



# BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

**Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | Jun 2022**

### Next Meeting Date:

Thursday Jun-9-2021 | 6:30 to 8:45pm  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI

### AGENDA:

Show Recap, Larch discussion, BCI photos

### CLUB OFFICERS:

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

## President's Message

Already we are heading into the end of spring; our trees are out, hopefully with no wintering losses, and we are into the typically busiest time of the year for most of our trees ... watering, fertilizing, pruning, styling, and already some repotting and propagation activities. We also tend to be on constant watch around nurseries for those good deals (several Annual Show attendees learned of the Toddle-In Nursery -- a "honey-hole" just south of McFarland ... good variety, inexpensive and some good bonsai-starter or learning trees ... definitely worth a trip – and even lower cost if you don't take the tree warranty).

And most importantly, we have our 2022 Annual Show behind us — a tremendous success that many long time BBS members indicate *"was the best show ever!"* (see all the details in the newsletter), with great attendance, interest, and

the potential for many new members for the BBS. Our May-12th meeting at Olbrich Gardens had a total of 34 attendees, with 3 first time attendees. This is the most people we have had present at a regular meeting for at least 5 years (that I have been a BBS member), and speaks well to our efforts to increase membership and the interest being developed for bonsai in the southern-WI area ... let's keep this trend going! ---Wayne

### Agenda for Jun-9th meeting

At our June meeting Wayne will present a slide show of the bonsai on display at our 2022 Annual Show (thanks to Paolo for the excellent tree photos and Loren for some activity pictures) ... if you did not hear, this event was a tremendous success, with attendance numbers topping any of the recent years (see details and numbers on page 2). Karl will present photos from some of the events and exhibitions that he and Barbara attended at the American Bonsai Society (ABS) 2022 National Convention / Brussel's Rendezvous held May 26 to 29, 2022 in Olive Branch, Mississippi (see sidebar on page 3 about the New Talent Competition at that event). And finally, we will discuss Larch for bonsai -- feel free to bring in any larch you have to show and discuss; we will probably have a follow-up with the larches again at our Aug-11th meeting.

Also, remember to bring along your show and tell

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items ... an item not related to the primary meeting topic will get BBS members an extra ticket for door prizes!

## Recap of May-12th meeting

Wayne reminded all of the May-14th World Bonsai activities. TimO provided an interesting presentation on roots and nebari of bonsai, and how to deal with some of the related issues. Colin, Ken and Loren spoke about their experience at a recent black pine workshop at Wisco Bonsai; Ron discussed key points about getting your bonsai ready for display and exhibition; and in the context of the then upcoming Annual Show, Mary indicated she was contacted by local Channel3000 TV's "In The 608" segment reporter Josh Spreiter who was particularly interested in our bonsai exhibit and has arranged for a series of 4 short early-morning live interviews with Mary and Ron outside of Olbrich Gardens on the Thursday morning before the Saturday and Sunday shows. You can see 2 of the 4 interviews at this ["In The 608" segment](#). We're excited about this publicity; (link above).



Mary also reminded us that we will have our poster in the Madison newspaper on the weekend prior to the show.

Show'n'tells consisted of Colin talking about SAKadama (a product developed in South Africa as a lower cost alternative to akadama, with the additional benefit of currently being more readily available than akadama), Ken showing his European Hornbeam, and Zach showing a Quince that he has grown as a cutting from his family's bonsai, and has been grown as *a root over brick*.

## Meeting Door Prizes

Congratulations to door prize winners of various pots: (Tamaki, Frank, Jason and Linda) at the May-12th meeting. Remember, bring a 'show-n-tell' that is beyond the meeting topic and you get an extra entry for the door prizes.

## Your Thoughts on the Annual Show

If you were able to attend our 2022 Annual Show, and will be at the Jun-9th meeting, please take a moment to jot down your thoughts about what you thought worked well at the show, what did not work well, and if you have any ideas about what we can do to improve for our next show in May-2023. We will collect your ideas at the Jun-9th meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting, please feel free to email your thoughts to Wayne or leave on the BBS website using the [Contact Us](#) menu choice.



## BBS Requests ... ?

*Do you know of a weekend meeting space that we could gain access to in the Madison area for minimal cost to consider more frequent workshops, training sessions or BBS get-togethers ... if so, please let an officer know ?*

## 2022 Annual Show ... WOW!

If you did not have the opportunity to attend the BBS 2022 Annual Show ... in short, *you missed a GREAT Event !*

We had 65 bonsai on display from 17 of our members ... [and more TV-coverage on Sunday](#).

