



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | April 2019

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday Apr-11-2019 | 6:30 to 8:00pm
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI

AGENDA:

Maple Grove planting

CLUB OFFICERS:

Co-Presidents Bill and Karl
Vice President Mary
Treasurer Gary
Web Master / Newsletter Wayne
Librarian Derek
Refreshments Elaine

President's Message

Apr-11th Program

The April meeting should be a lot of fun; hope you all can be there, but you will need to come prepared. — *Karl*

- **Maple Grove workshop**
be prepared, bring supplies (see details below)
- **Update on current Bonsai Course (at Klein's)**
- **Texas Ebony Seedlings**

Maple Grove Workshop

The principal focus of our April-11th meeting will be to create a Maple Grove. The material will be *Acer rubrum*, which is our native red maple. The BBS has ordered 50 of 3-year seedlings which are 8-12 inches high, and 50 of 4-year seedlings which are 24-30 inches high. The cost is \$1 for the shorter trees and \$1.50 for the larger.

What to bring: A pot to plant these in, soil, tools,

wire, water spray bottle, and plastic to cover your work space. One problem with ordering through the mail is that one is never sure what the trees are going to look like. So at this point I can't tell you much more than what the catalog says. My guess is that the smaller trees will have little, if any, branching. Root length/mass is unknown. Be prepared for anything. It might also be wise to bring a deeper nursery pot to plant them in if roots require extra depth.

There are a few 'rules' that are useful when constructing your grove

First, use an odd number of trees – 3, 5, 7, 9, etc. – this helps in producing the asymmetry that we are after.

Secondly, be sure all trees are visible from the front – no tree should hide behind another; and we want to avoid one trunk crossing another.

Thirdly, use different size trees, with the thickest trunks being the tallest.

Fourthly, vary the spacing between the trees – some trees should be as close together as you can get them, and others farther apart. One might plant one group of trees, or perhaps two, or three groups, being sure the groups are all different.

Finally, some forests are said to be 'formal' while others 'informal'. Formal means all of the trunks have been wired straight and are all vertical. Informal typically have the main tree(s) vertical

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and the surrounding trees tilted out away from the center of the group.

For an excellent example of a red maple grove bonsai that is in the Nation Bonsai Museum, in the North American Collection ... [see this link](#). The image might be included at a later date.

Texas Ebony Seedlings

Karl will also bring in the flat of Texas ebony seedlings that sprouted from the seeds acquired from Bill B. I will have some small pots that these can be transplanted into and you can take them home. Compliments of Bill.

March Meeting Wrap-Up

Our March meeting was a real success. Thanks to Bill for the interesting program about Niwaki. The reason gardens in Japan look so perfect is they have spent hours and hours pruning and caring for the trees and shrubs! Thanks to Tamaki for bringing in all the plastic containers to give away, and to Tim for bringing in the treated copper wire we used for door prizes. Bill and Tamaki brought Japanese treats as well as other gifts that were raffled off. Through very careful planning (or perhaps serendipity) everyone went home with something. Great meeting.

BBS Library Book Review: Bonsai from Native Trees and Shrubs

- by Werner M. Busch; published Aug-1995; ISBN-10: 0715303368
- hardcover Amazon new \$27.36 (I saw this at Half-Price Books, near East Towne, Madison-WI for under \$10) ... **though BBS members, IT IS IN OUR Society Library, so you can read it at no cost!**

I was especially intrigued by the book title (Bonsai from Native Trees and Shrubs) and especially the sub-title (Grow your own bonsai from cuttings, seeds and sapling of readily obtainable deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs) -- hey, this sounds like this is a way to encourage your hobby / interest without taking out a second mortgage to buy plants.

The book devotes 49 pages to a general bonsai discussion that should be appealing to the beginning to the expert bonsai enthusiast, and covers the following topics and accompanied by beautiful photographs of bonsai throughout: What is bonsai; cultivating bonsai; the natural rhythm of growth; bonsai styles; what makes a good bonsai; month-by-month care guide; starting a bonsai.

