



# BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | July 2017

## NEXT MEETING:

**August 10 | 6:30**

Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI

## MEETING AGENDA:

AUGUST MEETING SUBJECT TBD

## CLUB OFFICERS:

- President** ..... Karl
- Vice President** ..... Mary
- Treasurer** ..... Gary
- Communications** ..... Devon
- Librarian** ..... Derek
- Refreshments** ..... Elaine

## July Picnic

No Second Thursday Meeting in July

If you went to Olbrich on the second Thursday this month, July 13, you were the only bonsai member there (unless someone else forgot, too).

This month we have our annual picnic, and this year our hosts are Roger and Julie O. Bring a dish to pass with a serving utensil, a chair, and a beverage.

**What:** Badger Bonsai Society  
Annual Potluck Picnic

**When:** July 22 starting around 11:00

**Where:** ..... removed ...  
..... removed ...

**Provided:** Sloppy Joe and Potato Salad

**Bring:** A chair, your favorite beverage  
and a dish to pass

**Contact Roger with any questions:**

..... removed .....



Inside This Issue	
• July Picnic .....	01
• Satsuki Azalea .....	02
• Super Glue .....	03
• Upcoming Events .....	05
• Lynden Sculpture Garden .....	05

As in years past, we'll include a white elephant sale. So if you have stuff you want to sell, trade, swap, or just give it away, bring it along. Be sure to tag your items, or segregate them, so we know who belongs to what.



# SATSUKI AZALEA



“Kurume azalea ‘Wakaebisu’ is a compact evergreen shrub with a rounded to spreading habit and attractive tiered branches. It blooms in late spring and bears profuse clusters of single salmon-pink blooms with a darker spotted blotch. The flowers are funnel-shaped and moderately sized with ruffled edges.

These popular evergreen shrubs are grown for their mid to late spring showy blooms and neat habit. The slow-growing plants are mounding to tiered and wider than tall. Small, funnel-shaped blooms are borne in few-flowered clusters near the ends of the branches. However, the unscented blooms are so numerous they completely cover the plants. The leaves are small, elliptical, glossy, dark green and hairy.

Azaleas need sites with partial shade and highly organic, acid soil that is evenly moist but well-drained. Plant them shallowly and mulch well to conserve moisture and suppress weeds. They prosper with warm summers, cool winters and do require some winter cold for good growth. The flower buds develop in summer for the following spring’s display, so prune shortly after flowering, if necessary.

The Kurume hybrid azaleas are spectacular when used in masses. They are great as foreground plants and popular for foundation plantings, borders and hedges in both formal and informal gardens. Kurume azaleas are often used for greenhouse forcing, are lovely container specimens and are the traditional choice for bonsai.”

*From Learn2Grow web site*



My Wakaebisu Azalea

## Kurume Hybrids:

Kurume azaleas are one of the most commonly grown azaleas in Georgia. They were imported from Kurume, Japan, to the Arnold Arboretum in Boston in the early 1900s and soon made their way into the nursery trade. Most Kurume hybrids are low- to medium-growing shrubs (2 to 3 feet), but a few grow to 5 to 6 feet.

Flowers are small but quite numerous, often masking the foliage. Colors range from white to pink, salmon or red, and some are bicolored. Most are cold hardy throughout Georgia. Popular Kurume hybrids include 'Hinodé Giri' (rose-red flowers), 'Coral Bells' (soft pink flowers), and 'Snow' (white flowers).

## Satsuki Hybrids:

Satsuki hybrids from Japan consist of hundreds of cultivars. In Japanese, Satsuki means fifth month of the Japanese lunar calendar (June). So plants bloom late (May, June and July), when most other azaleas are no longer blooming. Single, hose-in-hose and double flower forms are available. Flower size ranges from less than 1 inch to more than 5 inches across. Flower patterns include solids, stripes, multicolored sections, colored rings or margins, speckles and combinations of these. Many cultivars have variations of flower color and patterns on the same plant. Popular cultivars include 'Pink Gumpo' (single, light-pink ruffled flowers), 'White Gumpo' (single, white flowers with small flecks of purplish pink and a light-green blotch), and 'Wakaebisu' (deep yellow-pink flowers with rounded petals, hose-in-hose form).

## Kurume Hybrids:

Kurume, a city on the Japanese island of Kyushu, is home to this large group of hybrids, believed to be derived from evergreen azalea species in the southern part of the island.

## Satsuki Azaleas:

They are the most popular in Japan. Their range of flower color, form, leaf shape and growth habit is greater than any other group of azaleas. Their development is shrouded in mystery, but at least one cultivar is known to be 400 to 500 years old. They usually bloom from mid-May to June and have single flowers that range in size from less than 1 inch to more than 5 inches." From Virginia Tech web site

"Satsuki azaleas have a diverse range of flower forms and color patterns with multiple patterns often appearing on a single plant. Satsuki bloom from May to June; the name "Satsuki" in Japanese is reference to their blooming period, the fifth month of the Asian lunar calendar. They are commonly used as a subject in bonsai and many bonsai enthusiasts and shows are dedicated solely to them. There are thousands of different varieties, but some popular ones are chinzan, kaho, gyoten, osakasuki, eikan, nikko, hakurei, hakurin, kinsai, and many more."

*Wikipedia*

## Pinching Wilted Blooms:

As soon as the blooms are wilted, pinch them off at their base. The objective is to halt the production of seed, which saps energy from the plant. When pinching be sure to pinch low enough that the seed embryo also comes off. The spent bloom comes off readily, but the seed is more firmly attached. The same logic applies to all of your flowering bonsai. We want the desirable flowers, but we don't want energy going into seed production. For crab apples and other species where not only do we want the flower bloom, but also the fruit, one can pinch the majority of blossoms, and leave only a few to produce fruit.

# BONSAI STYLING

with



*From Harry Harrington web site*

“In development since 2010 after being dug up from an old hedge, some of the deadwood on the Privet bonsai in the image above had become very soft and fragile over the course of 7 years. This can be common with tree species that have naturally soft-wood, particularly Privet/Ligustrum species.

A few weeks prior to the re-styling, I carved out the very soft and pulpy wood on the tree, and took the opportunity to improve on my previous work. After staining the deadwood (using the ash and lime-sulphur technique), I hardened it to stop it rotting again in the future.

In previous years I have used ‘wet-rot hardeners’ to harden deadwood and prevent it rotting. This is often sufficient to ensure that the deadwood remains stable. However, particularly where the deadwood is in continued contact with the soil, some areas can still become very fragile over the years despite the use of wood-hardeners.

Earlier this year a fellow enthusiast advised me to try using super glue (also known in some countries as Krazy Glue) to harden the wood and the results have been fantastic. I really wish I’d known about this technique a few years back, as it makes even the weakest, most fragile wood, rock hard.

Using super glue liquid, not gel, the super glue is applied when the wood is as dry as possible. If necessary, first use a small gas blowtorch to drive out any moisture that remains in the upper layers. The super glue is carefully dripped over

the deadwood and it soaks straight in, the same way that wood hardener does. Keep dripping the super glue into the wood until it becomes glossy showing that the wood is fully saturated (as with wood-hardeners). The super glue takes a short period of time to harden off; it can then be wire-brushed to remove the gloss finish, as necessary. Particularly when applying it in a large



This is the Harry Harrington privet that the super glue article refers to. I am flabbergasted by what good artists can produce. Had you offered me the tree on the left, I would have suggested the compost pile would be a good spot for it. Yet, in a few years that tree has been transformed into the marvelous bonsai on the right. Amazing!

(Continued from page 3)

volumes, use super glue outside, or in a well-ventilated work space. The chemical reaction produced as the glue is exposed to humidity in the air and moisture will produce noxious fumes. Also take care not to stick your hands or fingers together, or to the deadwood itself.....

Super glue works by a chemical reaction that occurs when it comes into contact with water or moisture in the wood, or humidity in the air. Use of super glue on wood that is wet or damp on the surface, will cause the glue to harden on just the upper layers and can create a shallow, opaque-white surface. For this reason, if at all possible, I would advise using this technique during the warmer Spring and Summer months while temperatures are 10C or above, and the deadwood is typically drier, allowing the glue to permeate deeper into the wood.

Although I wouldn't advocate getting any glue onto live roots (!) generally-speaking, any run off of surplus glue into the soil, does no harm and its spread is very limited."

---

## Haiku

From across the lake,  
Past the black winter trees,  
Faint sounds of a flute.

- Richard Wright

---

### upcoming events

**JULY 22**

BBS Picnic

**AUGUST 3-13**

WI State Fair

**AUGUST 18-20**

Chicago Botanic Garden Bonsai Show

**AUGUST 10**

Monthly meeting BBS



On June 18 the **Milwaukee Bonsai Society** unveiled its permanent exhibition of bonsai at the **Lynden Sculpture Garden**. It was a beautiful day with a large turn-out and, of course, beautiful bonsai. Here are just a couple of the three or four dozen trees that were on display.

