



BADGER BONSAI NEWS

January 2025

President's Message

By Colin Renk

Happy New Year, everyone! This President's Message marks Ron passing of the torch to myself.

As we look forward to a fresh season of growth and potential in our bonsai, let's challenge ourselves to think ahead to the projects and opportunities we have in the warm season ahead. Do we have all of our bonsai *mise en place*? Wire, sifted soil, and fertilizer are some evergreen components that we can't afford to be caught without when nature starts moving.

How can we be expanding our knowledge in the absence of hands on exposure to bonsai? The internet is an incredible tool as is BBS's curated library. Watching videos or reading literature on a variety of bonsai subjects can ready us for the coming year and equip us with a more profound perspective on the art of bonsai. Consider taking some photos of projects you're excited to see flourish this year and plan to share them at this month's "meeting," on Thursday, January 9 (our annual dinner at Imperial Gardens in Middleton.) Your dreams for the coming year will make for a great icebreaker at the dinner!

An important message for this inaugural letter is a statement about my presidential philosophy. If we wish to exist within a community enriched by direct access to exceptional bonsai, we need to be agents enacting those changes. Madison is a unique, vivacious, and green city. I firmly believe that we have yet to tap into a large portion of the community's future bonsai artists. Let us become educators and envoys to our neighbors.

I cannot emphasize enough that becoming involved with other bonsai communities outside of our own will be instrumental to diversifying our artist's portfolio. Attending conventions and workshops connects us with opportunities to network with other serious hobbyists and experience the presence of top notch bonsai in person. While we all seek to practice this craft at a different level, let's all strive to be the best hobbyists we can be!



Skyler at the Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition in Chicago this past summer with Bill Valvanis, creator and organizer of the US National Bonsai Convention. Skyler continually broadens his horizons by going to conventions like this one where he has the opportunity to interact with others as passionate about bonsai as he is and even meet a few greats along the way.

UPCOMING
EVENT

JANUARY 9, 6:00 pm

Imperial Garden

2039 Allen Blvd, Middleton, WI

AGENDA:

Annual Holiday Dinner

Drinks at 6; dinner at 7

The meal will be banquet style with five entrees, egg roll and tea. The cost is \$25 per person and includes tax + tip.

December Meeting



At the December meeting we spent some time reflecting on the top ten trees as voted by the public at our 2024 show. What made them favorites? What would we do differently? How can we learn from our experiences at the show itself? Bonsai is an always changing, always growing, and always learning journey where tree and grower of the tree develop together.



Need a Ride to Meetings?

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



Of Interest on the Web

A few of our suggestions for further study on what's happening this month in the world of bonsai.

[Four Seasons of Bonsai - Winter](#)

- *Bonsai West*

[Winter Solstice at the PBM](#)

- *Bonsai Echo - YouTube*

[The Spring Countdown Has Begun: How to Prepare](#)

- *BonsaiTree*

[Getting my Bonsai Tools Ready for Spring](#)

- *Nigel Saunders, YouTube*

[Badger Bonsai Society Member Group](#)

BBS members-only platform for sharing tips, advice, and inspiration between monthly meetings



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.

More Upcoming Events



Winter Silhouette Exhibit at the Domes

In addition to the joys of snow during the winter and early spring months, we in the Midwest have an opportunity to view our landscape in the 'raw', that is, without the dressing of buds, leaves and flowers.

February 23, 2025

Display Hours 9 AM - 4 PM

<https://www.milwaukeebonsai.org>

The Domes at Mitchell Park
Horticultural Conservatory
524 S. Layton Blvd, Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 257-5611

<https://www.mitchellparkdomes.com/>



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*Badger Bonsai News is a monthly
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Bonsai Dream School Chicago with Mauro Stemberger

Starting Spring 2025 Mauro will begin his second international school of bonsai in Chicago. Learn the unique ways of Mauro as he takes you through the steps to becoming more understanding of the art of bonsai. [Learn more](#)

The Hidden Gardens Bonsai
16W658 S Frontage Rd.
Willowbrook, IL 60527-7013
(630) 655-8283

<https://www.thehiddengardens.net>

Garden & GREEN LIVING EXPO

 **PBS Wisconsin | 2025**

Connect with seasoned gardeners and environmental enthusiasts at this vibrant three-day celebration of gardening, landscaping, local food culture and ecological responsibility! Learn from 150 educational presentations, browse through the exhibitor mall, chat with UW-Madison Extension Horticulture experts, enter a floral design competition, explore the PBS KIDS Backyard family area and more. Explore ideas for reducing waste, conserving resources and creating eco-friendly spaces at home and in your community. All proceeds support PBS Wisconsin.

February 7, 8, 9
Alliant Energy Center
1919 Alliant Energy Center Way
Madison, WI 53713
<https://wigardenexpo.com/>