



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | Jun 2020

Next Meeting Date:

Zoom virtual meeting session(s) starting at 6:30pm on Thursday Jun-11-2020

AGENDA:

Derek's Japan trip pics; review World Bonsai Day, Tim juniper styling pics, other member "shares"

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

President's Message

June Meeting -- Online

It's always good to learn some new things – it keeps the neural gears from freezing up. While we would all prefer to be meeting in person, the Covid-19 pandemic is forcing us to practice social distancing. So on Thursday, June 11, our usual meeting night, at 6:30pm we will attempt to 'meet' virtually via Zoom.

As this is our first shot at this format, we hope everything goes smoothly. But, if problems arise, remember, we are new at this, so please bear with us. Wayne, in addition to putting out the newsletter and serving as our webmaster, deserves most of the credit for getting this up and going. He has had to deal with a co-president who has trouble finding the on-off switch on the computer. So be patient and forgiving if we seem unpolished at first, because we are. Wayne will

provide details in the newsletter email notice on how to sign into the meeting sessions and some basic details about "zooming". We will see how it goes.

Meeting Agenda

The current meeting agenda includes a brief into to zoom meeting protocols, then photos from Derek's most recent trip to Japan, some activities from the World Bonsai Day that occurred in May, a few photos of Karl's recent bonsai activities, and Tim's styling of a Mint Julep juniper chinensis. If anyone has other items for discussion, or show/tell, please let Wayne or Karl know in advance, or as you join the zoom meeting so that we can plan to review in our meeting sessions.

Togetheress

The media are filled with story after story about our differences – Black vs White; Democrat vs Republican; Israeli vs Palestinian; gun advocates vs gun limiters; pro-choice vs pro-life; etc. etc. The list just goes on and on. Sadly, every issue divides us into opposing camps.

About thirty years ago Saburo Kato established the World Bonsai Friendship Federation. His goal was to promote world peace and understanding through bonsai. Kato believed that the love of this art form would help overcome our differences. International bonsai conventions would bring

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together people from all over the world, allowing friendships to form and develop. It is not too different from international student exchanges and Fullbright scholarships – living in another culture fosters understanding.

I love the Maya Angelou quote: *“We are more alike, my friends, than we are un-alike”*. Wise words indeed. Bonsai won’t solve all the world’s problems - but, it might be a place to start. -- Karl

Successes / Failures

There is a crabapple tree that is growing by the Bay View apartment complex (the old Greenbush neighborhood between Park Street, Regent Street, and W Washington Ave) that is just beautiful – wonderful cascading branches, beautiful small fruit, great fall and spring color in the foliage. I have no idea what the cultivar is, but it is just gorgeous. So early last winter I thought perhaps I should collect some of the crabapples and see if I could get them to germinate.

So I picked a handful and let them soak in a container for a day, or two, or three. I drained the water thinking ‘okay – now I’ve got to put these in some soil’. But, the soil was out in the garage and being a good procrastinator, days went by with the crabapples still laying in now-dry container where they had soaked. After a couple weeks, I decided maybe I should soak them again. And after a couple days, I drained off the water and thought ‘okay – now I’ve got to put these in some soil’. But, the soil was still in the garage so I didn't get around to planting them. Maybe I even did this a third time. Now, one truth about germinating seeds is that once they start to grow, you can’t let them dry out, and I had done that a couple times. After perhaps a month staring at these on the kitchen counter, all shriveled up laying in their Cool Whip container, I was potting some other things, and I thought ‘these are never going to grow, but what the heck, I’ll put them in some soil and see what happens’. So I did. I put the shriveled crabapples in soil and covered them so they were slightly below the soil level. I watered them daily and about a week later I noticed a few of the crabapples had worked their way back to the surface. Lo and behold there

were roots extending down into the soil and pushing the crabapples upwards! Now keep in mind, I never removed the seeds from the fruit, so the top end of the seed was still encased in this dried fruit that looks something akin to a raisin. After a few days of trying to bust out of this fruity-prison, the seedlings gave up and all died. Aw, how sad.

Being an optimist as well as a procrastinator, I drove back down to the Bay View Apartments to see if there were any crabapples still on the tree. This is late winter or early spring. Most of the fruit was gone, eaten by critters and birds over the winter, but I did collect about ten sad looking crabapples. This time, on the advice of Barbara, after soaking the seeds and hydrating the dried fruit, I was able to rub off the fruit and extract the couple of seeds in each. The seeds were pretty tiny, and once again, I wasn't sure anything would sprout, but I potted them up anyway. I covered them with a thin layer of vermiculate. After about a week – SUCCESS.

More than a dozen little seedlings have sprouted!

If I can nurture these sprouts to full size, they will not look like the parent tree.

These offspring will be similar to, but not exactly, the same as the seed-bearing parent tree, because of the sexual reproduction (involving pollen from a second tree) forming the seeds. If you want an exact copy of the parent plant, you must use asexual reproduction, via cuttings or grafting. I'm going to snip off a few twigs from the parent tree and see if I can get them to strike roots.

On another front I had two dishpans with cuttings that I started last fall that I left outside all winter. They were enclosed in white plastic garbage bags. The snow had weighted down the plastic and I had never watered them or even looked at them until this spring. One dishpan had hinoki cypress cuttings, which I had really hoped would do something, were all brown. The autopsy



revealed that none of them had struck any roots. The other dishpan contained Kingsville boxwood. Taking off the garbage bag I found that they were all green. Every one had rooted – 100% success.

Do you have any success or fails that you would like to share via our website Contact Us link.

