



# BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

**BADGER NEWS | A PUBLICATION OF THE BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY | October 2009**

**NEXT MEETING: October 8th**

6:30–8:00 pm  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave. Madison, WI

**MEETING AGENDA:**

Bring your own tree to work on

**CLUB OFFICERS:**

President.....	Ron
Vice President/	
Librarian/Newsletter.....	Greg
Secretary.....	Duke
Treasurer.....	Gary
Communications.....	Devon
Refreshments.....	Elaine

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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:**

President’s Message October 2009

Hard to believe but another summer is gone by and fall is upon us and winter is not far behind. But with all this being said there is still time and work to be done on your bonsai before they go into their winter’s nap.

Just some quick reminders:

- Your tropical trees should probably be brought in at night if the temperature is dropping below 45 degrees
- You should have sprayed your trees before taking them in for the winter to eliminate any insects that may have set up residence on your trees
- Trees that are to go dormant should still be out until temperatures are much lower
- Non-tropical trees will benefit from several feedings of 0-10-10 fertilizer until they go completely dormant to build root strength
- Do not do any major cuts at this time of year as the tree will likely not have enough time to recover and start the healing process before the hard freezes take place

At our meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>, bring in some of your trees for last chance adjustments before winter takes hold. We can still make minor cuts but nothing major. We can also look for any bugs that might have set up residence and need to be taken care of before winter allows them to do more damage over the winter or in the spring when the new batch of bugs are ready to hatch.

We will discuss how you may consider wintering your hardy trees and also how you may want to work with your tropical trees, now that they can no longer stay outside.

We will also discuss what things can be done in these months were growth of your trees is very limited, such as wiring, searching for its next pot and other tasks.

I will also bring along some pictures of boxes that I wintered trees in when I first started bonsai. Those boxes will be available to anyone interested, your cost – come and pick them up.

Another item that I would like all members to think about is what programs, subjects, demonstrations, workshops you want to see happen next year.

See you at the meeting. I will bring supplies, tools and other stuff for sale.

Ron

I was very pleased to see the large turnout of people at our last two meetings. There was standing room only. Members as well as visitors. At both meetings most brought a tree to work on. This meeting is also a bring your own tree so I hope we have as large of turnout on Thursday. See you there. At our last meeting Ron demonstrated to us how to unwrap, cut off, and plant an air layered section of a tree to make a new bonsai. We actually air layered those trees a few months back. As Ron pulled back the moss from around the air layer he was surprised by the few roots that had developed, but the layer was cut and planted "securely" in new soil.

Later that week I had two air layers of my own and decided it was time to separate them also. As I begun to pull away the moss I also found hardly any roots, after three months I was expecting more. I guess the most pragmatic thing to do would have been to dust with more rooting hormone and re wrapping the air layer and overwinter the trees, a Shimpaku Juniper and a Full Moon Maple, but being as impulsive as I am I cut off the layers and replanted them also. I know that it will take much tender care and alot of good luck to get them to rebud in the spring. If anyone out there also preformed some bonsai techniques on their trees this past season and want to relate their experiences with us please let me know and I will put them in the next newsletter.

Last Christmas I got A DVD/VCR recorder, with the hope of updating some of my old VCR's to DVD's. As a side I was going to update the clubs video collection. Results were not the greatest, but with help from my oldest son and a good set of dubbing cables I am now getting fairly good copies and have finished with our libraries old video's. The new DVD's are:

Warren Hill Presents; Design Series Vol. 1 Yose-ue Forest planting: Larch Forest on a slab

Warren Hill Presents: Design Series Vol. 2 Yose-ue Forest Planting: Larch Forest in a pot

John Naka Master Series Techniques Jin and Shari on a Prostrate Juniper

Windswept Shimpaku by Kimura

Bonsai: The Art of Training Dwarf Potted Trees by the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens

F. Chase Rosade Techniques Vol. 1 Shaping Techniques

1993 IBC Convention Yuji Yoshimura Demonstration

Plant Propigation Vol. 2 Cuttings and Layerings

The Growing Art of Bonsai

The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum

Bonsai Works of Divinity

The Danny Use Collection at Ginkgo

Anderson Garden Tour 1996

The Wisconsin Gardener 3.2.03 featuring Bonsai Bob E

If any of you would have old VCR's that you would like to update to DVD's get them to me and I will be willing to copy them for you. I will provide the DVD's if a copy can be made for the library for club members to view. Please let me know if you might be interested

Greg

Found this at the Toronto Bonsai Web Site, there are more articles at the site on what needs to be done to your Bonsai on a month by month basis. Check out this site for the great info found there.

