



BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

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

Next Meeting Date:

Zoom virtual meeting session starting at 6:30pm on Thursday Mar-11-2021; no physical meeting

AGENDA:

Plans for April and May meetings; preparation for May Annual show; presentation on bonsai pots

CLUB OFFICERS:

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

President's Message

Well it is about time! It seems that Mother Nature is starting to literally shine our way and give us a respite from this bonsai-dormant season in Wisconsin. In fact, this past weekend had warmed up enough that I pulled several plants out of winter storage to get a jumpstart on the warm weather – and surprise, surprise, surprise – both black pussy willows were already pushing out fresh green buds after just one day in the sun.

But as we all know, Mother Nature can be such a fickle player in this game; the potential for extremely cold night temperatures meant I pulled all plants back into storage to prevent freeze-off of those fresh buds. Though just one day later, and Sunday night forecasts are promising low temperatures above 40°F for southern-WI, and high temperatures pushing 60°F for this coming week (but be cautious in times of rain – still a bit early in this area for saturated soils) and should

present a steady opportunity for our trees to spread their wings, and we are smack dab in the middle of our passion with our trees again.

But beware, our friendly meteorologists expect another bout of harse winter weather again in 2 weeks – so watch that weather, and be prepared to get your trees back to protection as needed.

And another bit of normalcy will be returning to our club soon. City of Madison / Olbrich Gardens will be allowing organized meetings again in April, though still under meeting size and COVID-safe conditions. We have a few exciting activities planned as we re-commence our face-to-face meetings in April and May, as well as being able to run our Annual Bonsai Show, open to the public at Olbrich Gardens on Sat May-15th and Sunday May-16th, with 2 demos each day. Any one interested in demonstrating? — *Wayne*

March Online Meeting Agenda

The current plans for the Mar-11th zoom meeting includes: a welcome-to and introduction of new members and participants (prepare a brief bio and background on your bonsai / personal interests); an overview of current plans for our May 15th & 16th Annual Show at Olbrich Gardens; plans for ... wait for it ... our reconvening of physical meetings at Olbrich Gardens again starting in April under safe-distancing conditions; and finally a presentation by RonF on everything you

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|--|-------|
| Inside This Issue | |
| • President's Message / Agenda | 1 - 2 |
| • Bonsai Pots | 2 |
| • Door Prizes / Show 'n' Tell | 2 |
| • Will You Be There ? | 2 |
| • Simulations / Huntington Recap | 3 |
| • Other Bonsai Events & Info | 3 |
| • Recent Links of Interest | 3 |



would ever want or need to know about pots for bonsai; and a continued discussion of future club activities that are based on the Feb-2021 membership interest survey.

In addition, Wayne has identified about 15 images of trees displayed at our past couple of Annual Shows that would make good candidates for our 2021 Annual Show poster — those attending the zoom meeting can vote for the preferred image(s).

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

March Presentation: Bonsai Pots

Most of us often use the rough translation of "tree in a pot" ... but more correctly, the word "Bonsai" is a Japanese term which, literally translated, means "planted in a container".

Containers come in a variety of forms ranging from inexpensive grow pots, colanders, growing boxes, milk crates, nursery flats, training pots, inexpensive plastic pots, traditional pots, free-form pots, and very expensive and historical pots that are enamored by pot collectors themselves.

Containers can be thought of as something that provides functional aspects in order to enhance the health and development of a bonsai.

Pots on the other hand are a wide range of specialized containers that can possess artistic attributes (shape, size, color, texture, finish), tradition, history, personal motivation or meaning (my daughter made it). A pot integrates with, and should enhance the aesthetic display of your tree, whether in normal day-to-day viewing, or for that special time of formal show displays.

Ron Fortmann (owner of Ancient Arts Bonsai in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin) has prepared about an hour long presentation that will touch briefly on some functional aspects or reasons to consider containers (other than formal pots); but will focus primarily on the artistic and aesthetic aspects of pots, and how your informed choices can work in harmony with your tree.

There are many relevant links shown on the lower

right of page 3 ... if you have the opportunity to review some or all of those links prior to the zoom meeting, Ron's presentation will make a lot more sense to you.

