



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | Dec 2022

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday Dec-8-2022 | 6:30 to 8pm

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI

AGENDA:

Collect "wishes" for 2023, Show-n-Tells;
Christmas Treats, Jan-12-2023 dinner sign-up

CLUB OFFICERS and Roles:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| President | Ron |
| Vice President | Mary |
| Secretary | Lisa |
| Treasurer | Ken |
| Web Admin / Newsletter | Wayne |
| Librarian | Alex |
| Refreshments | Elaine |

President's Message

Hello everyone, as I embark on my tenure as the leader of this club, I want to make it clear what goals I have in mind for 2023.

The club has experienced a surge in membership in 2022 and our first goal is to educate these new members with a solid foundation of basic bonsai skills. To that goal we have started with a class of 18 students this year and will complete those sessions in 2023. In addition we intend to provide content at the monthly meetings throughout the year that are seasonally appropriate to continue to build on those basic skills.

Another goal will be to enhance the learning opportunities that exist at our annual show in May 2023. The details are still being fleshed out, but my initial thoughts will be small groups of members that will review a few trees, possibly critique displays and or the trees themselves, and looking at the tree's current state and discuss ways

the tree can be improved for a future presentation.

My third goal is to have a couple of workshops that concentrate on specific techniques or specific species. These will be either half or full day events. Again specific details are yet to be set.

So my challenge / assignment to the membership is to think of workshop or demonstration ideas you would like to see presented, or you would like to present. At the Dec-8th meeting we will take a few minutes to hear your ideas and wishes, so please think about this in advance.

At this December's meeting we are returning to a "pre-covid" favorite activity which is members bring a sample of some of your favorite Holiday Snacks to share with others. These treats don't have to be elaborate and you don't have to bring enough for everyone. If everybody attending brings enough for 10 to 15 people we will have plenty for all to enjoy. Cookies, bars, crackers and cheese or dips, sausage or anything else you can think of; it creates a fun social event. Besides who doesn't like snacks. Don't forget to bring a (non-alcoholic) beverage to enjoy with the treats.

See you on December 8th. --- Ron

Agenda for Dec-8th meeting

The plan for the Dec-8th meeting at Olbrich Gardens (upstairs, normal meeting location) will be to collect your ideas for 2023 topics and

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activities and review final details and sign-up for the Jan-12-2023 membership dinner; have fun with show-n-tells; and enjoy Christmas treats ... and probably review additional wintering questions and preparation tasks for bringing your trees out of winter storage.

Recap of Nov-10th meeting

Our Nov-10th meeting at Olbrich Gardens again was well-attended with a total of 28 attendees (now for the 4th month in a row), but with no new attendees. Officers and club roles were elected (see below); Wayne showed magnified photos of typical bonsai soil components; we discussed some potential opportunities with the Milwaukee Bonsai Society in 2023; and Ron lead a discussion of wintering questions.

Show-n-Tell items and topics included: Betti concern about Chinese Elm (ended up gifting it to Vicki) and discussion of interesting books (one of which was referenced in a recent workshop she was able to attend in Japan – Wayne later found this book, *The Ultimate Bonsai Handbook*, at a local discount store and added it to the BBS library); Alex showing his plans for a Chinese Elm; Ken showing the significant growth of a pre-bonsai chrysanthemum he had purchased earlier in the year with Ralph; Skyler showing the extensive refinement and discussing his plans for the American Elm (from Ralph) that he won; Colin showing his progress on a makalon cherry; Zach showing some extensive wiring of heavy branches (and his impromptu but suitable display stool, LOL) of his pfitzer juniper. Thanks to all that contributed and to Loren for the photos.

Officers and club roles for 2023

Changes (shown as red in the page 1 listing) to the officers and roles for 2023 are: Ron as President (was Wayne), KenC as Treasurer (was Gary) and AlexC as Librarian (was BenKo). Wayne will also be continuing the transition of the newsletter editor and website admin roles to other members by April-2023. Mary, Lisa and Elaine are continuing in their prior officer positions / roles.

our website: badgerbonsai.net

Jan-12-2023 Membership Dinner ...

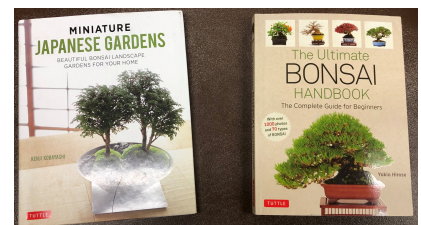
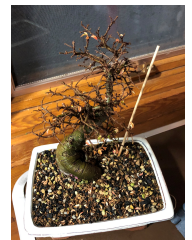
Our BBS annual membership dinner is ON this year! It will be on our regular Thursday meeting date - January 12th - drinks at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm. This will be banquet style with an egg roll, tea and 5 entries to pass around. The cost is \$23.00 per person with tax and tip included in your separate checks (your drinks are NOT included in that cost). This is a BBS-members only — and their guest(s) — event.

and will be held at Imperial Gardens — located at University Avenue and Allen Boulevard on the west side of Madison. ***At the November meeting 30 people already signed up and we will bring the signup sheet to the Dec-8th meeting.*** This evening should be especially enjoyable as we had to miss this the last two years.

Show'n'Tell from Nov 10th meeting ...

