



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

Next Meeting Date:

Zoom virtual meeting session starting at 6:30pm on Thursday Nov-12-2020; no physical meeting

AGENDA:

Bonsai Small & Large video tours; WI-wintering; participant "shares", door prizes; officer elections

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

President's Message

November Meeting -- Online

Until we can meet safely at Olbrich, we will continue to meet via Zoom. If there has been anything positive about the COVID-19 pandemic, the garden centers and nurseries apparently have done a good business. Personally, being forced to spend more time at home meant being more attentive to my bonsai collection. The fall color display was especially good with the maples, ginkgo, and tamarack - all putting on a great show. Last year I bought a Japanese maple cultivar "Shaina". I intend to use it as grafting stock, so it remained in the nursery pot all year. Its red color persisted all through the summer and its color was even better than my "Bloodgoods". I got this down in Memphis and have not seen this at any of the local nurseries.

As of Nov-1st, the leaves are pretty much off

most of the maples – with one exception. Shishigashira, which is also called lion's head maple. Not only does it still have its leaves, but they are mostly green. The same is true for the one Shishigashira that Barbara has. It's interesting how different the maple varieties can be.

All of my tropicals have been inside for about a month. I sprayed them with an insecticide, followed a few days later by Safer soap. I always wear rubber gloves and long sleeves. I also washed and scrubbed the pot exterior. This is what I do every year, but I am still usually battling scale over the winter.

Years ago I was told by one of the bonsai sensei that you could treat all two needle pines alike. One could prune the branches severely, and as long as there were still needles remaining on the branch, the tree would form new buds on the pruned branch. Well, as I am learning, life is not so simple. There are double-flush and single-flush pines. One can remove the candle on the former and it will grow new buds that year. But, if you do that on the latter, you probably will lose the branch. There are several good YouTube videos on this, and I would suggest that you watch these for more details. — *Karl*

November Meeting Agenda

The current zoom meeting agenda is: BBS officer elections for November; review of small-tree and

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huge-tree bonsai collections (see related video links on page 3); plans for a spring-2021 juniper-dig; any attendees shares of pictures or videos or interesting weblinks; and door prize "drawings".

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 session. NOTE, we will record the zoom session, so be on your good behavior.

Door Prizes

Congratulations to JohnK and Wayne as winners of our October door prizes. We are looking forward to see what Karl comes up with for November. How this works is explained in the Sep- or Oct-2020 newsletters. Remember we DO NOT deliver.

Thoughts on "Bonsai Heresy"

Wayne has been kind enough to loan me his copy of Michael Hagedorn's Bonsai Heresy. (Ron F carries this too, and the retail price is about \$25.) Probably the number one idea in the book is that virtually everything we do in this hobby is anecdotal, learned by trial and error. We do something because "that's what Fred does, and he has pretty nice trees". And because the Japanese have been doing bonsai for a thousand years, they have been very successful in discovering what works – and what doesn't. However, very few of our cherished 'rules' have been subjected to rigorous scientific study with rigid controls. That's okay. It is more important to have success in keeping your trees alive and healthy than participating in a double-blind experiment, even if your information is anecdotal. Also, keep in mind that what works in Saitama, Japan, or southern California, or London, might not work in Madison–Wisconsin. Local knowledge is invaluable. This is why joining a local bonsai club is one of the best investments in bonsai you can make. — *Karl*

[check out the BONSAI WIRE Podcasts](#)

from bonsai artists Jonas Dupuich, John Eads, Michael Hagedorn, and Andrew Robson

Watering:

