



BADGER BONSAI NEWS

June 2024

President's Message

By Ron Fortmann

I would like to congratulate all those involved in our Annual Show last month, while I was not able to be there on Sunday, what I saw on Saturday was very impressive. We continue to host a visitor count of over 2000 guests for the third straight year. This shows that our club has made an impression on the local communities and talking with a number of people, they indicated that this has become an annual event they make sure they don't miss. This speaks highly of what we are sharing with the public, and their appreciation of the displays we present. I thank all of you who helped set up, tear down, displayed trees, interacted with the public, presented demonstrations, took photos, or helped spread publicity prior to the event. Without your participation, these events would not likely be as successful as they have been the last few years. Once again a job well done by all who participated.

A special shout out to our webmaster Paolo, who did a great job photographing all the trees in the recent show and getting them up on the website very quickly.

June is a big transition month for bonsai. Weather has generally stabilized and as days get longer temperatures rise and our trees are moving back into an energy positive phase as their new growth is now producing needed energy to put on additional growth. Be it more roots, foliage or additional girth. This also a time for us to perform some styling changes or adjustments, possibly apply some wire, or address some wound repairs. This is also a good time to start an air or ground layer to improve or create a new tree. We should be fertilizing our trees to assist them in building strength and growth. Watering practices also usually require some changes as higher temps, longer daylight, humidity changes, and winds have a bigger effect on the moisture retained in our pots.

Learn to adapt to the ever changing weather conditions. Bonsai is an ever changing hobby that requires continual learning to become more successful.

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Zach's Shimpaku Juniper was #1 favorite tree by show attendees this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BBS MAY MEETING

Thursday, June 13, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave, Madison

AGENDA:

Demonstrations
Bring a tree for advice

Top Ten Trees: 1-9

Photos by Paolo

#2

Japanese Maple Grove



#3

South African Fig



#4

Texas Quince



#5

Azalea



#6

Scots Pine



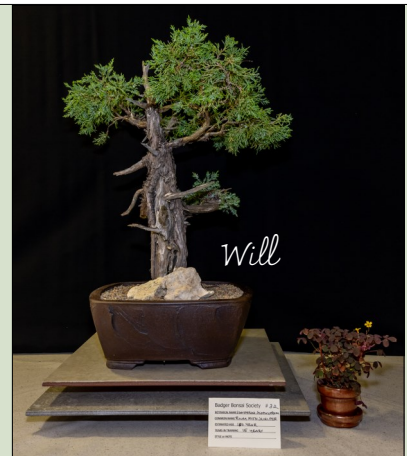
#7

Geneva hemlock



#8 tie

Rocky Mountain Juniper



#8 tie

Japanese maple



#9

Japanese maple



President's Message—Continued from Pg 1

Our June meeting is an extended meeting night (running to 9:00, a bonus extra hour of bonsai fun). The main feature of the night is we will have several members (3-4) working on trees showing different techniques. You will be able to watch whatever may spark your interest, or catch portions of them all.

Members who would like an opinion on next steps that should be taken with one of their trees are welcome to bring it to the meeting. Sometimes another set of eyes sees something we had not seen or thought of trying. It is not something you have to act on at the meeting but it something to take home for consideration and the consultation will cost you nothing.

Coming up in July, we will focus on tropical trees, with a likely repot demo. In August one of our members will give a presentation on his recent visit to China and his interactions with bonsai there. Also if you liked showing your tree at our show, maybe you'd like to learn more about how you can show a tree or trees at the Wisconsin State Fair. And don't forget to mark your calendars for the [Midwest Bonsai Society August Show](#) at the Chicago Botanical Gardens on August 16-18. It's a great event and there will be a number of vendors there who carry all things bonsai. In September our meeting will be another extended meeting with a focus on wiring, with demos, opportunity to practice, and advice.

See you Thursday.



Photos by Loren

Clockwise from top left:

One of last year's favorite trees was a Korean lilac belonging to Mary. This year the bonsai had more blooms than ever. Instead of showing a tree she knew could have an unfair advantage with it's crowd pleasing flowers, Mary displayed the three in the lobby at Olbrich. There it had the job of attracting the attention of visitors to the gardens and drawing them into the show.

Zach demonstrates the importance of summer pruning maintenance with a hackberry and Siberian elm.

This really cool stand was part of a set highlighting some of the topicals in Sharon's collection. Top row from left is a Natal plum, Barbados cherry, and Kingsville boxwood. On the bottom is a dwarf jade. The cherry was in bloom during the show and Vietnamese bluebell she had in an adjacent display started blooming two days after the show.

Alex's cotoneaster should have gotten votes for cutest tree.

Alex demonstrates a first styling of a juniper into a cascade.



Photography by Loren.

Public Interactions with Our Trees

The day of the show is a hectic one and we don't always get the time to notice the public interacting with our trees. When we do get a chance to slow down and watch people, it's fun to see their reactions.

This year we were fortunate to have Tim Ellestad, a talented photographer and Mary's husband, doing the people watching and capturing some special moments.

Pictures continue on the next page.

"Well, what do you think about this one? We have our thinking caps on."



Family in contemplation. Little girl knows already.



Serious discretion.



Couple in appreciation.



Photos by Tim Ellestad



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.

[A two-year air layer project](#)

- Bonsai Tonight

[Juniper Identification](#)

- Bonsai Mirai

[How to Fertilize Bonsai](#)

- Bonsai Tonight

[Deciduous Summer Work](#)

- Mauro Stemberger (Video)



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

Photos by Tim Ellestad



Rapt attention for Alex's demo.



Recording the details.



Colin's demo draws a crowd.



Staring the tree down.

Mark Your Calendars!



46th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition

August 16-18, 2024

[Learn more](#)

BBS 2024 CALENDAR

Monthly meetings are on the second Thursday. All are at Olbrich Botanical Gardens unless otherwise indicated.

JUNE 13, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Three-person Demo
Extended meeting

JULY 11, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Tropical Trees Pt 1- time for repotting or structural changes, wiring demo

AUGUST 8, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Tropical Trees Pt 2- late summer , early fall fertilization, what and why, Ken's presentation on his trip to China

SEPTEMBER 12, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Bring your tree for wiring help and advice
Extended meeting

OCTOBER 10, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Artificial lighting member presentation

NOVEMBER 14, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Member silhouette show (naked trees, not stands or accents), Officer elections

DECEMBER 12, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Review May Show Trees, maybe pick top ten voted trees and have owners tell us about them Holiday Treats and social



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>

WUMU

BY WULFF & MORGENTHAUER