Japanese Maples

Earlier this spring Menards (Madison-stores) had some very nice Japanese maples for \$61 – even cheaper after their 11% off rebate. It didn't take long for them to sell out ... however Barbara reported Menards now has some bloodgood trees back in. Home Depot also had some Japanese Maples, but they were considerably smaller and were priced at \$99. If you purchase a Japanese Maple, be aware that all the cultivars have been grafted. Some of the grafts are pretty ugly. Over time the graft might become less conspicuous, but the quality of the graft is one factor you should examine when picking out a Japanese Maple. The foliage on all Japanese Maples is just beautiful. They often go through three color changes – when the buds first open they will be one color, then a different color through the growing season, and finally a third change in the fall. The caveat is they are only hardy to zone 5, so if you grow these in the ground, another polar vortex winter like we had two years ago could do them in. It is safer to grow them in pots that can be sheltered in your garage in winter.

Ron's Brussel's Trip

Ron, of [Ancient Arts Bonsai](#) in Oconomowoc-WI has just returned from his annual, albeit delayed, buying trip to Brussels' Bonsai Nursery in Olive Branch, Mississippi with about 100 trees which are available for purchase. If you are interested in seeing what Ron has to offer, you may call him and leave a message at (262) 490-8733.

Tree quotes

"If ten people were asked to chose a pot for a particular bonsai it is quite possible that each would return with ten different containers – and, each would be probably be quite suitable."

— *Deborah Koreshoff, Bonsai – Its Art, Science, History, and Philosophy*

Wiring

Molly asked about wiring recently. 'Bonsai Today' - the very first issue - had an excellent article on wiring with very clear diagrams. Unfortunately, it is hard to find that issue as it has become a collector's item. The Bonsai Empire web site also has a very good section on wiring.

<https://www.bonsaiempire.com/basics/styling/wiring>

A few observations regarding wiring:

Use annealed copper wire, which is quite pliable. As the wire is wound on the branch it becomes 'work hardened' meaning it becomes stiffer. You can anneal copper wire by heating it up on your grill, or fireplace, until it is red hot.

Keep in mind the Goldilocks Principle – not too tight, not too loose.

If the branch is going to be bent down, which is usually what we want to do, the first loop should be above the branch. The wire holds because it has been stretched. Same thing applies to putting a bend along the branch – the wire should be on the outside of a bend.

The act of putting the wire on frequently will cause the branch to twist. If the wire is wound clockwise, the branch will undergo a clockwise twist. This is useful if the branch has tertiary branches growing up and down. Twisting the branch shifts these so they become horizontal. Just be aware of this so you aren't surprised by it.

Don't leave the wire on so long that it starts to cut into the bark. Wire scars are forever.

Some people love to wire, others hate it. But, it is a skill worth developing as virtually every beautiful bonsai has been wired at some point.

Zoom Tech Requirements

For our upcoming Zoom virtual sessions, all you will need to participate is to join the zoom meeting session and the zoom web client will be installed. You will be able to see video feeds, audio and shared computer screens. If you want to present a live video feed you need a webcam. If you want to speak for all to hear, you will need a microphone for your computer, or have used a dial in phone number for the audio connection.

Other Shows and Conventions or Societies:

Listed below are events that were set up prior to the current COVID-19 situation ... May events are going to be questionable, be sure to check out the individual websites for current status.

Mid-American Bonsai Show and Sale

August 14 - 16, 2020 Chicago, IL

One of the largest regional shows in the nation, and centered on the Chicago Botanic Garden's Permanent Collection, features over 50 world-class trees.

US National Exhibition

Sep 12 – 13, 2020 East Rochester, NY

Join people from around the world for the U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition, where over 200 of the finest bonsai in the world will be on display.

National Bonsai and Penjing Museum

3501 New York Ave NE, Washington, DC

Bonsai Global Seminars Oct. 8-11, 2020. Kellogg Conference Hotel and the U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC.

June Meeting Planning

With the continuing COVID-19 concerns and Olbrich Gardens current restrictions on meetings, we are looking for other options. Nothing has fallen into place yet, thus the principal reason for "zooming" for our June meeting. Thanks to all that responded to our quick email polling on Friday regarding your attendance at an alternate location and/or your ability to attend a zoom virtual meeting.

Your Show Trees ...

Since we had to cancel our Annual Show, and officers discussion about an option for later this year was just not favorable (we could only do one day) ... if you can take a decently presentable picture (natural indirect sun lighting preferred again a white, grey or black background) of trees you had planned for the show, Wayne will put together a gallery on the website / newsletter. Send photos and descriptions to Wayne.

Thanks ... and STAY SAFE !

our website: badgerbonsai.net

Tentative 2019 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

June 11 – Zoom Virtual meeting

July – Membership Picnic (?) ... no meeting

Aug 13 – TBD

Sep 10 – TBD

MABA 2020 now MABA 202One...

though the MABA Convention of June-2020 had to be canceled due to COVID-19, the Organizational Committee is pleased to announce that MidAmerica Bonsai Alliance (MABA) convention **has been rescheduled** for June 10-13, 2021 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin ... with all the originally planned artists and vendors and at the same location.

Re-Focus
MABA/Milwaukee 202One
www.milwaukeebonsai.org/maba



Ranking Japanese Collection ...

As feedback from this activity (started in April) has been low, the deadline for you to participate in this activity has been **extended to June-26th** (despite the instructions in the document).

If you recall, in February, we ranked the North American Collection of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum via their on-line images. Wayne prepared a similar ranking document for 42 trees (of the 63 total) that are available on their website for the [Japanese Collection](#). The ranking document is intended to be a guide to assist in your viewing of the on-line images. Instructions can be found on the last page of the ranking document. Wayne will collate rankings that are submitted by June-26th via email or the **Badger Bonsai website Contact Us page**, and include in the July newsletter and website postings.

Get the [ranking document here](#).