



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

Next Meeting Date:

Zoom virtual meeting session starting at 6:30pm
on Thursday Oct-8-2020; no physical meeting

AGENDA:

Preparing Jin; participant "shares", Door Prizes;
discuss Nov-elections

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

President's Message

October Meeting -- Online

In August we decided to plan on Zoom sessions (and no face-to-face meetings) month-to-month for the balance of 2020. This is driven mainly by the logistics challenges of Olbrich Gardens or other sites, as well as our concern for the well being of all of our members.

The experts say that COVID-19 is more dangerous for the elderly, and at some unknown time in the past I seemed to have joined that group. Perhaps it was when AARP started sending me their promotional material, I don't know. But, it seems I have achieved 'elderly' status without having to work too hard to get it. Store clerks now automatically give me that discount without requesting my driver's license. So why am I boring all of you with my advanced age? Choice of **bonsai size**, that's why.

Inside This Issue

- President's Message / Agenda 1 to 2
- Seeds / Propagation Guide 2
- Bonsai Sizes 2
- Zoom Tech Requirements 3
- Other Bonsai Events & Info 3
- Jade Grove Recap 3
- Build a Video Tour / BCI Auction 3

It seems to be true that young individuals starting out in bonsai want the biggest, baddest, bonsai that they can acquire — the bigger the tree the better. Most of the famous bonsai are, or were, in fact, very large trees.

If you want your bonsai to look old, start out with an old tree. It's not rocket science. However, there are some real drawbacks with large trees. First, the pots are expensive. You might need a second mortgage to cover the cost. Secondly, the rate of growth for an old tree is minimal, so if you're hoping the tree will sprout a branch where there is currently nothing, you might have to wait forever. Thirdly, the branches on an old tree don't take kindly to being bent, so we have to live with them pretty much as they are.

Lastly, and this gets to my age lead-in, big trees, with their big pots filled with soil, weigh a whole lot more than I want to lift. So for the last decade or so, a few of my big trees have over-wintered right where they currently are – on my driveway. Now these are mostly junipers and white cedars that tolerate Wisconsin winters pretty well, and I do try to bury the base and nursery pot in snow. If they were in expensive pots I would be more likely to put them in the bomb shelter for the winter. But the pots are not, and so they sit on the driveway.

I have a pot of young Japanese maples that are in a large pot with the hope of getting more growth.

They are really not bonsai yet – I just want them to thicken up. Last year when I put away the trees and got to this particular one, I just decided there was no way I was going to try to carry that into the bomb shelter. I did lift it from the bench (which was more like a controlled-drop) and put it on the ground, which keeps it a little warmer, but that is as far as it got. In spring they were slow to leaf out, and for awhile I was worried I had lost them. Eventually they woke up, but I don't think they liked the experience. My point is that moving heavy stuff is getting more challenging.

So this year I did more with *mame* and *shohin* sized trees. (See the infographic on Bonsai Sizes on this page). Their attributes are very attractive – one can use young material, or even cuttings; the pots are inexpensive; they grow fast; they don't take up a lot of room; and best of all, you won't need a forklift to move them around. — *Karl*

October Meeting Agenda

The current meeting agenda has: a presentation by Tim on preparing Jin in bonsai; discussion of officer elections for November; any attendees shares of pictures or videos or interesting weblinks; maybe have a poll for attendees. and door prize "drawings".

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 session. With no time restriction on this meeting, we will 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).

