



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

NEXT MEETING DATE: **June 10th, 2010**

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

MEETING AGENDA: **TANUKI / PHOENIX GRAFT DEMO**

In Tanuki bonsai, a very young tree is taken, and put into an interesting piece of deadwood, that has had a groove carved into it. Lead by Ron and Devon

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

A GREAT SHOW AND PINCHING - President's Message

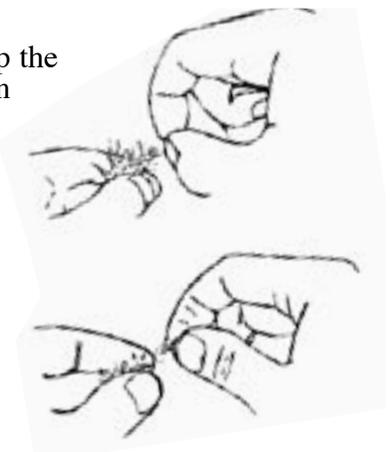
By: *Tim*

Once again, a great big thanks to Gary for the fine work he did on the table covers and backdrops. It was a classy set up and showed off the trees quite well. Others also put in quality time. Duke did the bases, and Devon designed the posters. Thanks much to everyone who demonstrated, staffed the front table, answered questions, set-up and cleaned up. We also had the best participation with those who brought plants. In fact, we could have used more room (Gary?). Members who have only been in the club for a few months also brought trees to display. This was great!



A few words on pinching

This is that time of year when our plants need to be pinched back. Pinch back to keep the growth in check on certain branches, but allow growth on sacrifice branches. When there is a desire to add only an inch or two of growth, watch to make sure the added growth does not become too leggy. You might need to pinch back sooner than desired to prevent this from happening. This would get you a smaller bit of growth than you ultimately desire. You then can add to this growth next year and perhaps the year after that to get the ultimate height or length you want. Patience, the constant improving of the tree, and the gamble of the change makes for an exciting hobby. However, only a bonsai enthusiast would consider this exciting.



Place your elms and junipers on a table on your backyard deck, grab a beer, and pinch away. This encourages bushiness. Do not wait another month. This should be a constant chore. Some people knit, we pinch.

Inside This Issue

- **Insect of the month**02
- **A bit about Tanuki**.....02
- **2010 Annual Show notes** 03
- **And the winner is**..... 04

This month, Ron plans to demonstrate a phoenix graft using a tree and some deadwood of Devon's. The idea is that, like the phoenix of myth, something living will result from something dead. Come to the meeting to better understand what I mean.

Patiently yours, —Tim

Insect of the Month!

By: Greg



With this wonderful weather I find myself and “The Guardian” out on longer and longer walks. The Guardian’s attention span is locked only on squirrels and if they are close enough to chase. Something I saw the other day just gives me the chills. On a large basswood tree there were many shredded leaves, upon closer inspection there were holes in the leaves and yes there they were, small metallic beetles about the size of a nickel. *Popillia japonica*, Japanese Beetle. I know you people from Madison and Milwaukee are saying so what, but these devils are newcomers to our Oasis called Monroe, I guess it was inevitable that they would invade our own Brigadoon here.

Their preferred food seems to be roses, but they like many more plants, such as linden, maple, hibiscus, oak, etc. etc. etc. They prefer eating the leaf material between the veins, referred to as skeletonizing. As far as Bonsai go the beetle is a minor irritant. Constant observation is needed if you live in high concentration areas. It is as easy as picking them off the tree and crushing them, the crushed bug is probably the best method of repelling more beetles. Pheromone traps only seem to make bigger crowds of horny beetles. Catnip, chives, tansy, and garlic seem to also work on chasing them away. Got most of these growing in my garden, no Japanese Beetles, or Vampires, but there sure are a lot of cats around, and The Guardian wants to be their friend. The other day I was in an other town south of Monroe, not quite the Oasis as here, while looking at the plants at a NASCAR sponsored big box store I found myself in the middle of a great swarm of Japanese Beetles feeding on the roses. You really need to look over a plant if you plan on purchasing one at this time. No need to take any home and invite them to dinner.

Be vigilant,
–Greg

Tree / Style of the Month

Tanuki / Phoenix Graft

If you have a phoenix graft, please bring it to the next meeting to show off as an example.

