



BADGER BONSAI NEWS

July 2023

President's Message

By Ron Fortmann

Well, once again the weather in Wisconsin is a mystery. Our late spring has us asking, what the heck, when did we move to the desert? Rain has been almost nonexistent and when the local weather geeks do say we are going to have some rain, it's like buying a lottery ticket. Everybody is sure they have a winner but once the numbers are pulled, most of us are just left with some useless paper.

That being the case, we will discuss the importance of summer watering of our trees at the July meeting. We will also touch on some of the many things one can/should be doing in the next two months to move their trees forward on their bonsai journey.

It's also time to prepare yourself and your trees for the events that happen in August. First up is the Wisconsin State Fair, which will host a [rotating bonsai exhibit](#) and competition. There are trees on display all days of the fair. They will be judged to win one of several ribbons, including "Best of Show." Wisconsin residents are welcome to display their trees. At our July 13 meeting, I'll review the requirements for showing a tree at the fair.

There is also an opportunity to get free admission to the fair if you are willing to spend a couple hours manning the bonsai display as a "tree sitter," and answer questions from the general public. No worries if you think you don't know all the answers, because it's highly likely you will know more than those asking the questions. Tree sitting at State Fair is a fun way to share your love of this hobby. Fair dates are August 3-13, and there are shifts everyday from 10:00 am to



BADGER BONSAI
Society

Promoting and enjoying the
ancient art of bonsai since 1972.

CLUB OFFICERS AND ROLES

President	Ron
Vice President.....	Mary
Secretary	Lisa
Treasurer.....	Ken
Web Admin.....	Jason
Newsletter	Lisa
Librarian.....	Alex

*Badger Bonsai News is a monthly
publication of the Badger Bonsai Society.*

<https://badgerbonsai.net>

UPCOMING EVENTS

BBS July Meeting

Thursday, July 13, 6:30–8:00 pm
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Avenue

Agenda:

- Summer watering
- Mid-summer bonsai development tasks
- Water testing—bring your samples

President's Message continued

2:00 pm, 2:00 to 6:00 pm, and 6:00 to 10:00 pm. The bonsai exhibit will be in the Grand Champion Hall.

Mark your calendars for the [45th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition](#) at the Chicago Botanic Gardens August 18-20. This is a regional bonsai show with entries from several states surrounding Chicago and 15-20 vendors of all things bonsai, including potter [Sara Rayner](#).

Highlights of the show include a bring-your-own-tree workshop with guest master [Bjorn Bjorholm](#), a conifer styling demonstration by Bjorn, a guided tour of Chicago Botanic Gardens' permanent collection, screening of documentary "Edo Advant-Gard," several other workshops by well-known bonsai artists, and an informal dinner with a silent auction and raffle of the tree styled by Bjorn.

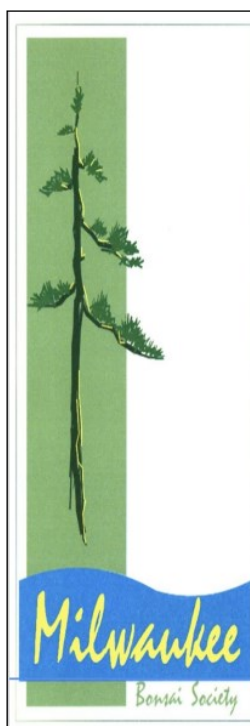
For details, including a full list of vendors, workshops, and information on entering your tree into the competition, visit Midwest Bonsai Society's website at the link above.

Finally, the weekend of August 26-27 is the Milwaukee Bonsai Society [Annual Exhibit](#) at Lynden Sculpture Gardens in River Hills. This year's guest artist is Bjorn Bjorholm. There will be demonstrations and workshops, vendors and 50+ trees of MBS members on display.

There are plenty of opportunities to get your bonsai fix in the coming weeks. Get out there, maximize your bonsai experiences, and be inspired.



