



BADGER BONSAI NEWS

May 2025

Why You Should Exhibit Your Bonsai

By Lisa

Whether you're a seasoned grower or just beginning your bonsai journey, there's something uniquely rewarding about participating in a bonsai exhibit. While it might feel intimidating at first to share your tree with the public—or even with fellow club members—exhibiting is one of the best ways to grow as a bonsai artist. Here's why you should consider taking part in our Bonsai Exhibit on May 17th and 18th.

Preparing a tree for exhibit encourages you to look at it with fresh eyes. Is the pot appropriate? Are the branches balanced? Does the display reflect the tree's character? This kind of attention helps elevate your skills and deepens your understanding of aesthetics and horticulture.

An exhibit opens the door to constructive feedback from fellow enthusiasts and the show judge. Whether it's a helpful tip from a more experienced member or a new perspective on your design choices, feedback is a gift that can guide your next steps in development.

Showing your work, even if it's still in progress, can be a great confidence booster. Every artist starts somewhere, and club exhibits are a supportive environment where everyone is encouraged to share their growth—literally and figuratively.

Your tree might be the one that catches a beginner's eye and gets them hooked on bonsai. That's what got me to join BBS. Exhibits are as much about community and inspiration as they are about technique. You never know who you might motivate by simply showing up.

Participation is what keeps our club vibrant. The more members who contribute to exhibits, the richer and more

dynamic the experience is for everyone. It's a celebration of our shared passion and a great way to connect.

You don't need a "perfect" tree to exhibit—just a willingness to share what you've created. Whether your tree tells the story of years of work or provides a great example of a tree in training (read more about this on Pg 2), it belongs on the table. Let's grow together. See you at the BBS Bonsai Exhibit!



UPCOMING
EVENT

May 8, 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave, Madison

AGENDA:
Show Planning

Trees in Training

Our *Trees in Training* table is designed to highlight trees that are works in progress. This is a low-pressure, educational exhibit that celebrates the journey of bonsai cultivation, not just the final result. If you've ever thought, "*My tree isn't ready to show yet,*" this exhibit is for you!

Here are some examples of what we need for our Trees in Training table:

- Pre-bonsai that are still developing their structure or style.
- Examples of visible wiring, pruning cuts, or recent work.
- Leaf or needle size comparison (before vs. after pruning/defoliation)
- Photos or sketches of earlier stages
- Visible propagation work such as air-layering or cuttings.
- Seedlings in early training.
- Nursery stock in training.
- Training pots, plastic nursery containers, or grow boxes.

If you have something you'd like to include in our Trees in Training table let Lisa know.



BBS Library

By Linda Keegan, Librarian

For those members who are new to the Badger Bonsai Society, a collection of books is available to check out for free. Typically, the books are on a cart in the meeting room at Olbrich Botanical Gardens during the monthly gathering there.

To sign out a book, find the book title on the check-out sheet, and write down your name and the day's date. The expectation is that you return the book at the next monthly meeting. If books are not returned by the deadline, an email will be sent as a reminder.

Also, all members are encouraged to think about a book that was helpful to them in their bonsai-growing journey, and, if so inclined, to write a short review. Or send an email

to badgerbonsaisociety@gmail.com with a book recommendation from the library, with why you liked the book in general, and I'll write a short article for the newsletter.



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*Badger Bonsai News is a monthly
publication of the Badger Bonsai Society.
<https://badgerbonsai.net>*

April Meeting

Our annual repotting event was a success, with several members bringing their bonsai in to repot with the group, get advice on repotting, or get help with a larger tree.

Here are some pictures from the evening.



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.

[Critique](#)

- *Quiet Crow Bonsai*

[A Guide to Bonsai Critique](#)

- *Bonsai4Me*

[How to Collect or Grow Moss for Bonsai Trees](#)

- *Bonsai Empire*

[Kusamono Select: Young Choe's Top 10 Kusamono](#)

- *Bonsai Mirai*



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

Planning to participate in this year's Bonsai Exhibit?

Check out our Exhibit Guidelines [here](#). And for more articles on exhibiting bonsai, see links above.

UPCOMING EVENT

World Bonsai Day at Boerner Botanical Gardens

Milwaukee Bonsai Society
May 10 - 9am to 4pm

[Get Details!](#)

Badger Bonsai Society ANNUAL EXHIBIT



10am - 4pm Free Admission
Demos at 11am and 1:30pm

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI