



BADGER BONSAI NEWS

November 2023

President's Message

By Ron Fortmann

Fall is definitely here and warning us of the coming winter, so our focus at the meeting will be talking about the different ways we might over-winter our trees.

There are a number of ways to do this depending on the type of tree, what facilities we have available, and other factors. We will discuss what has worked for some of our members and the positives and negatives of each.

November is also the month we hold our annual Board member elections. The individuals that take on these positions handle the business end of the club, and help plan the content of meetings and direction the club is taking in forwarding your bonsai experiences. If you are interested in stepping up and becoming a Board member don't be afraid to throw your hat in the ring for any position at the November meeting.

As was stated at the October meeting, there will be options available to renew your membership for 2024 that allow you to pay by PayPal and Zelle. See more information on Pg 5 in this newsletter.

Looking forward to our December meeting we are going to focus on two things. First, and most important, is the chance to mingle with other club members and enjoy some seasonal treats. We ask that members bring a sampling of a holiday favorite (cookies, bars, cheese and crackers, dips, assorted nuts, whatever trips your trigger) to share with others. You don't have to bring enough for everyone but if we each bring 15-25 of something, imagine the feast of goodies we'll have.

The second topic in December will be suiseki (viewing stones) and I ask that if you have stones, you bring them to the meeting and share what you found interesting about

Continued on Pg 2

FALL COLOR



UPCOMING EVENTS

BBS NOVEMBER MEETING

Thursday, November 9, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Avenue

Agenda:

- Overwintering our bonsai
- Board elections

them. The nice thing about suiseiki is they don't need to be watered (well maybe to wash the dust off) and unless you drop them on your toes they are pretty harmless. They also don't mind the cold.

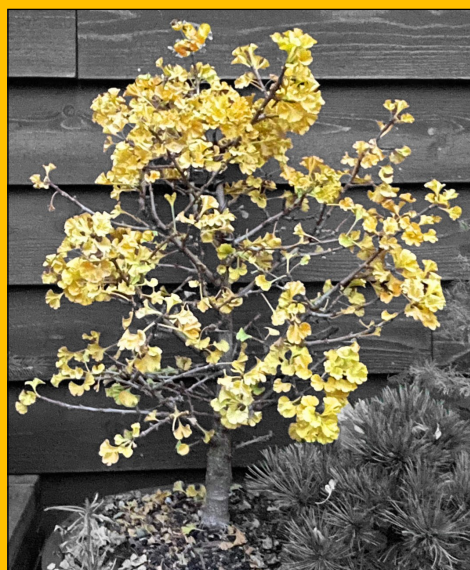
Also during our November and December meetings we will take a few minutes to hear any suggestions from the membership about ideas you would like to see presented in 2024 and beyond. Put on your thinking caps and make yourself a note so you can recall it at the meeting and let us get it on the list. Your feedback is very important to help the club do things you find interesting and want to learn more about.

Finally, I'm looking forward to January 11, 2024, which is the Badger Bonsai Society's annual holiday dinner meeting. This will be held at Imperial Gardens again this year. It is a great time to socialize with other members, eat some delicious Chinese food, and snag some of the Bonsai swag that Santa has left behind for the good boys and girls of Badger Bonsai Society. More info to follow in the newsletter and at the next two meetings.

For now, I am off to more fall broadleaf winter prep and cleanup before my trees go into their winter homes.

See you at the meeting .

FALL COLOR



October Meeting

TEI & TELL SHOW & TELL



Colin acquired this Mystic “Mystical” Mikawa Japanese maple by happenstance and he loves it. He’s currently experimenting with how small of a pot he can fit it into.



Skyler showcased his 3 new pots (2 from Sara Raynor), which he purchased at the Midwest Bonsai Exhibit at the Chicago Botanic Gardens this summer.



Skyler also brought his European beech tree from Bill Valavanis with big plans to plant it in his new beautiful Sarah Raynor pot.



Ken’s Home Depot deal is an excellent looking Ginkgo with very small leaves resembling the GB Packers in color. He is trying to develop it into a handsome bonsai by working on the structure.



