



# BADGER BONSAI NEWS

June 2025

## BBS Annual Exhibit Recap

By Ron

The 2025 Badger Bonsai Annual Show was another crowd pleasing success. There were a total of 60 entries, 19 in Novice, 39 in Open and 2 Exhibition Only. The Judge Brian Susler was very pleased with the quality of the trees from everyone.

**Trees getting ribbons in the Novice category were:**

**Blue Ribbons**

Sharon P. tree # 11; Skyler C. tree #34; Alex S. tree # 35

**Red Ribbons**

Alex S. tree # 36; Sharon P. tree # 39; Loren S. tree # 57

**White Ribbons**

Sharon P. trees # 12 & 13



Jonathan's Korean Hornbeam was awarded Best in Show at this year's Annual Exhibit. Its picture will be on next year's poster.

**Trees getting ribbons in the Open Category were:**

**Blue Ribbons**

Jonathon B. trees # 28 & 29; Ron F. tree # 21; Barb B. tree # 48

**Red Ribbons**

Mary E. tree # 3; Jennifer S. tree # 9; Zach W. tree # 30

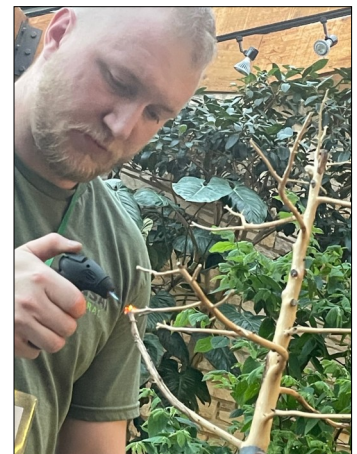
*Continued on Pg 2*

## Welcome BBS New Club President!

By Lisa

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Badger Bonsai Society's new President, Alex!

With a deep appreciation for the art of bonsai and a clear vision for the future of our club, Alex brings both passion and leadership to the role. We're excited to grow together—both in our trees and in our community—under his guidance.



UPCOMING  
EVENT

**June 12, 6:30 to 9:00 pm**  
**Olbrich Botanical Gardens**  
3330 Atwood Ave, Madison

**AGENDA:**

Show Recap & Critique Sheets  
Bonsai Auction  
Register for Kusamono Workshop

### White Ribbons

Mary E. tree # 1; Zach W. trees # 31 & 32; Karl B. tree # 45

### Additional Awards:

**People's Choice** Ribbon went to Mary E. tree # 3

**Award of Merit** went to Ron F. tree # 21

**Best of Show** went to Jonathon B. tree # 29

While I believe our first judged show was a success, we will review processes to improve judging at future shows. Judging 60+ trees takes time and we will look to find ways to streamline that component. As was planned judging will take place on Saturday allowing enough time to have ribbons placed for all to see on Sunday.

Tree critique sheets will be handed back for each tree displayed. Hopefully the judge's comments will be useful for

your future tree development and show preparation.

The judge's comments give each tree owner an idea of how others see your tree, this doesn't mean you have to change anything, but it does give you the perspective of someone who has not been looking at your tree for years.

Once again [congratulations](#) to all that received a ribbon and to all who entered trees and to those that helped make our annual show something that thousands of people enjoyed, and I heard several people say our show is an annual must attend event. Something we all can and should be very proud to be part of.

To see pictures of the top ten trees as chosen by the public, visit <https://badgerbonsai.net/2025/05/21/annual-show-2025-top-10-trees/>

## Learn the Art of Kusamono

By Lisa

Kusamono is a Japanese botanical art form that features carefully arranged grasses, mosses, and wildflowers in a small container. Often displayed alongside bonsai, kusamono is designed to reflect a specific season, mood, or natural landscape. While it may serve as an accent to a bonsai tree, kusamono is also appreciated as a standalone artistic expression.

Our club has a special opportunity to learn directly from leading Kusamono artist, Young Chou, at our July meeting.

The artist will demonstrate how to create two Kusamonos during the meeting and generously donate both to the club for a members-only auction.

She will also lead two hands-on workshops on **Saturday, July 12, at Birge Hall, UW-Madison:**

Morning session: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Afternoon session: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

### Workshop cost:

\$75 for members

\$95 for non-members

*Price includes plants and soil; pots are additional. Bring your own pot or choose from a selection available for purchase.*

This workshop is ideal for those who want to deepen their understanding and practice of Kusamono with expert guidance. Each session is limited to **10 participants**.

To sign up, please register at the **June meeting** or email us at [badgerbonsaisociety@gmail.com](mailto:badgerbonsaisociety@gmail.com).

