



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

Next Meeting Date:

Zoom virtual meeting session starting at 6:30pm
on Thursday Jul-9-2020; no membership picnic

AGENDA:

Planning on some public bonsai progressions, a
few internet highlights, and participant "shares"

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

President's Message

July Meeting -- Online

If this was a normal year we would have our annual July picnic, complete with a white elephant swap / sell / give extravaganza. If this was a normal year — but, it isn't, so we will have to meet in Zoom-land on Thursday Jul-9th at 6:30pm. For this meeting the 40 minute limitation has been waived (a Zoom marketing ploy, no doubt), so we can go as long as we have interesting content to present and review. Wayne will provide login details (meeting ID and password) in the BBS newsletter distribution email. If you see this on the website and are interested in participating, leave a message on the BBS Contact Us link with your details (name, city-state, and why you would like to participate) prior to Wed Jul-8th, and we will try to accomodate your request (with details in a separate email.

Assuming that we do not see a huge reversal of the COVID-19 situation, things look favorable for a physical meeting in August at Olbrich Gardens, though we will still be enforcing restrictions for social distancing, head count, face masks required, and perhaps temperature checks to enter Olbrich ... attendance will be up to your personal discretion.

July Meeting Agenda

The current meeting agenda includes a brief intro to zoom meeting protocols; Karl's surprise topic; then Wayne will present a few public bonsai before-and-after progressions (with participant markups); and a look at some recent internet "finds". If anyone has other items for discussion, or show / tell, please let Wayne or Karl know in advance, or as you join the zoom meeting so that we can plan to review in our meeting sessions. As the 40 minute restriction is lifted for this meeting, we can keep going as long as we have worthwhile content or society business to deal with — and Wayne has hard drive space (we will record the zoom session again, so be on your good behavior).

Success / Failures

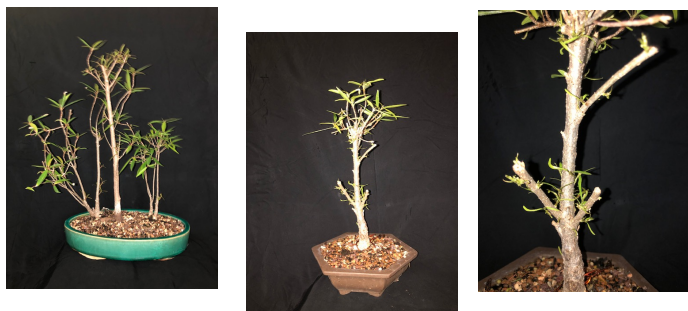
My local whitetail deer herd has not been in my yard for about a week. Perhaps they have lost the address. I've been better at closing the gate though. The adults can clear my chain-link fence

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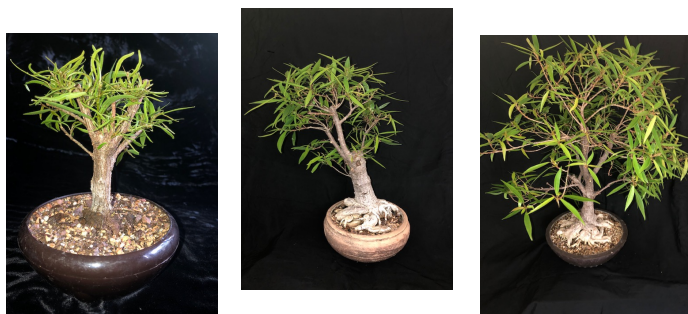
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with no problem, but the fawns don't have the necessary oomph yet. So I think the does have been looking for easier pickings. Several of my bonsai have been pruned by the deer. Oh well – perhaps the tree looks better with no branches on that side.

Last month when I potted up some of the narrow leaf ficus, I cut off all the foliage to make them smaller and more bonsai-ish. Now I must say that this induced a fair amount of trepidation. I was pretty sure that they would bud back and produce new foliage, but it was still scary to cut off all the foliage and be left with a naked stick. All (I think) of the deciduous trees have adventitious buds that will spring into action if the tree is defoliated. But, do not attempt this with conifers, or the tree will be headed for bonsai heaven. Here are a few photos of the results.



I have five older ficus neriifolia, some that I've had for thirty years or so. Last fall when I brought them inside they were just full of nice green foliage. I was feeling pretty smug about them. As the winter progressed they started to shed their leaves and by spring they looked pretty pathetic. I had intended to put some of these in the show, but by April they looked more like Charlie-Brown-Christmas-Trees than bonsai. Happily, after being outside for the last month and a half they are again starting to look good again.



You will recall that in April we had some nights when the temperature dropped into the 40's. So on those nights I brought the tropicals back into the house or into the garage. After doing that for a few nights, and because I am basically a lazy person, I decided that I would just cover some of my less favorite trees with a plastic tarp. The next day I didn't remove the tarp until later in the morning, and when I did, the top of the schefflera was all discolored. So I don't know if it got too cold, or if it got too hot because I didn't remove the tarp soon enough. The tree survived and will be just fine, but it was a good reminder that we must be good custodians.

Do you have any success or fails that you would like to share via our website Contact Us link.

Wisteria

Wisteria when in bloom are just amazingly beautiful. Barbara provided a link to a 150 year old wisteria in Japan.

