



# BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

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

## Next Meeting Date:

Thursday Feb-14-2019 | 6:30 to 8:00pm  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI

## AGENDA:

Fix a Pot & Make a Rock; 2019 Events

## CLUB OFFICERS:

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

## President's Message

### Feb 14th Program

We would LOVE to see you at this month's meeting. This is what is on tap:

- **Got a broken pot?**  
We will show you how to mend it.
- **Want to make light-weight artificial rocks for rock plantings?**  
We'll show you how to craft Styrofoam rocks.

### Broken Pot ... Kintsugi it

As was reported in the last newsletter, the fourth quarter BCI magazine had an article on kintsugi – the Japanese practice of fixing broken ceramics. Rather than trying to make the crack inconspicuous, kintsugi aims to make the crack **MORE** noticeable.

This is accomplished by adding metallic glitter to the gluing material. There are several different

ways to achieve this goal, some simple, and some lengthy and laborious. The simple version is to add colored mica bits to fast drying epoxy. Adding slightly more epoxy to the crack than what you would normally use will cause some of the epoxy to squeeze out when the pieces are pressed together. **So bring a broken pot**, or two, or three, (hopefully you still have all the pieces) and we will 'kintsugi' them back together.

You might want to practice on something inexpensive before you try this on an expensive Tokoname pot. We will supply the glitter and the epoxy. It would be helpful if you watch a YouTube video about this process prior to the meeting. Just search the web for **kintsugi** and lots of hits will come up.

### We Can Create Rocks ...

We will also look at how to make artificial rocks. One of the problems with rock plantings is that the rock makes the composition really heavy. In addition, it is hard to find rocks that are visually interesting. And finding rocks with pockets to plant in is even harder to find.

Styrofoam rocks have been used forever by model railroaders to make scenery. Our own GeneW can attest to this. Pieces of Styrofoam can be glued together to make just about any size and shape you can imagine. Then the Styrofoam is further shaped by cutting with a knife, or saw, or

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burned away using a soldering iron, a candle, or some other source of heat. Again, there are lots of YouTube videos on how to do this. One word of caution about burning the Styrofoam – nasty vapors are produced so you want to do this outside. Once the rock is shaped it needs to be coated with a cement slurry to make it waterproof.

## Jan-2019 Dinner Summary

The year got off to a great start as we had a good turnout for our January dinner at the Imperial Gardens restaurant. Twenty-five members and spouses were in attendance. Thanks to Santa Ron for not only bringing the gifts, but wrapping them as well. And for a change, the weather was cooperative.

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## Jumping Worms

There's a new invasive critter to be on the lookout for – jumping worms. Here is what the Wisconsin DNR website (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/fact/jumpingworm/index.html>) has to say about them:

### ***“Why jumping worms are a problem:***

Jumping worms grow more rapidly, reproduce more quickly and consume more nutrients than other earthworms in the state. Once jumping worms become established, they quickly transform soil into dry, granular pellets with a texture like discarded coffee grounds. This altered soil structure is often unaccommodating to ornamental and garden plants, and inhospitable to many native plant species. In many cases, invasive plants thrive where jumping worms live.

Where to look for jumping worms:

- Carefully examine soil in potted plants. Bare root stock is best if available.
- Jumping worms do not burrow far into soil – they live on the soil surface in debris and leaf litter.
- Look for them in your yard, garden, forest, in mulch, compost, potted plants and other suitable places.”

our website: [badgerbonsai.net](http://badgerbonsai.net)

## Have Ideas For A Bonsai Class ... ?

Several members have requested that we offer a bonsai class. In the past we have offered classes through MATC and the UW Union Mini Course program. Unfortunately, both organizations need a lengthy lead-time to get the information into their catalogs. So this option will not work for this spring. At this point we are open to all suggestions about time and place and duration. Ideally, the location would be a garden center, or something similar, where playing with dirt wouldn't be a problem. Any ideas?

### Tree quotes

"The object is not to make the tree look like a bonsai, but to make the bonsai look like a tree."  
— John Naka



Adult jumping worms. Photo: UW Arboretum

From the BBS Archives: The first meeting of the society held September 1974 ...

“The only word to describe the 1st meeting of the Badger Bonsai Society is **FANTASTIC!!!!**”

Approximately 105 people signed the list. And we were obviously unprepared for so many of you. But with your patience, not to mention your sitting on the floor, we were able to talk about Bonsai for awhile. For any of you that missed getting a membership form we are including one.

