



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

Next Meeting Date:

Zoom virtual meeting session starting at 6:30pm on Thursday Aug-13-2020; no physical meeting

AGENDA:

Azaleas and Pots, 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

August Meeting -- Online

My apologies for leaving our BBS July Zoom meeting, that was not by my choice. As you may recall, it was storming that night and I lost all my communication – Internet and land line phone. When I finally got my Iphone connected to the meeting, that session had expired and the group had moved on to another meeting room. I hope to be more successful for our August Zoom. We are addressing the meeting time limit issue, as members present suggest and approved upgrading to a Zoom Pro membership on a month-by-month basis ... so no more meeting time limits (and we can do questionnaires and polls!). Though we had hoped to get back to a physical meeting for August, the COVID-backslide, re-imposed restrictions at Olbrich Gardens, and feedback from a membership phone-poll dictated that our

August meeting would be in Zoom-land again on Thursday Aug-13th at 6:30pm. 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, you can also leave a phone number in your message comments) prior to Wed Aug-12th, and we will try to accomodate your request (with details in a separate email or phone call).

At this time, no one is really sure when we will be able to have another physical meeting at Olbrich ... so we are planning on Zoom sessions month-to-month for the balance of 2020.

August Meeting Agenda

The current meeting agenda includes a brief(er) intro to zoom meeting protocols (we seem to be getting better at this stuff ... however if you are new, and want to "practice", contact Wayne via email and he has offered to set up some practice zoom sessions prior to Thursday if needed); Karl has a couple of presentations (azaleas and pots); then Wayne will present another Jason Chan (of Eastern Leaf Bonsai) video on juniper refinement; and maybe have a poll for attendees. 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

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we can plan to review in our meeting session. As there will be no time restriction on 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, so be on your good behavior).

Success / Failures

I am happy to be reporting only successes this month. Everything is growing and looks really good. The narrow-leaf ficus, which at the end of winter looked pretty sad having lost most of their leaves, are flush with new foliage. The cut leaf caterpillars that usually attack my mugo pines are nowhere to be found. Even the Japanese beetles weren't too bad – they mostly ate the foliage on the one cherry tree I have growing in the ground and a Siberian elm that I am not particularly enamored with. The chrysanthemums that we ordered from Kings Mums are growing nicely. I have not pruned or wired them, but am just letting them grow. My Japanese maple 'Bloodgood' that has been growing in the ground for thirty years and a good portion was killed by the polar vortex is now producing a good crop of seeds. I have noticed that many of the amur maples on the city streets are also heavy with seeds.

I have a container of fertilizer that attaches to my garden hose, and when the hose is on a suction pulls the fertilizer out of the container and mixes it with the water. That is what is supposed to happen. However, when I am done, it doesn't seem like much fertilizer has been dispensed. Maybe I will just pour it into my watering can like I normally do. A word of caution – do not leave these containers attached to your hose when you are finished. Your water spigot valve probably has an anti-siphon mechanism in it, but if it malfunctions you don't want any chemicals you are dispensing to be sucked back into your home plumbing. So to be on the safe side, disconnect any chemical dispenser from your hose when you are finished. -- Karl

Tree quotes

"A man doesn't plant a tree for himself.
He plants it for posterity." — Alexander Smith

Larch

Nick Lenz is famous for his collected larch.

"Larch make lovely and endearing bonsai. Among the many wild species available to Northeast growers, larch have great advantages as bonsai material. Their trunks develop a rough bark, red brown to gray in color. The trees are flexible and easy to work. They are exceptionally winter-hardy. They are deciduous, bearing jewel-like buds in spring, small, pine-like needles in summer, and golden bracts in fall."

Nick Lenz, Bonsai From the Wild

In northern Wisconsin black spruce and larch (tamarack) tend to grow in the same locales. Both species grow stick-straight. In the fall the larch have turned golden yellow, while the spruce are still green. Once you know what to look for they are easy to spot.



Recap: Ancient Arts Bonsai Open House

Ron's open house was a great success. It was a great opportunity to see some great trees, and pick up any supplies that one might need. On display were trees intended for sale, as well as Ron's personal collection – a personal collection that made everyone envious. I was struck by the Kingsville boxwood that were on display. The bark on these was very smooth and light colored. Those trees in my own collection have furrowed bark after just a year or two. Interesting how different these were. --- Karl

Ron still has 4 of the boxwoods Karl mentions and a number of Golden Gate Ficus and Hinoki Cypress that are very nice. Just call or email Ron if you want to come by and look at what is available. Call 262-490-8733 or email at: aabonsai@charter.net. Ron is available days, evenings, weekends but make an appointment to ensure he will be there for your visit.

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 rescheduled to 2021

Sep 11 – 12, 2021 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.~~

This event has been postponed due to COVID-19.

Kusamono ... a softer side of bonsai

Our BBS member Will came across an interesting article related to bonsai in the Jul-29-2020

Washington Post by Andrian Higgins that discusses *kusamono*. Interestingly, the very same article was the focus of the Jul-31-2020 Bonsai Bark blog by Wayne Schoech of Stone Lantern.



Most people know of the Japanese plant art of bonsai, in which tiny trees are cultivated in stylish pots. Few people are aware, though, of a related Japanese pursuit named kusamono, where simple wildflowers, grasses and

other soft plants receive the same sort of treatment.

One reason for this is that although bonsai is a popular and commercialized hobby, there are just a handful of kusamono virtuosos in the United States, none more accomplished than Young Choe, a Korean American horticulturist from Ellicott City.

Her creations — unexpected, essential and surprisingly haunting — take common plants and elevate them as living subjects of delight and desire. ... See the remainder of the article and more striking photos [here](#).

our website: badgerbonsai.net

Tentative 2019 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

Aug 13 – **Zoom Virtual meeting** – but no physical meeting at Olbrich

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

Reminder from Ron:

Just a reminder that there is still time in the next week or two to do a partial defoliation of your deciduous trees that are healthy, this will give them time to replace foliage as they begin their vascular build up in September into October.

This is also a good time to give them a fertilizer boost going into September helping them build strength going into the fall and winter seasons.

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. If you would like to "practice" ... contact Wayne.

Re-Focus

MABA/Milwaukee 2020One

www.milwaukeebonsai.org/maba



June 10 – 13, 2021