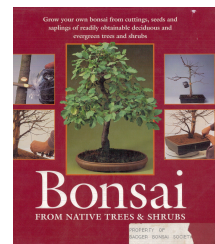
The final 100 pages of the book covers "Which Trees Are Suitable For Bonsai", with each of the species reviewed generally with regard to: General information about the species; As a bonsai; Cultivation (applicable bonsai styles); Shaping; Pruning; Wiring; Propagation; Pest and fungal diseases.

Deciduous: field maple, sycamore and norway maple, montpelier maple, common alder and grey alder, silver birch and downy birch, hornbeam, sweet chestnut, walnut, common beech, common ash, common crab apple, wild pear, common oak and durmast oak, rowan or mountain ash, small-leaved lime (linden), smooth-leaved elm

Conifers: common juniper, european larch, norway spruce, arrolla pine or swiss stone pine, mountain pine, austrian pine, scots pine, yew

Shrubs: arctic birch, hazel, hawthorn, spindle, blackthorn / sloe, willow

I found this an enjoyable and knowledge-laden book about bonsai and especially with regard to the species-specific info presented. Though note that the Dusseldorf-Germany area that Werner Busch writes from is in a warmer (8A-7A) plant hardiness zone than Madison-WI (5A-4B), **so we in WI should exercise caution** about his described wintering characteristics of the species discussed, and his month-by-month care guide. ---Wayne



our website: badgerbonsai.net

Celebrate 2019 WORLD BONSAI DAY with the Milwaukee Bonsai Society

In 2018, the Milwaukee Bonsai Collection at Lynden Sculpture Garden celebrated World Bonsai Day with a “Special Exhibit” of bonsai drawn from the personal collections of Milwaukee Bonsai Society members. All the bonsai of the permanent collection were removed from the display area and were replaced with the World Bonsai Day Exhibit bonsai. It was a “win-win” situation. It gave the participants an opportunity to show their bonsai in a museum setting, and it gave the Lynden patrons a chance to view bonsai that they would not normally see. The World Bonsai Day Exhibit ran for eight days and was a great success. So we are staging another “Special Exhibit” in honor of World Bonsai Day in 2019. However this year..... We are extending an invitation to members of area clubs to celebrate **WORLD BONSAI DAY (May-11-2019)** with us. (Note that submission instructions have been distributed previously to all BBS Mailing List recipients.)

The “Special Exhibit” will focus on bonsai created from collected material. We all have some, and they create a special interest in viewers. Twenty of the best bonsai submitted will be invited to participate in the 2019 World Bonsai Day Exhibit at Lynden Sculpture Garden.

Important Dates:

Monday April 15 - Photo Submissions due

Saturday May 11 – World Bonsai Day Exhibit opens with a reception and a demonstration

Saturday May 18 – Last day of the Exhibit

Lynden Sculpture Garden is a very special place. Originally the estate of the Milwaukee industrialist Harry Bradley, it is world famous for the extent and quality of the sculpture in its collection. And the bonsai exhibit has become an integral part of the sculptural fabric of Lynden. In the first year the bonsai exhibit was open, visitors from 23 states and 7 foreign countries signed our guest book! More information about Lynden can be found on their website [Lynden Sculpture Garden](http://www.lynden.org)

Update on the Apr-2019 BBS Bonsai Course: Session 1

Thursday night, Apr-4th began the 1st of 3 course sessions being held at Klein's Floral and Greenhouses in Madison-WI.

BBS Co-President Karl, showed a general presentation introducing the history, art, requirements and techniques of bonsai. Bonsai is a union of art, horticulture and illusion.

The image to the right from the Stone Lantern website is a tremendous example of the variety of shapes and colors that can be achieved with bonsai techniques. Don't you wish you were able to see this in person, or better yet, have this in your backyard. This is part of the collection of Harvey Carapella; an associate of Bonsai Master, William Valavanis in Rochester-NY.

Karl continued to educate and inspire the small audience (Kathryn of Klein's Floral and BBS members Duke, Gary, James, Tamaki, Wayne) on various tools, pots and examples of bonsai.

With about 40 minutes left, Karl pulled out a "haggard" plant from his backyard that had exhibited



some significant die-back. Discussing multiple design options with the group, he ultimately identified some of the problems with this plant and "addressed them", before pruning and wiring to transform this Shimpaku Juniper into a bonsai with some interesting future potential ... what do you think (see the result at right)?

