



# BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

**Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | January 2020**

## Annual Membership Dinner:

Thursday Jan-9-2020 | 6:00pm  
Imperial Gardens  
2039 Allen Blvd, Middleton, WI

## AGENDA:

Social Gathering ... have FUN !

## CLUB OFFICERS:

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

## President's Message

### Annual Dinner – Imperial Gardens

Don't go to Olbrich Gardens on January 9th and expect the Badger Bonsai Society to be there. Twice each year, in January and July, we meet elsewhere. On Jan-9 please do join your bonsai friends at Imperial Gardens restaurant, 2039 Allen Blvd. (corner of Allen Blvd and University Ave). We will rendezvous in the bar at 6pm, and move to a private dining area at 6:30pm. You can order from their normal dinner menu, and separate checks will be provided. Santa has been known to attend these events in the past, so we are hoping he will be present this year as well. Remember that attendance is restricted to BBS members in good standing ... so recall that ...

### Dues are due !

& can be paid at the Jan-dinner or Feb-meeting.

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**December Cookie-Fest** Thanks to all members that brought along cookies for the December meeting. Each year is better & better.



## Scale

The annual winter battle with scale has begun. Rubbing alcohol with a Q-tip is how I deal with this problem. I am opposed to using anything more lethal indoors. The good news is that the scale has a preference for certain species of plants. At the top of the list is schefflera. One suggestion I can offer is to examine the tree with fairly strong back lighting. The presence of scale manifests itself as darker areas when viewed from the opposite side. If you are unfamiliar with scale (consider yourself lucky), they appear as a reddish-brown scab-like bump, roughly a millimeter in size. There is also a crawling stage, but I have never seen them at this stage. If you discover that the leaves and/or pot rim are sticky, this is an indication of scale.

Gary presented his treasurer's report for 2019; in 2019 the BBS had 21 individual & 5 family memberships. Thanks for your ongoing support.

## Poinsettia Bonsai

Be on the look-out for after-Christmas poinsettia clearance sales. While you will probably never find poinsettia at Kokufu-ten or any of the other Japanese bonsai shows, this doesn't mean you can't try this species for bonsai. Currently I have none, but I have kept some going for a decade or more. Most of these plants sold at florists shops have been started this year as cuttings, so the trunks aren't going to be much more than pencil-sized.

Here is some info from the [Bonsai4Me](http://Bonsai4Me) web site (with added English units conversions) -- Karl

Poinsettia are normally considered a common house plant known for their scarlet red new growth appearing around Christmas time. They do however make excellent subjects for bonsai; poinsettias readily take to hard pruning and bud back with ease; with age their light brown bark becomes deeply furrowed and gives a strong impression of age. Leaves are normally quite large (up to 15 cm -- almost 6 inches) but reduce well with standard bonsai techniques to around 1/3 their normal size.

Poinsettias are native to Mexico where they can reach heights of up to 4 meters (over 13 feet). As well as the familiar poinsettia, there are also a number of varieties of *Euphorbia pulcherrima* which produce varying new growth colour.

### BONSAI CULTIVATION NOTES

- **POSITION:** Poinsettias should not be exposed to temperatures lower than 13°C (55.4°F) for any length of time and for this reason are commonly grown indoors in most parts of Northern Europe. Place in full light. During the hottest periods of the summer it is worth moving poinsettias outside as long as night temperatures remain high enough. When outside place in semi-shade.
- **FEEDING:** When in growth, apply a low-nitrogen fertiliser every two weeks.
- **REPOTTING:** Allow to become pot-bound to help reduce leaf size. Repot every 2-4 years in early summer.
- **PRUNING:** Repeatedly prune back new growth throughout the growing season. Hard prune anytime.
- **PROPAGATION:** Semi-ripe cuttings in spring or summer.
- **PESTS & DISEASES:** Whiteflies
- **STYLE:** Informal upright forms in medium to large sizes.
- **FLOWERING:** To encourage more prolific flowering during the winter, poinsettia need 12-14 hours of complete darkness daily for 2 months beforehand. During this time watering should be reduced.



Image: [FTD by Design website](http://FTDbyDesignwebsite) which also includes a year-round care guide, though this is not with a focus toward developing the plant as a bonsai, but re-blooming for Christmas each year.

## Show 'n' Tell

***remember, bringing something related to bonsai to the meeting to show & tell about, will get you an additional ticket for our meeting door prize drawings!***

The December show 'n' tell was once again very interesting. New member Ben brought along a ficus grown off of a cutting from an inherited mature plant. Several members brought along examples of their own Suiseki projects (details on page 4). There is no formal Show 'n' Tell at the Jan-dinner, so save them all for the February meeting!. ... Thanks again for sharing!

