



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | Jun 2021

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday Jun-10-2021 | 6:30 to 8:00 pm

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI

AGENDA:

May Annual Show review, Amur maple designs

CLUB OFFICERS:

Co-President Wayne / Bill

Vice President Mary

Treasurer Gary

Web Master / Newsletter Wayne

Librarian Ben

Refreshments Elaine

President's Message

Well 2021 is approaching the half-way point, and we are well into spring, with summer fast approaching. This, as we all know, is a key time for our bonsai efforts, with specific tasks such as pruning, repotting, fertilizing and wiring dependent on the species of trees you are working one; and especially now as the very hot weather is already striking Wisconsin, the importance of watering practices. Though even just 2 weeks ago, we in the Madison-WI area, still had a frost-warning scare due to colder temperatures and strong winds; hopefully we can put this frost fiasco behind us until around November

Our May meeting, the 2nd face-to-face meeting in over a year was well attended at Olbrich Gardens, with a total of 21 attendees that included 3 newly joined members. Thanks to Ron for an excellent

presentation on repotting a previously potted bonsai. Our paid membership is now around 38 individuals, as well as 4 additional members from the drawings at the Annual Show demonstrations. In addition, 28 show attendees indicated they wanted our 3-month newsletter / meeting notifications, so I expect that we will see at least 5 new members from those interests.

In June, our meeting will be held in the Olbrich Gardens Upstairs Meeting Room, back into our normal 2nd floor meeting location. We are reconfiguring our arrangement to a theatre style seating with fewer tables to provide greater seating capacity and a better opportunity for safe distancing as needed. Please take note of our COVID measures notice on page 3.

Oh Yeah! Our 2021 Annual Show was a great success! We will talk about what worked well (most things) and a few things that we plan to improve on next year. If you did not get a chance to attend, BBS members will have to wait until the July meeting to see a movie of the displayed trees and activities. — *Wayne*

June Meeting Agenda

Our plans for the Jun-10th meeting includes: a brief introduction of new members (please prepare a brief bio and background on your bonsai / personal interests); Annual Show feedback; discussion of a member challenge

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project for July; discussion of an upcoming wiring opportunity for members, show'n'tell items; and door prizes. I expect this to be an interesting and productive meeting.

Amur Maple Design Concepts

Thanks again to Tim for opening his property for an Amur Maple Dig on Saturday Apr-10th. About a dozen people attended, enjoyed excellent weather, and harvested a lot of trees. For our principal topic at our Jun-10th meeting, we would like all "diggers" to bring their harvested trees to show to the membership and discuss their plans for their tree — or if you are at a standstill, to ask for feedback on member's ideas. Please feel free to bring along any sketches or ideas you have.

From BCI: *Amur maple has only started to attain popularity as a bonsai. It is certain to become widely used as it is an attractive, fuss-free maple.* See the rest of this [good overview](#) of the Amur Maple for bonsai.

Also note that the Amur Maple, like many other maples can be wired, but extreme care and usually protecting the branches with raffia is recommended to prevent damage over the duration of the wire on the tree.

Here are some good YouTube videos with regard to using Amur Maples for bonsai. Note the Dave's Bonsai video (Dave is from Minnesota) is extremely interesting, as there is not a lot of actual pruning until a lot of thought and consideration about options ... it really is worth the watch!

- [Dave's Bonsai: E44 Amur Maple](#)
- [Trees with Don Leopold – Amur Maple](#)
- [Adam Jones on Amur Maple Development](#)

Beginner's Corner ... Styles

As the principal focus at the June meeting will be on your discussion of plans for your Amur maples (or other trees you choose to bring in), it would wise to review / refresh / reacquaint yourself with the styles that are most common for bonsai. While you will quite often today see some variations on the traditional bonsai styles, understanding the concepts and intent behind

these styles can guide you as you develop your own trees, and even as you are looking for trees or stock to develop into bonsai.

Almost every book on bonsai that exists will include a basic discussion of these styles, and others will go into great detail (for example the David DeGroot book Basic Bonsai Design) for each style.

