



BADGER BONSAI NEWS

June 2026

BBS Annual Exhibit a Success

By Lisa, Editor

The Badger Bonsai Society Annual Exhibit at Olbrich Botanical Gardens on May 16 and 17 was once again a tremendous success.

Attendance was slightly lower than in previous years, likely due in part to a rainy Sunday that kept some visitors away from the gardens. Sunday also brought a tornado warning, and our exhibit space was designated as the shelter area for all garden visitors. Despite the disruption, the show continued smoothly, and our volunteers handled the situation with flexibility and good spirits.

For the second year, we featured a dedicated display of Kusamono. The creativity and quality of this year's plantings were exceptional, showcasing beautiful combinations that would have made Young Choe proud. The display added another layer of seasonal beauty and artistry to the exhibit.

Last year marked our first experience with professional judging, and we learned a great deal from that process. With several new procedures in place this year, judging ran efficiently and without a hitch. We'll share the ribbon winners in next month's newsletter, but this month we want to focus on another important recognition—the People's Favorite Award.

More than 1,600 visitors cast votes for their favorite trees during the show. The top ten selections represented a remarkable range of species, styles, and artistic expression, demonstrating both the quality of the exhibit and the appreciation our visitors have for exceptional bonsai.

Events like this are only possible because of the many members who generously volunteer their time. Thank you to everyone who helped with setup, teardown, the greeting table, and countless behind-the-scenes tasks. Whether you worked a shift or simply stopped by to lend support, your contributions helped make the weekend a success.

Special thanks go to Ron, Skyler, Zach, and Tim for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm through their demonstrations, which were enjoyed by visitors and members alike. One of the highlights of the weekend was seeing our youngest member, DJ, proudly sharing his pepper bonsai. His excitement was infectious and served as a wonderful reminder of why we share this art form with others. The future of bonsai looks bright when young enthusiasts bring that kind of energy and curiosity to the hobby.

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, exhibited, voted, and supported the show. We look forward to celebrating another outstanding exhibit with you next year.



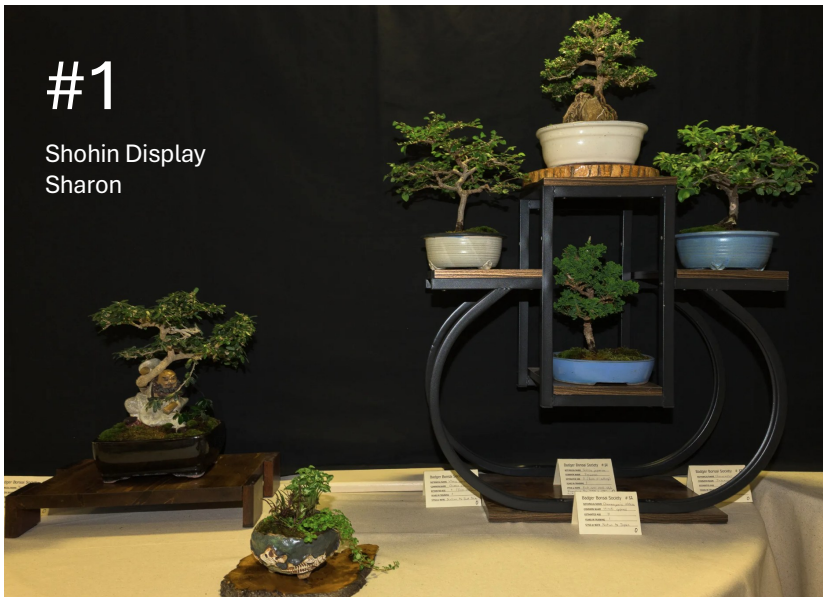
June 11, 6:30 - 9:00 pm
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave, Madison

AGENDA:
June Workshop—
Nursery Shrub Potluck

**UPCOMING
EVENT**

People's Choice Bonsai

As is tradition, visitors to the exhibit selected their favorite trees through our People's Choice voting. More than 1,600 votes were cast this year, resulting in a Top 10 list—or, in this case, a Top 12, thanks to two ties among the favorites!





