



# BADGER BONSAI NEWS

October 2025

## President's Message

By Alex S.

October has arrived, and with it those cool mornings that make our tropicals start to shiver—if you haven't already, it's probably time to bring them inside. This month's meeting promises to be a great one. Ron will share his experience exhibiting at the National Show (congratulations again, Ron!), and Loren will give us the attendee's perspective. Between the two of them,

to help shape the direction of our club and ensure it continues to thrive. Serving on the board is a great way to contribute your ideas, meet fellow members on a deeper level, and play a direct role in guiding our activities. It's also far less time-consuming than you might think, and you'll have plenty of support from the rest of the team.

We're currently looking for someone to step into the club Treasurer role since Ken will be stepping down when his term expires at the end of this year. The Treasurer is responsible for managing the club's finances by controlling

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we'll get an excellent look at what it's like to experience the National Show from both sides of the display table. Ron will also lead a discussion on preparing our trees for winter—covering both tropical and temperate species—and how pest control fits into that process.

Now, onto something just as important—our upcoming board elections in November. This is your opportunity

## UPCOMING EVENT

**October 9, 6:30 to 8:00 pm**  
**Olbrich Botanical Gardens**  
3330 Atwood Ave, Madison

### AGENDA:

- National Show Overview
- Fall pest control
- Strategies for overwintering bonsai and kusamono
- Member Q&A.



# Make Your Own Ceramic Bonsai or Kusamono Pots

By Sharon P.

## Have you ever wanted to make your own bonsai or kusamono pot?

Here's your chance! In this hands-on workshop, we'll explore how to create pots that are as unique and expressive as the plants they hold. You'll learn simple techniques for shaping, texturing, and finishing your own handmade container—no pottery experience needed. Whether you're imagining a rustic bonsai pot or a delicate kusamono dish, you'll discover how the right container can bring balance and personality to your planting. By the end of the session, you'll have a one-of-a-kind pot ready for your next living work of art!

**Instructor:** Brook Johnson, owner of Green Road Pottery/Yahara Chocolate

**Date:** January 10-11, 2026. Two groups will meet at different times, with a maximum of 8 students per group

**Location:** 216 W. Main St., Stoughton, WI

**Cost:** \$80 per student.

**How to Register:** *BBS members will receive priority registration until November 13.* After this date the workshop will be opened to the public. To reserve your spot, send an email to Sharon at ([sharonpagey@gmail.com](mailto:sharonpagey@gmail.com)) with your preference for workshop time by October 17, or sooner as space is limited. BBS will then send a payment link out to registrants with payments due November 13 (the day after the November meeting). This is a great opportunity, so don't delay in reserving your spot!

## Class Syllabus:

**Saturday: Group A meets 9:30-12:30 / Group B meets 1:30-4:30**

Brook will provide each student with a 12"x12" wooden board. You can decide whether you want to make one pot or two, but both will need to fit on the board. Many shapes are possible: round, oval, rectangular, a "rocky outcrop," shallow tray, half-moon, etc. Brook will have some examples on hand, or you can bring photos as inspiration. Determine the best way to make your pot(s): slab or coil. Brook will give a quick demo for each method and supervise you as you make your pots. Want a natural or weathered look? Press materials like stones or bark into the clay. Fancy feet and other decorations are created separately during this session. Projects are then left to dry overnight.

**Sunday: Group A meets 10:00-12:00 / Group B meets 1:00-3:00**

You'll finish and refine your pots using sandpaper and hand tools. This is the time to connect any decorations or feet to the main pot using a wet clay mixture called "slip." After we leave, Brook will bisque-fire the pieces, apply a glaze, if desired (choose from several colors) and do the final firing. You can then pick up your pots during the shop's open hours. Alternatively, I can deliver your pots to the next meeting.

## Of Interest on the Web



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



Follow [Badger Bonsai Society on Facebook](#)

for the latest news, meeting agendas, upcoming events, and inspiring shares from

[Badger Bonsai Society Member Group](#)

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

## Wiring Bonsai

Wiring is a foundational technique in bonsai design. By applying wire, you can guide branch placement, shape growth, and imbue the tree with artistry and balance. Good wiring serves as an invisible skeleton: it holds new forms while the tree's tissues adapt, and—if done carefully—it leaves little sign of its presence long-term.

While bonsai can be wired in various seasons depending on the species and local climate, fall is often the most advantageous time of year. During this period, sap flow slows and growth decreases, leaving branches flexible but not brittle—ideal conditions for shaping without causing breakage. As deciduous trees shed their leaves, the branch structure becomes fully visible, allowing you to clearly see the tree's framework and plan your wiring with precision. Wiring in fall also provides ample time for branches to set into their new positions before the vigorous growth of spring begins. Because growth is slower in fall, there's less risk of wires cutting into the bark, and you gain a longer, safer window to monitor progress before adjustments are needed. Even so, it's essential to continue checking wired branches through winter and early spring, removing or loosening wires before they begin to scar or embed into the bark.