Alex found a Fukien tea with some great design aspirations at Menards.

He also made homemade fertilizer from a receipt from a Bonsai Today article.

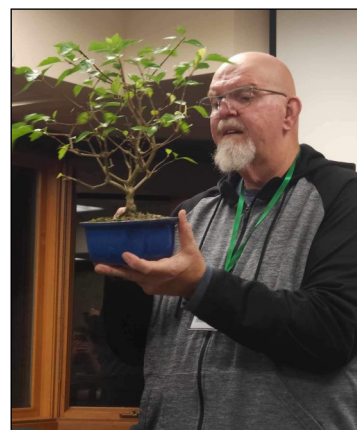


Zach brought his Siberian elm that was originally a weed. After six years of training it is starting to look like a decent bonsai. Zach said these grow like crazy all over, so he encourages people to harvest them!

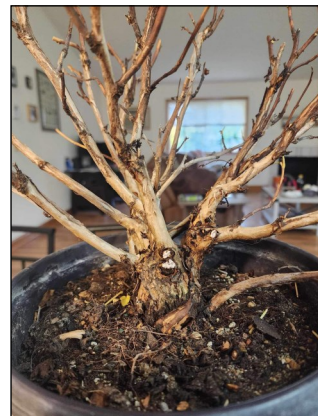


Betty brought in a new penjing-style Procumbens juniper with a great trunk that she recently bought from a roadside bonsai dealer. Unfortunately it is in poor soil, but she plans to fix that by repotting it in good bonsai soil next spring.

At the November meeting Ron talked about preparing our trees for winter. He also discussed late season work we can still do before the trees go into dormancy. He demonstrated pruning a Musk Maple and sealing the wounds to protect the tree and help with healing.



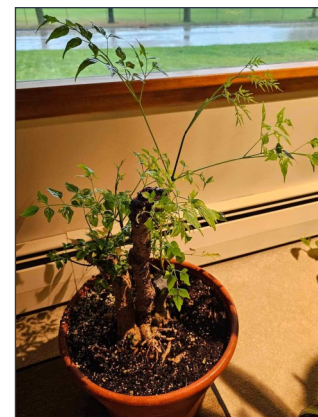
Transitions



Skylar's ninebark after pruning and defoliation.

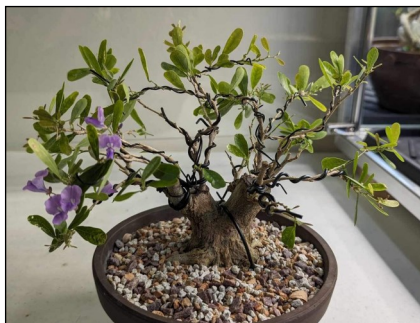


Zach's juniper grew a lot over the summer before being pruned back



Colin's China doll is rebounding well after its drastic chop at the September meeting.

Sharon's newly acquired Bluebell from an online seller responded to heavy wiring by starting to bloom. This specimen is a great example of why tropical bonsai are preferred by many bonsai enthusiasts.



CLUB OFFICERS AND ROLES

President	Ron
Vice President	Mary
Secretary	Lisa
Treasurer	Ken
Web Manager	Jason
Newsletter	Lisa
Librarian	Alex
Past-President	Wayne
At-Large Board Member	Zach
At-Large Board Member	Skylar

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

<https://badgerbonsai.net>



Of Interest on the Web

[Badger Bonsai Society Member Group](#)

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



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

[Things to do in November](#)

- [Prairie State Bonsai Society \(Blog Post\)](#)

[Bill Valavanis is Having Too Much Fun](#)

- [Bonsai Bark \(Stone Lantern Blog Post\)](#)

[Preparing for exhibits 12 months out](#)

- [Bonsai Tonight \(Blog Post\)](#)

[How Grow Lights Can Help Bonsai Trees Thrive](#)

- [Hooked on Bonsai \(Blog Post\)](#)

[Nikart Rosman Bonsai Studio](#)

- [Website \(Inspiration, techniques, advice, work-shops\)](#)



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

Pay Your 2024 BBS Membership Dues

Badger Bonsai Society now has several ways to pay membership dues besides checks and cash. For those renewing in January, dues effective January 1, 2024 are:

- Individual - \$30
- Family - \$40
- Student - \$20

How to Pay

Zelle (preferred)

Many banks allow you to transfer funds directly from your personal checking account to BBS without fees. Simply log into your bank/credit union account and select "Send Money with Zelle." Assuming this option is available with your bank, you may have to set this up if it's your first time using it.

