



# BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | November 2016

## NEXT MEETING:

**November 10 | 6:30-8 p.m.**

Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI

## MEETING AGENDA:

**Guest Speaker Jack Douthitt**

## CLUB OFFICERS:

**President** ..... Karl

**Vice President** ..... Brian

**Treasurer** ..... Gary

**Librarian/Communications** ..... Devon

**Refreshments** ..... Elaine

## November 10 meeting:

This month Jack D will be our guest speaker. Jack is the founder and first president of the Badger Bonsai Society. He was the club's leader for about a dozen years, until he moved to the Milwaukee area about 1986. Jack, combining his own funds as well as raising funds from

many donors, has established a permanent public bonsai display in northwestern Milwaukee. His presentation will discuss the history and development of this exhibit.

*Construction of the new exhibit space*



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# Casuarina equisetifolia

I am writing this month's newsletter from Australia. A common native tree here is *Casuarina equisetifolia*. It is a very interesting tree. It is a common bonsai species in this part of the world. In the area around Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock, it is perhaps the most common tree in the landscape. The tree has what appears to be 'needles', but they really are more similar to scouring rushes - *equisetum*. These can be broken at the joints and thus reduce very long 'needles' to a much shorter length.

In nature young trees grow stick-straight, with few, if any, side branches. During this time the tree is growing a very long tap root. Once this root reaches the water table, it begins to take on a more typical tree form.

The tree was shipped and used extensively in Hawaii as a wind break and to control erosion. I have never seen this species in any Midwest bonsai shows. However, Ernie Kuo created a very beautiful tree that was then given by president Clinton to the Japanese prime minister. In Florida the tree is considered an invasive species.

- Karl



*The Casuarina has needle-like foliage. These will break at the joints when the needles are pulled. This allows for shortening of otherwise very long needles.*







## Plant Care Tips for November

During November deciduous and evergreen trees can remain out until about the last week of the month. Prepare trees for their winter setting, whether it be a cold frame or whatever type of winter protection you may have. Prior to setting them in their winter quarters, check for insects and spray and remove all dead leaves and branches. Thinking ahead, write down and plan what you need to do for spring and choose which trees you will work on first. Tropicals should already be indoors and you can continue to water, feed, repot and prune them all through the winter. If they are in a heated dry atmosphere, mist frequently.

