



# BADGER BONSAI NEWS

January 2024

## President's Message

By Ron Fortmann

I hope that all of you had a joyful holiday with family and friends. As I am writing this it is days before Christmas when my wife and I are driving to California to watch the Rose Parade in person. I will also spend some time with my long time teacher Ted Matson who is the Curator of the Bonsai Collection at the [Huntington Museum](#) in Pasadena. I will work with him for a couple of days. The Huntington Museum will host a Viewing Stone Show at the end of December. You can check it out [here](#).

Just a reminder that the club does not meet at Olbrich on January 11th, instead we gather for an evening of fun and friendship with fellow club members at [Imperial Garden](#) in Middleton. 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. If you weren't able to sign up at the December meeting and would still like to join us, please email Mary at [mellestad@outlook.com](mailto:mellestad@outlook.com) to sign up by January 8th. Mary will arrange rides for those who don't wish to drive.

I hope all your non-tropical bonsai are resting and preparing for the upcoming spring. Don't forget to water as needed and check to make sure critters are not causing issues. Your tropicals should be checked to see if there are any scale or other pest issues as the common predators that usually keep them in check are not present typically in your house.

If you did not complete the [survey](#) in last month's newsletter please do so now, as this provides great information for the board to help make decisions on what things we present at

meetings. Your [feedback](#) is essential to the success of our club!

And finally, to those members attending the dinner Santa dropped off something for all the good bonsai boys and girls.

Looking forward to an interesting and fulfilling 2024 bonsai journey.

### We need your input!

Let us know more about you:  
what trees you have,  
what trees are on your wish list,  
what you want to get out of your BBS membership this year.

Click [HERE](#)  
to complete our two minute survey today!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### BBS JANUARY DINNER

Thursday, January 11, 2024  
Drinks at 6:00 pm , Dinner at 7:00.  
Imperial Garden  
2039 Allen Blvd, Middleton, WI

Email Mary at [mellestad@outlook.com](mailto:mellestad@outlook.com)  
by January 8 to sign up

# Winter Stories



Paulo's Barbados cherry (*Malpighia emarginata*) didn't seem to realize it was in Wisconsin in December when it produced this singular fruit.

The Barbados cherry, also known as acerola cherry, Guarani cherry, West Indian cherry, and wild crepe myrtle, is native to Paraguay, Brazil, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, and Haiti. A popular bonsai specimen because of its small leaves and fruit and fine ramification, the Barbados cherry produces fruit from April to November in its native climate.



Sharon's Vietnamese blue bells (*Trifidacanthus unifoliolatus*) were in full bloom for the holidays. These tropical shrubs, which are native to China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam, make great bonsai specimens. Sharon says their scent reminds her of Fanta fruit-flavored soda.



As of Christmas, many of Ken's collection was still outside exposed to the elements, which have been pretty mild so far this winter. Left outside, versus being put into protective cover, possibly too early, these temperate trees had the exposure to freezing temperatures they needed to put them into full dormancy, which is necessary for long-term health of the trees.

While in dormancy, deciduous bonsai and conifers don't need as much water as they did in the summer when moisture was lost through their leaves. Even when temperatures dropped into the 20s at night, Ken's trees were safe as long as they were protected from strong drying winds, big temperature drops at night, and fluctuations in temperature. Situated on the side of this building likely provided them adequate protection.



## CLUB OFFICERS AND ROLES

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

# December Meeting

## SHOW *and* TELL



December's meeting was all about suiseki, or viewing stones, collected by members for display with bonsai or on their own. Skylar and Alex led a discussion about the stones, describing their trips to local quarries to seek them out, how they cleaned and polished the ones they found, and the different methods of display.



Several members brought in their own suiseki and the diazas they had made or were in the process of making.

Photos of some of those suiseki include, on the right, three impressive finds from Ron's collection, and, bottom of page, four Tim has acquired in his over two decades of collecting.





# 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.

[Viewing Stone Show](#)

- *Huntington Museum*

[Tree of the Month—Ginkgo](#)

- *Prairie State Bonsai (Website)*

[Making a plan for a new bonsai](#)

- *Bonsai Tonight (Blog Post)*

[Florida—A Regional Study](#)

- *Bonsai Mirai (Blog Post)*

[Two top recommendations for must-read bonsai books](#)

- *Stone Lantern (Blog Post)*



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](mailto: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](mailto:badgerbonsaisociety@gmail.com) at no charge to you. Use this quick link <https://paypal.me/badgerbonsai> or

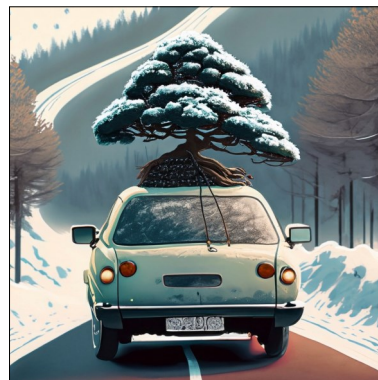
scan the QR code to expedite the process. Funds will be drawn either from your bank account or credit card as you choose. In the notes field, write your name and indicate that the payment is for 2024 dues.

#### 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](mailto: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.



### Need a Ride to Meetings?

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