Typically at this time of year we'd be doing a wiring workshop, but it just didn't happen this year. We'll host wiring workshops in the future, but in the meantime, you should still plan to do some wiring on your trees and fortunately there is a wealth of high-quality online resources available to guide and inspire you. Whether you're a beginner trying your first wiring project or an experienced enthusiast refining your technique, the internet offers a vast collection of tutorials, diagrams, and demonstration videos that make the learning process more accessible than ever.

Here are a few to check out:

### [Bonsai Empire](#) – Wiring Basics / Styling

A detailed, step-by-step guide covering wire types, when to wire, bending, guy-wires, and aftercare.

### [Bonsai Mirai](#) – Bonsai Wiring Technique

Offers advanced tips, such as maintaining consistent angles & spacing ("same angle, same spacing, no gaps") and practical advice on hand technique.

### [Bonsai Tonight](#) – "How to Wire a Y-Branch Intersection"

Focused article dealing with the common challenge of wiring a branch that splits (i.e. a "Y" shape).

### [Bonsai-EN](#) – The Ultimate Guide to Bonsai Wiring for Beginners

A modern, accessible wiring guide, with good graphics and explanations.

### [Bonsai Beginner Series](#) – Structural Wiring (by Bonsai Mirai)

A solid video for newcomers showing trunk and branch wiring in real time

### [How to Create Movement: Wiring a Bonsai Trunk](#) (Eastern Leaf)

Demonstrates shaping the trunk with wire to introduce natural movement.

### [How to Wire a Bonsai Tree Branch](#) (Eastern Leaf)

A hands-on video focusing on wiring a branch from start to finish.

While these resources are incredibly helpful, it's important to remember that wiring is a tactile skill best honed through practice. Watching experts wire trees and reading professional instruction can build confidence, but nothing replaces the feel of real bark under your fingers. Use the internet to supplement your hands-on learning, experiment, and develop your own sense of balance, flow, and control as you bring artistry to your bonsai wiring practice.



*President's Message cont.*

income and expenses, preparing and monitoring the budget, keeping accurate financial records, handling bank accounts, and reporting on the club's financial status to the board and members. Key responsibilities include collecting dues and funds, paying bills, reconciling accounts, and ensuring financial transparency and compliance with club policies and local laws.

See you Thursday—bundle up, bring your trees, and maybe your campaign smile!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Final Weekend Wisco Bonsai will be open:  
Saturday Nov 1 - 10am - 4pm  
Sunday, November 2 - 10 am to 3 pm  
(but as always, we are open for pop-in shopping by appointment when needed)

### AUTUMN DECIDUOUS CUT BACK WORKSHOP

**WHEN:** Sunday, November 2 - 11am until 3pm (may finish before 3). Limited to 6 people, first come, first served.

**WHO:** You ! If you have bonsai you would like to work on with guidance in regards to making post leaf-drop structural cuts on deciduous material. Skill level for this workshop is variable, but participants should be able to handle basic bonsai and cutting tools (though we can help with some of that).

**WHAT:** A BYO workshop focusing on the proper techniques for making structural cuts on deciduous material.

**WHY:** After leaf drop is the best time to make large and small structural decisions on deciduous trees (maples, elms, etc) as this will give the tree concentrated directions when it leafs out in the spring and really helps get the structure of the tree set up for future growth. We will explore the different cuts that can be made, along with learning how deciduous trees are actually "built" from the trunk outward. Once you attend this workshop, you will have the knowledge to apply this to all your trees as they progress towards refinement. Hard and small cuts and branch removal after leaf drop is an absolutely necessary step in making good bonsai.

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

**WHAT ELSE:** This is a BYO material workshop (though I may have some material for purchase that would be appropriate. Your material should be deciduous and at that time of year, they will have dropped or soon will drop, their leaves. Tools needed will be your basic cutters (concave, flush, spherical, etc) and wound sealing putty/paste. If you have wound sealants, bring them... If not, we carry that in the shop. Participants are welcome to do more than one tree if time allows, but please have your main tree in mind first and foremost. The shop will be open at 10am if you need anything from there (Cut paste/putties, tools, wire, etc). We can take a small break at any time, so please bring a snack if you need, along with a beverage (adult beverages are ok too LOL). This will be held in either Studio G (sheltered) or outside, if weather allows, so please dress appropriately.

**COST & PAYMENT:** \$30 per person. Spots will be filled in order of reply to this email. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT PAYMENT UNTIL ADVISED TO DO SO!!! Replies to this email will be sent payment instructions upon acceptance to the workshop.



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