



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | January 2019

Annual Membership Dinner:

Thursday Jan-10-2019 | 6:00
Imperial Gardens
2039 Allen Blvd, Middleton, WI

AGENDA:

Social Gathering ... have FUN !

CLUB OFFICERS:

Co-Presidents Bill and Karl
Vice President Mary
Treasurer Gary
Web Master / Newsletter Wayne
Librarian Derek
Refreshments Elaine

President's Message

Annual Dinner – Imperial Gardens

2039 Allen Blvd, Middleton (North-East corner of Allen Blvd and University Ave) on Thursday Jan 10th; 6 pm cocktails and 6:30 pm dinner.

Do not go to Olbrich for our normal second Thursday of the month meeting, because we won't be there. January has always been our dinner meeting and we will continue with this tradition again this year. You will be able to order from their usual menu and separate checks will be given. I have it on good word that Santa will be present – with presents! Hope to see you all there.

BCI mag – fixing broken pots; database

The fourth quarter 2018 issue of Bonsai published by BCI (Bonsai Clubs International) had two great articles. The first was on repairing broken pottery. Over the years I've super-glued or epoxied many pots. I've always tried to make the crack as inconspicuous as possible. This article suggests making the crack MORE visible, by adding metallic flakes to the glue. I must say that

I really liked the results. The second article was on a cloud database for your bonsai. I am surprised that someone didn't do this sooner, because I think it is a good idea. Like other cloud services, it comes with a monthly fee.

Willow leaf ficus trees

I love willow-leaf ficus for multiple reasons – fairly small leaves with interesting shape, short internodes, willingness to back bud, tolerant of heavy pruning, good nebari, and a trunk that thickens at a young age. However, they have a propensity for defoliating, or nearly so, over winter. But, this year I have observed that all of my nerifolia growing in bonsai soil have been losing leaves, yet a few that I have still growing in the soil that they had from the nursery are still holding on to most of theirs. In checking with Barbara, her nerifolia, growing in 'dirt', still is lush and green with no defoliation. So, I am curious what other folks are experiencing. Perhaps those grown in bonsai soil have been kept a little too dry? One word of caution – ficus nerifolia is prone to getting scale. Be vigilant.

This Old House

If you are a fan of This Old House, you know that Roger Cook is the landscape guy. But, I was really surprised when last month they ran a story about bonsai – hardly a topic for your average

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landscaper. Roger visited Bonsai West and got a lesson on how to create and care for bonsai. The video showed lots of nice trees and was nicely done – although Roger and the proprietor both referred to *banzai* trees. Ouch! [Here's the link.](#)

I have never been to Bonsai West, although I have seen their ads in the bonsai magazines for years and years. I assumed with a name like Bonsai West that they would be located in California, or Oregon, or Washington, or at least Colorado. But, no, Bonsai West is located in western Massachusetts – in Littleton, MA. So if you are out in New England you might want to look them up.

You can watch the video by going to You Tube and searching on 'This Old House bonsai'.

Note ... [here is that link.](#)

Dec-2018 Meeting Summary

First off, thanks to everyone that contributed to the December-cookie-fest. Secondly, thanks to Tamaki for providing wifi-access via her cell phone ... otherwise we would not have been able to watch several of the web recordings of the 2018 Taikan-ten bonsai exhibition in Japan.

Also, thanks to ChrisH for bringing in three wonderful trees for discussion at our December meeting. This was no small undertaking as these were BIG trees – a ficus nerifolia, a Korean hornbeam (defoliated), and a boxwood. All were beautifully done.

(See his photos on page 3, though note that the willow leaf ficus shown in Jan-4th photos has now lost all leaves that were still present on Dec-13th ... see page 1 article about this.)

Program suggestions for 2019

At the December meeting, members submitted ideas for 2019 activities; these are unranked and in no special order, and will be discussed in Feb.

- Open discussion on wintering strategies
- Prior to show - discuss display strategies
- Go through a DeGroot chapter every so often
- Workshops
- Yamadori Collecting

- Daiza making
- Stands for displaying bonsai
- “What you should be doing this month”
- Making your own soil
- Offer a class(es) to allow members to build skills
- Run summer meetings longer to accommodate workshops
- Have Ron do a demonstration – perhaps over two meetings
- A workshop, pre-sold, \$50-\$80 nicer material, on a weekend
- Road trip to Anderson Gardens
- Demo by one, or more of our member experts
- Root-on-rock workshop \$65
- Grafting workshop \$65
- Jin creation – carving, tools, proportions
- Bonsai monetary values, examples of
- Kimura, examples of his work
- Noteworthy US artists & examples of their work
- Air layering
- Bonsai styles, simple and complex
- Tree dig
- Bring in outside presentors on occasion – raise dues if necessary
- Participate in more local garden events – e.g. Garden Expo

Ginkgo and Cold Stratification

Also thanks to Karl for bringing along the UW-collected ginkgo seeds (though it appears many of these trees have now been “disappeared” from the UW campus), and his info on the unique characteristics of these seeds and the need to “cold stratify” in order to successfully germinate. Note that you can search the BBS website (see below) for the Dec-2016 newsletter — *you know how to do that, right ?* — Karl had prepared an excellent summation of cold stratification.

our website: badgerbonsai.net

THANKS ... Due to his work schedule and demands, Devon has now transitioned the monthly newsletter over to Wayne. From all of us in the BBS, thank you Devon for your time and effort over these past years — job well done !

Tree quotes

"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."
— Warren Buffett

Here are the Jan-4th photos of ChrisH's 3 trees shown at the Dec-13-2018 BBS meeting, clockwise from left: Boxwood, Willow Leaf Ficus, and Korean Hornbeam.



Developing Timelines ...

Something to think about to discuss at the Feb-2019 meeting is, can we develop WI-specific timelines / todo-lists relative to our bonsai.

We might consider categorizing or grouping these on the basis of: Conifers, Deciduous, Flowering, others ...

These could become living documents that we maintain on our website based on membership inputs from your past success or failures.

BBS Annual Dues

If you've not already paid your annual dues, now is the time.

To pay your dues, see Gary; Treasurer

Membership dues are
\$25/year (individual)
or \$35/year (family)
or \$10/year (students).

More information here:
badgerbonsai.net/membership

If your dues are still outstanding, please see Gary soon and make arrangements .

