



BADGER BONSAI NEWS

December 2023

President's Message

By Ron Fortmann

November has been a prime example of why bonsai is a challenge in Wisconsin. At the end of October we had bitter cold and snow only to roll into some of the most gorgeous weather I can remember in November. Days on end were above normal temps, with lots of sunshine. Then as the month finished out, we returned to normal temps.

But what does this mean to our bonsai? If you had already tucked your trees away for winter, you had to bring them back out. Watering needs were much different than normal. Our conifers will have benefited from nearly an extra month of storing up energy for spring and our deciduous trees were able to shut down in a little more orderly fashion. Most importantly you had more time to “winterize” your trees by completing fall cutbacks, soil surface maintenance to promote better drainage and less weeds, and spraying to hopefully eliminate pest and fungal problems from carrying into next year.

If you have tropicals you'll need to get into a new routine of watering now that they are inside where humidity is



UPCOMING EVENTS

BBS DECEMBER MEETING

Thursday, December 14, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Avenue

Agenda:

- Suiseki - Bring your viewing stones
- Member wish list for 2024 content
- Treats and socializing

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much lower. If you have them under lights you may want to adjust the amount of time the lights are on (8 to 10 hours) and that can be ramped up as the winter months continue so that by April you are up to 14 hours and ready to go back out into the sun by May. Don't forget to keep an eye out for pests like scale or spider mites since indoors there is a lack of predators to keep them in check.

At our December meeting we will focus on Suiseki (viewing stones) which is a separate hobby on its own, but often used as a complementary item when formally displaying bonsai. Skyler and Alex will have a presentation and I ask that any members that have Suiseki to bring them along to show others.

Another important item at the December meeting is the return of sharing our favorite holiday treats. Bring some of your favorites to share with others, be they sweet treats (cookies, cake, candies) or savory (chips & dip, cheese & crackers, veggies, nuts) Variety is the spice of life, so share your holiday favorites.

And finally I have an assignment for all members to think about what kinds of presentations or information you would like to see offered at our meetings in 2024 and beyond. This info will help our board plan for future meetings/ workshops. Be prepared to add your thoughts to our list of possibilities we will be noting for consideration.

There will be info about the January meeting which is an enjoyable social dinner at Imperial Gardens Chinese Restaurant.

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2024, there are new electronic ways to do this or you can still pay by check or cash at the meeting.

See you at the meeting.

Holiday Dinner

By Mary

In place of our January meeting we will have our usual holiday dinner on Thursday, January 11th at Imperial Garden on Allen Blvd in Madison. Drinks at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm.

Dinner will be banquet style as it was last year with 5 entrees, egg roll and tea. The cost of \$24 per person includes tax and tip. I will have a signup sheet at the December meeting. If you're not at the meeting, please email me at mellestad@outlook.com to signup by January 8th.

If you would like to come but don't wish to drive let Mary know and she will arrange for someone to pick you up. This traditional BBS get-together is always fun and Santa will be there - better late than coal!

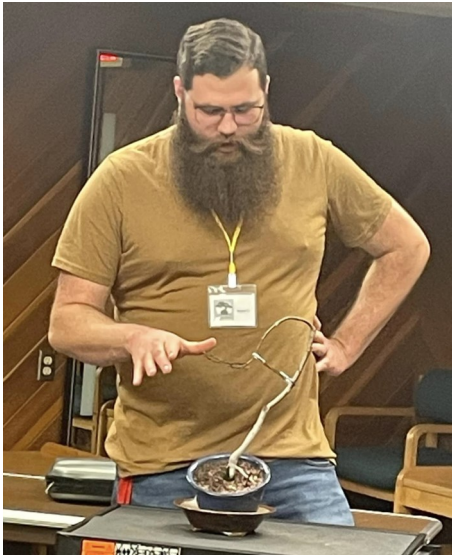


Need a Ride to Meetings?

Let us know by sending an email to badgerbonsaisociety@gmail.com and we'll arrange for someone who lives nearby to pick you up.

November Meeting

SHOW *and* TELL



Skyler described the process he's going through to transform one of his first trees, a Japanese maple, into the literati style.



Ken gave an update on the progress of his dwarf chrysanthemum, which he obtained a couple years ago from [King's Mums](#).



Zach shared the details on his slab forest planting with Microcarpa 'Tiger Bark' ficus. He used [Muck-O](#) to build a wall and filled it with soil and moss.



Alex discussed the new tool he'd discovered, a temperature range controller, which he can use to monitor and improve temperature conditions in his winter storage.



Jason showed us his schefflera forest, which he'd been growing for two years. This forest is special to Jason, as it came from cuttings Mary gave him at his first BBS meeting.