The BBS has quite range of books in our library ... remember, if you are a BBS member, you can borrow any of our books and magazines or media ... see the BBS website for details.

We actually have a [good article](#) on the Badger Bonsai Society website that was compiled from Wikipedia in 2008 that provides a good overview of the traditional styles. Have a look, and see where it leads you.

Welcome ...

The Badger Bonsai Society extends a welcome to those people that will be attending our meetings for the first time due to your exposure and expressed interest at the Annual Show. Feel free to ask any questions you might have!

A few good links related to Wiring

One of the things that we tend to take for granted as it relates to bonsai and styling of trees is wiring. Yes you see all those videos of masters and practitioners loaded up with huge spools of often EXPENSIVE wire on their arms, and make it seem so easy and fast, and many pages devoted to wiring are generally in every book on bonsai. But you have to remember they have probably been wiring many thousands of times across many years ... of course they can make it look easy. But in reality, to a newcomer to bonsai, wiring can be quite intimidating, as what looks to be a simple task has quite a few important aspects to the success of your trees. Take a few moments to review these links and let's discuss some ideas at the June meeting.

- [OrlandoBonsaiTV: Bonsai – Basic Wiring](#)
- Eastern Leaf: [How to Wire a Bonsai Branch](#)
- [Lloyd Noall's Bonsai Wiring Tutorial](#)
- Bonsai Miria: [Bonsai Detail Wiring](#)

COVID Measures for Jun-10th meeting

NOTICE regarding Dane County's Jun-2-2021 update to COVID-19 Masking Protocols.

- Effective at 12:00am on June 2, 2021, all public health orders in Dane County have expired, including mask requirements and gathering limits.
- Public Health Madison & Dane County is continuing to recommend that unvaccinated individuals wear masks in public spaces and that face coverings be worn in schools and childcare sites.

Olbrich Gardens advises their visitors:

- Please do not visit if you are feeling unwell or have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Visitors are not required to wear face coverings.

For the Badger Bonsai Society meeting being held on Jun-10-2021 at Olbrich Gardens, the Badger Bonsai Society Board Members would like you as a potential attendee to this meeting to be aware of the following:

If you have not been vaccinated for COVID-19 and are not able to maintain the CDC recommended safe social distancing, you **SHOULD** be wearing an appropriate face mask as well as controlling your social distancing.

Please bring along an appropriate face mask, regardless of your vaccination status.

If you have been vaccinated (we are taking you on your honor), you are welcome to wear a mask at anytime during this meeting if you choose because it makes you or others feel more comfortable.

This meeting will be reconfigured to provide improved social distancing, and we will have hand sanitizing solution available in the Upstairs Meeting Room for your use. We will also have a few extra face masks if needed.

If you are not comfortable with these measures, you always maintain the right to leave the meeting.

If any situations arise that cannot be amicably resolved, the Badger Bonsai Society Board reserves the right to ask any or all individuals involved to leave the BBS meeting and Olbrich Gardens facility.

2021 Annual Show greetings:

Even with full masking in place during our show, you can easily tell there is a huge welcoming smile behind that mask.

Thanks to Molly and all other BBS members who greeted and managed an anxious public.



Door Prizes

What can I say ... May was a bountiful month for door prizes thanks to several donations of trees from MaryE and prior BBS member TonyA. Newly joined member Dean reaped the benefits of a very nice 6x9 unglazd japanese pot valued well in excess of his annual dues; Elaine won a 7" square footed pot; BenK2 (we have 2 Ben-Ks as members now) and Seth each won a nice large fig bonsai, and Barbara won a nice ficus bonsai.

And remember ...

If you bring a 'show-n-tell' item to our meetings, you get an extra entry for the door prizes.

Recap of Badger Bonsai 2021 Annual Show

The Badger Bonsai Society 2021 Annual Show held Sat May-15 and Sun May-16-2021 at Olbrich Gardens was a resounding success! With 59 individual trees on display, 4 bonsai demonstrations, and an estimated 1300 to 1400 individuals attending, this was a welcome respite from being cooped up the past year due to COVID-19 (and missing the show in 2020), and allowed us to share our members hard work and passion for bonsai with the public.

