, zelkova, birch, hawthorn and others. Other colors such as scarlets, crimsons,



and purples are the result of pigments called flavinoids and xanthocyanins. Maples, sumacs, ash, tupelo exhibit these colors. These pigments are a result of excess sugar production formed in the leaves in the fall. Normally sugars are produced in the leaf during the day and moved to the roots in the night for storage there. Low temperatures slow down this liquid movement (translocation) starting around 49 degrees. The sugar movement slows down and build up in the leaves. In order to keep the leaf cells from exploding with this excess build-up, the sugars are turned into these reddish pigments. At around 45 degrees this translocation stops all together.

This was a biological process in how the leaf colors are formed but there are environmental factors which help decide the brilliance of the colors. This could help you in producing better fall color in your bonsai. First chose plant material that has good color. Pick your trees in the fall when the color is its best. Don't expect it to change color to drastically. For instance a Ginkgo will never be red, Red Maples will never be yellow. The most brilliant fall displays come when good rainfall is present in the summer and followed by dry sunny days as the temperature gets cooler. Good watering along with adequate fertilizing in the summer allows for vigorous healthy trees, this will give you the brilliant colors you desire. If inadequate care is giver to your bonsai expect less than expected results, possibly even leaf shrinkage and falling off befor they change color. Bonsai culture in itself will help increase the color intensity, good feeding and watering, and also through root pruning. As we root prune these sugars have little place to go so they stay in the leaves and change to pigments. Older trees often produce better color than younger. This is from the faster growth in younger plants which use up the sugars much quicker than older trees which tend to grow at slower rates. So take care of your thees, good watering and fertilizing techniques, good hygiene (for your trees), proper sunlight, all these if done properly will increase the chances for an excellent fall color display which rivals nature itself.



Simple Bonsai Stands

By: Greg

Bonsai are best viewed at a height off of the ground. It is customary to set the trees on stands preferably at eye level. Various materials have been used over the years, from elaborate ornate benches, wood or cement blocks to even chimney tiles. It is pretty much up to you. At shows or indoors a small stand is used to display your tree. Much care is given in choosing the right stand to fit the tree. This also can get quite elaborate and expensive. Just by walking around our Bonsai Show many types of stands are used. Again this is up to you as an individual. Try



though to match the stand to the tree, in color, shape and texture, much as you would choose the correct pot for your tree. Various materials are used here also, from slabs of wood or stone, bamboo place mats, to hand made wood stands.

A stand serves more than a decoration to compliment the bonsai. It is made with legs which help allow for air circulation, much like the pots do. When building the stand allow at least 1" of wood to be exposed on all sides of the pot, this just

looks good and enhances the over all look of your exhibit. In the simplest plans only three pieces of wood are needed two legs lengthwise and a slab. Wood such as Redwood, Cypress, Cedar or Sweet Gum are most durable and with little stain or oil will hold up to most conditions, inside or out. If pine, fir, or other types of wood are selected, further types of protection are needed to protect the wood; stains, sealers, or creosote type products can be used. Other than staining, another effect would be to burn the wood with a torch and then wire brushing the charred wood away. Finishing your stand is a highly personal mater and is best left up to your personal tastes.

Something I have seen lately and have thought about using lately are these newer bamboo cutting boards. Bamboo come in many colors, textures, and even shapes, and is extremely durable. This would compliment most Bonsai. It is also a green product and should be able to please most "Green Freakizoids."

So with a minimum of tools and materials, and very little ability, anyone can come up with a reasonable stand to display their Bonsai whether at a show or at home. Give it a try, you will surprise yourself.