Watering problems – too much, or too little – have probably killed more bonsai than all other problems combined. A tree can survive lots of problems, but if you mess up watering your bonsai will end up on the burn pile. Years ago at the Chicago show I approached the sales area of Bill Valavanis, and Bill was tending to something under the table and so he didn't see me coming. Trying to be a smart aleck, I called out 'do you have to water these things?' to the out-of-sight Valavanis. His retort was perhaps the most succinct advice I was ever given about bonsai: **"only when they need it"**. Most trees don't/won't tolerate roots that are constantly wet. Root rot sets in. When the novice bonsai grower sees the foliage wilted and droopy, they assume that the tree must be thirsty and give it even more water, exacerbating the situation. Conversely, if you let the soil go bone dry, unless you are growing a cactus, you are asking for trouble. It's the Goldilocks principle – not too wet, not too dry, but just right. Watering is a skill that is best learned by experience. If you are going to err in watering, slightly dry is better than slightly wet. Trees have evolved to deal with drought. They close up their stomata to preserve water. Furthermore, conifers can usually deal with drought better than broad-leaf trees. There are many, many factors that affect your watering schedule – ambient temperature, age of the tree, size and depth of the pot, age of the soil, composition of the soil, size of soil particles, size of root ball, wind speed, color of the pot, sun/shade conditions, time of year, species, newly pruned, relative humidity and probably others. Learning how to water is the most important bonsai skill. Nothing else matters if you can't keep the tree alive.

Annual Membership dues are coming due!

Because of COVID-19 and lack of face-to-face meetings, we will email current members a postal address to send a check for dues to our Treasurer.

Non-members wanting to join are to indicate their intention using the [Contact Us form](#) on the BBS website, and Wayne will provide details to do so.

Other Shows and Conventions or Societies:

Due to the current COVID-19 situation ... check out the individual websites for current status.

Hidden Gardens, Willowbrook-IL

Bring Your Own Tree Workshops

(9am to 4pm each day; for \$130 each session)

[Todd Schlafer](#), Sat Nov-28-2020, Sun Nov-29-2020

to sign up: Call Hidden Gardens at (630) 655-8283 or email Jeff Schulz at JSchulz@comcast.net

As of Nov-3rd, had 3 openings for Sunday session.

US National Exhibition rescheduled to 2021

Sep 11 – 12, 2021 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.~~

This event has been postponed due to COVID-19.

Recap of October's Jin Explanation

Thanks to Tim for his presentation of developing Jin in bonsai. This was a well structured and thought out discussion. By the way, for those in attendance, did you realize the tree Tim showcased (below) was the same tree (Juniper chinensis "Mint Julep") that Tim styled for our June zoom meeting.



Keep an eye out on the Badger Bonsai Society website for Tim's June presentation, as well as MaryE's presentation to plan and develop a Jade Tree Grove from our September zoom meeting.

Coming soon to the Badger Bonsai Society website: What's New, and moderated comments of articles and presentations

our website: badgerbonsai.net

Tentative 2020 Calendar for
Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:
(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

Nov 12 - **Zoom Virtual meeting** – but no physical meeting at Olbrich; Bonsai Small & Large video tours; Wintering Strategies for Wisconsin; Badger Bonsai Society officer elections

Dec 10 - TBD, Suiseki review ?

January-2021 Membership Dinner ... **TBD ???**

Spring-2021 - juniper dig event

Can You Build a Video Tour?

At our September Zoom meeting Ben encouraged BBS members to create a short video tour of their plants to share, or share interesting tree tours they have seen. Thanks to Karl for his short version showing a few of his trees; we look forward to seeing his long version he prepared (but was too big to send from his phone).

You can take a brief video and narrate as you walk-through, or take still pictures and SHARE during our next meetings ... show us your stuff !

Zoom Tech Requirements

For our 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. If you would like to "practice" zooming ... contact Wayne.

Some Recent Videos of Interest

- Jonas Dupuich: [Wintering Advice Blog](#); and [Wintering Guide](#) prepared from blog comments
- Jason Chan: [Slant Style Bonsai](#)
- ["metal bonsai"](#)
- [Peter Macasieb shohin collection](#)
- [Tom Vuong collected huge yamadori](#)
- [learn bonsai in a day](#) by Jeff of Chojo Feature Trees nursery near Melbourne-Australia