



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | MAY, 2010

NEXT MEETING DATE: **May 13th, 2010**

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

MEETING AGENDA: **BURNING BUSH & 2010 SHOW PREP**

Bring back your burning bush for some more time with Ron, or bring trees to love up and prepare for the weekend show. It's never too late to spiff up the pot and place a wee-bit of moss around the nebari (surface roots). Assistance this eve. is limited to members.

CLUB OFFICERS:

President	Tim
1st Vice President	Matthew
2nd Vice President	Devon
Secretary	Duke
Treasurer	Gary
Librarian/Newsletter	Greg
Refreshments	Elaine
Past President	Ron

MEGA KUDOS - President's Message

By: Tim

After the forest workshop on Sunday, April 25, most participants left feeling pleased with their accomplishments. Everyone learned a bit more about bonsai groves. The small sizes and lack of branches enabled people to focus on the intricacies of forests and not on wiring branches which most people already understand. Thanks to Karl B for helping us. Karl was President for five years before my first stretch. Karl has also been an officer in Bonsai Clubs International. He is a human sponge with no personal filters when it comes to gathering information on bonsai. His friendly and knowledgeable teaching methods are much appreciated at workshops and demonstrations.

Please hang in there and read one more big appreciation. Gary, our most worthy Treasurer, has been doing a phenomenal job with the backdrops and table coverings for our **show on May 15-16**. He experimented with four different fabrics for the backdrop. Some fabrics were somewhat transparent. Others kept too many creases. Each trial meant another trip back to the fabric store. Then there are the table covers. I tried talking him into doing just a square for the round tables. He said it wouldn't work. I then tried talking him into doing an octagon. Once again, he said no. He cut two semi-circles, sewed them together, and hemmed the entire circle. Ever try cutting a large, perfect circle in fabric? Then there are the really cool stands that only an experienced master machinist, such as Gary, could have dreamed up. Duke did a really fine job cutting the bases for the stands.

I would really like to see everyone bring at least one tree to the show. Please tell everyone about it. Devon, our honorable and indefatigable Webmaster, has created some picture frame quality posters and cards that may be downloaded from the website. Please take some to libraries and stores. He will bring some to our next meeting that you can take with you and put up at your workplace for 24 hours.

For our May meeting, bring back any of the burning bushes you may want to continue working with. At this time, I would not take off much soil. Bring any trees you are not sure about for the show. Maybe some judicious pruning and wiring will be all they need to be show quality. Bring any other tree you want to work on. If you do not finish it, you will at least be off to a good start. Please remember we only have one hour. Jung's usually has

some nice Shimpaku junipers for sale. One of the miniature spireas would also be nice. For extra dollars, the birdsnest-like blue spruces are very nice. Bring tools, wire, and a table covering. This will be a super cool show in May.

See ya all there,
—Tim

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Beware the Worm

By: Greg

Late spring/early summer is upon us, dancing around the May Pole is over for another year, and our trees are starting to leaf out. Life is good, or is it. While out walking the "Guardian" down the old railroad tracks I encountered a number of Eastern Tent Caterpillar nests, driving around this weekend I saw even more. Though not very appealing, they tend not to be too devastating, even while they will eat all the leaves from the surrounding trees, for the most part they do seem to re-leaf out, and mortality rates are small.

The worms tend to prefer Wild Cherry, Crabapple, Maple and hawthorn, but build nests and eat leaves of many other trees. Once they get large enough and/or eat all the nearby food they get down to the ground and start to crawl off looking for a new food source and a place to pupate into an ugly little moth.



This is where your bonsai could find itself in trouble. Trees in nature can handle a couple of hundred of these hungry little buggers munching on their photosynthesis factories but one medium sized bonsai would be hardly a snack for these eating machines which could denude your tree in a couple of hours

Young caterpillars are more effected by insecticides than older ones so get them early, Malathion seems to work best, but can harm Maples and Crabapples, and I would not recommend using it. Insecticidal soap also works and is much safer. For those naturists out there, there is always picking them off one by one, give them a good squeeze and listen to them pop. I always preferred the flame thrower approach, the nest itself is somewhat flammable(I wouldn't recommend this on your prize bonsai) but they do give off a satisfying snap, crackle, and pop when fully engulfed in flames.

Check your trees now, not only for caterpillars, but for other insects that are also out at this time looking for a quick snack.

-Greg

Tree/Style of the Month

Burning Bush and/or show trees to be spiffed up before the annual public show on May 15-16.

Euonymus

By: Greg

For those of you at last months meeting that picked up a *Euonymus alatus compacta* (Burning Bush) from Ron for this months workshop, bring them along. Some potted theirs last month, some also did some shaping. Hopefully we will get to do some more pruning and shaping this month. *Euonymus* is a very interesting group of plants, there are over 170 different species, ranging in size from ground cover to small trees growing over 30 feet in height. The names of some of the plants are a few of my favorite names in the plant world. Spindle tree is the name given to the larger plants of this group. Not sure if they got their name from the fact that the stems were used in the weaving process or the fact that they do look sort of spindly in their stemmy shape. A sub tree about 20 feet in height goes by the name Kinnicinic. Another native name for *Euonymus* is Eastern Wahoo, now what plant has a cooler name.

Back to the plant in question, *Euonymus alatus* or Corky Burning Bush, or the plant that we are using, *Euonymus alatus compactus* or Dwarf Burning Bush is probably the most commonly used landscape shrub in the midwest. Walking around the neighborhood two out of three houses will have at least one. The shrub develops a perfect compact ball shape under four feet in height and width, is extremely hardy when established, and turns a wonderful shade of red in the fall. Rabbits love the bark and will not only strip the bark from the shrub but will also do your pruning for you, sometimes snipping the branches almost back to the trunk. But this surprising shrub comes right back strong and hardy every spring. It is some of these qualities that make this plant perfect for Bonsai. Small leaves, compact growth, responds well to pruning, root system is fibrous to begin with, and did I say THE FALL COLOR.

Burning Bush needs full sun in order to achieve a more brilliant fall color, but will also survive with indirect light. The plant also prefers a good supply of moisture during the spring and summer months so plant it in a slightly deeper pot than normal for bonsai. Care needs to be taken when wiring as the buds are held very loosely and tend to be knocked off fairly easily. Fertilize every other week during

late spring and summer with half strength plant food. If the tree is young yearly repotting will be necessary. Basic bonsai soil mix is satisfactory. The tree is mostly disease resistant and as to insects, caterpillars and aphids could give you problems. This tree deserves a chance, they are very inexpensive so go out and get one and turn it into a bonsai.
-Greg

BOOK REVIEW

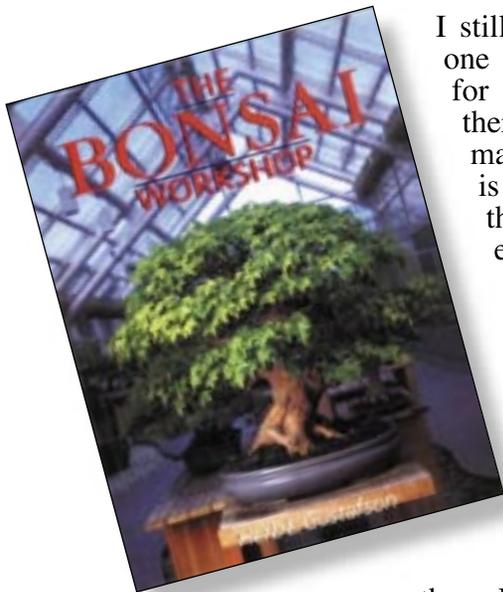
"The Bonsai Workshop"

