



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday May-9-2019 | 6:30 to 8:00pm
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI

AGENDA:

BYO Bonsai; Annual Show Planning

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

President's Message

May-9th Program

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

- ***Bring Your Own Bonsai workshop***
be prepared, bring supplies (see details below)
- ***Summary of Bonsai Course (at Klein's)***
- ***Annual Show Details and Prep-ing Trees***

BYOB Workshop

The principal focus of our May-9th meeting will be a BYOB session; sorry, but this means Bring Your Own Bonsai project — to work on and if desired you can get free suggestions from some of our more talented members in attendance.

What to bring: your trees and what ever support materials you need; or bring along your expertise!

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Annual Show Details and Prep

With our Annual Bonsai Show coming up in a few weeks (May 18th and 19th ... see the show flyer on page 7), we will also go over our show particulars. MaryE will have a sign-up list if you have already volunteered. As usual, we will need help with set-up early Saturday morning; tear down Sunday when the show closes; front desk workers to greet visitors; and folks to watch the trees and answer questions from the public.

If time permits we will discuss how to prepare your tree(s) for the show.

Annual Show May 18-19

Now is the time to start preparing your trees for the show. Deciding what trees you are going to bring; what stands to place them on; cleaning the pot and soil surface; pruning wild growth; accent plants; etc. Occasionally someone will say that their trees aren't 'good enough'. Remember, the public will love what is displayed. It is also instructive to see trees at various stages of development.

Raffia Substitute

Andy Smith, one of America's premier yamadori collectors, had an interesting article for ABS about using an electrician's tape as a substitute for raffia. When making significant bends in a trunk or branch, we wrap the trunk (or branch) with

raffia that has soaked in water until it is good and saturated. The wet raffia is then wrapped very tightly around the branch that is to be bent. The raffia acts like an Ace bandage and helps prevent breakage and/or separation of the bark and cambium. This usually works very well and virtually all of the world's bonsai masters use this technique. Andy instead uses electricians tape. The first layer is wrapped sticky side 'out' so it doesn't stick to the bark. The next layer is wrapped sticky side 'in' on top of the first layer. I've never tried this, and visually it is a little off-putting. But, it is inexpensive, requires no soaking, and fast.

Karl's Wins and Losses

Wins: When I purchased my house, I was surprised to find I had also inherited a genuine underground bomb shelter ... can you remember the COLD WAR paranoia. Well, this allows me to fight my own war with the cold as it relates to my bonsai.

It appears almost everything in the bomb shelter survived our wretched winter. I was worried about some of the more tender plants, like the Japanese maples and trident maples, but I think they all made it. The bomb shelter has no source of heat, relying on Mother Earth, so whatever happens, happens.

I wish I had placed a max-min thermometer in it to see just how cold it got this past winter. Maybe next year I will remember to do this, or someone will remind me!

Losses: Regrettably, I found that three of my trees spent the winter laying on the ground next to my benches. They apparently had been knocked off by the deer that frequent my yard, and I hadn't noticed them when I put the rest of the trees away.

Two of the three survived, but a boxwood that had been gifted to me about 30 years ago didn't – *&% (I mean "darn"). Two mature Japanese maples growing in the ground took big hits; the bark exploded off one. Parts are still alive. The other appears to have gone to the big bonsai heaven in the sky.

Lesson-Learned here ... keep a list of your trees, and check them off as you move them inside! and check it again when you move them back out!

April Meeting Wrap-Up

Our April meeting with the Red Maple Grove projects was a real success. After a brief discussion of issues and plans for the upcoming Annual Show May 18th and 19th, as well as some feedback about a recent collection visit to BC Bonsai Nursery, we had a general discussion of theory, issues and concepts of grove plantings. Karl received 100 seedlings for this meeting ... luckily they arrived about 2 hours before the meeting due to shipping issues. We had

6 or 7 members (which included one brand new member thanks to RonF) created a grove from the red maple seedlings at the meeting. This was a fun event, with a lot of hands on participation and ideas and assistance from members present.

An excellent example of a red maple grove bonsai that is in the Nation Bonsai Museum, in the North American Collection is shown on the next page. Although we did not receive permission in time to include this in the last newsletter, we can now include this image for inspiration.



our website: badgerbonsai.net

Drummond's Red Maple

Acer rubrum var. *drummondii*

In training since 1974

Gift of Vaughn L. Banting, 1990

Drummond's Red Maple Grove Planting
a gift of Vaughn L. Banting in 1990 to the
National Bonsai Foundation,
in the North American Collection

photo courtesy of the National Bonsai Foundation



TREE QUOTES

“A traditional bonsai is ideal; it is abstract. A naturalistic bonsai is realistic, but never totally realistic. There’s always a certain degree of abstraction.”

— Walter Pall

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.

This "Special Exhibit" will focus on a selection of 20 of the best submissions of bonsai created from collected material by members of area bonsai clubs. We all have some, and these trees create a special interest to viewers.

Saturday May 11 – [World Bonsai Day Exhibit](#) opens with:

1 pm: a brief bonsai demonstration

3 pm: an opening reception

The exhibit will run from Sat May-11 to Sat May-18, except for Thursday May-16th (as the Garden is closed on Thursdays).

Saturday May 18 – Last day of the Exhibit

According to Milwaukee Bonsai Society President JackD, he is proud of the selection of bonsai being presented, and also has a surprise donation by internationally acclaimed bonsai artist [Walter Paul](#) (though a self-acclaimed "amateur"), who specializes in use of indigenous species collected from the Alpine mountains near his home of Munich-Germany.

