



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | February 2020

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday Feb-13-2020 | 6:30pm
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI

AGENDA:

Review National Bonsai North-Am-Collection

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

President's Message

Review National Bonsai Exhibit

At the Feb-2020 meeting we will start our clubs "mission-for-2020" to experience the contents of the National Bonsai Foundation's display exhibits of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, at the National Arboretum.

If you don't already know this, the National Arboretum in Washington D.C. has three magnificent collections of bonsai.

There is the Japanese collection, consisting of 53 trees, which were gifted to the United States in honor of the U.S. bi-centennial celebration in 1976.

There is the Chinese collection of 36 trees, which were gifted by Dr. Yee-sun Wu, along with funds for the construction of the Chinese pavilion for displaying them.

Lastly, there exists the North American collection: *"The North American Collection is displayed in the John Y. Naka North American Pavilion and the tropical species of these trees are found in the Haruo Kaneshiro Tropical Conservatory. All of the 63 trees that make up the collection are the work of people who live in North America."*

As an aside, it is interesting (and sad) to note how many of these donors are no longer living. How appropriate that their prized trees are being cared for and on display in our nation's Capitol! --- Karl

We will start "our-mission" at the Feb-2020 meeting with an internet viewing of the North American Collection and then a review and discussion of the meeting attendees' 5 favorite trees from this collection. (See page 4 for more details, and how you can prepare in advance, as we will not have much time to view each tree at the meeting.)

At subsequent BBS-meetings in 2020, probably in April & September we will explore the remaining Japanese and Chinese collections; then also have a subsequent review and ranking of each set of "BBS-top-5".

And to "finish-off", why wouldn't we also review the Viewing Stones collection in December (when we generally have a presentation on Suiseki).

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The National Bonsai Foundation was founded in 1982. Its primary purpose is / was to raise funds for the construction and display of these three bonsai collections. The entire complex housing these three collections was accomplished with no federal or taxpayer money. It has come into existence solely through the love and support of bonsai aficionados from all around the world.

Their excellent website allows the public the opportunity to at least "get a glimpse" to review and inspire, without travelling to DC ... and who knows, might entice you enough to add a trip to this museum to your personal bucket list.

Cleaning Pots:

A few days ago I noticed that my indoor bonsai had an unsightly build-up of lime and fertilizer residue around the top rim of the pot. Outside, this isn't much of a problem, as the slightly acidic rainwater keeps this build-up in check. In the winter I am watering my tropicals with tap water (well water) which here in Madison contains significant lime. This probably also raises the pH of the soil. I have never measured this, but it seems to not have any harmful effects on the bonsai; but, it does make the pots 'untidy'. Your fingernail, or a wooden popsicle stick, work well for scraping this residue off. It only takes a few moments and you will be rewarded with a much neater appearance. If the pot is empty, an even easier approach is to soak it overnight in denture cleaner. Yup, denture cleaner. This was suggested to me by "Bonsai-Bob" years ago and I finally got around to trying it. It works.

New Discoveries:

After doing bonsai for almost fifty years I am still making new discoveries. It probably means I am a little slow on the uptake, and even worse at the retention. Last summer I found a dwarf Hinoki cypress cultivar called 'Sekka' - a beautiful little tree with small, dense foliage. The

tree had a nice main trunk with lots of branches, most growing upwards - almost parallel to the trunk. The branches had lots of foliage on the outside, because that is where the sunlight was available, but nothing on the inside facing the trunk. When I wired and bent the branches to a horizontal position, that put all the foliage on the bottom of the branch, and nothing on the top. So the branches ended up being upside down from what we want - that is, branch on the bottom with foliage on the top. Now that sunlight can reach the topside of the branches, the tree will respond and produce foliage on the top, so I am not worried about the long-term outlook. It just wasn't as 'instant' as I had hoped. It was more obvious on this tree because the foliage was so dense that no light got into the interior. — Karl

from the Internation Bonsai Arboretum
(established by William N. Valavanis)

Sekka Hinoki Cypress

Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Sekka'

Sekka hinoki cypress have a compact growth habit which are excellent for small and shohin bonsai. The dark green foliage is tight and must be thinned out to find the branches. The foliage is quite tight and tends not to die back.