Once set up, simply sent a payment to badgerbonsaisociety@gmail.com. In the notes field, write your name and indicate the payment is for 2024 dues.



Paypal

If you have a personal PayPal account you can make a payment to badgerbonsaisociety@gmail.com at no charge to you. Use this quick link <https://paypal.me/badgerbonsai> or scan the QR code to expedite the process. Funds will be drawn either

from your bank account or credit card as you choose. In the notes field, write your name and indicate that the payment is for 2024 dues.

Check

Bring a personal check made out to "Badger Bonsai Society" to one of our monthly meetings for the Treasurer, Ken. If you prefer to mail your check, send an email to badgerbonsaisociety@gmail.com and we will send you Ken's home address.

Cash (least preferred)

Ken will write you a receipt if you pay with cash at one of our monthly meetings. Exact change is greatly appreciated.

UPCOMING BBS MEETINGS

Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month.

November 9	December 14	January 11
Winter Preparation	Holiday Get-Together	Annual Holiday Dinner
Olbrich	Olbrich	Imperial Gardens
6:30-8 pm	6:30-8 pm	6:00 pm

Bonsai Winter Storage for the IL/WI Border

By Jason

I store my conifers in two different locations. Trees that are in development are in my garden in a layer of mulch. A building blocks the wind from the north and I planted asparagus to act as a wind block from the west. I leave the asparagus stocks up until spring and then cut them down when I want my bonsai to get additional sunlight in the evening.

My more valuable trees are in a location that has buildings blocking the wind from the west and north. These trees are on the bed of gravel I use for my summer bonsai bench. The bench itself is made from cinder blocks and 2x10s. I leave the stack of cinder blocks in place and move the 2x10s in front of the cinder blocks to block wind from this direction. Then I put down landscaping fabric or an old bed sheet, place my bonsai pots on top of that, and fill in the gaps with gravel or wood chips. The bed of gravel helps with drainage.

Because I live in an area that can get soggy in the spring or during a thaw, I have had problems with junipers that were dug into the ground getting too much water.

My deciduous and less cold tolerant trees go into an unheated barn to get out of the wind. For these I place pink foam insulation down. Plants are then placed in plastic crates with one inch of rubber mulch on the bottom for insulation and drainage. I have also found that insects and mice do not seem to like the smell of the rubber. Once I have placed as many plants as possible in the crates without any touching the sides, I fill in the gaps with rubber mulch to the top of the tallest plant in the crate. Then I simply stack the crates next to each other. If things get very cold I have some old lambing pens that I enclose the collection in and cover with a plastic tarp. A 75 watt bulb will usually keeps things around freezing on cold nights. I picked up a thermal cube from Fleet Farm that turns on at 20 degrees to make sure things do not get too warm or waste electricity.



Junipers in a layer of mulch, make sure the area directly below the pot is level with no air pockets. This will help keep mice and moles from wintering under your pots. In this picture the sunset is casting a yellow glow on some of my trees in the back row.



Another way to over winter plants is in the garden. I have a high water table in the spring so I made wood frames and then add dirt to the top of the pots. I will add more dirt after taking this picture.



I like to let my trees cool off in their new location and will add mulch or gravel the following weekend. Also there is a maple in this batch that will be moved later.



The crate on the left has about an inch of mulch and is just waiting for some plants. The crate on the right has a mix of the rubber mulch from the prior year that I will use to fill in gaps around the pots.



Crate with two- year cuttings getting ready for their first winter outside. Notice leaves and weeds have been removed.