Over the course of this 2 day event, we tallied 2034 attendee's votes. Because not all attendees chose to vote or did not turn in their voting slip, we typically estimate the total attendance to be 15% greater than the number of tallied votes — that would mean we estimate that 2340 people attended this two day event at Olbrich Gardens.

(Last year we had 1150 votes and estimated an attendance of 1350 people.)

Thanks to the demonstrators: Zach on repotting a bonsai; Ron creating a Japanese Maple forest planting; Mary with strategy for selecting a nursery tree for a bonsai and her two-cut Ginkgo styling; and Karl for his Alberta Spruce forest planting. Also thanks to all BBS members who helped with the setup/teardown, and those present and interacting with the attendees ... *a great job!*

And thanks to Olbrich Gardens and their Staff for all of your help in making this event a success.

## ABS New Talent ... success and satisfaction

At the recent ABS National Convention, Kevin Stoeveken (owner of Wisco Bonsai in Sussex-WI) participated in the *Joshua Roth New Talent Contest* in Olive Branch Mississippi. Participants were given pre-bonsai raw stock (Shimpaku Junipers) and tasked with giving the material its first bonsai styling. Kevin wrote:

*All of the material were upright "S" trunks... I knew I had to somehow eliminate that trunk line as cliché "mall-sai", but as I was sporting a freshly broken clavicle bone, I knew I could not wrestle any really heavy copper... so laying it down and out as a semi-cascade was the logical move for me.*

*When the votes were tallied, I won the Popular Vote by a Mississippi Mile, but when that was combined with the judge's votes, I came in second place (to the tree of John Caro, at lower right) ... BY 1 DANG VOTE !!! LOL*

*I guess it wasn't meant to be ;-)*

*And that's OK as I was very happy with my design and the execution, along with how it was set up for future success ...*

*and most importantly I had a blast !!! ---Kevin*



## 2022 Annual Show Public Favorite Bonsai Displays ... after the public's votes were tallied !!

for size reference --- each ID card in the images is 4-1/4 inches wide

### Fan Favorite #1

Hinoki Cypress by Mary; estimated age 7 years and in her training for 2 years (this was a demo tree at our 2021 Show), collected 211 fan votes.



### Fan Favorite #2

Weeping Hemlock in Rock by Jennifer; estimated age 7 to 10 years and in her training for 3 years, collected 175 fan votes.



**Fan Favorite #3**  
 Chinese Elm by Ron; estimated age 50 years and in his training for 17 years, collected 102 fan votes.



**Fan Favorite #4**  
 Pfitzer Juniper by Zach; estimated age 15 years and in his training for 8 years, collected 101 fan votes.



**Fan Favorite #5**  
 Azalea by Barbara; estimated age 5 years and in her training for 2 years, collected 89 fan votes.



**Fan Favorite #6**  
 South African Fig by Melba; estimated age 11 years and in her training for 8 years, collected 88 fan votes.



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

Other Shows and Conventions or Societies:

[MABA/Milwaukee 202Two](#)

June 23-26, 2022 Milwaukee, WI

[9th World Bonsai Convention](#)

Oct 8 to 16, 2022 in Perth Australia

The first Virtual World Bonsai Convention with demonstrators from every WBFF region, including some live, interactive sessions with International Demonstrators with unlimited replays for registrants. *Early-bird register before Jun-30th.*

Tentative 2022 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

Jun-9 - Recap of Annual Show, BCI photos, Larch discussion ... **extended meeting to 8:45pm**

Jul-14 - Social get-together (not at Olbrich, location TBD) ... no agenda, but members welcome to bring trees for discussions / demos

Aug-11 - TBD

## Using Larch for bonsai

One of the more appealing species of trees for the development of an elegant bonsai is the Larch. Its fine clustered needles work well in maintaining a sense of proportion between trunk, branching and foliage. BCI Bonsai identifies some species suitable for bonsai:

*Larix decidua*: European Larch - this European native can grow to 75 feet tall, and is hardy in zones 4-6. It is a high altitude tree, and can even be found at altitudes above 8200 ft. The flowers are tiny - yellow for male and red for female.

