



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | Jan 2021

Next Meeting Date:

Zoom virtual meeting session starting at 6:30pm on Thursday Jan-14-2021; no physical meeting

AGENDA:

Discussion of your "off-season" bonsai chores; participant "shares", door prizes and future topics

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

President's Message

Take a good look ... as our masthead indicates, we are now in 2021. 2020 was definitely a year for the books. Fraught with eye-opening realities, hardships, sacrifices, challenges, losses, stupid behaviors, opportunists, and embarrassments, there were just as many success stories, heroes, and moments to be proud of as the year came to a close. And while 2021 offers the promise to the start of the eradication of COVID-19, I think no one will argue that our lives and lifestyles have changed forever, and we may never get back to the way things used to be. Change, though uncomfortable, is inevitable and necessary for our growth as individuals and a species — accepting and embracing change will lead to good things.

Soap-box evangelism aside, the Badger Bonsai Society, like so many other interest groups, faced many challenges related to COVID-19, but membership dedication, support and enthusiasm allowed us to find a way to sustain membership

engagement. A heartfelt thanks to all members and zoom participants for keeping it interesting.

As we head into 2021 – *now with me sounding like a PBS-telethon pitchman* – the BBS must embrace change and move forward to grow our club with a renewed focus to increase awareness of bonsai, encourage new memberships and supporting programs / activities to engage the bonsai-newbie, -novice, and -experts. **We need your continuing support and active involvement.**

Things to look forward to in 2021 so far are a juniper dig coming up this spring, resumption of physical meetings, many new members, and most importantly our Annual Show in May.

I hope everyone is and remains safe as we head into 2021 ... have faith that we will once again get back to our physical meetings and hands-on activities related to bonsai. Let's be prepared to make the most of these opportunities. — *Wayne*

January Online Meeting Agenda

The current plans for the Jan-14th zoom meeting includes: a welcome-to and introduction of new members and participants (prepare a brief bio and background on your bonsai / personal interests); discussion of "off-season" bonsai activities and tasks to prepare for the "coming-out" of your trees; door prizes; and participant-shares.

If anyone has other items for discussion, or show / tell, please let Wayne know in advance, or

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as you join the zoom meeting so that we can plan to review in our meeting session – we will record the zoom session, so be on your good behavior.

Bonsai Wintering Tasks

As mentioned earlier, at the Jan-14th zoom meeting we plan to discuss those bonsai tasks that can best be performed during the time of your trees wintering period. With Wisconsin's weather variability, year-to-year this can run anywhere from 3 to 5 months, so it is best to be prepared and have a plan. In preparation for the meeting, please take a few minutes to think about the routine(s) that you have established over your "bonsai-lifetime", as well as the lessons learned and successes and failures — anything that you can share and pass along to other experienced or wannabe practitioners is greatly appreciated. Of course, one of the things that we do gain in wintering is TIME ... so a good way to keep involved with bonsai is to read and research!

Surveying the internet with the magic of Google provides a wealth of general ideas, principles and guidelines, but just like many other aspects of bonsai in Wisconsin, the best advice is that of the experience of a fellow Badger (Wisconsinite).

Here are a few good articles of interest I found:

[Bonsai Calendar: When to work on your bonsai trees \(from Bonsai Empire\)](#)

[Four Seasons of Bonsai – Winter](#) (from Bonsai West, though in New England, Massachusetts ... this site also has spring, summer and fall guides)

[5 Bonsai Activities To Keep You Until Spring](#) (from BonsaiTree ... though this site is from Cape Town South Africa, with weather vastly different from WI-winters ... their winter season is May to August, and the cold temperature is typically around 55°F; and a lot of this article **emphasizes finding supplies and PLANNING**).

[12 months of Bonsai Tasks](#) (from Sumo Bonsai Supply of southern-Minnesota) ... this site also has some bonsai care guides and how-to articles, as well as some [very interesting multi-year tree progressions](#) (that we will review at the meeting).

The Buffalo Bonsai Society of Williamsville – New York, [guide of bonsai activities by months](#),

as well as many other good articles on their website, including month-specific guides for azaleas.

Note that it is by no means coincidence that many of these articles are created and hosted by commercial bonsai sites — surely from their commitment to the bonsai community and prospective customers, but also as enticements to make purchases from their sites. You cannot fault their approach. Which reminds me ... one of the most important tasks to think about in the off season, is to watch for purchasing deals and restock your supply larders well in advance of when you will actually need your supplies.

Alternatively, use some of that internet research to learn how to do things yourself (such as preparing copper wire, creating soil mixes, create pots / structures for your trees) instead of buying outright.

And just to make you feel good about how you are currently over-wintering your trees, here is a good article from the [Chicago Botanic Gardens about how they prep their bonsai for wintering](#) ... though Chicago is still quite different from the Madison-WI area.

And here is another brief article from [Basic Bonsai on How to Overwinter Bonsai](#) ... I think this site is based in Michigan, and also has some very good content under their blog.

And finally, Sumo Bonsai Supply also has a [good article on Winter Care, and includes pictures and video of his cold storage build](#).

What Do You Want ... ?

Is there something that you would like to see as a topic for a future BBS meeting or activity? Or is there something that you have done and would like to share with the membership, or in the newsletter or BBS website. **Let us know!**

Door Prizes

Congratulations to Tamaki (4x6 ceramic pot) and Ralph (plastic pot) as winners of our December door prizes. How this works is explained in the Sep- or Oct-2020 newsletters.

Remember we DO NOT deliver.

Other Shows and Conventions or Societies:

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

As 2021 moves forward, we hope that planned or canceled events will be getting back on track.

[MABA/Milwaukee 2020 One Refocus](#)

Jun 10 – 13, 2021 Milwaukee, WI

[US National Exhibition](#)

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.

[San Antonio Bonsai Society Convention](#)

Apr 28 – May 1, 2022 San Antonio, TX

VISION 2020 (Take 2 in 2022)

Professional Bonsai Artists include:

Boon Manakitivipart "Bonsai Boon"

Tyler Sherrod

Roy Nagatoshi

Your Saver ...

At our Nov-2020 meeting, Wayne and Karl shared a "challenge" question that Wayne asked Karl when viewing his trees in September. Now I throw the same challenge out to all BBS members, and would love to have you share a picture and your thoughts at future meetings.

If some catastrophic event occurred at your house, and you were given the opportunity to "save" only one tree from your collection (at no personal risk or restriction of size or weight) ... ***which tree would you select to save ... any why?*** This could be based on value or appeal or your own personal reason ...

Read any good bonsai books ?

If you have read any books related to bonsai, please feel free to send us your thoughts, reviews, comments, critiques, or questions to share with readership or foster a discussion.

our website: badgerbonsai.net

Tentative 2021 Calendar for
Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:
(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

January-2021 no Membership Dinner

Jan-14 - **Zoom Virtual meeting** – but no physical meeting at Olbrich

Feb-11 - Zoom meeting, topics TBD

Mar-11 - Zoom meeting, topics TBD

While nothing has been determined yet, let's all hope that after March we are able to have meetings back at Olbrich again ... !!!

If not, we will continue with Zoom Meetings.

Spring-2021 - juniper dig event

Apr-8 - TBD

May-13 - TBD

May 15 to 16, 2021 - Badger Bonsai Society Annual Show at Olbrich Gardens

Jun-10 - TBD

Jul-8 - TBD

July-2021 - membership picnic ... ???

Video Tours

Take a brief video and narrate your walk through of your trees, 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 Links of Interest

- Mă-Kè Bonsai [Overwintering YouTube video](#)
- Herons Bonsai - [Overwintering YouTube video](#)