#5
Redwood
Jennifer



#6
Pine Forest
Jennifer



#6
Tiger Bark Ficus
Sharon



#7
Operculicarya decaryi
Gregory



#7
Larch
Tim

June Workshop - Nursery Shrub Potluck

By Mary

OK - we're doing it - I'm excited! The nursery shrub workshop is going to happen at our June extended meeting this Thursday. My back patio looks like a mini nursery right now. I bought 19 shrubs and have managed to keep my hands off 16 of them. If you know me - that's not too bad! I was able to find a good mix of different species and sizes and prices, so I hope there's something for everyone.

Here is my current inventory - there are 2 Dwarf Procumbens Juniper - \$8.50, 2 Baby Gem Boxwood - \$13, 1 Mugo Pine - \$13, 1 American Larch - \$25, 1 Dwarf Korean Lilac - \$25, 2 Autumn Inferno Cotoneaster - \$30, 1 Jade Parade Cherry - \$30, 1 Technito Arborvitae - \$30, 2 Nishiki Willow - \$35, 2 Dwarf Korean Lilac - \$20 and 1 Czechmark Trilogly Weigela - \$30. If you want a tree, you will draw a number that determines the order in which you get to select your tree. The trees will not be numbered - the person with

#1 will get to choose from all of them, etc. Please pay with cash or a check made out to Mary Ellestad - I can't do charges or PayPal. I hope to go home with zero trees so, if there are any left, I'll just try to sell them. Also - it's fine if you want to bring your own shrub and work along with everyone.

Everything will be set out by 6:15 so you might want to come early to start looking. At 6:30 we'll take 10 minutes for everyone to look over the shrubs before we start. I will give you a few starter suggestions and then we'll draw numbers. Selection needs to move quickly - we want to start working by 7:00 so we have as much time as possible. We will be cutting, styling and wiring but not repotting. Bring your bonsai tools and plastic to cover your table. There will be some tools available to share and we will also provide some wire. Club members will be available to help out or answer questions. I think this is going to be great fun and I can't wait to see what everyone ends up with! No show & tell or door prizes at this meeting - we're going to be way too busy.




#8

Chinese Quince
Ron



#9

Juniper
Phil



BADGER BONSAI
Society

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



#10

Amur Maple Forest
Jennifer

People's Choice Bonsai

We always say that the people are what matter most. While the trees may be the stars of the show, it's the visitors who bring the exhibit to life. Some spend considerable time carefully studying each display before choosing a favorite, while others enjoy a quicker stroll through the exhibit. No matter how long they stay, everyone interacts with the trees in their own way. Once again this year, Mary's husband Tim captured those moments for us. Here are some of his photos celebrating the people who make our show special.



Of Interest on the Web



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

[Shohin Bonsai Techniques](#)
- *Bonsai Empire*

[Mastering Field Grown Japanese Bonsai](#)
- *Bonsai Mirai*

[Caring for Bonsai During a Heatwave](#)
- *Bonsai Empire*



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

Have some news to share?

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

[Badger Bonsai Society Member Group](#)

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

Wisconsin Bonsai Summer Seasonal Sessions

Wisconsin Bonsai has transitioned to summer hours, with one open weekend each month featuring **Seasonal Sessions**—informal, assisted workshops focused on seasonally appropriate bonsai work.

Bring a tree or two (or purchase one on-site) and receive guidance while working alongside other enthusiasts. Sessions are \$25 per person, and participants are welcome to stay all day or drop in as needed. These workshops are best suited for those with some bonsai experience; beginners seeking more personalized instruction should schedule a private lesson.

Watch your email for monthly details on the seasonal focus.

Summer Schedule

- June 19–20
- July 17 & 19
- August 8–9
- September 18–20 (SeptemberFest)
- October 17–18
- November 21–22



Kusamono!