Want to see an excellent illustration of how pot choices influence the appearance of a displayed tree, see [Jonas Dupuich's Pot Selection Exercise of a Japanese Maple on the Bonsai Tonight Blog](#).

A special thank you in advance to Ron for volunteering to put together this presentation and share his knowledge ... this is a tremendous learning opportunity for us, regardless of your bonsai experience level.

Will You Be There ? ...

Though we will be sending out a separate inquiry to all BBS members and recipients of the meeting notices for the March zoom meeting, and the physical meetings for April and May meetings, if you do not receive those notices (you can ask to be added via the [Contact Us](#) form on the Badger Bonsai Society website), you can let us know (again via the [Contact Us](#) form) if you plan to attend the face-to-face meetings at Olbrich Gardens on Apr-8th or May-11th or our Annual Show on May-15th or May-16th.

What Do You Want ... ?

I would like to thank BBS members for your feedback to our Membership Survey in February. We had our first BBS Board meeting in a long time and are focused on bringing topics to our meetings and future activities in-line with your expressed desires and interests.

Door Prizes

Congratulations to Barbara (6x9 oval pot) and Gary (4x6 oval pot) as the winners of our February door prizes. How this works is explained in the Oct-2020 newsletter.

Note we DO NOT deliver ... but we will have past wins at our upcoming physical meetings in April and May.

Remember, if you have a 'show-n-tell' item at either our zoom or our face-to-face meetings, you get an extra entry for the door prizes.

Other Shows and Conventions or Societies:

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

[BC Bonsai](#) activities in March & April

- Mar 13 & 14, 2021 Wheaton-IL;
Larch Forest Workshops
- Harvesting Trees at Nursery (Paw Paw-IL)
 - Mar 21 & 22, 2021
 - Apr 11 & 12, 2021
 - Apr 18 & 19, 2021

See the [BC Bonsai website for event details](#)

[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.

Your Saver ...

Do you have a "your saver" that you would like to share with members? See the Dec-2020 BBS newsletter for background and details.

Bonsai Simulations ...

Our Feb-2021 newsletter and zoom meeting had a brief discussion about bonsai software programs to simulate growth and bonsai pruning activities. Did anyone (besides Wayne) get an opportunity to research or play around with these? Tell us!

Did You Watch ...

I hope that most of you had the opportunity to watch the virtual bonsai presentations from The Huntington on Feb-27th. I found Ted Matson's showcasing of the bonsai displays, nurseries, and especially the Life Line / Time Line exhibits amazing ... those are all on YouTube, so you can watch the videos again, though you will miss out on the excellent commentary ... an 1800 year old juniper is incredible!

The afternoon sessions focusing on Peinjing, particularly the history and the "no-wire" mantra of the Lingnan school was fascinating.

our website: badgerbonsai.net

Tentative 2021 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

Mar-11 - Zoom virtual meeting, all you need to know about pots for your bonsai

Feedback from City of Madison and Olbrich Gardens looks good for us to get back to physical meetings beginning in April ... !!!

Apr-8 - MaryE demos the 1st potting of nursery stock; planning for annual show in May

Spring-2021 - juniper dig event

May-13 - RonF demos repotting of an establish bonsai; last minute personal-prepping for show

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

- Sat 9am - 4:30pm; Sun 10am - 4:30pm
- demos at 11am and 1:30pm both days

Jun-10 - TBD

Jul-8 - TBD

July-2021 - no membership picnic

Aug-12 - TBD

Sep-9 - TBD

Sep-2021 - membership picnic ... ???

Some Recent Links of Interest

- from Bonsai Empire: [Choosing a Bonsai Pot to suit your tree](#)
- from Bonsai Outlet: [Pick the right pot for your bonsai](#)
- from Bonsai Outlet: [Who chooses the bonsai pot, you or your tree?](#)
- from Herons Bonsai YouTube channel: [All you need to know about bonsai pots?](#)
- from Herons Bonsai YouTube channel: [Choosing a bonsai pot](#)
- Mă-Kè Bonsai: [Bonsai pots - selection guide](#)
- from Bonsai Tonight: [What kind of soil should I use for my bonsai?](#)
- latest Bonsai Wire Podcast (69 minutes): [features a technical discussion about repotting with Michael Hagedorn, Andrew Robson, John Eads and Jonas Dupuich](#)