Bonsai Winter Storage



Ron's temperate trees are tucked into the greenhouse for the winter. He installs insulation as a solar block to keep the temperatures at or near 30-35 degrees. Here they'll be protected from winds, widely varying temperatures, and any animals looking for a snack. His tropicals are in the basement inside an enclosure where they'll have plenty of light and humidity.



Lisa's tropicals live in one of her multiple terrariums. The enclosure on the left is the Rudsta glass cabinet from Ikea and the one on the right is one of the terrariums she made in her stained glass workshop. Humidity is high in the terrariums, and she plans to add weather stripping to the cabinet doors on the Rudsta to increase humidity there.



Skylar's bonsai are kept in his garage for the winter. Looks like he's got plenty of room for cars or more trees!



Zach's unheated garage set up doesn't leave room for cars, but he can probably squeeze in a few more bonsai.



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.

[Pine Identification](#)

- *Bonsai Mirai (Blog Post)*

[Bonsai Tree Species](#) - most popular species

- *Bonsai Empire (Article)*

[Artistic Foundations of Bonsai Design](#)

- *Online book by Andy Rutlage*

[Improving Ramification in Deciduous Bonsai](#)

- *Bonsai 4 Me (Article)*

[Simplified Cultivation of Mushrooms for Accents and Kusamono](#)

- *OfBonsai Magazine (Article)*



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 send 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.

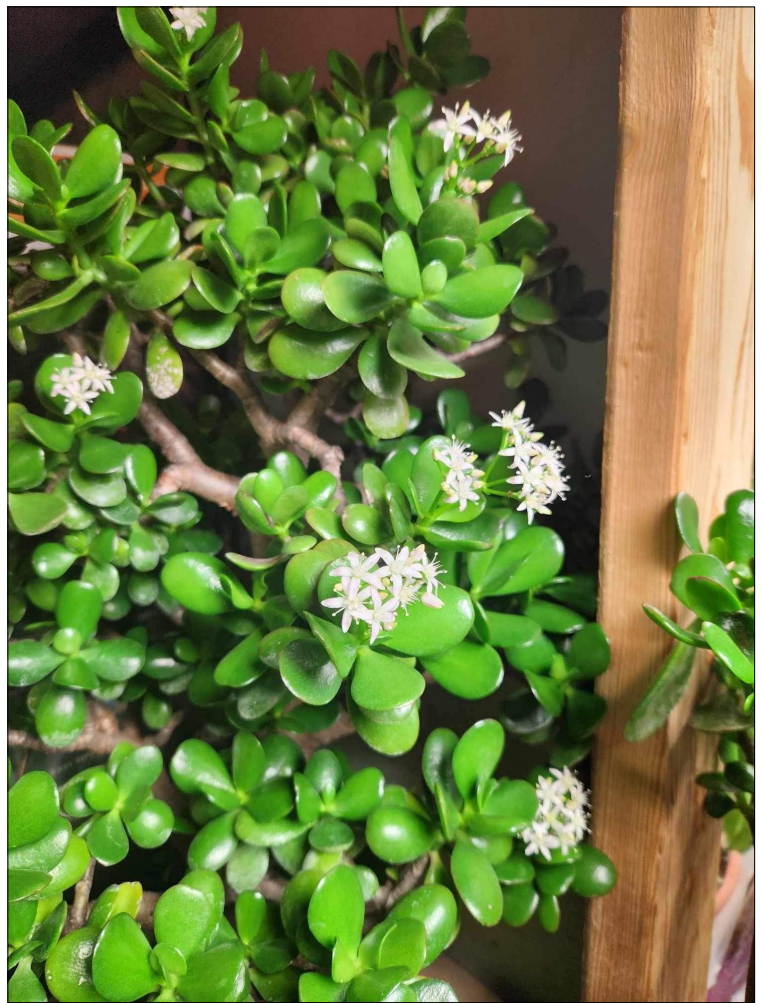
Cash (least preferred)

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

Your Input Needed

- ⇒ What tree(s) do you currently have in your bonsai collection?
- ⇒ What tree(s) do you want to have in the future?
- ⇒ What topics are you interested in learning more about?
- ⇒ What activities would you like to see at BBS meetings or outside of our regular meetings?
- ⇒ What feedback do you have about our [website](#)?

Bring your answers to the December 14th meeting or provide them at this [link](#).



Zach's Crassula Ovata Jade bonsai is in full bloom.



BADGER BONSAI
Society

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At-Large Board Member.....	Skyler
At-Large Board Member.....	Loren

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

<https://badgerbonsai.net>

