



BADGER BONSAI NEWS

March 2026

Potapalooza Times Two!

By Mary

At our March meeting you will have a great opportunity to acquire some very nice bonsai pots. Last summer a past member (Gary L. who was our treasurer) donated a large number of pots to BBS. He requested that these be sold and the proceeds used for a visiting bonsai artist. There are probably 60 to 70 pots. Most are unglazed medium sizes, 7 or 8 are quite large, and one is a slab.

They've been stored in my garage until now waiting for potting season. Since the goal is to sell these, they will be priced very low - medium sizes at \$8 or 3 for \$20. Most of these are probably \$20 to \$30 pots. The large ones will be priced separately. Please have mercy on my back and my storage space - purchase some (maybe 3 or more) nice pots! John will help me collect payments (cash or a check to BBS please).



Our Second Annual Silhouette Show was a wonderful success, with members bringing in a beautiful variety of trees—some newly styled and others that have been patiently developed over many years. Viewing the trees without leaves offered a rare opportunity to appreciate their structure and movement—something we often overlook during the growing season when the foliage is getting all of the attention.



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.

UPCOMING EVENT

March 12, 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave, Madison

AGENDA:

- Potapalooza
- Matching trees with pots

The Times, They Are a Changing

By Karl

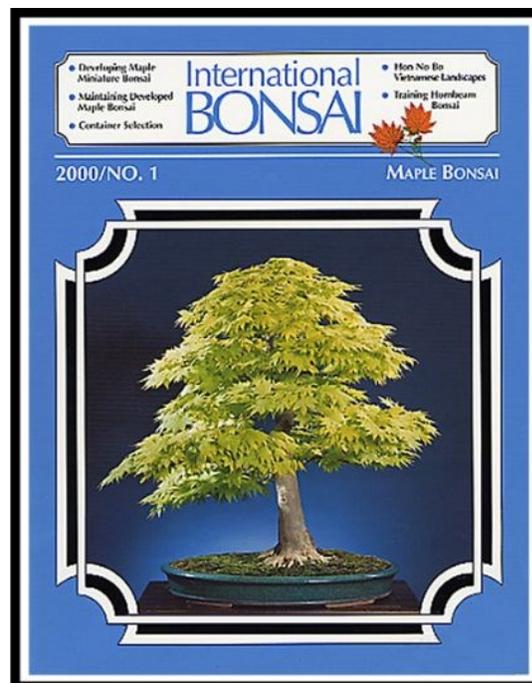
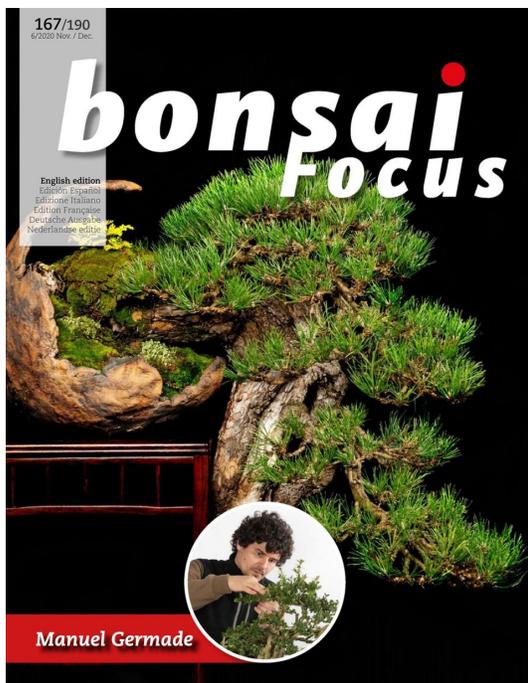
A few decades back, there was a periodical about anything you wanted to investigate – how to tie fishing flies, metal detectors for fun and profit, horseback riding, stamp collecting, scuba diving, etc. etc. Every drug store had a magazine rack that was filled with dozens of periodicals. A periodical was the best way, and perhaps the only way, to keep up with the newest developments in that field of interest. Well, the internet changed all that, and one-by-one the magazines have ceased publication. International Bonsai, published by Bill Valavanis for forty years, ceased publishing a few years ago. And at the end of 2025 Bonsai Focus –probably the best bonsai magazine outside of Japan - turned out the lights. (It may continue in some fashion on the internet, but will no longer produce a print version.)