<https://mymodernmet.com/ashikaga-flower-park-beautiful-wisteria-tree/>

Their compound leaf makes them a difficult bonsai subject, but if successful, they are show-stoppers! My own attempts have not been positive. Every aphid in Dane County seemed to descend on my three defenseless trees, sucking out all life force. -- Karl

Slabs

There are a couple options for growing bonsai on a slab. You can make a trip out to most any landscape operation and pick through their available stones. Or, you can make your own. BBS has had a slab making workshop on several occasions over the years. One option is to make your slab out of 'hypertufa'.

This is a mixture of equal parts by volume of perlite, peat moss, and Portland cement. It usually contains fiber mesh for extra stability as well as a coloring dye. The positive of this is that it is light weight, and porous and cheap. The downside is that it is weak. Embedding hardware cloth in the slab will improve its strength. The second option, which is much stronger, is to make the slab out of Portland cement and sand. Hardware cloth, again,

will make a stronger slab. There are lots of YouTube videos demonstrating these approaches.

Mums

The chrysanthemum cuttings arrived last week, and all looked like they survived the shipping very nicely. The cuttings had been rooted in paper pots about the size of a shot glass, and the cuttings themselves were about four inches tall. Barbara, Tamaki, Bill, and myself will try to transform these into bonsai.

Wikipedia tells us: '*Chrysanthemum*' comes from the Greek *khrusos* 'gold' + *anthemon* 'flower'. They are native to East Asia and northeastern Europe. Most species originate from East Asia and the center of diversity is in China. In Japan, chrysanthemums symbolize fall, the nation, ... Like the cherry blossom, the chrysanthemum, called "*kiku*" in Japanese, symbolizes the season, but more than that, it's a symbol of the country itself. The monarchy is referred to as the *Chrysanthemum Throne* and the imperial crest is a stylized mum blossom.

In Japan there are bonsai shows that feature only chrysanthemums.

The [Garden Diaries Blog](#) captured the below at the Nov-2019 Blooms and Bamboo Exhibit, at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA



Tree quotes

"A tree's most important means of staying connected to other trees is a "wood wide web" of soil fungi that connects vegetation in an intimate network that allows the sharing of an enormous amount of information and goods."

— Tim Flannery, *The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate – Discoveries from a Secret World*

Ancient Arts Bonsai Open House

It has been a long time since we have been able to have some organized bonsai activities.

With the cancelation of our monthly meetings, the MABA convention in June and now the Chicago Show in August and State Fair, many of you have a longing to have some bonsai activity.

I was able to travel to Brussel's Bonsai earlier this month and I brought back roughly 100 new potential bonsai.

[Ancient Arts Bonsai](#) will have an OPEN HOUSE on July 18th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM giving you the opportunity to view current selections.

Also available will be: Tools, Soil, Wire, Fertilizers, Pots, Books & all other things bonsai.

My only request is that ***all visitors please wear a mask***, as we all know it is hard to properly social distance when bonsai are involved.

The address is:

Ancient Arts Bonsai
933 Duchess Drive
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

If you get lost and need assistance call me at 262-490-8733

This Open House is also an opportunity to see my collection and visit with other bonsai friends.

Hope to see you on July 18th !

Ron Fortmann

Propagation Tip from Bill B:

This website has a list of various plant species and what strength rooting hormone to use.

<https://hormex.com/pages/rooting-powder>

From Sean in Australia, [Bonsai Beginners Guide](#)

<https://blog.flowersacrosssydney.com.au/bonsai-for-beginners/>

Other Shows and Conventions or Societies:

Listed below are events that were set up prior to the current COVID-19 situation ... events may still be questionable, so, be sure to check out the individual websites for current status.

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.

Zoom Tech Requirements

For our Zoom virtual sessions, all you will need to participate is to join the zoom meeting session and the zoom web client will be installed. You will be able to see video feeds, audio and shared computer screens. If you want to present a live video feed you need a webcam. If you want to speak for all to hear, you will need a microphone for your computer, or have used a dial in phone number for the audio connection.

from NBF blog ...

by Felix Laughlin and Jack Sustic,
National Bonsai Foundation Co-Presidents

[https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/blog-archive/
2020/6/11/bonsai-teaches-us-respect-for-all-life](https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/blog-archive/2020/6/11/bonsai-teaches-us-respect-for-all-life)

As Saburo Kato once said:

"From bonsai we receive peace of mind, health, and a life's pursuit. We can also learn generosity, patience and even philosophy about life. We have also had the good fortune to make friends of all nationalities and races with whom we share a mutual trust and respect. This is all thanks to bonsai."

our website: badgerbonsai.net

Tentative 2019 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

July 9 – **Zoom Virtual meeting** instead of July membership picnic

Aug 13 – currently planning on meeting at Olbrich, content TBD

Sep 10 – TBD

Sunday, Sep 27 - Info Table at Olbrich Gardens

Oct 8 - TBD

Nov 12 - Badger Bonsai Society officer elections

Dec 10 - TBD, Suiseka, and review content of National Bonsai Museum's Suiseki collection

Azalea To Do:

Your azaleas are probably done flowering now. If you have not done so already, you should pinch off the developing seed at the base of the bloom. We don't want to waste energy in seed production. Be sure you pinch off the seed, and not just the flower petal. You will be able to feel the nubby seed. -- Karl

MABA 2020One...

though the MABA Convention of June-2020 had to be canceled due to COVID-19, the Organizational Committee has announced that MidAmerica Bonsai Alliance (MABA) convention **has been rescheduled** for June 10-13, 2021 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin ... with all the originally planned artists and vendors and at the same location.

Re-Focus

MABA/Milwaukee 2020One

www.milwaukeebonsai.org/maba



June 10 – 13, 2021