## Things To Do In October

### In General...

It's getting rather late in the year, and so your thoughts ought to be focusing on putting your trees to rest for the winter. That means no fertilizing, nor pruning, nor wiring or repotting. These are activities that require your trees to be actively involved with life rather than focusing on going to sleep, which is, of course, what they are getting ready to do. However, do **be vigilant about watering**. Though trees will require much less moisture than when they are actively growing in the spring, summer and early fall, they will still require some. The "turning of the leaves" in nature is a clear indicator that less water is required for a healthy tree.

If, in September, you did do some repotting, which wasn't really recommended, you want to make sure that adequate moisture is present. Even though your tree may appear to be resting for the winter, ...until it actually freezes in its pot, root growth will continue, though not at the rate that you would see it happen in the spring. So keep that soil moist.

For those of you who are relatively new to the hobby, be sure to pick up one of the flyers on "**Overwintering Your Trees**". A limited number of these will be available at the meeting. If you can't attend, visit the article on the web site in the "Archives" section.

Be sure to plan some strategies for dealing with hungry **mice and rabbits**, if these could be a problem in your area. Rodent poisons are available in a form that is waterproof for trees kept outside; rabbits appear to be lazy by nature: they won't jump a 2' fence unless they are absolutely desperate. 3' tall chicken wire, temporarily installed around your overwintering plot, is a good, inexpensive deterrent. Deer can be discouraged by hanging up small bags of "human hair" - see your friendly barber or hair dresser, or your long-haired neighborhood friend.

### Hardy Evergreens And Deciduous Plants

Tuck them in for winter in a **wind-protected location**, using whatever method you know works for you, or use a method suggested by Reiner Goebel in his article in the "Archives". Anticipate the rodents and rabbits and deer - see above suggestions.

If warm spells do occur during the winter, make sure your trees stay moist - apply snow or water, whichever is appropriate at the time. Remember also that **snow is a great insulator** for your trees. By all means, pile it on the trees, but be careful not to break the branches with excessively wet or heavy snow. Fluffy, light snow is best.

## Tropicals

If you've kept your tropicals outside this long, you've really been pushing your luck. Bring them in, because they don't like the cold!

Remember that the inside air of your house or apartment is considerably drier than the outside air that they have become accustomed to over the summer. It is prudent to make sure your trees have ample water, and a daily misting from a spray bottle will probably be appreciated by your plants. Providing a moist atmosphere can also be accomplished by placing your pots on a bed of moist/wet pebbles in a tray; the damp microclimate will be appreciated by them.

Some varieties of ficus trees will lose all of their leaves when climatic conditions change radically, such as when you bring the trees inside. It may take several weeks, perhaps even a month or two, for new growth to begin again. During this period of rest, be sure to keep your trees well watered, but not overwatered!

So, ... how do you know when that tree needs more water? Experiment a little. There is a distinct difference in the temperature of soil that is dry and that which is moist. Try it out. Touch the dry soil in a pot (you know it's dry because you haven't watered it and the plant in the pot is dead!) Touch the moist soil in a pot. You know it's moist because you watered it yesterday, and the plant in the pot seems happy, and a bit of soil wants to stick to your finger.

Soil which is dry feels warm (room temperature warm); soil which is moist feels cold. Simple. No expensive gadgets need to be bought for this test, and it is reliable. Unless you're growing swamp plants, your soil should always be allowed to dry out a little before you give the plant more water - "a little" really doesn't mean more than a day.

If you are fortunate enough to have a small greenhouse into which to move your tropicals, you may find that within a day or two of having come inside, the soil in your pots gets covered with a hostile-looking layer of white mold. What to do? An inexpensive solution for mold and mildew problems is to take a half teaspoon of baking soda mixed in a liter of water; spray this solution onto the soil and your plants, while you're at it, and watch that fungus disappear. don't go overboard on the quantity of baking soda! Air movement with the help of a fan or two will also avoid the problem in the future, and should be "a given" for the whole greenhouse cycle!





