

## April 13, 2017 Badger Bonsai Meeting

### Grove Workshop

Provided the shipping goes as requested, there will be seedlings available for a grove workshop at our April 13 meeting. What's coming? European Beech – *Fagus sylvatica* - for starters. (Our American beech is *Fagus grandifolia*, and that name 'grandifolia', which means 'big leaf', should scare off any bonsai hobbyist.) The European beech has smaller leaves. In addition, there should be purple European beech – *Fagus sylvatica purpurea*. In addition there will be maple seedlings – *Acer ginnala* (amur maple), *Acer palmatum* (Japanese maple), and *Acer palmatum atropurpureum* (red Japanese maple). All of these trees are shorter than 18 inches, so they should all have short internodes and be good for bonsai. They are listed as 'Conservation Grade' in the catalog which means they have wiggles in the trunks and not as desirable to landscapers, but great for bonsai.

As I pointed out at the last meeting, one of the advantages to belonging to BBS is the ability to order trees in bulk quantities and pass along the savings to members. Here is the cost: \$1 for the amur maples and green beech; \$2 for the green Japanese maples and purple beech; \$2.50 for the red Japanese maple. This is so cheap I would recommend that you buy extra trees and plant them in the ground to accelerate their growth. I am not sure when we will ever be able to get trees at this price again.

What to bring:

Your tools, wire, a pot or two, soil, and plastic to cover your work area. A spray bottle to keep the roots moist is also a good idea. A plastic bag if you're taking seedlings home. Wet newspaper will help the roots stay moist. The club will have a limited amount of soil for sale.

### Grand Opening – Milwaukee Bonsai Exhibit – June 18

We have received an invitation from Jack D for the grand opening of the Bonsai Exhibit at the Lynden Sculpture Garden to take place on Sunday, June 18. Lynden Sculpture Garden is located at 2145 W Brown Deer Rd, River Hills, Wisconsin. River Hills is a northern suburb of Milwaukee. Admission to the garden is \$9, and \$7 for seniors.

### Wanted

Please be on the lookout for the following items. If you know of a **willow** tree that has recently blown down or had major limbs broken off, I would like to try rooting large cuttings. I have had good luck in the past getting them to root, but no luck in having them survive the winter. Being an eternal optimist, I am willing and wanting to try again.

Secondly, if we can find big pots of *Ficus benjamina* I would like to do a club workshop fusing several into a single tree. I am hoping to find 3-5 gallon pots with perhaps a half-dozen trees in them for \$10-20. Maybe I am a dreamer, but it seems this was fairly common at Shopko, Home Depot, etc. in the past.

**BBS Show - BADGER BONSAI ANNUAL SHOW**

May 20 and May 21, 2017

Saturday, 9 am - 4:30 pm

Sunday, 10 am - 4:30 pm

Our annual show is fast approaching. It is not too early to start planning on what trees you are going to display, along with appropriate stands and accent plants.

**Words – *Thuja occidentalis***

Many, many years ago I had a conversation with Reiner Goebbel, one of the many stars of the Toronto Bonsai Club, in which he described collecting white cedar north of Toronto. When I expressed that I didn't think that there were any true cedars in the new world, he enlightened me that, yes, there are no true cedars in the new world, but white cedar is what everybody called them anyway. Last week the Stone Lantern blog page offered the following:

“... *Thuja occidentalis*, a tree that may have more common names than almost any other species on this planet... Ten that you might stumble upon, are: Cedar, White cedar, Northern white cedar, Eastern white cedar, Atlantic white cedar, Swamp cedar, False white cedar, American arborvitae, Eastern arborvitae and just plain Arborvitae..”

Thank goodness for scientific names. Who knew that they were all the same thing?