



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday Dec-9-2021 | 6:30 to 8pm
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI

AGENDA:

Ficus Pruning; Suiseki / Viewing Stones; Jan-2022 dinner plans; ideas for 2022 activities, DUES

CLUB OFFICERS:

President Wayne
Vice President Mary
Secretary Lisa
Treasurer Gary
Web Admin / Newsletter Wayne
Librarian Ben
Refreshments Elaine

President's Message

Here we are close to wrapping up another year ... and while 2021 was a much better year than 2020, we still have the COVID spectre hanging around continuing to disrupt our pre-COVID lifestyles. However, we do still have the constancy and requirements of our trees, don't we. Though even the weather seems unable to make up its mind with regard to the wintering season, and temperature swings week-to-week are keeping us all on our toes with regard to our bonsai and our plans for dormancy -- oh well, nothing new to us in Wisconsin. Keep in mind that the spring growth season is only 3 to 4 months away, and you should already be starting to "gear-up" and make plans for our trees' spring activities: repotting, new soil, early season pruning and styling. Check back to our late-2020 and early-2021 newsletters for coverage of these to-do lists and activities for the next couple of months.

Our Nov-11th meeting at Olbrich Gardens, had a total of 20 attendees, with 1 first time attendee (EvaS from Olbrich Gardens); JonB and KenC each gave excellent presentations (see details and pictures on page 2, thanks Loren for pictures again); we held our officer elections, and solicited ideas for club activities in 2022.

Our Dec-9th 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. ---Wayne

With the recent changes due to COVID in Dane County ... masks must be worn at all times for our Dec-9th meeting at Olbrich Gardens.

December Meeting Agenda

Our plans for the Dec-9th meeting include: new attendees intro; collection of membership dues for 2022; collection of your ideas for 2022 activities (see side-bar page 2); final estimate of headcount for Jan-13th membership dinner; presentations by Karl on Suiseki / and guest-former BBS-member TonyA on Viewing Stones and Zach will be speaking about Ficus varieties suitable for bonsai and the pruning and propagation methods (see page 3). Zach will have several examples of his trees. **Remember to bring along your own suiseki.**

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Recap of Nov-11th meeting

Election of officers and positions for 2022:

President (& newsletter / website) - Wayne,
Vice President - Mary, Treasurer - Gary,
Secretary - Lisa, Librarian - BenK,
Refreshments - Elaine.

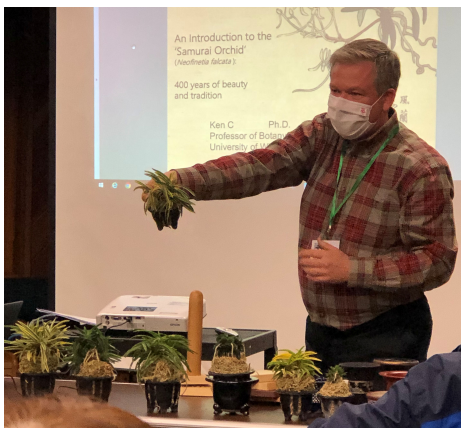
EvaS (Olbrich Gardens Librarian) spoke about an opportunity to integrate the books of the Badger Bonsai Society library into the searching and physical storage of the Olbrich Library. While we are still working out the details, this offers a great opportunity to provide a wealth of knowledge of bonsai to the general public and provide improved access to the BBS membership. We expect to have this program in place in early-2022 ... details will be provided in a forthcoming newsletter and be updated on the BBS website.



MaryE conducted a quick poll and the majority of people expressing an interest in attending the January-2022 membership dinner preferred a buffet style menu choice.

JonB gave an interesting presentation showing the steps of how he is making his own bonsai pots using clay-slabs construction, and even encouraging audience participation. (See the links from his presentation to the right.)

And finally, KenC gave a very interesting presentation on the history and cultivation of Japanese Orchids, as well as multiple examples of these unique plants and pots.



... Jan-13-2022 member's dinner

There **will not** be a Jan-13th meeting at Olbrich, rather we will have a membership dinner at Imperial Garden (2039 Allen Blvd, Middleton, WI). We will have a buffet style dinner, Thursday Jan-13th. We will meet for drinks in the bar at 6pm, then go to the back meeting room for dinner at 7pm. Thanks to Mary for looking into this.

2022 activities

As we mentioned last month, we 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 down your thoughts and ideas about what you would like to see the BBS do in 2022 and turn in at the Dec-9th meeting.

Pottery links from JonB's presentation

[Pottery Tool Set \(Amazon\)](#)

[How to Wedge Clay](#)

[How to roll a clay slab](#)

[Overview of entire build](#)

[How to create a template](#)

[Leather-hard clay](#)

[Refining your pot: part 1](#)

[Refining your pot: part 2](#)

[Overview of different approaches to making pots](#)

[What to do with clay scraps](#)



Specialized clay tools

[ribs](#)

[sponges](#)

[corner tool](#)

[scoring tool](#)

[bevel tool](#)



Other Shows and Conventions or Societies:

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

Winter Silhouettes Bonsai Display

by the Milwaukee Bonsai Society

Saturday Feb-12, 2022 (9am to 4pm) at The Domes

Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory

524 S. Layton Blvd, Milwaukee, WI

MABA/Milwaukee 202Two

June 23-26, 2022 Milwaukee, WI

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

Suiseki and Viewing Stones

At our Dec-9th meeting we will continue our annual tradition of discussing suiseki and viewing stones, with a thorough and encompassing presentation from Karl. In addition, this year a former BBS member is bringing along several of his uniquely found viewing stones, an example of which is shown at right.

If you have a piece of your own, please bring along to show and optionally discuss.



Take time to examine the [extensive collection](#) at the National Bonsai Museum.

Ficus

Dec-9th, Zach will be talking about Ficus, their different varieties, and how the ease of propagation and ramification by pruning makes these an excellent plant for beginning through experienced bonsai artists. Their "forgiving-ness" and rapid growth (often needs pruning cut-backs 4 or more times a year) can easily keep all involved.



Tentative 2021 / 2022 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

Dec-9 - Ficus designs, Suiseki / Viewing Stones

Jan-13-2022 - Membership dinner - Imperial Garden ... **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: (Ben, Dean and Vicky) and T-shirts (Lisa and Paolo gifting to Brian) at the Nov-11th meeting. Thanks for show-n-tell items: Lisa (mini jade tree), Zach (desert rose) and Ben (pumice alternative 'grow stone'). 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

- NBF: [The Ever-Evolving Art of Bonsai](#)
- NBF: [The Beauty of Bonsai](#)
- from Karl: [Giant Sequoia in Michigan](#)
- Bonsai Empire: [Suiseki](#) and [YouTube Video](#)
- Bonsai Empire: [Aqua-Bonsai](#)

Annual Dues should be paid to the Treasurer at the December meeting. A reminder email will be sent out to all 2021 members prior to the Dec-9th BBS meeting, and will identify if you qualify for the "next-year" 1/2 price rate if you joined after May-1-2021.



our website: badgerbonsai.net