



# BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | Jan - Feb 2022

## Next Meeting Date:

Thursday Feb-10-2021 | 6:30 to 8pm  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI

## AGENDA:

Ficus Pruning; update on by-laws

## CLUB OFFICERS:

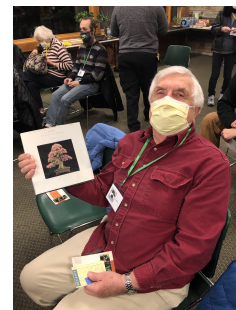
President ..... Wayne  
Vice President ..... Mary  
Secretary ..... Lisa  
Treasurer ..... Gary  
Web Admin / Newsletter ..... Wayne  
Librarian ..... Ben  
Refreshments ..... Elaine

## President's Message

Welcome to 2022! Regrettably we ended up canceling our planned membership dinner ... chalk another one up to COVID. It has to end eventually ... doesn't it? Dare I say this will become the new norm ... I hope not! Just as I hope that this rash of inconsistent weather and brief flashbacks to the polar vortex treatment we received a couple of years ago ... balmy one day and frigid the next; if only our trees could talk, it makes you wonder what they would say about the northern-midwest weather lately. And as these frigid spells came upon us quickly, were you able to execute your wintering plans? A couple more months and time will tell. This will be something to look forward to. In the same vein, I think our membership has some exciting things to look forward to in this coming year. We have established extended meeting times (to 8:45pm, so we can be out of Olbrich by 9pm) for the

meetings in April, June and September ... months were we should have a flurry of activities.

Our Dec-9th meeting at Olbrich Gardens had a total of 21 attendees; Karl gave an interesting presentation on Suiseki and guest Tony Ankowicz gave an enjoyable show on unique Viewing Stones that he harvests from the Great Lakes (see page 2, thanks Lisa and Loren for pictures); and Karl was formally awarded an Honorary Membership status in the BBS for his contributions over the years -- well deserved, and thanks for his past and continuing efforts and commitment to BBS and bonsai. ---Wayne



## Agenda for Feb-10th meeting

If anyone has any show'n'tell items, we are going to try and get these taken care of earlier in the meeting ... just be careful to protect anything you bring from the potentially harsh weather. We will have an update on the significant progress that the by-laws team and the BBS Board has achieved, and Mary will describe the next steps, with a goal of membership voting on proposed changes at the Mar-10th meeting. We also hope to have a brief update on our Facebook "revamping" initiative, and discuss ideas and interest level for our Apr-2nd workshop (Sat from

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1:30 to 4:30pm) at Olbrich Gardens. And finally, Zach will get to give his presentation on Ficus (see page 3) that was suspended at the Dec-9th meeting due to technical issues ... we have those issues in control now, and should not have those issues again.

## Recap of Dec-9th meeting

Karl presented an overview of Suiseiki, with many amazing pictures, and a few guest examples of striking beauty. In addition, guest and former BBS member Tony Ankowicz gave a truly fascinating presentation on Viewing Stones, many of which he harvests while snorkling in the Great Lakes. You can learn more and see examples of Tony's passion at: [viewingstonedesign.com](http://viewingstonedesign.com)

Some interesting comments from Tony are:

- Geology is to Viewing Stones as Botany is to Bonsai
- We lose our sense of scale when looking at 3D art in a 2D format ... This is advantageous when presenting Landscape Stones (or Bonsai), but without listed measurements, a photo can be deceiving.



## Bloodgood Japanese Maple

All Japanese maples are beautiful. But the cultivar 'Bloodgood' has few equals. About thirty years ago BobE and I were at an end-of-year auction at the Toddle In Nursery on highway 51 just south of McFarland. One of the many items that were to be sold were 1-gallon Bloodgoods. As I recall my winning bid was \$7, so I bought them all. There were 10 or 12 trees in the lot. I gave some away and lost a few. I put one in the ground 30 years ago and it did fine until the polar vortex three years ago killed a portion of the tree, and completely killed a JM viridis.



I was recently surprised to discover the origin of the name 'Bloodgood'. I had assumed that it was a reference to the beautiful red foliage that the tree has. Wrong! It turns out that Bloodgood was the name of a nursery in New York, one of the earliest if not the earliest in the US. Bloodgood was the family name of the operators. Somewhere around the time of the Civil War they began to sell this Japanese maple. Here is a quote from the Maple Ridge Nursery web site: Many people believe that *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood' was named for its dark red color, but it was actually named in the late 19th century by Bloodgood Nursery in New York. Bloodgood Nursery was the first American nursery to sell this tree, so they named it after their own nursery. It is unclear where they first received the tree, because trees were not actively coming out of Japan at that time. It is thought that Bloodgood Nursery likely received the tree from the Netherlands as a select *Atropurpureum* that was displaying exceptionally nice color.

Regardless of its origins, Bloodgood is probably the most popular Japanese maple in the world and has become the standard by which all other red upright Japanese maples are judged. *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood' was also a recipient of the prestigious Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society for its outstanding qualities. --- Karl



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.

## Cottage Grove Plant Sale Feb-27th

This might be worth checking out ... bonsai ???

GET READY! Mark your calendars now!

Plants, cuttings, & accessories

Doundrins is family friendly, so kids of all ages are also welcome!

Find us here:

Doundrins Distilling

(608) 571-4482

300 Progress Drive, Cottage Grove, WI



**Doundrins February**  
**"Budget-Friendly"**  
**Houseplant Sale**  
Majority of plants & accessories under \$100  
SUN, FEB 27 AT 11 AM  
February "Budget-Friendly" Plant Sale [Click for Info](#)  
Cottage Grove

## Ficus

Because of technical difficulties at the Dec-9th meeting, Zach was not able to give his planned presentation. So on Feb-10th, 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 to 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. If you have any ficus-questions, bring them along.

Tentative 2022 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

Feb-10 - Ficus pruning and propagation (from Dec meeting), progress on by-laws revision

Mar-10 - Pots and Re-potting

Apr-2 - 1:30pm to 4:30pm BBS workshop at Olbrich Gardens ... specific activity TBD; no cost

Apr-14 - TBD; meeting extended to 8:45pm

Apr-TBD - dig of yews / junipers in Monona

May-12 - TBD, show planning

May-21 & 22 - 2022 BBS Annual Show from 10am to 4pm each day at Olbrich Gardens

## Door Prizes

Congratulations to door prize winners of various pots: (Zach, Ken, BenK and BrianT) at the Dec-9th meeting. 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*

- Bonsai Tree Gardener: [Care Guide for Japanese Maple Bonsai](#)
- from BenK: [Americanbonsai.com](#) has handmade bonsai pottery from many different potters. Individual potter names are listed and prices often reasonable. Also find names of American potters & search for their works.
- [Viewing Stone Assn of North America](#)
- [California AisekiKai Virtual Show](#), 32nd Annual Exhibition at The Huntington

**Annual Dues** should be paid to the Treasurer at the February meeting.

A reminder email was sent out to all 2021 members prior to the Dec-9th BBS meeting. Our Treasurer would prefer that dues be paid by check (to the Badger Bonsai Society) if at all possible.



our website: [badgerbonsai.net](http://badgerbonsai.net)