A great thank you to all of the Badger Bonsai Society members for their efforts to setup, teardown, assist during the exhibit and particularly when engaged with the public's many questions (if anyone is forgotten, I apologize): Barbara, BenK2 and Katie, BenK1, Bills, ChrisH, Duke, Elaine, Frank, Gary, Gene and Linda, JoeG, JohnK, Karl, MaryE, Molly, Ron, Tamaki, TimO, Wayne, WillR, and Zach. Also thank you to those members exhibiting trees: Barbara, ChrisH, Gene and Linda, Karl, MaryE, Molly, Ron, TimO, Wayne, WillR, and Zach; and to TimO, Ron, MaryE and Karl for their excellent demonstrations. Such great club support, made this show fun.

The Badger Bonsai Society is grateful for the hosting of this event by Olbrich Gardens and the ongoing assistance of the Olbrich Gardens Management and Staff.

... and the demonstrations were GREAT!

TimO demoed the initial styling of a nursery-found Juniper



Ron (of Ancient Arts Bonsai) refined and leaf-pruned a previously styled Zelkovia (below) and Boxwood (right)



MaryE demoed the initial styling of (quite) a nursery-found Hinoki Cypress



Karl styled a Cotoneaster, his Sunday afternoon demo attended by 35 guests



Public Favorites at the Annual Show



Above: The public #1 favorite tree was: tree #41, a Boxwood, estimated to be 30 years old, trained as a bonsai for 25 years, and displayed by ChrisH.

Right: The #2 favorite tree was: tree #27, a Korean Hornbeam, estimated to be 70 years old, trained as a bonsai for 40 years, and displayed by Ron.



At left: The public #3 favorite tree was: tree #44, a Japanese Maple, estimated to be 14 years old, in training as a bonsai for 12 years, and displayed by ChrisH.

Other Shows and Conventions or Societies:

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

US National Exhibition

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 & Peinjing Museum reopens

GREAT NEWS ... on Jun-1-2021, The National Bonsai Foundation indicated that the National Bonsai & Peinjing Museum has reopened at the US National Arboretum.

New Blog: The Future of Bonsai

Be sure to check out the [May-21-2021](#) National Bonsai Foundation blog, where Todd Schafner talks about his introduction to, his passion for, and his future plans for his bonsai interests. Recall that Todd had been scheduled for the MABA event originally scheduled for June-2021. This event, now rescheduled for Jun-23 to 26-2022, still has Todd scheduled as a show artist among 7 other artists; and the show has been re-christened as: [MABA / Milwaukee 202Two](#).

In this new series, The Future of Bonsai, the National Bonsai Foundation is highlighting up-and-coming bonsai and penjing pioneers who are next in line to spread the spirit of bonsai. Bookmark this and check back often.

Recent Link of Interest

- Karl recently came across this article by Dr. Zorba Paster of Wisconsin Public Radio (WPR). An interesting read! [Hugs, Sunshine And Trees Might Provide A Natural Antidepressant](#). Can you extend this to our practice of bonsai being good for you? ... of course, we knew that already didn't we! And even better, he published this on May-8-2021, National Bonsai Day!

our website: badgerbonsai.net

Tentative 2021 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

Jun-10 - Bring in your tree(s) from the Amur Maple Dig (or any other trees you desire) for design and styling discussions

Jul-8 - Movie of 2021 Annual Show trees; review June-Challenge project feedback

July-2021 - no membership picnic

Aug-12 - TBD

Aug-2021 - bonsai beginnings seminar ???

Sep-9 - TBD

Sep-2021 - membership picnic ... ???

BBS member downsizing

A BBS member is interested in downsizing his collection. If you are interested in a large juniper (and pot) shown below, please leave a message using the BBS website [Contact Us form](#), and Wayne will put you in contact with the owner. Tree is 3 ft tall, estimated to be 32 years old and "in-training" for 25 years.



Also a large Ficus (32 years old and 27 years in training) at left;

and at the right, a Korean Hornbeam (33 years old and 27 years in training).