If more than 20 members sign up, we will hold a drawing to select attendees. If fewer than 20 members register, we will open enrollment to the public.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to explore a beautiful branch of bonsai artistry!





# Tree Auction

By Mary

We're thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity for BBS Members.

Jennifer and John Sharp are accomplished artists and BBS members who live in Mineral Point. Jennifer has been showing her bonsai at our annual exhibit since 2023. Many of her trees have been public favorites every year and this year also received a judged ribbon. She has generously decided to donate all 7 bonsai that were in this year's show to BBS. They will be available by auction to BBS members at our June 12th meeting.

This will be a combination of a silent auction (name and bid on each sheet) and a last chance to bid before each one is closed. Each will have a minimum of \$50 with bid increments of \$5. If you can't be at the meeting, you can place a bid thru another member. Checks are best, cash and PayPal will also work.

It's not often that we get a chance to acquire an award-winning bonsai.

The trees for auction are pictured with the show card number, common name, estimated age and style. Please go to our website at <https://badgerbonsai.net/2025/05/30/silent-auction-for-jennifers-trees/> to see these exceptional bonsai before the meeting. Be sure to click and enlarge the pictures to appreciate the health, beauty and artistry of these trees



#37, Chinese Elm, 9 years, informal upright, 20 years, slant style



#10, Cotoneaster, 10 years, semi-cascade



#9, Dwarf Balsam Fir, 20 years,



#8, Dwarf Japanese Juniper, 28 years, semi-cascade



#38, Hybrid Yew, 9 years, root over rock informal upright



#7, Amur Maple, 10 years, miniature landscape



#6, Larch and Jack Pine, 6 years, miniature landscape



# Pictures from the Show

This year again we were fortunate to have Tim Ellestad, a talented photographer and Mary's husband, doing the people watching and capturing some special moments as the public interacted with our trees. His photos are on this page and the next.



Ron guides the way



Mary has the class



Shooting it like I'm right there



Tim tells Karl how it was



Dad with little bonsai lover



The cordial welcome





# 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.

### [What bonsai are worked on in June?](#)

- *Crategus*, Michael Hagedorn blog

### [7 Beginner Mistakes](#)

- *Bonsai Empire*

### [Fertilizing Your Bonsai](#)

- *Evergreen Garden Works*

### [Kusamono: The Softer Side of Bonsai](#)

- *The Washington Post*



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

## *Pictures from the Show continued*



The Ikebana people had a



Getting the ground view

Getting a nice tree just right

# Save the Date

## Wisco Bonsai Bring Your Own Tropical Material Workshop

- Limit 10 participants (first come first served)

Work on your tropicals with expert guidance. (warm weather, (non-hardy in Wisconsin trees). The appropriate work for this time of year will be anything and everything related to Tropical Trees. You can repot OR style tropical trees with an expectation of a positive response from the tree. All levels of experience welcome, but if you are an absolute, never-ever, beginner, you might want to wait until our Spring beginner workshops, or reach out for a private beginner session.

**Wisco Bonsai** N68W23890 Donna Drive Sussex Wi. 53089

**Saturday June 28th** 11am until 3pm

**Cost & Payment:** \$30 per person. Spots will be filled in order of email to [wiscobonsai@gmail.com](mailto:wiscobonsai@gmail.com)

PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT PAYMENT UNTIL ADVISED TO DO SO !!! Replies to this email will be sent payment instructions upon acceptance to the workshop.

### OTHER EVENTS COMING UP AT WISCO BONSAI

**Saturday, July 19** - Thuja (Eastern White Cedar) Styling Workshop

**Sunday, August 3** - Wound Healing Workshop

**Friday-Sunday, September 26-28** -  
SeptemberFest: 5 artists & 5 workshops, all open to the public



**WISCO BONSAI**  
[www.WiscoBonsai.com](http://www.WiscoBonsai.com)



President .....Alex  
Vice President .....Vacant  
Secretary .....Lisa  
Treasurer .....Ken  
Web Manager .....Paolo  
Newsletter Editor.....Lisa  
Librarian.....Linda  
Past President.....Ron  
Board Member .....Mary  
Board Member .....Zach  
Board Member .....Skyler  
Board Member .....Lauren

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

Milwaukee Bonsai Society

## 54th Annual Bonsai Exhibit



Join us for a  
weekend of  
Bonsai  
entertainment,  
shopping and fun!

**JUNE  
14-15**

Sat 10-5 pm  
Sun 10-3 PM

**Special Guest Artist  
former ballerina  
Jennifer Price**

Lynden Sculpture Garden  
2145 W Brown Deer Rd  
River Hills, WI



[www.milwaukeebonsai.org](http://www.milwaukeebonsai.org)

