



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday Nov-11-2021 | 6:30 to 8pm
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI

AGENDA:

Elect Officers; Japanese Orchids; Making Pots for Bonsai; Jan-2022 dinner plans; bulk soil interest

CLUB OFFICERS:

Co-President Wayne / Bill
Vice President Mary
Treasurer Gary
Web admin / Newsletter Wayne
Librarian Ben
Refreshments Elaine

President's Message

We had a busy October for bonsai in Madison. Olbrich Gardens had their Grand Opening of their new facilities (I hope many members were able to attend, I did and had a great discussion with the new librarian), we had a successful social get-together, there were several bonsai workshops, and perhaps most important of all was the discussion of wintering strategies at our Oct-14th meeting. Shortly after that, Wisconsin had our first frost warnings up north, and in the weeks since, the entire state has seen sub-freezing temperatures and windchill warnings overnight and even on some days. Now as I write this, we expect 60°F temperatures on Sunday. As we all know, and especially lately, our WI-weather often has a mind of its own, and those whims seriously challenge our sanity AND our plans for our bonsai trees. Being ready to winterize as early as September is always a prudent strategy!

Our Oct-14th meeting at Olbrich Gardens, had a total of 20 attendees, with 1 first time attendee (Clif from Milwaukee discussed his custom wooden bonsai display stands – and several BBS members liked his Milwaukee Bonsai Society shirt). Thanks to Ralph for his presentation of his chrysanthemums (several blooming, see details and pictures on page 2); Karl, Tim and Wayne for presentations on bonsai formal upright, informal upright, semi- and cascade styles; for Mary's illustration of secondary wiring for enhanced styling on her informal upright hinoki cypress (initially styled at May-2021 annual show demo); Wayne for an overview of different wintering strategies (hopeful this was timely enough); and presentation of members' show-n-tell trees and pots. We also discussed and presented several members as nominees for 2022 officers.

Our Nov-11th meeting will be held in the Olbrich Gardens Upstairs Meeting Room; our normal 2nd floor meeting location. We'll again use a theatre style seating with fewer tables to provide greater seating capacity and a better opportunity for safe distancing as needed.

With the recent changes due to COVID in Dane County ... masks must be worn at all times for our Nov-11th meeting at Olbrich Gardens.

Remember to turn your nametag back in at the end of the meeting. — Wayne

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November Meeting Agenda

Our plans for the Nov-11th meeting include: new attendees intro; election of officers for 2022 (**note that the BBS Board is re-instating the Secretary position for 2022, with duties of maintaining meeting minutes and official correspondence ... anyone interested?**); JonB will talk about how he makes his custom bonsai pots; Ken will speak on Japanese Orchids (see page 3). We also want to survey members (see sidebar at right) at the Nov & Dec meetings, and explore the level of interest in bulk soil component purchases, with an associated soil mixing and sieving activity on an early-spring weekend(s).

Recap of Oct-14th meeting

Once again, thank you to Ralph for bringing in his chrysanthemums and talking about their development over the past 4 or 5 years. Each plant he displayed was originally purchased from Kings Mums (mail order) — see the pictures at right. Ralph indicated one of best references of bonsai "mums" is **The Art of The Chrysanthemum** by Tameji Nakajima and H. Carl Young, now out of print and hard to find (used copies are on Amazon for upwards of \$90) ... regrettably the BBS library does not have a copy (yet).

JohnR mentioned Landscape Techniques LLC in Baraboo as a potential location of "old" nursery plants that might be suitable for bonsai ... let us know if you find anything good for next spring (take before and after pictures).

Talks on formal upright, informal upright and semi- and cascade styles presented a lot of good information; thanks Karl, Tim, Mary and Wayne.

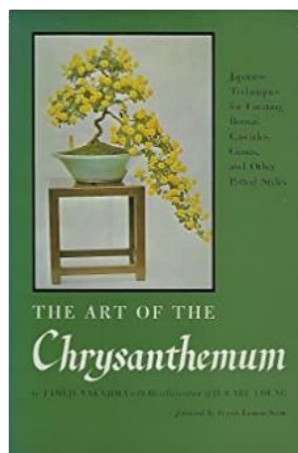
Wayne also prepared an overview of wintering strategies for members to consider for their trees in the Wisconsin area. While many options are available to assist in overwintering, it still comes down to your personal decision on the approach(s) that are suitable for your trees, your space available, timing and cost. However the most important recommendation is to develop your own strategies EARLY ON and be ready to implement at a moments notice!

After all, this is Wisconsin!

... activities for 2022

With the new year soon upon us soon, and new officers in place in December, we once again want to hear what members would like to see for meeting content and club activities in the next year. This year we have once again decided to go with an unstructured, "blank-slate" approach. Please put your thoughts and ideas about what you would like to see the BBS do in 2022 and bring along to the Nov & Dec meetings.

There will not be a Jan-13th meeting at Olbrich, but instead we will have a membership dinner. We will discuss your thoughts about menu choices at the Nov-11th meeting. Thanks to Mary for looking into this.



Japanese Orchids

"An Introduction to the "Samurai Orchid": 400 years of beauty and tradition"

Within Japan there is long history of growing small plants in the style of "Koten Engei" in which different cultivars, often of the same species, are grown for display in ornamental pottery. This popular hobby is similar to but also quite different from bonsai. Among the most popular of plants to grow in this manner are orchid varieties of *Neofinetia falcata*.

For centuries only Japanese nobility collected this plant in its many unusual forms, but today their small size and ease of cultivation is helping to develop a new appreciation for them. They are highly collectable - some might even say addictive. But, there is so much more to these orchids than their beautiful and highly fragrant flowers. Plants come in all shapes and sizes; some growers remove the flowers to encourage unusual leaf development and some are even cultivated exclusively for their root color more than for their flowers - isn't that strange? An international social culture that includes art, language, pottery, training, and a specialized system of judging awaits the enthusiast who begins to explore the world of fuukiran - the "orchid of wealth and nobility".

Ken Cameron, Professor of Botany at the UW-Madison, currently has a private collection of more than 200 *Neofinetia falcata* plants as well as dozens of handmade pottery and accessories imported from Japan for their cultivation and display. He will take us on a world tour focused exclusively on these unique Asian orchids from a horticultural, artistic, scientific, and historical perspective.



A bit more about Ken:

Aside from his academic research — focused on the taxonomy (classification) and biology of orchids, he has a deep passion for growing Japanese “*fuukiran*” (sometimes called **Samurai Orchids**) and has an extensive personal collection. Earlier this year, Ken was featured on the cover of “Engei Japan” magazine and was interviewed about his hobby!

Ken was an exchange student to Japan when he was in high school and has always had a love of their culture. He still travels frequently to China and Japan, and is a new member of the Badger Bonsai Society in 2021, and is looking forward to new adventures in bonsai. We look forward to this presentation, and wish him the best of luck with bonsai!



Other Shows and Conventions or Societies:

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

Winter Bonsai and Silhouette Show

Dec-4 and Dec-5-2021

Kannapolish, North Carolina

MABA/Milwaukee 202Two

June 23-26, 2022 Milwaukee, WI

Hosted by Milwaukee Bonsai Society. Includes 3 artist demonstrations, 19 artist workshops, and 6 presentations.

Oct-16th ... social get together pics

Our Saturday get-together had 11 members in attendance. Pleasant time and some good bonsai and non-bonsai discussions. Door prizes to Gene, Wayne (gifted to Kevin), JohnR and TimO. Zach's trees led to some mini-styling sessions. Old green t-shirt design was favored over the old black t-shirt design.



Tentative 2021 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

Nov-11 - making bonsai pots, Japanese orchids, officer elections

Dec-9 - Ficus designs, Suiseki / Viewing Stones

Jan-13-2022 - Membership dinner - date/site TBD ... **no regular meeting at Olbrich**

Feb-10 - TBD

Mar-10 - TBD

Apr-2 - 1:30pm to 4:30pm BBS workshop at Olbrich Gardens ... specific activity / cost TBD

Apr-14 - TBD

May-12 - TBD, show planning

May-21 & 22 - 2022 BBS Annual Show

Door Prizes

Congratulations to door prize winners of various pots: Melba, Paolo and Ken at the Oct-14th meeting. And remember, bring a 'show-n-tell' item to our meetings that is beyond the meeting topic and you get an extra entry for the door prizes.

Recent Links of Interest

- Amazon: [The Art of the Chrysanthemum](#)
- Bonsai Empire: [Making A Bonsai Pot](#)
- National Bonsai Foundation: [Bonsai is Back](#)

The Chrysanthemum ...

is the Japanese flower symbol for the Emperor and the Imperial family, and as such appears on the Imperial Seal, Japanese passports and the 50-yen coin. It is also said to represent longevity and rejuvenation. It is also the symbol of autumn, harvest and goodwill. Because of its auspicious meaning, the flower frequently appears on decorations, accessories, porcelains, kimonos and obis.

our website: badgerbonsai.net