



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

NEXT MEETING DATE: **September 9th, 2010**

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

MEETING AGENDA: **NATAL PLUM WORKSHOP / BRING**

BACK YOUR BURNING BUSH THIS JUST IN! We will have a Natal Plum workshop, trees available on a first come, first serve basis - club members have first choice. More details in Presidents Message. Likely the last workshop for the season.

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 Myth and a Gentle Carissa - President's Message

By: *Tim*

The old thinking is that fertilizing at this time of year will produce new growth that will not harden off before winter. I recommend with most of our trees to keep up with the fertilizing; although, not as much is needed. Most trees have already begun their dormancy and will not produce new growth at this time of year. Exceptions would be junipers and arborvitae. These two plants produce some new growth in September, with or without fertilizer. Siberian and Chinese elms will also keep growing. Try as you might maples, spruces, and pines will not sprout new growth at this time of year.

The mature crab apple tree in my backyard will probably produce new growth this September as a result of a wet spring contributing to apple scab disease. You will probably find many crabs in bloom this September because leaves have fallen off and the trees think spring has arrived. If you still question this myth busting, try using fertilizers low in nitrogen.



A sample of Carissa foliage and flowers

This month, we will have a natal plum workshop (Carissa). Ten to 12 plants in pots will be available first to members and then leftovers to whomever would like them. Exact amounts, prices, and availability are still being figured out. We are thinking around \$20, but that is not an exact figure. If more want to participate than there are trees, we will use a lottery system for disbursement. We need to start right away at 6:30 p.m. The business meeting will take place as you work and listen. Any potting should begin at 7:30 p.m. with a quick clean up at 7:45 p.m. I know this time constraint is very inconvenient, but I think we can do it. If the plants do not arrive on a time, then another program will be presented. **Please bring a table cover, soil, wire, and tools.** If you unable

to provide these items, you are invited to listen to our advice so you have some good ideas to take home with you.

Carissa has fewer branches compared to other species, so this should not take long. They do have some thorns and their fruit is said to be edible. I think you will enjoy this workshop.

Trying to keep out of trouble,
– *Tim*

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Trees of the Month

Burning Bush (*Euonymus alata*) and
Natal Plum (*Carissa*)

If you have a Burning Bush, from the workshop this year or other, please bring it in this month. Also, since we will have workshop with Natal Plum, if you have one already, please bring it in for workshop inspiration.

September Announcements

By: Devon

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the “mico-show” last month. I think it’s good for us to bring our trees out of our yards and show them off to each other. I trust everyone received some good pointers for their tree with the +/- feedback sheets that were provided. I know I received some excellent comments to improve my tree.

Bonsai in the House!

For the past several years we have been encouraging more activity at club meetings by asking members to bring in trees. This month we will highlight two trees for the monthly meeting.

Burning Bush (*Euonymus alata*) If you worked on a Burning Bush with us earlier this year, or you have one from your own collection, please bring it in this month.

Natal Plum (*Carissa*) If you have a Natal Plum, please bring it in to show off the possibilities as we gear up for the workshop this month.

If you don’t have either of those species and you don’t intend to purchase a tree for the workshop, please bring in your bonsai of choice to work on this month, or simply come and enjoy the snip, snip, wire and clip of the last minute workshop Tim has set up for all of us.

Ideas for Next Year

Right, it seems like I am always a month or two ahead of today. Well, I am here to say that not only has Fall begun to fall, but another bonsai year is almost over and come November we will do our annual end-of-year wrap-up, 2011 officer elections and begin tossing out ideas for next year’s activities. Since Nov. is all business, Dec. is holiday cookies and Jan. is our dinner, we have nine meetings throughout the year that need activities. So get ready to voice your opinion for what you liked, what you didn’t and what you would like to see next year.

As paying members, this is your club and your involvement is welcome, encouraged and expected.

Badger Bonsai Goes Global

I’ve recently expanded our web presence to include Twitter as well as the ability to add comments to the web site and connect via RSS. In short, blogging. Also, we’ve had a Facebook fan page for a couple of years, but I’ve recently connected the web site and twitter to the Facebook account and I’m paying more attention to the activity on this page and posting photos there. If you are interested in getting involved with any of these communications tools, email me at info@badgerbonsai.net.