BBS will only be as worthwhile and as fun as we make it. We need people who are interested and willing to spend some time working on club affairs. If you are willing to work on membership, programming, social, publicity, refreshments, or the library we need your help. Call Jack D to volunteer. The more we share the work the less of it each of us will have to do and the more fun we will all have.”

*First Club Officers:*

President ..... Jack D  
Vice President ..... Stan M  
Sec’y Treasurer ..... Virginia P  
Program Chairman ..... John P  
Membership ..... Bonnie F  
Newsletter Editor ..... Cay F  
Publicity ..... Bess L  
Refreshments ..... Kate C  
Librarian ..... Dorothy B  
Special Events ..... Chet and Jeanette R

All current and past BBS members are grateful for the dedication and inspiration and efforts of the chartering members and officers, as well as that or present members and officers !!

**Note that full names will be redacted in public version of newsletter for privacy and security concerns — a sad state, but unfortunately necessary today ...**



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

More information here:  
[badgerbonsai.net/membership](http://badgerbonsai.net/membership)

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

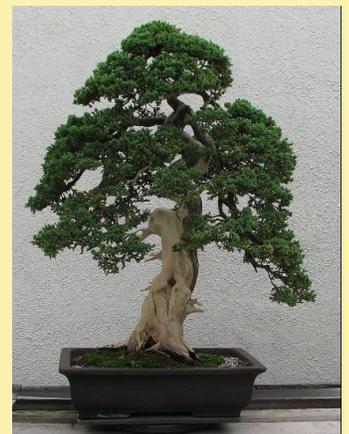
To pay your dues, see Gary, Treasurer

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

## BBS Annual Dues

### Bonsai Top Tip:

In an informal upright style, the top of the tree should slant in the same direction as the base. So if the base of the tree slants to the right, the top of the tree should slant to the right, and vice versa. I had heard this years and years ago, and at the time it didn't make much sense to me. So I conveniently ignored it. But, it is finally starting to make artistic sense to me. If the tilt is, for example, right, left, right, left, you have four trunk sections, and four of anything is to be avoided and lacks the asymmetry we are trying to achieve. So, keep the top pointing in the same direction as the base.



A Dwarf Japanese Juniper (*Juniperus procumbens* 'Nana') bonsai on display at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum at the United States National Arboretum. According to the tree's display placard, it has been in training since 1975. It was donated by Thomas Tecza. This is the "back" of the tree. 4.20 ft tall

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonsai#/media/File:Dwarf\\_Japanese\\_Juniper,\\_1975-2007.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonsai#/media/File:Dwarf_Japanese_Juniper,_1975-2007.jpg)

## Other Shows and Conventions:

WHA Garden Expo  
Feb 8-10, 2019  
Alliant Energy Center

Annual Spring Festival - 2019  
MABS 2019 will be held on April 12-14, 2019. It will take place at the Holiday Inn in Harrisburg Hershey / Grantville, PA 17028 (Exit 80, I-81 )

American Bonsai Society  
2019 National Convention  
April 11 - 14, 2019

Midwest Bonsai Society  
15th Annual May Bonsai Exhibit  
May 11 - 12, 2019

ANNUAL PRAIRIE STATE BONSAI SHOW  
August 2 - 4, 2019  
Hours: Fri, 6pm - 9pm, Sat - Sun, 10am - 4pm,  
at the Morton Arboretum

42nd Annual Mid-America Bonsai Exhibition  
August 16 - 18, 2019

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Don't forget to see Elaine to sign-up to bring in refreshments for our regular monthly meetings ... have to keep us happy and fed !!

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## for our website ... Developing Timelines

Something to think about and 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.

## Tentative 2019 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:  
(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

February meeting: Kintsugi and artificial rocks

March meeting – Make bonsai soil; grow moss

Slab making workshop TBD

April meeting – Grove workshop; using club supplied trees

Spring Collecting Activities:  
Tim's woods — TBD  
BC Nursery March 23 - 24, April 13 - 14

May meeting – BYO workshop  
May TBD – Field trip to Davidsons Japanese Maples in IL

May 18 -19 BBS Annual Show, Olbrich Gardens

June meeting – Veteran Demonstration – Three of our own experts will show their creativity.  
Field trip to Rotary Garden Janesville and Anderson Garden, Rockford

July (date probably 2nd Saturday)  
Picnic with white elephant exchange;  
bring items for sale / swap / giveaway

Field trip to Mayflower Nursery, Hobart, WI

August meeting – Succulents, guest speaker

September meeting – Bonsai Styles

October meeting – American Bonsai Masters and examples of their work

November meeting – Tropical workshop;  
BBS elections

December meeting – Suiseki and daiza making

Jan-2020: Annual Club Dinner