Herb L. Gustafson, Author

By: Greg

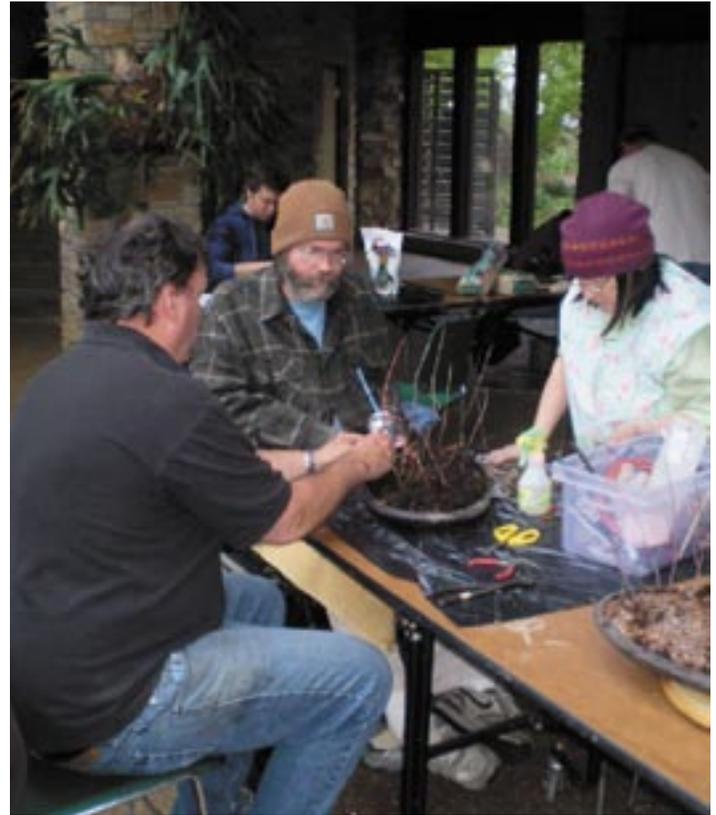
I read this book over three years ago and wrote a report on it then. This last month I reread this book and will report further on it. I like this book very much, so much so that this is one of two bonsai books that I also have in my own library. I will start with what I wrote earlier then add new material to it.

A very well written book with the beginner in mind. Probably the most easily understood book that I have yet read. Very informative and easy to follow, the line drawings are extremely clear. The author goes into extreme depth on bonsai styles, some that I have never heard of but there is a coexisting bonsai term, such as Elongated Style- Goza Kate, Split Trunk Style- Sabamiki, or Fallen Cone Style- Yama Yori. Line drawings are very informative. Regular photos are very descriptive and allot of them are in series. The author takes several plants and goes through several steps needed in the process of taking a nursery plant and making it a beginning bonsai.



I still concur that this is one of the better books for the beginner, but there is much more material included that is just as good for those more knowledgeable. There is an old saying that goes that even the great masters still have room to learn. The author includes a section on all of the tools needed and how to properly use and maintain

them. He takes each bonsai style and includes the rules associated with each style. Each style is accompanied with its Japanese name such as Formal Upright Style - Chokkan, or Exposed Root Style - Ne Agari.



Badger Bonsai Forest-Planting Workshop
April 25 at Olbrich Gardens, Madison, WI

There is a nice descriptive chapter on pruning and making jin and shari, again the accompanying photos are very helpful in understanding the procedure of making jin and shari.

The section on wiring is very descriptive and photos on the right way to wire is also pictured right next to poor examples of wiring and you can clearly see why one is proper and one is not. What I like best is near the end of the book the author takes a good example of nursery stock and goes through the procedure of making a bonsai. He also does the same with collected stock. There is also a good section on month to month general care.

So go out and read, this is a good book to start with.
-Greg

Show Prep Checklist

Posted Apr 10, 2008

by Greater Louisville Bonsai Society
www.matsubonsai.com

Neat Wiring

Branches should be wired neatly so that the wire does not distract the eye. Wire should start, end, and cross towards the back of the tree. Loops should be evenly spaced and firm against the branch.

Arrange Branches

Branches should be arranged in a natural and pleasing shape. Foliage pads should be clearly defined and neatly spaced.

Clean Soil

This may be obvious to some, but the soil needs to be clean of weeds and other debris. Fallen leaves, needles, and flowers should be removed. A suitable top dressing should be applied. Top dressing can consist of fine moss and fine akadama particles.

Clean Pots

Make sure the pot has been cleaned of dirt and water deposits. A light coating of walnut oil on unglazed pots adds a nice touch to make the pot more presentable.

Bonsai Stands

Multiple stands should be available to choose from. Matching the correct stand to tree based on height, style, color dramatically improves the overall composition.

Accent

An accent plant or companion stone should be added to complete the scene. These should be matched to the native environments of the trees. Alpine flowers can be shown with trees that are native to high altitudes. Field grasses and small stones representing distant mountains can be used to compliment lower lying species.





BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

ANNUAL PUBLIC SHOW



May 15 – 16 | 9 am – 4 pm | Olbrich Gardens
Demonstrations at 10 am and 1 pm | Free Admission

Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI
For more information please visit www.BadgerBonsai.net or email info@BadgerBonsai.net