Web site: www.badgerbonsai.net

Twitter: @BadgerBonsai

Facebook: tinyurl.com/39bqy22



Actually, the real Facebook URL is insanely long, so I created this “tiny URL” as a faster way to get to the page.

Four ways to share and enjoy your club:



Facebook



Twitter



Web/RSS



Email

At this point everyone knows email, right? Remember when that was new and scary? So, if this other stuff seems to strange, that’s OK. But if you are into Twitter, Facebook and blogging get involved in your bonsai club. Consider making a monthly addition to the blog or posting to the Facebook wall. If you have something you think should go out on Twitter, let me know. If you are on Twitter, follow us and if you are on Facebook, like us. (Pssst, Bonsai Bob is there!)

Many of the new members have said they found us online and well, that’s the way to do it nowadays. It’s a strange new world. At times, using 21st century technology while practicing a 10th century art can be a bit schizophrenic, but it seems to be working for gaining members and spreading the word of this ancient art around the greater Madison area.

If anyone has any questions or wishes to be more involved, email me or just approach me at a club meeting. I’m very open to ideas.

A Bit About Natal Plum

Compiled By: Devon (with the help of various web sites)



Adapted from www.plantcare.com

Description: Evergreen shrubs with upright or flat growth habits. Leaves dark green, glossy and heavy textured. Flowers are white, star-shaped, followed by red purplish berries about an inch long.

Origin: South Africa

Flowering: Yes

Fragrant: Yes

Temperature: 50-75°F (10-24°C)

Humidity: Medium humidity

Lighting: Does best in full sunlight coming from the South/East/West

Soil: A general purpose soil (a soil that retains water yet drains well) will suffice.

Watering: Keep the soil evenly moist and if you use rainwater, be careful as it could be acidic. Use warm water.

Fertilizer: Feed every two weeks with a water soluble fertilizer diluted by half. Do not fertilize newly potted plants for at least four months.

Pests: Prone to scale and mealy bugs.

Tips & Care: Prune back this plant at any time. Needs a good light source and be careful not to over-water.



And because I am a big fan of second opinions, here is some additional information.

Adapted from www.bonsai-bci.com

Natal plum - carissa sp.

General information: An evergreen, small thorny bush which develops white and pink flowers and edible, dark red fruit. The Natal Plum is a strong plant which tolerates almost any abuse. It can be grown under almost any conditions (except freezing cold), but when grown under optimum conditions of high heat and humidity, growth is extremely rapid.

Lighting: Likes plenty of light, at least four hours of direct sunlight daily.



Temperature: Needs warmth in winter. Prefers night temperatures between 50-65F and day temperatures of 68F or higher. Can successfully be grown indoors.

Watering: Moderate. When grown indoors, use a moisture tray to maintain humidity.

Feeding: Every two weeks during growth, using Miracid. Monthly during winter.

Pruning and wiring: Do major pruning in mid to late spring, after flowering. **Do not prune all the green foliage off a branch, as this will cause the branch to die back.** Otherwise, buds back with vigor. Continue to prune as necessary during growth. Carissa grows rapidly, especially in hot climates, so pruning may be frequent.

33rd Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit Photos

August 20 - 22, 2010

Chicago Botanic Garden

By: Devon

If you were unable to attend, you missed a fine bonsai show. I truly enjoyed myself and was simply awestruck by some of the trees. I snapped a shot of most trees, but not all. All of my photos are available on our club's Facebook fan page: tinyurl.com/39bqy22

If you are a Facebook user



us while you are there.



Style Suggestions: These trees make good informal uprights or cascades. Older branches can be brittle, so use caution when wiring. Check wiring often, due to the rapid growth of the plant.

Propagation: Roots readily from cuttings, especially lignified ones. Will root when placed in a glass of water.

Repotting: [web site] recommends transplanting in fall or winter only. **Keep root pruning to a minimum.** Use fast draining soil. Limit water until the plant is firmly established to reduce risk of root rot.

Pests and diseases: Prone to fungal infestation, but the use of a nearby fan to reduce the likelihood of fungal infestation is recommended. Spider mites and scale are occasional problems.



August 2010 1st Place
33rd Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibit



Personal favorite from the show, a Dawn Redwood. A picture does not do it justice. It's a BEAST! That table is about 3' wide.



