



BADGER BONSAI NEWS

July 2024

President's Message

By Ron Fortmann

As I write this I am enjoying a beautiful sunny afternoon. Over the past couple of weeks it has been an active time of the bonsai year. Most of our deciduous trees have leafed out and the new foliage has hardened off. So the foliage is now producing food for the tree and the tree's energy level is swinging to be more positive. So this is the time to think about pruning back growth that is extending beyond your desired silhouette. It is also a time when you can partially defoliate or just remove bigger leaves.

As we move into July it is time to focus on any tropical trees we may have. Repotting could have happened in June but the window is closing in July. Certainly by the middle or end of the month one should have repotted if you want the tree to have a good two months before it will likely need to come inside for the fall and winter. If you don't need to repot then it is a great time to heavily prune and style your tropicals, again because they will have a couple of months to recover before fall sets in. If you have multi flush pines (black pine or red pine) you likely should have done any decandling to hopefully get another set of buds to set before fall.

Keeping up on fertilizing is important as we have such a short growing season and we need to take advantage of this warmer period to bulk up our trees. Starting in late August is when we should feed again to promote the vascular growth phase of our trees.

For our July meeting Zack will be demonstrating pruning he usually does at this time of year, and a little styling that may done. I will also explain why tropicals are typically repotted in June and July versus the spring months like we do with the rest of our trees.

As always as the summer months come on the watering habits may need to change, plants should be rotated probably every two weeks so all foliage gets the benefits of the sun during this time of year. If it starts to get dryer (good luck with that) be on

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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>

UPCOMING EVENTS

BBS MAY MEETING

Thursday, July 11, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave, Madison

AGENDA:

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

the watch for spider mites. And because it has been so wet look out for fungal infections and treat accordingly.

SHOW YOUR TREE(S) AT THE WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

As a member of Badger Bonsai Society you qualify to enter a tree to be judged at the State Fair. There are three sessions of judging.

Session	Drop off	Display	Pick up
1	July 31	August 1-3	August 4
2	August 3	August 4-7	August 8
3	August 7	August 8-11	August 12

There are three categories you can enter you trees in based on the artist's capabilities:

Novice - Generally you are newer to the bonsai hobby; you probably have been doing this less than ten years. This is the only category that allows trees that have been in the artist's possession less than two winters. Of course, if you just bought a tree and have not really done anything to it yourself, it probably should not be entered but you are welcome to enter it for display only. In this case, it is not judged.

Intermediate - You have been doing bonsai more than five years and are developing more skills but don't feel you are proficient at this time.

Open Class - You are proficient at many of the bonsai tasks/skills. You've shown trees before and likely won blue ribbons or maybe Best of Show.

If you are interested in showing a tree at the State Fair, go to the Milwaukee Bonsai Society website at www.milwaukeebonsai.org/ and click on 2024 MBS State Fair Exhibit to enter. There is no cost to enter, but you need to pre-register because there are limited spaces available.

Volunteering to man the bonsai display on any of the days of the fair it is a great way to get a free ticket into the fair for just a few hours at the display. You don't have to worry that you may not have enough experience to answer questions. The general public often asks three main questions which most everyone can answer. What's the oldest tree? Are they alive? Which one is yours?

It is fun to talk with the people visiting our display and telling them why you like this hobby. And once your shift is over or before your shift begins, you can roam the fairgrounds and enjoy yourself. Shifts usually run from 10am to 2pm, 2pm to 6pm, and 6pm to 10pm. We try to have 3 people per shift and there are 33 shifts, so your help would be greatly appreciated. Let me know if you have questions at the July meeting.

CALLING FOR DONATIONS

Usually at our monthly meetings we hold a raffle of bonsai-related items for members in attendance. Those who bring in something for show and tell also get an additional ticket, doubling their chances of winning.

Our store of prizes is nearly empty, so if you have any items that you would be willing to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. Donated items, such as small pots, rooted cuttings, trees you are no longer interested in, accent plants, or other bonsai-related items can be brought to the next meeting where they will be used and enjoyed.



Wisconsin State Fair August 1-11, 2024

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





46th Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition

August 16-18, 2024

[Learn more](#)

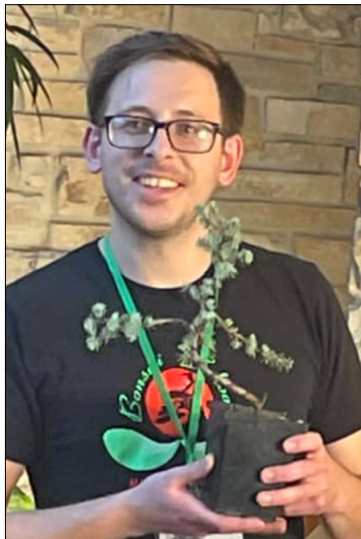
June Meeting SHOW *and* TELL



Sharon - Ixora, a tropical



Skyler - Buckthorn



Zach - blue atlas cedar



Paolo - water jasmine



Eric - boxwood



Zach - hackberry

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.

[Hand-Sized Gardens](#)

- Bonsai Mirai

[How Trees Talk](#)

- Bonsai Mirai

[Bonsai Tips for Summer Care](#)

- Bonsai Outlet

[A Disease/Pest Quiz](#)

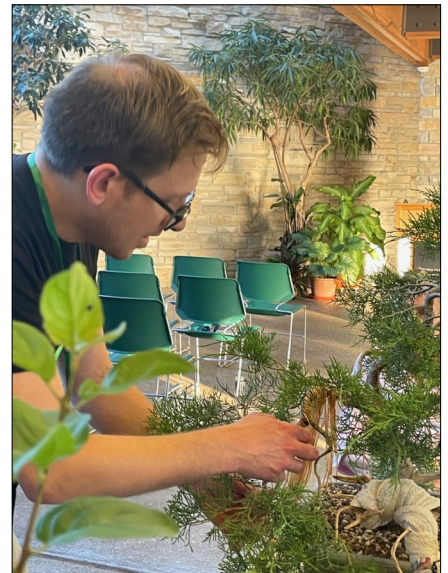
- Crataegus Bonsai



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

June Meeting

Thank you Alex, Skyler, Zach, and Sharon (not pictured) for demonstrating some important bonsai skills at the June meeting, including, from left, extreme pruning and creating jin to tell the story of an old juniper that had been struck by lightning, shaping a climbing hydrangea with a wonderfully twisted trunk into a tree that looks decades older than its real age, and repairing a damaged juniper branch with raffia while wiring other branches.



BBS 2024 CALENDAR

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

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