The reason for the demise of so many periodicals is obvious – the internet offers a much faster, cheaper, and wide ranging access to virtually any information you want, including bonsai. Want to know when to prune your natal plum, or what variety of trident maples have the smallest leaves, or why your serissa is losing its leaves? Google it – it's all on the internet, and there's probably YouTube video about it as well. That's the good news. The bad news is that all that good information is mixed in with tons of bogus nonsense. When magazines were being published, the editors' responsibility was to act as gatekeeper to keep out bad advice.

Lastly, the National Bonsai Foundation, which was chartered fifty years ago, was dissolved at the end of 2025. The primary objective of the Foundation was to lobby for, and fund, the building of the facility to house the bonsai collection at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. In 1976 as part of the U.S. Bi-centennial, the Japanese gifted fifty-five incredible bonsai to the U.S. But, there was no facility for their display. Enter the National Bonsai Foundation. Their efforts led to the creation of a building for the displaying the gifted Japanese trees, but also another for U.S. bonsai and another for Chinese bonsai. Facilities also include a tropical area, winter storage area, suiseki display, and library collections. Having achieved all of their goals and more, the NBF ended fifty years of service to the bonsai community.

Bonsai Focus hasn't gone away completely, it's now being offered through a membership model at Bonsaitoday.com. Subscribers can sign up for monthly online editions or online and print versions.

International Bonsai is still being run by Bill Valavanis, but it's not clear if he's doing an online magazine or has moved new content over to his blog at valavanisbonsaiblog.com. Back copies of International Bonsai can be purchased on his website internationalbonsai.com



Of Interest on the Web



Have some news to share?

Submit articles, ideas, photos, and events to the Newsletter Editor at badgerbonsaisociety@gmail.com

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

[Dorie's Shohin Bonsai Tips](#)

- *Article from International Bonsai*

[Repotting and Root Pruning Bonsai](#)

- *Bonsai 4me*

[Bonsai Pot & Sizing Guide: Choosing the Right Pot](#)

- *Tiny Tree Craft*



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

[Badger Bonsai Society Member Group](#)

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

Wild Things

THE ART OF KUSAMONO
JUNE 19-21, 2026



NATIONAL BONSAI & PENJING MUSEUM



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Badger Bonsai News is a monthly publication of the Badger Bonsai Society.

<https://badgerbonsai.net>

Air Layering

By Karl

This year I'm going to try to do better at record keeping. This will be easier than one might expect, as any record keeping will be better than no record keeping.

Last June (well I think it was June) I started five air layers on different Japanese maples. In late September (same caveat) I cut them all from the parent plant. All five had rooted. Yahoo! I potted them all up and they have spent the winter in my bomb shelter. The real test will be whether they have survived the winter.

Air layering is easy to do, and in contrast to a cutting, you get a much more mature plant in a shorter time. If you search YouTube for how to do air layering, all sorts of videos can be found. Invariably, they will show the cuts perpendicular to the trunk. This is, apparently, the technique everyone does, and is the technique I've always used. BUT ... why not make the top

cut tilted a bit, say at a 45 degree angle? (Bottom cut doesn't matter.) This would accomplish two things. First, it will produce a larger trunk diameter, which is the holy grail of bonsai. Secondly, the air layer, when potted, will emerge at an angle to the soil surface. The only style that should emerge vertically from the ground is the formal upright. All others should emerge at an angle. I don't recall who taught me that, but it's a good lesson. Now maybe there are horticultural reasons for making a perpendicular cut. I don't know and I've never seen a discussion of this. Some of my air layer projects for the coming year I'm going to try this.

Now if I can just remember to write it down.

Wisco Bonsai's Bonsai for Beginners Workshop

Limit 6 "Active Participants and up to 10 "Silent Observers."



WISCO BONSAI
www.WiscoBonsai.com

A beginner oriented lecture and hands-on workshop. All attendees will receive a short lecture talking about all aspects of bonsai, emphasizing local species and climate knowledge. After the lecture the active participants will dive into some nursery grown pre-bonsai material (Kishu Junipers) and we will get them out of their nursery containers and into their very first Bonsai Training Pot. Each of the 6 active participants will then take that tree home and begin its journey as a Bonsai !!! Silent Observers will be welcome to stay for this second part of the program as well.

WHERE: Wisco Bonsai N68W23890 Donna Drive
Sussex Wi. 53089

WHEN: Saturday March 21st 10am until 2pm

COST: Active Participants- \$80;
Silent Observers - \$10

Active Participants is now sold out. As a silent observer, you get everything that the Active Participants get except for the provided material and hands on work.

Email Kevin at wiscobonsai@gmail.com if interested in registering. Participation is first come, first served!