Door Prizes

As we indicated last month, we thought of a way to implement the door prizes that were so easy at the physical meetings ... thanks to Karl for digging into the BBS-Stash for a couple of pots

[check out the BONSAI WIRE Podcasts](#)

from bonsai artists Jonas Dupuich, John Eads, Michael Hagedorn, and Andrew Robson

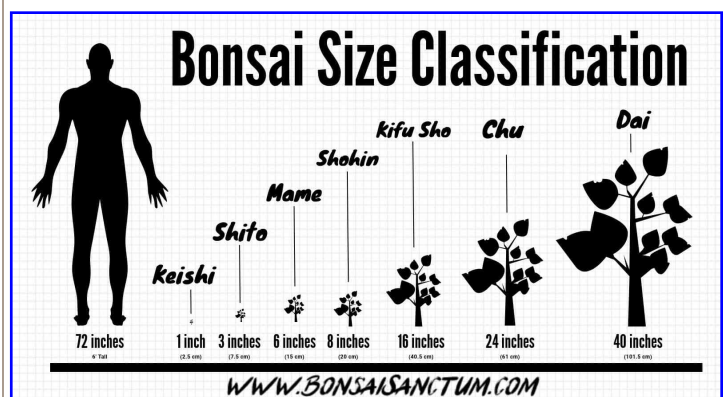
that went to Ralph, and then Mary (after a tiebreaker round between Mary and Ron). I am sure that Karl will find a couple more goodies for October as well, so prior to your zoom-attendance, please think hard and heavy to pick your favorite number between 1 and 100, inclusive – meaning that 1 and 100 are available choices; and hope that no one else wants to pick your favorite number. Picking order will be based on order of joining the zoom meeting. Participation is open to zoom attendees, but winners are responsible for coordinating the pickup of your winnings ... WE WILL NOT deliver.

Seeds

Some trees produce seeds in spring. These can be planted immediately in spring and will start growing. Other trees produce seeds that mature in the fall. These will germinate, but only after being stratified. They need to go through a period of cool, moist conditions before the seed 'wakes up' and starts to germinate. My Bloodgood Japanese maple has a good crop of seeds that I will collect and hopefully get to sprout next spring. If you have access to amur maple and/or ginkgo, this is the time to be collecting their seeds. — *Karl*

Along the topic of seeds, see this excellent [guide from Jonas Dupuich of Bonsai Tonight about propagating bonsai from seeds and cuttings](#). Incidentally, one of the things that I learned from the Bonsai Wire Podcast, is that Dupuich is pronounced as *du pwee* and that comes straight from Jonas!

Bonsai Sizes ... [see more details here.](#)



Other Shows and Conventions or Societies:

Due the current COVID-19 situation ... be sure to check out the individual websites for current status.

Hidden Gardens, Willowbrook-IL

Bring Your Own Tree Workshops

(9am to 4pm each day; for \$130 each session)

Jan Culek, Sat Oct-24-2020, Sun Oct-25-2020

Todd Schlafer, Sat Nov-28-2020, Sun Nov-29-2020

to sign up: Call Hidden Gardens at (630) 655-8283 or email Jeff Schulz at JSchulz@comcast.net

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.

Recap of September Jade Grove

Those of you that attended the September Zoom meeting, you saw the planning and development steps that MaryE took to transform a \$24 purchase (of 7 jade trees in the pot) into an attractive Jade Grove planting. Thank you Mary for your detailed presentation and efforts. We look forward to seeing how your grove develops in the future.



our website: badgerbonsai.net

Tentative 2020 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

Oct 8 - **Zoom Virtual meeting** – but no physical meeting at Olbrich; Jin preparation

Nov 12 - TBD, Badger Bonsai Society officer elections

Dec 10 - TBD, Suiseki review ?

January-2021 Membership Dinner ... **TBD ???**

Can You Build a Video Tour?

One of the topics discussed at September Zoom meeting was Ben's idea of BBS members to create a short video tour of their plants. Ben commented that he likes to see the variety of the bonsai gardens from individuals. An example he talked about, and we viewed briefly was the [video by Nigel Saunders](#) ... What do you think?

You can take a brief video and narrate as you walk-through, or take still pictures and SHARE during our next meetings ... show us your stuff!

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.

See the details and catalogue of the BCI online bonsai auction by clicking the image below ... registration required!

