



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | Sept. 2018

NEXT MEETING:

Sept. 13 | 6:30

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI

MEETING AGENDA:

Bonsai Wins and Losses

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

President's Message

We will try something new at our September meeting. Remember way back in grade school when the class would have show-and-tell? The kids would bring in their pet rabbit, or baseball card collection, or souvenirs from the family vacation, or an I-like-Ike presidential booster pin, or just about anything else under the sun. Our September meeting will be something similar. Bring in something you wish to show off – a tree, a new tool, a new pot, whatever; or, bring a ‘tell’ – a little recap of your wins and losses for the year. Sharing what has worked for you, or maybe what didn’t, is one of the benefits of belonging to the BBS.

I will not be able to be at the September meeting. Barbara and I will be out East doing bonsai and piano camp. Vice-president Mary will also be missing-in-action; I believe she was going to be in Europe (?). So someone else please take charge of the meeting and get things going. Occasionally the bonsai gods smile on you even when you don’t deserve any such thing. A few years back we had a late snowfall and my lilacs in the ground got pretty bent over. They didn’t die, but in spite of my attempts to stabilize them



and get them back upright, they never were very vigorous. So this year I dug the worst one up and replaced it with a crabapple. At the base of the lilac a barberry volunteer had grown, and in order to avoid getting pricked I took my loppers and chopped off the branches and proceeded to dig out the roots. After yanking it out of the ground, I thought it might have some bonsai potential. Now mind you, keeping it as a bonsai never entered my mind until the mutilated carcass was lying upon the ground. I got a bonsai pot, pruned the torn roots cleaner, and potted it up. I was not optimistic at all, but if it lived it could be a nice little tree. Well, after a couple weeks it started

to leaf out. It's not beautiful, but I think it has potential.

Another success:

The Texas ebony seeds that Bill distributed at the July picnic have sprouted. I cannot say what the success rate was, because I didn't count the seeds when I put them in a flat, but there were a lot. More than a hundred, I would guess. It appears that most of them have sprouted. At a future date I'll bring the flat to a club meeting. We'll pot them up and you can take some home.

Less success:

Not everything was successful. I had a nice bougainvillea that I bought from Martha at the Chicago show about 25 years ago. It had a diameter of about 6 inches. Rot was eating away

at the base of the trunk, and last fall I tried to halt this progression by treating the punkie wood with super glue. It pushed out a few new leaves, but they couldn't/didn't supply enough vitality and the tree died. A second loss occurred to the largest ginkgo in my ginkgo grove. The tree pushed out new leaves, but they never grew to an adequate size, and the tree died. Lastly, four of my Japanese seedlings that we acquired a few years ago died. The majority of these seedlings live on, so I am unsure why these four went to bonsai heaven.

I am always sad to loose a tree, but I've had good luck with many others. The successes outweigh the losses. As I bring in my tropical from outside I am amazed at how much new growth has occurred.