Tanuki Bonsai

From: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deadwood_bonsai_techniques

In Japanese folklore, tanuki, the Japanese raccoon dog, are shape-changing tricksters.

Tanuki bonsai are sometimes known as Phoenix Grafts in the West. In Tanuki bonsai, a very young tree is taken, and put into an interesting piece of deadwood, that has had a groove carved into it. The sapling (which is usually a juniper) is affixed to the deadwood, until the young tree has grown into the deadwood. Then the nail, screw, or other affixing device is removed, and then the tree is grown with typical bonsai techniques.

Many Westerners consider Tanuki a true bonsai technique, however in Japan it is not considered as such. Japanese do make Tanuki bonsai, but they are not considered true bonsai, and would never be seen at a Japanese bonsai show.



A Show for the Ages!

By: Devon C

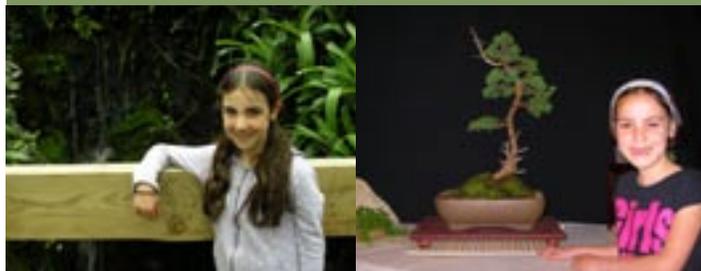
First off I'd like to put out a special **Thank You** to Gary and Duke for the KILLER!!! backdrops. I was sceptical of how the round tables would work this year but I must say, Gary, you made them work in spades!

Next I would like to thank Gene, Linda and Orion for being brave newbies who brought in trees. (Sorry if I missed anyone) Didn't it feel good knowing that somebody thought your tree was the BEST ONE THERE?!?!

I know I found it very encouraging when I received my first vote on one of my first bonsai creations. OK, so I think one of my daughters voted for me, but I didn't care. When it's sincere, encouragement is encouragement no matter where it comes from. Especially since some, **OK ALL**, of those earliest trees are now dead. If I had not brought them that year, they never would have been seen - and what good is that? Art is to be seen, not discovered after our deaths. Don't be an Emily Dickenson! Show the world what you have to offer.



From the Eyes of a Child - a photo taken of me by my oldest daughter, Emma, during clean up. I really enjoyed having my kids with me at the show this year and want to extend a big thank you to all the members who made them feel welcome. They really enjoyed themselves. *Below:* Emma and Amy



“Easy for you to say...” It's true, I've been doing “art” since I was a young boy and it's what I pursued as a profession, so I am well aware of being self critical. As artists (which is what we all are in this club) we are always our own worst critics. I see it in the Milwaukee club as well. I bet that even the great John Naka had doubts at times. That is what makes us strive to get better. If you look at some thing and say “that's the best I'll ever do” you will stop learning and growing. It's perfectly normal.

How do you keep someone in suspense....? I'll tell you later :)

OK, now I know everyone is just *dieing* to know who won the friendly competition between Mary's Lilac and Ron's Larch, but first let's review the weekends's other statistics.

Total Donations:
\$75.50

Total votes cast
Saturday: 365*
Sunday: 302*



* Give or take a few, my hands were getting tired counting all those cards and some may have stuck together.

Total Visitors

More than 667, that's for sure! We don't have a grand total, but we know every visitor didn't vote, either because they flat out refused or they just came and went to fast. Over 700 is probably a safe bet. I'd say that was a successful event.

Total Demonstrations:

Four; Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.. The demonstration sessions were well attended and engaging. Special thanks to Matthew for his debut!

A Good Time Had By All:
PRICELESS!!!!



And the Winner is!

more photos from the show are available at: badgerbonsai.net/2010/04/22/2010-annual-show



122 Votes • Japanese Larch • Artist: Ron



114 Votes • Lilac • Artist: Mary

Other Fan Favorites and Trees of Merit



52 Votes • Japanese Maple • Artist: Karl



52 Votes • Amur Maple • Artist: Tim



58 Votes • Japanese Yew • Artist: Ron



20 Votes • Chinese Elm • Artist: Ron