



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | September 2011

NEXT MEETING DATE: **September 8th, 2011**

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

MEETING AGENDA: NATAL PLUM PART 2; FURTHER DEVELOPMENT. Bring in you Natal Plum from last year. Be prepared to talk about it and get advice for the next year. Don't have one? Start a new one.

FEATURE ELEMENT: NATAL PLUM

CLUB OFFICERS:

PresidentMatthew
Vice President Beau
Communications Devon
Treasurer Gary
Secretary/Librarian / Newsletter Greg
Refreshments Elaine
Past President Tim

President's Message

By: Matthew

Konnichiwa, Welcome, everyone, to September. This month marks the beginning of the end of summer. Try not to get down about it though. Remember what it was like to not have to worry about whether or not two waterings per day was enough? A little bit more rain would have been nice... September is still a good month though, for our little trees. The sun still shines and the birds still sing.

Pruning of deciduous trees should be done by this time in the season. This way, the wounds have some time to heal a bit before the onset of winter dormancy. Some conifers can still be pruned and trimmed up at this point. Some species may benefit from one last shoot tip pinching before winter, but in general trimming should be avoided from now until spring brings new shoots out. Basically just let your trees harden off as much as possible. New growth at this point in the year would only shrivel and die as winter takes hold. To further discourage new growth, the fertilizer used should change so as to decrease nitrogen levels and increase phosphorus and potassium.



A Beautiful Carissa Specimen - Part of the permanent bonsai collection located at Chicago Botanic Garden

This will slow the green growth of the trees and also help build the roots and structure of the tree as well. There are a lot of general "bloom" nutrients that can accomplish this. Jamaican or Indonesian bat guanos are a good soil amendment to apply at this time if you prefer slow release organic fertilizers.

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At this month's meeting, we are going to revisit a small workshop we did last year at this time. I hope a few people still have their natal plum trees. I was down to the Chicago Botanical Gardens earlier this summer and noticed that one of their trees on display is a natal plum. It had pure white, star-shaped flowers on it. It was beautiful. Natal plums, or *Carissa macrocarpa*, are native to Africa. They like slightly drier, sandy soil and can tolerate some drought. They are also not so picky about light levels but prefer a lot of sun.

On a more personal note, my time as an intern at Olbrich Gardens has come to an end. I can hardly describe what an amazing time I had working there. We, as a club, are very privileged to have this relationship with such a fine botanical garden. But, as some of you may know, our relationship with Olbrich has been slightly strained in the past. We are not a club that generates a lot of money like some of the other groups that are able to make regular generous donations to the gardens. But we have something that no other plant society has to offer. We have art that cannot be duplicated, propagated, or simply cultivated. I would like to reopen a discussion between the gardens and the Badger Bonsai Society about maintaining a permanent bonsai collection at Olbrich.

“It is not enough simply to admire the beauty of these miniature trees. The admirer ought to be able to gain from them something much more fundamental: an awareness of the laws of evolution and growth, the realization that we are all, Man and nature, bound together in these laws.”—John Naka



Until next time, find beauty in everything.
-Matthew



One of the many “regulars” at Chicago’s annual show

Mid-America Bonsai Show Reflection From August 19-21

By: Devon

As I headed to my annual pilgrimage that is the Chicago Bonsai Show I was awash with feelings. *Happy*, because I was going to get to see beautiful, show quality bonsai and museum quality specimen trees. *Wealthy*, because I was going to get a chance to support many talented artisans as I splurged on high-quality, Japanese and domestic pottery. *Interested*, to see the changes in the regular trees submitted to this show and the changes in the permanent collection that are a part of the Chicago Botanic Garden. *Open Minded*, because I always wish to learn/observe another “golden nugget” that may have been hidden from me before I just didn’t understand the nuance. *Accepted*, as I bump into other bonsai artists who now recognize me, some artists from our club and some from other states.

I was *sad*, because this show means another year of bonsai is coming to an end; because I didn’t execute everything on my “to-do” list and because I now have a new, time-sensitive to-do list to prepare for winter. *Sad* because Wisconsin winter means another vicious round Bonsai Russian Roulette and someone is gunna get it; meaning, I am likely to lose another tree or two over the harsh winter.

