



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday Mar-12-2020 | 6:30pm
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI

AGENDA:

Ikebana Presentation

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

President's Message

March meeting

At our Mar-12th meeting, we are pleased to have a guest speaker, David Staats of the local Ikebana society, to discuss and demonstrate the art and craftsmanship of Ikebana, the ancient Japanese art of flower arranging. Ikebana (*ike* - arrange / alive and *bana* - flower) like bonsai is often a meditative or spiritual exercise, later evolving into a traditional artistic display in the Japanese household.

Future Programs:

BillB has proposed that the responsibility for our monthly program be divided among our members. Once a year you would be responsible for a program. This could be done individually, or in pairs, or groups of three, perhaps. You would be responsible for preparing the talk and images,

etc. or securing someone to come speak (we can offer a \$50 honorarium). This would function something like our current treat sign-up. It could be anything about bonsai, or any related area, or trips to Japan, exhibits you visited, etc. Think about this, and let's discuss this concept at the meeting in March.

Winter Outlook and Scale:

As I write this portion of the newsletter, it appears that we will escape this winter without any of the brutal cold we experienced last year. Most of the Japanese maples are zone five or warmer, so growing them as yard plants is 'iffy'. Growing them in pots that can be moved into a garage, or shed, or bomb shelter is much safer. But, because they are such beautiful trees it is SO tempting to grow them in the ground. A good friend with a large yard lost most of the Japanese maples he had growing in the ground last year.

Like others, I continue to do battle with scale. At best the war is a draw. My efforts and vigilance only keeps them somewhat in check. On the positive side, as I reported last month, the scale have their favorite plants. So I must be sure to check these first. Alcohol on a Q-tip is how I deal with them. — *Karl*

Call for Librarian:

Interesting in managing the BBS Library ?
Speak up at the March meeting.

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Chrysanthemum Bonsai:

At the December BBS meeting, Ralph brought in his chrysanthemum bonsai for show and tell. In Japan there are shows exclusively devoted to chrysanthemum bonsai, and they are spectacular. Badger Bonsai did a workshop twenty or thirty years ago with mums. The plants were ordered from Kings Mums, and they are still in business. What they send are rooted cuttings three to six inches high. The root mass is about the size of a golf ball. They have five dwarf varieties that are specifically grown for bonsai. The cost is about \$4 per cutting plus shipping, so I anticipate the final cost to be about \$5. If you are interested in exploring Chrysanthemums for bonsai, please look at their website kingsmums.com. We will take orders at the March-12th meeting if there is adequate interest. Note that as of this writing, they indicate they have almost sold out for the 2020 season, and only have 2 more shipping dates in Jun-2020.

Gnomes

Low growing, mounding types with small leaves and blooms of anemone and daisy style. Bushy, free branching strong stems. Height from 8 to 15 inches when mature. Most are bred for training to bonsai style and are also excellent for container and landscape planting. These are listed to the right, showing expected blooming dates, [bloom classification](#), and height (all Short at 1 to 2.5 ft).

Chidori: Oct-16 to Oct-26 -- 7C Short
Very small, white single flowers, produced on a dwarf grower that develops large trunks and many branches.

Crystal Falls: Oct-15 to Oct-26 -- 8C Short
A naturally spreading type with long lasting white anemone blooms. A natural for a cascading bonsai or hanging basket. Also useful for bedding or large border. An exceptionally easy growth habit with strong woody stems.

Hatsune: Oct-16 to Oct-25 -- 8C Short
A small, solid yellow anemone. Develops many branches, good trunk, and strong surface roots.

Kotoi No Kaori: Oct-22 to Nov-10 -- 8C Short
Golden bronze anemone with red ray florets. Very free flowering and adaptable to most any style.

Yukari: Oct-18 to Oct-28 -- 7C Short
Very small, pink, single flowers, with short florets. A dwarf grower. Good for miniature types of all styles.

Obituary ...