Sorry, we forget to get a "before" picture, though it was quite a bit bigger than the "after"!

Finally Karl reviewed the goals of the upcoming final 2 sessions: to allow participants to create their own bonsai. You will need to bring along a plant, a pot, soil and plastic to cover your workspace. Bring tools if you have them.

There is no cost to attend the next sessions, Thursday Apr-18 and Thursday Apr-25 from 6pm to 8:30pm, again at Klein's Floral. Even if you were not able to attend this first session, you are welcome to come prepared to participate, or simply watch for the final 2 sessions.

You can find [more details via this link](#).



BBS's Karl and Klein's Kathryn ... thank you to Klein's Floral and Greenhouses for hosting these sessions!



Caution: Boxwood Blight

[Please see this link for a notice](#) about the fungal boxwood blight. Several technical documents are available regarding this issue, but boxwood plants are being prohibited at the Chicago Botanic Gardens.

Due to the migration of Boxwood Blight into the areas of Lake and Cook Counties, Illinois, The Chicago Botanic Garden has instituted the following policy.

The Illinois Extension Office has confirmed Boxwood Blight in the State of Illinois and specifically as close as Wilmette, IL. The Garden has a large collection of boxwood and pachysandra, therefore there is a new policy at the Garden that no outside vendors, florists, or visitors may bring boxwood onto the Garden property to protect the collections. Please notify your members of this policy. It is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Chicago Botanic Garden

Other Shows and Conventions:

Annual Spring Festival - 2019

MABS 2019 will be held on April 12-14, 2019. It will take place at the Holiday Inn in Harrisburg Hershey / Grantville, PA 17028 (Exit 80, I-81)

American Bonsai Society
2019 National Convention
Houston-TX
April 11 - 14, 2019

World Bonsai Day -- May 11, 2019

Midwest Bonsai Society

15th Annual May Bonsai Exhibit
May 11 - 12, 2019

Lynden Sculpture Garden Bonsai Exhibit

Milwaukee-WI May 11 to 18, 2019
photo submissions due Apr-15-2019

Annual Prairie State Bonsai Show

August 2 - 4, 2019
Hours: Fri, 6pm - 9pm, Sat - Sun, 10am - 4pm,
at the Morton Arboretum, Lisle-IL

42nd Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition

August 16 - 18, 2019, Chicago-IL
Guest Master William Valavanis

BC Bonsai Nursery

The BC Bonsai Nursery offers a tremendous opportunity for you to purchase pre-bonsai plants. Potted or dig your own for substantial cost savings. About a 2 hour drive south of Madison, and just NW of Paw Paw-IL.



Jim Beck & Linda Camp

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Bonsai trees and supplies WWW.BCBONSAL.COM

Tentative 2019 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

Bonsai Course: Apr-4, Apr-18, Apr-25, 6-8:30pm
(at Klein's Floral and Greenhouses)

April meeting – Grove workshop; (see page 1)

Spring Collecting Activities:

BC Bonsai Nursery Harvest Workshop

April 13 - 14, Paw Paw-IL **(see below-left)**

Tim's woods — TBD

Slab making workshop TBD

May meeting – BYO workshop

May TBD – Field trip to Daidsan's Japanese Maples in New Berlin-IL

May 18 -19 BBS Annual Show, Olbrich Gardens
Sat 9am to 4:30pm; Sun 10am to 4:30pm
demos 11am and 1:30pm each day

June meeting – Veteran Demonstration – Three of our own experts will show their creativity.

Field trip to Rotary Gardens, Janesville and Anderson Garden, Rockford

July (date probably 2nd Saturday)
Picnic with white elephant exchange;
bring items for sale / swap / giveaway

Field trip to Mayflower Nursery, Hobart, WI

August meeting – Succulents, guest speaker

September meeting – Bonsai Styles

October meeting – American Bonsai Masters and examples of their work

November meeting – Tropical workshop; BBS elections

December meeting – Suiseki and daiza making

Jan-2020: Annual Club Dinner