Note the mostly vertical growth of the pre-bonsai (about 12" tall at left) and an example of a fully developed and styled 'Sekka' bonsai on the right.



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!

As we did not have a Show 'n' Tell in January, we expect there to be a lot for the Feb-meeting.

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

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

[Brussel's Rendezvous](#)

May 22-24, 2020 (over Memorial Day weekend)
Olive Branch, MS

[Mid-American Bonsai Show and Sale](#)

August 14 - 16, 2020 Chicago, IL

One of the largest regional shows in the nation, and centered on the Chicago Botanic Garden's Permanent Collection, features over 50 world-class trees.

[US National Exhibition](#)

Sep 12 – 13, 2020 East Rochester, NY

Join people from around the world for the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition, where over 200 of the finest bonsai in the world will be on display.

[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.

Suiseki tidbits ...

"motivated" by the Dec-2019 BBS presentation on Suiseki? You may find [this article](#) on making a Daiza base from polymer clay to be worthwhile. Also, in the Korean movie Parasite (playing at the Market Square in Madison-WI), suiseki has a kind of a supporting role! Thanks to Derrick for finding these — please claim a Show 'n' Tell ticket!

our website: badgerbonsai.net

Tentative 2019 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

March – Ikebana

April – BBS Review of Japanese Collection

May – TBD;

Badger Bonsai Society Annual Show

May 16 & 17, at Olbrich Gardens

June – Annual Show Review; MABA

July – Membership Picnic ... no meeting

Aug – TBD

Sep – BBS Review of Chinese Collection

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.

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



[click image for link](#)

Details of North American Collection BBS-review ...

As was mentioned earlier, at the Feb-2020 meeting, there will not be much time to "dwell" on each image of the 63 trees in the North American Collection. We plan to do a "quick-pass-through" viewing of each tree in full screen display mode, but probably spending no more than 20 seconds a tree, to allow each member in attendance to select their personal favorite 5 trees from the collection.

To assist in this, Wayne has prepared a "cheat-sheet" of 1" x 1" thumbnail images from their website, along with the "pop-up" text information for each image, as well as a simple polling method to be used on conjunction with this "cheat-sheet". After this first pass viewing, we will move onto other meeting business, during which we will collect attendees' votes and determine the "BBS-top-5 trees". Then we will come back to these 5 trees and spend the balance of the meeting discussing those 5 trees.

Now obviously 20 seconds is not a lot of time for to form a serious assessment, opinion and ranking of 63 trees. SO ... your homework assignment is to visit the collection ([at this link](#)) in advance of our meeting, click on first of the thumbnail-images on the website to start a nearly-full screen slide-show presentation of all 63 trees; arrows to the left and right let you move through all the trees. Note that if you hover your web-cursor over the image, the relevant text about the tree will come up, although we hope that information will not bias your assessments.

This way you can spend as much time as you desire to enjoy the beauty of these trees and if you desire, jot down your thoughts about some or all of the trees, and perhaps be able to describe what puts a tree into "your-top-5". Depending on the level of interest, the critique may continue into the March meeting.

To assist you in your own personnel review, you can download the [6-page "cheat sheet"](#) in advance; and remember to bring this to the meeting. (Thumbnail images and text used for our personal reference and our BBS-meeting review are used with permission of the National Bonsai Federation.)

You can also download [the polling-tally](#) which will reference the page (1 to 6), the row (1 to 5), and the column (left or right) of the cheat sheet in order to identify your top-5 favorites.



BBS Annual Dues

If you've not already paid your annual dues, now is the time.

To pay your dues, see Gary, Treasurer

Membership dues are
\$25/year (individual)
or \$35/year (family)
or \$10/year (students).

More information here:
badgerbonsai.net/membership

**If your dues are still outstanding, please see
Gary soon and make arrangements .**

... and while that image of money is floating round your head, remember that **reduced pricing** for the MABA-2020 event in Milwaukee-WI in June-2020 is good through Feb-29-2020.
See page 3 of this newsletter for more details and links about this event.