Sadly, we report the passing of Kate Adams. Kate was born in Madison and while living in the Madison area was married to Jack Douthitt. She has been residing in the Washington state for the last several years.

From the very 1st BBS newsletter – Oct-1974: *The only way to describe the first meeting of the Badger Bonsai Society is FANTASTIC!!!! 105 people signed the list. And we were obviously unprepared for so many of you. But with your patience, not to mention your sitting on the floor, we were able to talk about Bonsai for awhile. The first workshop will be at 7:30 PM Thursday November 7, 1974 at Schmidt Nursery, Fish Hatchery Road and Irish Lane south of Madison.*

Interestingly, today that site is still occupied by a nursery – K&A Greenhouse!

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!

At the Feb meeting, Ben brought along a Hoya leaf he was attempting to propagate (which regrettably he was informed, will only root, but not turn into any additional shoots or leafs); Will showed a Rocky Mountain Juniper yamadori harvested by Andy Smith (of Deadwood-SD, who will be at MABA-2020); and Joseph showed a recovery attempt of a broken weeping willow.

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.

BC Bonsai "digs" ...

If you don't mind driving a bit, and digging, BC Bonsai has
a growing area in Paw Paw, IL. Dates for these digs are:

March 21st & 22nd from 10am to 6pm

April 4th & 5th from 10am to 6pm

Call 630-690-0404 or 630-386-1515 for more information
and to sign up for any of the workshops or other events. All
are invited to come out to the nursery on the weekends and
learn about styling trees while they are in the ground.
Practice is the only way to gain or sharpen your bonsai
skills. We will teach you on our trees at no cost to you.

Tentative 2019 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

March 12 – Ikebana

April 9 – TBD (workshop with club-supplied
trees)

May 14 – create a forest on a slab

Badger Bonsai Society Annual Show

May 16 & 17, at Olbrich Gardens

June 11 – simultaneous 3 demos, Annual Show
Review; MABA update

July – Membership Picnic ... no meeting

Aug 13 – TBD

Sep 10 – TBD

regarding MABA 2020 ...

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

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.

MABA/Milwaukee 2020

www.milwaukeebonsai.org/maba



[click image for link](#)

our website: badgerbonsai.net

Summary of Feb-member ranking of North American Collection ...

Thanks to Wayne for putting together the February program – an evaluation of the trees in the North American Collection at the National Arboretum. I think it was insightful and instructive.

(MaryE must have peeked at my ballot because we had selected all the same trees.) ;-)

The rankings by the 15 people in attendance at the Feb meeting are shown below.

Ranked 1st (collecting 8 of 75 overall votes, and 7 of 15 possible #1 votes) was "Goshin", the Chinese Juniper Forest of John Naka.



FIRST

Then 3 trees were tied for 2nd ranking based on each receiving 5 of 75 overall votes, but based on the highest number of high rankings were:

ranked 2nd (2 of 15 possible 1st place votes), the cascaded Blue Atlas Cedar

ranked 3rd (1 of 15 possible 1st place votes), the Chinese Juniper Forest

ranked 4th, the Prostrate Juniper, also styled by John Naka

and ranked 5th (with 4 of 75 overall votes) was the Bird's Nest Norway Spruce

Second



Third



Fourth



Fifth



As a side note, one of the trees in the North American Collection – a juniperus communis - was collected and styled by Jack Douthitt, the first president of the Badger Bonsai Society. This tree was collected from a dairy farm just west of Black Earth. The tree had been browsed by the cows, keeping it dwarfed. That hillside is no longer used for grazing and the trees no longer have much, if any, bonsai potential. If you have family or friends that have farms, pasture land is always a great place to look for bonsai.



As Seen on Local TV ...

Thanks to BBS member JosephG for his **"intentional passive marketing"** of the Badger Bonsai Society during his Feb-26th FOX-47 (WMSN) TV interview on the progress being made in preventing fatal overdoses in the Madison-WI area.