BenKo and Skyler (chinese elm)

Alex: chinese elm



Betty: Chinese Elm and good books for beginners

(left) Zach: pfitzer juniper & wiring

(below) Ken: chrysanthemum



Remarkable Trees

Trees are remarkably versatile – they can grow almost anywhere. However, there are some environments in which they simply can't grow. The word 'tundra' comes from the Finnish word 'tunturia' which means treeless plain. As one moves northward and the average annual temperature drops, there exists ground that is permanently frozen – permafrost. In contrast to say Madison, where the ground freezes to a depth of four or five feet, below which the temperature is above freezing, in the tundra with its permafrost, the only portion that thaws during the summer are the top few feet. The summer snowmelt is prohibited from percolating into the soil by the frozen layer below. So the surface layer in summer is frequently saturated producing a swampy, boggy, mosquito-loving morass. Most trees won't grow in these conditions – the deep roots that trees usually have would be useless in the permafrost. The only plants that can grow are those whose roots are confined to top few feet of soil. The one tree that does grow on the tundra is the arctic willow – *Salix arctica*. It usually only grows to a height of a few inches and its diminutive height permits it be covered with snow in the winter protecting it from extreme low temperatures and desiccating winds. Its small size also allows it to exist with a shallow root system – a taller tree needs deeper roots to hold it in place. Trees also need a degree of warmth during summer months. The average daytime temperature needs to be at least 45°F.

National Geographic ran a story a year or so ago, about the search for the southern most tree on the planet. Only South America was a candidate as none of the other continents extend as far south. Off the southern tip of South America lies Isla Hornos the last bit of land until Antarctica. The area surrounding Antarctica is known as the Southern Ocean and known to be the most treacherous body of water on the planet. At 40-50 degrees south latitude the lack of any landmass permits the wind to blow unimpeded, and blow it does. The [southern most tree on earth](#) is a beech species – *Nothofagus betuloides*, or Magellan's Beech. It is 42 years old and stands knee high.

Lastly – we have written about this previously – is the 'loneliest tree in the world', the Tree of Ténéré (an umbrella thorn acacia) in the Sahara desert of Niger, Africa. The nearest neighbor tree was almost 100 miles away.

Trees need not only a minimum temperature to survive, but also reliable water supply. Here in the U.S. that minimum rainfall needed is about twenty-five inches per year. More than that, trees can grow; less than that grasses and shrubs will grow. The [hundredth meridian west longitude](#) pretty closely marks this transition — west of that line you have grassland, and east of that line you have forest. This transition is not sharp, but spotty. When Laura Engels Wilder was writing *Little House on the Prairie*, the family was living in western Wisconsin. The uplands tended to be drier and grass covered, while the lower elevations were wetter and wooded. The military ridge road that ran from Fort Howard in Green Bay to Fort Crawford in Prairie du Chien followed upland ridges west of Madison - no need to cut down any trees, just drive your wagon along the ridge tops. Back to the Tree of Ténéré: It is not clear how this tree came to be so far removed from any of its neighbors. Did someone intentionally plant a seed? Was there a seed brought in via camel dung? Or the wind? No one knows. Amazingly, the tree survived in one of the driest places on earth. Sadly, this acacia tree was killed in 1973 when struck by a drunk driver.

Or, maybe it just died of loneliness. --- Karl



Tree of Ténéré 1961 image by Michel Mazeau, use permitted via Wikimedia Creative Commons Attribution

Per Wikipedia: The **Tree of Ténéré** was knocked down by a truck driver in 1973.

On November 8, 1973, the dead tree was moved to the Niger National Museum in the capital Niamey. A simple metal sculpture representing the tree stands where the tree once was.

Other Shows and Conventions or Societies:

Prairie State Bonsai Society Winter Silhouette Exhibit (Wheaton-IL)

Feb-18-2023: 10 am to 4 pm

A Silhouette exhibit displays the bonsai without leaves which may seem a little strange, but it is a great time to see the trees' structure, especially the ramification.

BBS Annual Dues are now due ...

and are payable beginning Nov-1-2022 for the upcoming 2023 year. Remember, if you joined the BBS as a first time member after May-1-2022, then you will renew at the 50% rate for your 1st subsequent year only. Thereafter you pay the normal renewal rate. An email has been sent out to 2022 members reminding them, and indicates if you qualify for the 50% rate.



We will also have the list available at the Dec-8th meeting if you need to confirm your renewal.

Thank you to the 20 members that renewed at the Nov-10th meeting.

Don't Forget ...

bring along your favorite Christmas cookies or treats for the Dec-8th meeting ...



Tentative 2022 - 2023 Calendar for Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:
(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

Dec-8 - ideas for 2023, show-n-tell, Xmas treats

Jan-10-2023 - no regular meeting ... member-and guest(s)-only dinner (sign-up at Dec-8th meeting); see details on page 2

Feb-9 - general meeting (content TBD)

Mar-9 - general meeting (content TBD)

March-?? - Bonsai Foundation Course, session 4

Apr-?? - Milwaukee Bonsai burning bush dig

Apr-13 - general meeting (content TBD)

April-?? - Bonsai Foundation Course, session 5

May-11 - general meeting (content TBD)

May-20 and May-21 - BBS 2023 Annual Show

Nov-10th Meeting Door Prizes

Congratulations to our door prize winners of pots and donated plants: Karl, Skyler, Jason, Barbara, Dean, JohnK, ChrisVE, and Vicki. Thanks also to BenKo who supplied a variety of starter plants (schefflera and Thanksgiving Cactus), and to WilliamB for supplying a lot of portulacaria afra cuttings for anyone interested.

Recent Links and Info of Interest

Bonsai Empire: [Overwintering Bonsai Trees](#)

December tasks, from Sumo Bonsai Supply (of south-Minnesota):

- Your bonsai should be tucked away in their winter quarters.
- Keep an eye on moisture in the pots to ensure that they do not dry out.
- Keep alert for pests that may have come in with your trees.
- This is a good time to start planning for the spring season ahead. What trees are you going to repot, what pots are you going to need, acquire soil and make notes and/or sketches on styling that you will do in the spring.