But most of all I was **Excited!** *Excited* for how much healthier, diversified and refined my collection is this year than last year, and the year before. *Excited* because while winter means higher mortality rates it also means I get a break. See I have a large and growing collection and watering, pinching and pruning is a time consuming thing. *Excited* because I will read books about bonsai, fetish photographs of bonsai, dream about bonsai and talk to you all about bonsai at our meetings. And *excited* for what I will re-pot and restyle into my newly purchased, high-quality pottery next spring. **Huzza!**

Four Ways to Connect:

E-mail: info.badgerbonsai.net
Web site: badgerbonsai.net
Twitter: twitter.com/BadgerBonsai
Facebook: facebook.com/BadgerBonsai



Facebook **Twitter** **Web/RSS** **E-mail**



Badger Bonsai's very own Gene and Linda W. in front of the Cypress I used for the 2010 BBS flyer. Note the size of the specimen group planting. Can you spot the small changes?

As I spend the next months preparing for winter I'm going to remember the 2011 Annual Mid-American Bonsai show with great fondness and as a time of reflection and future projection. If you didn't get a chance to attend the show this year, enjoy the few photos I took of some of the trees I considered to be some of the most interesting. Oddly enough, I am only now realizing that I never took photos of the primary show winners. Perhaps beauty really is in the eye of the beholder and what a "great master" may consider the best isn't what another artist finds most appealing. Keep on Pinching! - Devon











NEWS RELEASE

Milwaukee Bonsai Society
Contact: Steven C
E-mail: removed
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society Hosts The 41st Annual Exhibit of Bonsai Trees

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 23, 2011: The Executive Committee of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society announces its 41st Annual Exhibit of bonsai trees; the trees will be on display at Boerner Botanical Garden's Education and Visitor Center, 9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners, Wisconsin, in Milwaukee County's Whitnall Park. There will be an opening reception on Friday, September 16, 2011, from 6-8PM. The Exhibit will run through Sunday, September 18, 2011. This event is free and open to the public.

World renowned bonsai artist Suthin Sukosolvisit will be the honored guest and will lead those present through a critique of the exhibit trees at the Friday evening opening reception. Sukolvisit, originally from Thailand, is the owner of Royal Bonsai Garden in Stoughton, Massachusetts. He will judge the exhibit and award ribbons. Sukosolvisit has guided the education of the Milwaukee club's members over the past three years.

Bonsai are living trees displayed in a hand crafted ceramic pot, on a small table or stand, along with a small companion piece, composed to convey a sentiment of beauty - a feeling the Chinese and Japanese believed to be universally inherent in all of nature. Each artist has developed their tree to one of many traditional styles; designed so that the tree will have a sense or feeling of age.

Founded in 1969, The Milwaukee Bonsai Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the knowledge and appreciation of Bonsai. The word bonsai, pronounced "bonesigh", is derived from two Japanese characters, bon and sai. "Bon" translates to pot, and "sai" to tree, shrub or planting. One does not need to be an expert to appreciate the art of bonsai. Anyone who has an interest in nature, horticulture, the arts or sculpture will find this art fascinating and enjoyable. Members of the bonsai club will be available to answer questions about the art of bonsai, and how one might become involved with the art.

- Hours: Friday, 6PM-8PM; Saturday and Sunday, 10AM-5PM
- Opening reception will include cash bar by Bartolotta Restaurant Group
- Milwaukee Bonsai Society has recently displayed their trees at the request of the Bartolotta Restaurant Group's Care-A-Lotta's Japan Fundraiser to benefit the victims of the recent tsunami that effected Japan
- The Milwaukee Bonsai Society will be featured on WTMJ's "The Morning Blend" on September 15, 2011, at 9:00AM. It was previously featured on the program in June and July of this year
- The Bonsai Society is a part of Wisconsin State Fair's horticulture exhibit.
- Bonsai workshops will take place during the exhibit on Saturday and Sunday
- The public is welcome to attend as a "silent observers" for a fee of \$10.00

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41st Annual Exhibit

Milwaukee Bonsai Society

September 16-18

GUEST ARTIST
SUTHIN SUKOSOLVISIT

Boerner Botanical Garden
education and visitor center

9400 Boerner Drive
Hales Corners



Friday 6-8pm Opening Reception
Critique & Demonstration
Saturday & Sunday 10-5pm

exhibit trees
trees in training
vendors
raffles
beginner workshop*
artist workshop*
*Preregistration and Fee