Other Shows and Conventions or Societies:

**Northern Virginia Bonsai Society Spring Show**

Apr 11 – 12, 2020

Merrifield Garden Center,

12101 Lee Hwy, Fairfax, VA 22030, USA ([map](#))

**Potomac Bonsai Association Festival**

May 1 – 3, 2020

United States National Arboretum,

3501 New York Ave NE,

Washington, DC 20002, USA

**Bonsai Vision 2020**

May 14 – 17, 2020

Drury Plaza Hotel San Antonio North Stone Oak,  
823 N Loop 1604 W E, San Antonio, TX 78232,  
USA ([map](#)). Lonestar Bonsai Federation Convention

For more info see: [www.sanantoniobonsai.org](http://www.sanantoniobonsai.org)

**Brussel's Rendezvous**

May 22-24, 2020

Olive Branch, MS

**Mid-American Bonsai Show and Sale**

August 14 - 16, 2020

Chicago, IL

**National Bonsai and Penjing Museum**

3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC

Bonsai Global Seminars Oct. 8-11, 2020. Kellogg Conference Hotel and the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC. Hosted by: American Bonsai Society, National Bonsai Foundation, Bonsai Clubs International, Potomac Bonsai Association. This could be the most significant bonsai event many of us could ever attend. Please watch for updates.

**Seed Collecting:**

**Growing anything from seed is always a treat. Ginkgo and amur maple are both species for which seed germination success is quite high. The amur maple seeds tend to cling to the tree all through the winter, so even if there is snow on the ground, they are easy to collect. Both of these species need cold-stratification in order to germinate.**

*our website: [badgerbonsai.net](http://badgerbonsai.net)*

Tentative 2019 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

*the balance of BBS monthly events will be prepared for inclusion on website and Feb-2020 newsletter*

BBS Annual Show

May 16 to 17, 2020 at Olbrich Gardens

**regarding MABA 2020 ...**

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society is hosting the MidAmerica Bonsai Alliance (MABA) convention June 25-28, 2020.

Registration from Jan-5th to Feb-29-2020 is \$195; then the price will go up to \$250. This is a great deal and a tremendous opportunity right in our back yard to see world-class artists and acquire some unique trees and supplies at a very reasonable cost. You as a BBS member are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

See the MABA/Milwaukee 2020 website for more information, or click to download the PDF of [MABA 2020 Registration Packet](#).

**2020 Mid American Bonsai Alliance:**

***Insights Into Bonsai***

June 25-28, 2020 at The Four Points Sheraton Milwaukee North Shore (8900 North Kildeer Court, Milwaukee, WI).

Hosted by the Milwaukee Bonsai Society.

**Watch For  
MABA/Milwaukee 2020**

[www.milwaukeebonsai.org/maba](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org/maba)



[click image for link](#)



## Review of the Suiseki presentation at the Dec-2019 meeting ...

First off, thank you to Karl for his efforts to put together an excellent presentation on Suiseki, discussing many of the key aspects and showing many beautiful examples of this interesting art form. Suiseki ("water-stone" or "viewing-stone") is in and of itself a unique art form, but in many ways is suitable and complementary to bonsai. As Karl pointed out (tongue-in-cheekedly), the Suiseki-practitioner enjoys these advantages compared to the challenges we quite often face with bonsai:

- Watering is not necessary
- Will not die
- Can be inexpensive
- No fertilizer is required
- Daily care is not required
- No pests, bugs, fungus or die-off problems
- No rodent up-rooting
- No spraying of pesticides

All kidding aside, if you can appreciate the beauty and craftsmanship of bonsai, how can you not see the same in the display of these stones and rocks! Then again, sometimes there is a personal reason or connection to the rocks or stones that is especially meaningful to the artist / owner.

Again thanks to Karl, as well as to BBS members (Karl, Chris, Ron, Barbara, Derrick) who brought along and discussed their personal examples of Suiseki, either completed or as-planned works in progress; pictures are shown below and to the right.

Also thanks to Ron for reviewing information from his attendance in a 2016 Milwaukee-WI workshop on Suiseki and the preparation of the daiza (carved wooden base), by one of the currently recognized "experts", Sean Smith.

Also, be sure to take note, that during the MABA-2020 show (Jun-2020 in Milwaukee-WI), there will also be a Suiseki display at the nearby Lynden Sculpture Gardens.



Daiza sculpted wood base  
(below) to the Suiseki above