[45th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition](#),
Chicago Botanic Garden,
August 18-20



Milwaukee Bonsai Society



Saturday Exhibit 10-5 pm
Sunday Exhibit 10-3 pm

52nd Annual Bonsai Exhibit

August 26 – 27 2023

Bjorn Bjorholm

Exhibit Trees | Trees in Training | Demonstration | Vendors | Raffles | Artist Workshops*

*Registration and fee



Presented by

www.milwaukeebonsai.org/ae

Hosted By
Lynden
SCULPTURE GARDEN

Wisconsin State Fair August 3-13, 2023

Rotating Bonsai Display

Presented by

Milwaukee Bonsai Society

At the

The Grand Champion Building

Exhibit 1 – Thursday - Sunday

Exhibit 2 – Monday - Wednesday

Exhibit 3 – Thursday – Sunday

Wisconsin State Fair Admission applies

www.milwaukeebonsai.org



June Meeting

Last month's meeting focused on post-flush pruning of our deciduous trees and conifers. Members who were looking for guidance and advice brought trees to work on. We also invited members to bring in water samples to test for water hardness and pH. We'll have test kits available again this month for those who missed out on testing last time.



Sharon and Yumi discuss design direction for Sharon's ficus.



Skyler (right) prunes his dawn redwood with some help from Alex, Mary, and Tim.



A hot topic at the June meeting was water pH and hardness. Ken brought in a hardness meter and Jonathan brought a digital pH test for members to test their home water quality.



Jonathan gives his Shimpaku juniper a deep trim.

Member Stories



Remember my attempt at air layering branches of a Japanese maple eight weeks ago? It worked! I now have 7 tiny trees to make into new bonsai.

- Ken



Spent some time thinning my Shimpaku juniper; essentially removing all tiny single tips that aren't actively growing. It's tedious and a pain, but super important to let light and air circulation into the canopy. When I'm done I will fertilize hard and continue to let it grow and then wire late summer.

- Zach

Member Stories



I have no idea what's going on, but this desert rose (*Adenium arabicum*) is going crazy this year! I kind of wanted to cut the flowers off to encourage more leaf development so I could cut it back later this summer, but decided to enjoy them a bit first.

- Zach



I went to a landscape rock place to get stones for an upcoming fish club convention, and picked two to turn into Shohin-sized suseiki. We had some scraps of oak left over from a recent kitchen project, so I had my first try at a hand-carved daiza.

I'm not a fan of oak for this (or for carving in general). I'll have to find some rosewood or something to try next.

- Sharon



Took a cruise to Pictured Rocks last night. Look at this bonsai inspiration. White pine on cathedral rock with its exposed roots growing like an umbilical cord to the mainland.

- Ken

2023 BBS Calendar

Meetings are on the second Thursday of the month unless noted.

July 13— Summer watering, mid-summer bonsai development tasks, water testing—bring your samples

August 10—Monthly Meeting. Late summer work

September 14—Monthly Meeting. Wiring and styling

October 12—Monthly Meeting. Fall preparation

November 9—Monthly Meeting. Winter preparation

December 14—Monthly Meeting. Holiday get-together, Suiseki viewing stones

Potential Workshops in 2023

July—Pruning, wiring, partial defoliation

September—Wiring, styling



Of
Interest
on the Web

A few of our suggestions for further study on what's happening this month in the world of bonsai.

[Moss Technique](#)

—Bonsai Tonight (Blog Post)

[Some Kind of Bonsai Magic](#)

—Stone Lantern (Bonsai Bark Post)

[One Essential to Plant Health: Water pH](#) - Crataegus Blog, Michael Hagedorn)

[Badger Bonsai Society Member Group](#)

BBS members only platform for sharing tips, advice, and inspiration between monthly meetings



Follow [Badger Bonsai Society on Facebook](#) for the latest news, meeting agendas, upcoming events, and inspiring shares from the world of bonsai.

Other Bonsai Events in the Area



David Cutchens Workshop

July 22, 9:00am - 4:00pm

July 23, 9:00am - 4:00pm

cost \$140.00 each day

Learn more:
[The Hidden Gardens](#)



[Anderson Japanese Gardens](#)

318 Spring Creek Road
Rockford, Illinois 61107
+1 815 229 9390

Open Daily

- Monday – Friday | 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Saturday & Sunday | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM