

## BBS Newsletter July 2018

### Saturday July 28 Picnic

**No Second Thursday Meeting in July!** Picnic instead on Saturday, July 28. Our long-time members know that in July we have a picnic in lieu of our normal second Tuesday meeting. Our newer members might not know this this, however. So everyone, new and old, **don't go to Olbrich on Thursday, July 12** - you will be the only one there (plus the person at the front desk). Molly has offered to host the bonsai crew on **Saturday, July 28 from 11:30 to 1:30** and will be providing meat and cheese and buns for sandwiches. These gatherings are always pot-luck, so bring a dish to share, along with appropriate serving utensil.

We also typically do a white elephant sell/swap/give away. So, if you don't know what you are ever going to put into that pink pot, here is your chance to let it gather dust at someone else's house.

### Time for Vision Check

I am not ready for a white cane, yet, but I am starting to wonder if that is not too far off in the future. In the middle of June I was doing some work in my bomb shelter, and ... wait-a-minute. Are those trees I see under a bench??? Unfortunately, I had overlooked five mugho pines when I moved everything outside at the end of April. They hadn't received any water in more than two months, and needless to say, the pots were very light. The foliage was still green, so I placed them outside in a shady area. Today they don't look great, but it appears two or three are going to survive. I remember John Naka admonishing a hobbyist – not me - who had lost a tree, “That tree wanted to live! You killed it!” Total guilt. We don't have to do everything perfectly. But, we also cannot be complacent about caring for our trees.

### Band-Bound Acer Palmatum



After toying with bonsai for more than forty years I am still seeing and learning things. I have a significant number of Japanese maples from an order three (?) years ago. They are growing in four-inch plastic pots, and I have just let them grow freely with no pruning. Because they are now three or four feet tall, the wind knocks over the pots on every windy day. Well, one day when I was standing them back upright I noticed that the plastic tag that I had left attached around the trunk, was now tight. Initially, these tags are loose around the trunk, and most of the time the tag just slips open a bit as the trunk grows. This one, however, appears to have gotten stuck and was now constricting the trunk. As I loosened the tag I noticed that this trunk, both

above and below the constriction, was considerably fatter than all the others. I was aware that placing a wire tourniquet around the trunk would cause swelling above the tourniquet, in a technique to air layer a poor trunk. But, I had never seen any claim that constriction would cause swelling both above and below the constriction. I am going to try it on some other seedlings and see what happens.



### **You Want a Thick Trunk?**

Watching a You Tube bonsai video the other day the speaker made an interesting claim that I had never heard before, but it makes perfect sense. His contention was that there was a hundred to one ratio between branch length and branch diameter (or tree height and trunk diameter). So, if you let a branch grow to a length of one meter it will produce a branch diameter of one centimeter. If you let the branch grow to two meters, you get a branch two centimeters in diameter. Or, if you let the tree grow three meters high, you get a trunk three centimeters in diameter. The gist of this is you cannot get a fat trunk/branch with constant pruning. If you want it fat, let it grow.

### **2018 Bonsai Show Photos**

If anyone is interested in getting copies of pictures of trees displayed at the 2018 Madison Bonsai show, drop me an email with your name and the specific tree(s) that you desire and I will send you an email back with the file(s) (these are typically around 4 Megs each).

--- Wayne

### **Other Upcoming Shows**

|                              |                  |               |
|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| WI State Fair                | Milwaukee        | August 2-12   |
| Prairie State Bonsai Society | Lisle, IL        | August 3-5    |
| Chicago Botanic Gardens      | Chicago          | August 17-19  |
| U.S. Bonsai Exhibition       | Rochester, NY    | September 8-9 |
| BCI                          | Mulhouse, France | October 12-14 |
| Golden State Bonsai Fed.     | Sacramento, CA   | October 24-28 |