



BADGER BONSAI NEWS

December 2024

President's Message

By Ron Fortmann

Well the Holiday Season is upon us and our final meeting for 2024 is on December 12th. We have two main topics on tap for that evening. The first is a review of the top ten trees voted on by the public at the annual show back in May. If the owners are present they can comment on their trees and if not, those present can add comments on the trees' merits. If time allows we can review other trees from the exhibit.

The second and probably MOST important topic for the December meeting will be sharing some of our favorite holiday treats. We ask that everyone attending bring a favorite or two to share with others. They don't have to be sweets; dips and chips or crackers and cheeses, sausage, nuts, are all great ideas. You don't have to bring a lot, just enough for about 20-25.

Regarding our trees, the weather has finally decided to switch to winter. Hopefully you have tucked them away into their winter homes. It's easy to forget them now but that's when problems tend to surface. Do your bonsai a favor and use that thing that has become a part of our daily lives (your phone) and set up an alarm to check on your trees every two weeks. Out of sight really does mean out of mind, and days can quickly turn to weeks be-



Participants in the inaugural Badger Bonsai Society Silhouette Show are from left to right Loren, Ken, Colin, Alex, and Zach. Mary is not pictured.

BBS 2024
CALENDAR

DECEMBER 12, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison

AGENDA:

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

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President's Message continued

fore we realize it. If it becomes warmer out trees will likely need more water. Due to the mild winter we had last year, there were a larger number of tree losses reported than usual and the likely culprit was underwatering. That falls on our shoulders. So, stay alert, stay informed, stay vigilant. Our trees depend on us no matter the season.

There will be a sign up sheet for the January 9 Dinner at Imperial Gardens Chinese Restaurant in Middleton. More details regarding cost and times will be available at the December meeting. Also if you have been good to your bonsai, Santa may leave you a gift.

At the November meeting the election of board members for 2025 was completed and I wish them continued success in conducting the club's business. With that in mind I would like to thank Wayne Pinnow for his years of service to the club as a board member, as web master and newsletter editor for a time, and as BBS President and past President. Wayne, your contributions have enhanced the club experience for all of us.

It has been an honor to serve as the club's leader these past two years. I hope you have been able to tolerate my passion for this hobby we have immersed ourselves in. My passion to teach others what I have had the opportunity to learn and experience is what has driven me to want to share that knowledge with others and hopefully make their bonsai journey easier, more productive and pleasurable. I know at times I can be "preachy" but I only want you and your trees to succeed and flourish. Hopefully I have assisted you in some little way.

As I pass the baton to our new president, Colin, I fully expect he will bring a newer view and ideas to the Badger Bonsai Society. I wish you all continued success on your bonsai journeys and hope our paths will cross many more times in the future.



CLUB OFFICERS AND ROLES

President	Ron
Vice President.....	Mary
Secretary.....	Lisa
Treasurer.....	Ken
Web Manager	Paolo
Newsletter Editor	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>

Welcome New BBS Board!

As we enter another year of cultivating the art of bonsai, community, and knowledge, we are thrilled to introduce our newly elected board members who will guide Badger Bonsai Society's future! Each of these dedicated individuals brings a unique blend of expertise, passion, and vision that will enrich our club's initiatives and strengthen our community while fostering a deeper appreciation for the living art of bonsai.

President - Colin
Vice President - Alex
Treasurer - Ken
Secretary - Lisa
Webmaster - Paolo
Newsletter Editor - Lisa
Librarian - Linda
Director - Skyler
Director - Zach
Director - Loren
Director - Mary

Our new board is already brimming with ideas for the coming year. Plans will include skill-building workshops, seasonal tree care sessions, bonsai exhibitions, and opportunities to connect with renowned bonsai artists.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing board members for their invaluable contributions to Badger Bonsai Society. Your hard work and dedication have been instrumental in shaping our club into a thriving community of bonsai enthusiasts and we look forward to continuing to learn from you.

BBS thrives because of its members. Whether you're a beginner, an experienced hobbyist, or somewhere in between, your participation is key to our collective growth. We encourage you to attend events, volunteer, and share your ideas.

Let's make 2025 a year of continued growth, shared knowledge, and thriving bonsai! Welcome to our new board, and thank you to all members for your ongoing support. Here's to a fruitful year ahead!

November Meeting

SILHOUETTES

A silhouette bonsai show is a specialized bonsai exhibit that typically takes place during the winter months when deciduous bonsai trees have shed their leaves. The focus of the show is to highlight the tree's **branch structure, movement, and overall form**, showcasing the artistry of the bonsai's design without the distraction of foliage.



From left,
Top row:
Ken and Basswood tree with a nice undulating trunk.
Alex's Chinese elm has a lot of personality.

Middle row:
Mary's Dwarf Korean lilac is one of several she's grown. Branch styling is the result of pruning.
Colin's twisty burning bush is still holding on to a few bright red leaves.



Bottom row:
Zach with a lovely Amur maple in clump style.
Loren purchased this Korean hornbeam at Bonsai Central
Zach's hackberry is growing strong.





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.

[Making a Large Christmas Tree Bonsai](#)

- Herons Bonsai

[Developing Deciduous Bonsai Branch Structures](#)

- Bonsai4Me

[Red Maple 32 Year Animated History](#)

- Crataegus



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

Pay Your 2025 BBS Membership Dues

Badger Bonsai Society has several ways to pay membership dues besides checks and cash. For those renewing in January, dues 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 2025 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 2025 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.