



BADGER BONSAI NEWS

September 2024

President's Message

By Ron Fortmann

Well summer is basically over and while we had some intense days of heat, overall it was not too bad. So this is the time of year that your trees go into their second most important growth period. Most trees during September and October are busy putting on vascular growth and storing energy for next Spring's reemergence. So it is very important that you supplement fertilizer, to assist your trees in this important fall task.

These next couple of months are also when you should be considering applying wire to your trees to help establish the look you have been thinking about for your trees. To help with this task, Zach and I will review the importance of wiring and explain the basic fundamentals of wiring. We'll answer questions such as, where do you start? What type of wire should I use? What size wire is appropriate for branches? How do I apply the wire so that it does what I am expecting it to do? This meeting will be an extended meeting, ending at 9:00 pm instead of 8:00.

We will have some wiring "mules/test dummies" for you to try applying wire to understand how to properly do that without harming any live trees. If you have a tree you would like advice on how to go about wiring, bring it to the meeting and club members will assist you.

Wiring is a learned skill and the more you do it, the better you'll get at it. It doesn't happen overnight—we must practice, practice, practice.

There will be some wire available for the practice trees but you will need to supply wire for your own tree to be wired. Wire will be available to purchase on site.

See you September 12th.



Ken gave a fascinating presentation on the Chinese art of Penjing. Unlike the Japanese art of bonsai, which is most often a single tree and highly formal, the focus of Penjing is miniaturized landscapes. In fact, the word Penjing, means "panorama in a pot." Pen = pot; jing = panorama

BBS 2024 CALENDAR

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

SEPTEMBER 12, 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison

AGENDA: 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

An Exploration of Penjing

At our August meeting Ken presented a colorful presentation highlighting a recent trip that he took to China last spring. He was there exploring and collecting plants along with fellow botanists from Zhejiang University in Hangzhou and the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University.

Ken showcased the striking landscape of temperate-subtropical eastern China, including photographs of ancient Ginkgo and conifer trees, as well as slightly familiar, but also quite different, species of spring wildflowers.

In particular he focused on three bonsai related experiences during this trip. The first was a penjing display at the Hangzhou Botanical Garden, featuring colorful azaleas in decorative pots. The second was an informal tour that he had of a private penjing collection consisting mostly of flowering azaleas, wild collected pines, and persimmons that almost certainly will be stunning in autumn. Finally, Ken took us into an antique shop in Huangshan City where he purchased a beautiful viewing stone.

Throughout the presentation Ken contrasted the more ancient Chinese tradition of creating penjing with the Japanese art of bonsai. The differences are subtle and difficult

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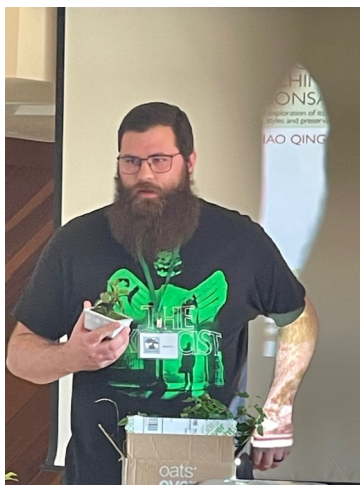
An Exploration of Penjing —Continued from Pg 1

to define, but one scholar at the Huntington Botanical Garden stated that, “While related to bonsai, penjing are noticeably different. They are often more natural or ‘wild’ looking, and they often depict landscapes rather than single trees. Penjing 盆景 is Chinese for a landscape or scene (jing) in a pot (pen). Whereas bonsai displays typically focus on a tree or trees, penjing displays can include elements other than trees, including rocks, water, or figurines. Penjing artists often say they are striving in their work to reveal the inner beauty, or essence, of nature.”

At the end of the presentation BBS members shared in a discussion of their own interpretation of penjing and why it is less commonly practiced in the USA than bonsai. One member even suggested that we rename our club the Badger Bonsai and Penjing Society to be more inclusive! It was a wonderful and thought provoking presentation and we are appreciative of Ken for taking the time to share the story of his journey.



August Meeting SHOW *and* TELL



Skyler had a box of accent plants and a mulberry tree dug from the yard to talk about this month. .



Sharon is attempting root over rock with this tropical ficus nataliensis from South Africa



Colin showed off an adorable Japanese spindle tree dressed in pink berries and a Ken To pot.



Skyler's recent acquisition, a dwarf horsetail reed, will make for a lovely accent plan



Zach's bougainvillea is in full flower.



Alex is in the process of refining the shape of his semi-cascade precumbus juniper. His goal is to develop separate pads on each branch.



Ben brought in two trees to show. One was an unknown tropical and the other a willow. He's had both for several years.

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.

[Choosing Your Ceramics](#)

- *Bonsai Mirai*

[Collecting Deciduous Trees For Bonsai In Autumn/Fall](#)

- *Bonsai 4 Me*

[Bonsai Pruning Tutorials](#)

- *Blue Sky Bonsai on YouTube*



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

Congratulations Ron!



Ron took home two Open Class Blue Ribbons for his bonsai at the Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition held August 16 -18 in Chicago. Both were for Trident maples grown root over rock. The metals were Ron's first in the Chicago show. Well done, Ron!



The highlight of Skyler's day at the Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition in Chicago this year was meeting Bill Valvanis, creator and organizer of the US National Bonsai Convention, among many other things.



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

<https://badgerbonsai.net>



WISCO BONSAI
www.WiscoBonsai.com

Wisco Bonsai 10-Year Anniversary Celebration!

September 14, 2024
Noon until early evening

PLANNED EVENTS:

Beginner Conifer Styling Contest

Intermediate/Advanced
with Brian Susler

Mantis Hunt

Tree Displays

CLICK HERE
TO LEARN
MORE!

And finally, to cap off the evening...
Live Music Featuring Chicago
Artist Jack (Captain Jack) Flynn!