



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | October 2016

NEXT MEETING:

October 13 | 6:30-8 p.m.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI

MEETING AGENDA:

Photographing Your Trees

CLUB OFFICERS:

- President** Karl
- Vice President** Brian
- Treasurer** Gary
- Librarian/Communications** Devon
- Refreshments** Elaine

October 13 meeting:

You should be photographing your trees! Photographs provide a visual history of your tree’s development. And in the event of theft – heaven forbid – will provide evidence of your ownership. Can’t take a decent photograph even with a point-and-shot camera? Can’t tell the difference between an f-stop and an organ stop? Think ‘aperture’ and ‘aperitif’ are pretty much the same thing? Well, Brother, you’ve come to the right place. Our October 13 meeting will feature Gary L who will de-mystify all of these important terms and more. Gary is our current club treasurer, and has been doing photography for many, many years.

The new smart phones take amazingly good pictures, but a knowledge of focal length, depth-of-field, shutter speed, background, composition, lighting, and a few other considerations will make your photos even better.



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If you Google ‘bonsai images’ on the internet, you will find a wide array of photographs, from outstanding magazine-quality images to really, really, really bad images. Gary will explain what goes into making a great photograph, and how you can avoid the photo disasters.

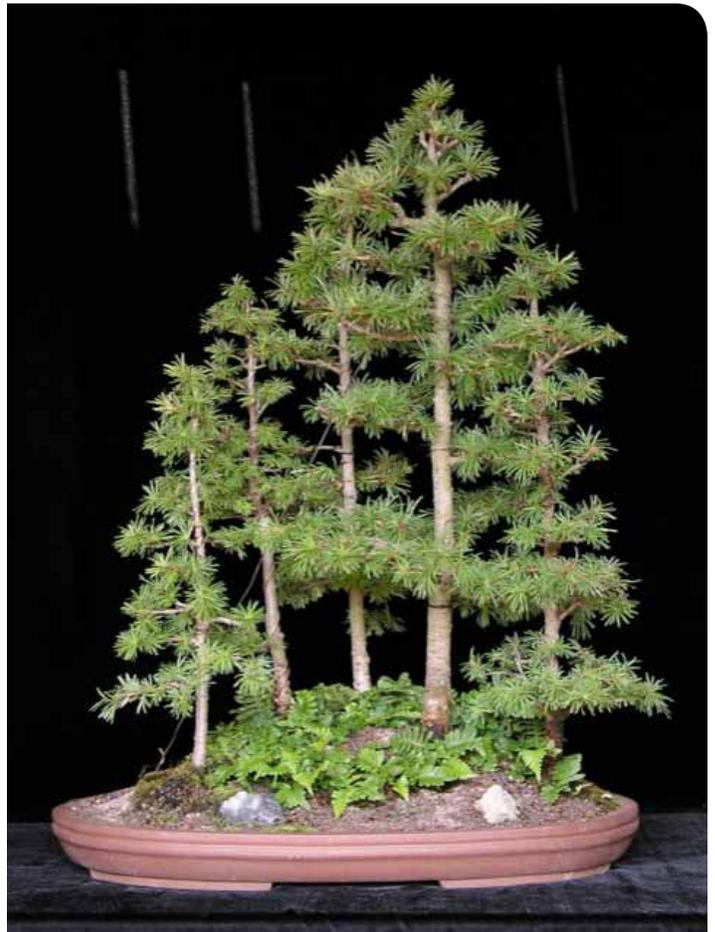
National Exhibition in Rochester

We will also show a short video of the 2016 National Exhibition in Rochester. The exhibition was awesome, with over 200 trees from all over the US and Canada. The exhibit was organized and run by Bill Valavanis, publisher of International Bonsai magazine. Wayne Schoech, founder and publisher of Bonsai Today magazine, had been hyping the event for the last month on his blog, using every superlative imaginable. It was even better than what I had anticipated. Just WOW! Who knew that so many beautiful trees and talented artists worked in North America? Unbelievable.

David Easterbrook, former and now retired curator of the Montreal bonsai collection, had brought several trees from Canada. I inquired how he managed to bring trees into the US from Canada, and he said that while it required some paperwork, it was not as impossible as I had thought. David indicated that the customs people wanted to be assured that the same trees leaving Canada were going to be the same trees returning after the show.

Pauline Muth's Studio

After the show, we were also able to visit the home and studio of Pauline Muth in West Charlton, NY – not too far from Albany. Pauline is the former president of ABS and teaches not only in NY, but also on the national bonsai circuit. Pauline has wonderful trees and a studio that is every practitioner's dream – large, airy, bright, and well stocked with everything. Here are a few pictures from her web site:



BBS Members' Outdoor Bonsai Displays



Wil I



Brian



Karl





Der eK



Gary



John Naka's October Bonsai Tips

You can find the full year's guide in the book *Bonsai Techniques I* by John Naka.

Autumn is like the spring in terms of temperature and length of night and day. General rules for the care of bonsai are much the same for both seasons. The bonsai is as colorful as in the spring, except the leaves take the place of flowers. Prepare for the coming winter.

Location

A sudden turn of warm weather may cause re-sprouting on deciduous trees that have already begun to lose their leaves. Guard against this by putting the deciduous bonsai in a cool shady place. Unseasonably hot or cold days should be taken care of accordingly. The possibility of an early frost is just as likely, and semi-tropical bonsai should be protected or under cover at night.

Watering

Much the same as September, keep in mind the fact that as the growth cycle slows and stops, the quantity of water needed is correspondingly lessened.

Trimming & Pruning

The strong growth on upper portions of conifers should be trimmed. Pines should be trimmed. Clean off the dead needles and conifers. After the leaves have fallen from deciduous bonsai, it is safe to shorten the year's growth and trim to shape. Small branches can be wired this month, but remember that the branches are less flexible. End of this month, remove all fruit and any seed pods. The berries may be saved until spring if the tree is healthy.

Fertilizing

Fertilize as usual for strength in dormancy. The idea this month is to obtain dormancy, not to stimulate growth.

Transplanting

The same rules as previously outlined for September. This is the last month that bonsai can be safely transplanted.

Unwiring

Wires on deciduous trees should be removed if they are cutting in. If they are not removed, they will cause the branch to die during the winter.