*Larix decidua* 'Diane': contorted larch.

*Larix x eurolepis* (*decidua* x *kaempferi*): Dunkeld larch - a hybrid between the European and Japanese species.

*Larix kaempferi* (also called *L. leptolepis*): Japanese larch - the Japanese variety of larch is similar to the European larch in size. It is hardy in zones 5-6 and has bluish-green needles.

*Larix laricina*: American larch, tamarack, hackmatack - smaller and hardier than the previous larches, the American larch grows to 60 feet, and can withstand zone 2 temperatures! It has finely flaking dull pink or pink-brown bark. This *Larix* has significant flowers, which are tiny, but bright red.

*Larix sibirica*: Siberian larch

**NOTE:** [from Bonsai Outlet:](#) *Pseudolarix amabilis* is commonly known as the **Golden Larch**, **although it is not a true larch.** It is native to eastern China, growing in small areas in the southern and eastern mountains to heights of over 100 feet. The Golden Larch is also known under an older Latin name: *Pseudolarix kaempferi*, and is a deciduous tree with long shoots and short shoots that grow similar to a larch; but unlike the larch family, it is quite tolerant of summer heat and humidity and can grow where most larches and firs are unable to thrive. The Golden Larch is a favorite low maintenance tree for bonsai growers for its beautiful fall color and hearty habit. With proper care, and attention to its undemanding, but specific needs, it will be a beautiful addition to any bonsai garden.



*image from Bonsai Direct.co.uk  
45 year old Larch Bonsai (88 cm tall)  
a bonsai from Bonsai Master  
Lloyd Noall's personal collection*

*If you can lay your hands on a copy of the No. 2 1996 issue of "International Bonsai" magazine, the entire issue is dedicated to Larch*

(continued on page 6)

Hunker.com summarizes the Larch:

*The larch is a conifer tree with unusually deciduous needles. The plant defoliates in winter and regrows new foliage in spring. There are several larches often used in the landscape. The common larch is also known as the European larch. The Western, sub-alpine and Eastern larches are all native to North America. The trees are fast-growing hardwoods. They can be propagated by seed, but the trees produce a low yield of seeds and cones. Larches are easy to graft and therefore easier to grow vegetatively than by seed. Softwood cuttings are done in summer, while hardwood cuttings are done in winter. Softwood cuttings show the greatest success.*

While Larch offer a lot of potential for bonsai, these trees are particularly finicky, and timing and your "task calendar" is critical or the health of the plant can be severely effected.

See the Recent Links sidebar (to the right) for many links related to larch as bonsai ... many of these links come from Herons Bonsai in the UK, as he (Peter Chan) admits that his initial business for bonsai was almost exclusively focused on larch, and his videos are always interesting, informative and cover a wide variety of topics. However, in all of the videos or articles, pay particular attention to the time of year when activities are taking place or are planned.



Show Demos:  
Standing room only  
with 70 to 100 people  
watching was typical;

nice jobs done by  
(clockwise from  
above): Zach, Ron,  
Mary and Karl !!!!

### *Recent Links of Interest*

- Nigel Saunders YouTube: [Growing larch from nursery seedlings](#)
- DIY Bonsai YouTube: [Larch cuttings for bonsai](#)
- Herons Bonsai YouTube: [Potting a field grown larch bonsai](#)
- Herons Bonsai YouTube: [Styling a larch](#)
- Herons Bonsai YouTube: [Bending experiment with larch](#)
- Herons Bonsai YouTube: [Larch as bonsai](#)
- Herons Bonsai YouTube: [Shaping and wiring larch bonsai](#)
- Saruyama Bonsai (Peter Warren) YouTube: [Larch in the Spring](#)
- Hunker: [Grow a larch tree from cuttings](#)
- Backyard Boss: [Larch bonsai growth and care guide](#)
- Eco Friendly Income: [How to Propagate Tamarack Larch \(Larix laricina\)](#)
- Bonsai Empire: [Larch Bonsai Care and Maintenance](#)
- Bonsai Releaf YouTube: [A Japanese Larch Becomes a Bonsai](#)
- Bonsai Empire: [Identify My Tree](#)
- BonsaiSchule Wenddorf (Germany): [Larch Bonsai Care](#)
- Bonsaiable Blog: [When to repot larch bonsai](#)
- Bonsai BCI: [Larch](#)