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](#)

Update on the Apr-2019 BBS Bonsai Course

Throughout April, BBS Co-President Karl lead 3 course sessions at Klein's Floral and Greenhouses in Madison-WI to introduce the history and key concepts of bonsai. While the 1st half of each session presented and discussed a variety of topics, the 2nd half of each session consisted of a bonsai demonstration (Karl's tree conversion reported in the Apr-2019 newsletter) and attendees discussing and working on their own bonsai projects.

Thanks again to Karl and Klein's and the Klein's staff (particularly KathrynD) for supporting this program ... though we had anticipated a greater turnout of "bonsai novices", this was principally attended by BBS members. In the future we might be able to generate more general participation ... any feedback would be greatly appreciated.



The 15th Annual Midwest Bonsai Society May Bonsai Exhibit and Sale (May 11-12, 2019)

A newer tradition for the Midwest Bonsai Society is the [May Bonsai Exhibit and Sale](#). Started in 2004, the show is smaller than the August Bonsai Exhibition but is well worth the trip to view the displays of trees. The Garden Bonsai trees will be displayed in the two courtyards. Vendors will offer an amazing selection of trees, accent plants, pots, stands, tools and Bonsai books and literature. There will also be workshops, including a children's workshop, and bonsai demonstrations.

The May Exhibit is held in the Burnstein Hall of the Regenstein Center at the Chicago Botanic Garden ([link to map](#)). The theme of the show is education. Members are invited to bring trees in various stages of training, accompanied by explanations of what processes are being used.

There is no fee to attend, but regular [parking rates](#) apply for entry into the Chicago Botanic Garden, though remember if you have an Olbrich Garden membership, bring your card along for free parking.

Great Trees in Wisconsin:

An article was forwarded to me by a friend. It appeared, I think, in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Monday April 22, although it appears to have since been syndicated into various publications. I found it interesting on several levels. The Toronto Bonsai Society has been able to collect some very old eastern white cedar from a part of Ontario where the Niagara Escarpment pokes out of the ground. The Niagara Escarpment is a sedimentary layer of dolomite and can be traced for several hundred miles through Canada, New York, Michigan and Wisconsin. It runs through Door County, down the eastern side of Lake Winnebago, through Waukesha County, and becomes less conspicuous in Illinois. — Karl

I encourage to read this article online (see the link below) ... if possible, I will try to get permission to include the content of this article into our newsletter at a future date. — Wayne

This is the start of the article ... you can read the article in its entirety online, complete with beautiful photographs, and unfortunately a lot of web advertising ... at:

<https://www.wausaudailyherald.com/story/news/2019/04/22/oldest-tree-wisconsin-1300-year-old-red-cedar-niagara-escarpment-brown-county-greenleaf-doug-larson/3428841002/>

for now ... enjoy this teaser ...

In search of Wisconsin's oldest tree

1,300-year-old cedar proves to be elusive

Robert Mentzer, *Wausau Daily Herald USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN*

This tree before me is not the oldest tree in Wisconsin. Not even close.

It's a scrubby little birch growing almost horizontally out of the side of a cliff of Cambrian sandstone, its trunk barely larger than the thick part of a baseball bat. This tree is not notable. It's barely even noticeable.

But this tree, unimpressive as it is, is no younger than 80 years old and might be more like 150. It was sampled by Doug Larson, a Canadian scientist who included it in a study he published in 2000. Larson made it his life's work to study old trees of a particular sort.

In 1997, Larson came to Wisconsin on a research trip from his home in Ontario to look for old trees and take core samples. On that trip, he took a sample from a red cedar, in a part of Brown County called Greenleaf, that his lab estimated to be 1,290 years old. *That* is a notable tree.

... article continues for 3 more pages online

Other Shows and Conventions:

World Bonsai Day -- May 11, 2019

Midwest Bonsai Society

15th Annual May Bonsai Exhibit

May 11 - 12, 2019

The Midwest Bonsai Society spring show usually conflicts with our BBS show. This year, however, it occurs one week earlier. Admission to the Chicago Botanic Garden is free, as well as admission to the bonsai show. But, parking is expensive. Take along your Olbrich membership card if you have one. There are workshops and demonstrations both days.

For more information, see:

<http://www.midwestbonsai.org/may-exhibit>

[Lynden Sculpture Garden Bonsai Exhibit](#)

Milwaukee-WI May 11 to 18, 2019

May-11 demo at 1 pm

reception at 3 pm

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

Song Sparrow Nursery

Song Sparrow Nursery will be having their annual open house on two dates this year: June 1st and June 15th.

These dates are for all buyers.

Song Sparrow is not inexpensive, but you will find trees that most other nurseries don't have.

The nursery is located at 13101 E Rye Rd, Avalon, WI 53505. This is about 10 miles east of Janesville.

Tentative 2019 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

May meeting – BYO workshop, show planning

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

May TBD – Field trip to [Davidsan's Japanese Maples](#) in New Berlin-IL

Spring Collecting Activities:

Tim's woods — TBD

Slab making workshop TBD

June 1 and June 15:

Song Sparrow Nursery Annual Open House

see details at lower left

June meeting – Veteran Demonstration

Three of our own experts will showcase their creativity --- will it be you?

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

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 Membership Club Dinner

BONSAI EXHIBIT



May 18 & 19, 2019

Saturday: 9 am – 4:30 pm

Sunday: 10 am – 4:30 pm

Olbrich Gardens

Demonstrations at 11 am & 1:30 pm

Free Parking & Admission

Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI

Badger Bonsai
SOCIETY

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GARDENS