



# BADGER BONSAI SOCIETY

Promoting and Enjoying the Ancient Art of Bonsai Since 1972

**Badger News | A Publication of the Badger Bonsai Society | Mar 2023**

### Next Meeting Date:

Thursday Mar-9-2022 | 6:30 to 8pm  
Olbrich Botanical Gardens  
3330 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI

### AGENDA:

Guest Presentation: Japanese Woodblock Prints

### CLUB OFFICERS and Roles:

President ..... Ron  
Vice President ..... Mary  
Secretary ..... Lisa  
Treasurer ..... Ken  
Web Admin / Newsletter ..... Wayne / **Jason**  
Librarian ..... Alex  
Refreshments ..... Elaine

## President’s Message

Well I went away for a few days in February and thought we had everything in place for the meeting in my absence, but Mother Nature had a different plan, ending with the cancellation of the February meeting. So for March’s meeting we will reboot and have our guest speaker present her program (see additional details on pages 1 & 2 in this newsletter).

If time allows I will have some photos to share of my week at Ryan Neil’s garden and a pretty cool root on rock creation that I was part of on my last day there. We will also take a few minutes to talk about our most important season coming up “Repotting Season” and our plans for the April meeting. --- Ron

### Agenda for Mar-9th meeting

The plan for the Mar-9th meeting at Olbrich Gardens (upstairs, normal meeting location) will

be to introduce first-time-attendees, review our revamped show-n-tells that illustrates a bonsai-related concept or technique (remember, participation earns an extra door prize ticket for members); and enjoy a guest presentation on Japanese woodblock printing — rumor has it that there may also be a surprise at the meeting related to this topic. Also remember that if you have not renewed your annual BBS membership yet, please be prepared to do so at the meeting.

### Japanese Woodblock Prints

Though canceled at our February meeting due to the local Madison-WI winter-storm, we are lucky enough to be able to reschedule for our Mar-9th meeting and will have a guest speaker for a presentation on [Japanese woodblock prints](#). The BBS enjoyed a similar presentation a number of years ago and this will be an opportunity to appreciate another form of Japanese art and design.

[Professor Steffani Bennett](#) is a historian of premodern Japanese art with expertise in medieval painting and cross-cultural exchange in the East Asian region. The daughter of U.S. diplomats, Steffani first developed an interest in interregional art history during her childhood in Asia. She has a bachelor’s degree in art history and Japanese language from the University of Washington–Seattle and a PhD in Japanese art

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history from Harvard University.

In the fall of 2022, Steffani joined the Art History department at the UW-Madison, where she holds the Joan B. Mirviss Chair in Japanese Art.

Although a specialist in medieval painting, Steffani's research and teaching interests are broad and include the subject of Japanese woodblock prints. This spring Steffani is teaching her course "*The Floating World: A History of Japanese Prints.*"

Steffani's talk for the Badger Bonsai Society offers an introduction to the woodblock print medium through the thematic lens of the printed landscape.



## Keeping Records

It's a good idea to keep records – not only to satisfy the IRS in the case of an audit, but also to improve your bonsai success. And if you are at all like me, writing things down is becoming more important with advancing age. When did I last report that tree? Did I add slow release fertilizer last year? Where and when did I acquire that pot, and how much did I pay for it? I've relied on my less than perfect memory for most of my life, and have avoided most fatal disasters. However, I regret one recent 'I should have written that down' blunder.

It is really easy to root schefflera – just stick the cuttings in water and they strike roots almost 100% of the time. But, I never had any luck with getting dwarf schefflera cuttings to root. For a long time I just thought it couldn't be done. Then two years ago I tried again and, lo and behold, they all struck roots. Same thing last year – every dwarf schefflera cutting produced roots. Last fall I once again cut back the mother plants so they wouldn't take up so much space in the house, and stuck the cuttings in water. Not a single one rooted. The only variable was, I think, the timing of taking the cuttings.

Had I kept good records, I could go back and see the dates that produced success and those that were failures. But, alas, I didn't keep any records of this.

On a different topic, I air-layered the top off a ficus 'too little' some years back (there's that record thing again - it could have been four, or five, or six years) and both the mother plant and the air layer are looking good. But, throughout the winter I noticed the air layer wasn't draining very well. Now tropical trees are best repotted in the warm weather when the tree is actively growing, but I was a little concerned about waiting several more months to repot. So I repotted. Sure enough, there were two large roots that almost filled the pot. Each of these had a diameter that exceeded the diameter of both the air-layer trunk, and the trunk of the original plant.

I have experienced this with other ficus, especially when the pot is undersized. So I'm curious why the tree generates these very fat roots. I haven't been able to find anything on the internet.

Any ideas? ---Karl

? did you leave a pail at the Aug or Sep-2022 meeting ... contact Wayne to claim

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

Other Shows and Conventions or Societies:

### [8th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition](#)

Sep. 9–10, 2023 East Rochester, New York

The 2023 exhibition promises to exceed past shows in both scope and quality. The 8th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition will include an expanded Invitational Suiseki Exhibit, feature demonstrations and critiques lead by bonsai masters from around the world, and offer one of the largest bonsai specific vendor areas available at an event of this kind.



Thanks to MaryE for her enlightening presentation on bonsai at the PBS Wisconsin Garden & Landscape Expo on Feb-11th. We hear there were 75 people in attendance.

### *Recent Links and Info of Interest*

Bonsai Empire: [Ryan Neil Repotting Strategy](#)

Heron's Bonsai: [Repotting Bonsai Trees](#)

### Tentative 2023 Calendar for

Badger Bonsai Society meeting & events:

(date is 2nd Thursday unless noted differently below)

Mar-9 - Japanese Woodblock Prints,  
Repotting Basics

Apr-1 - Milwaukee Bonsai burning bush dig

Apr-8 - Bonsai Foundation Course, session 4

Apr-13 - Prepping for annual show, incorporating  
accent plants (kusamono); bring your  
own trees for repotting

May-?? - Bonsai Foundation Course, session 5

May-11 - Watering & Fertilization Basics - What,  
When, How Much, Why

May-20 and May-21 - BBS 2023 Annual Show

Jun-8 - Pruning and partial defoliation tips

Jul-13 - Wound work and wiring

Aug-10 - Late summer work

Sep-14 - Wiring and styling

Oct-12 - Fall preparation

Nov-9 - Winter preparation

Dec-14 - Holiday treats, Suiseki/Viewing Stones

### *Potential Workshops for 2023:*

April — Repotting

July — Pruning / Wiring / Partial Defoliation

September — Wiring / Styling

### Notice for Bonsai Foundation Course, Session 4 (open to BBS registrants only)

To those members that are part of the Bonsai Foundation Course that started last year, our next session will be on *Saturday April 8th*. We will meet again at Big Kahuna Tropical Fish & Aquarium.

At this session we will be working on styling and repotting your tree that you get as part of your class fee. Since there are 18 students we will split the class into two groups of 9 to control the chaos. *I will need each of the students to let me know 2 things.*

1. **Which type of tree do you prefer:** Tropical or Deciduous

At this time I do not know what particular trees I will find until I am at the supplier in late March, therefore a general category is the best I can offer, Tropical for those who don't have the ability to overwinter deciduous trees.

2. **Where would you prefer to work on your tree:** Morning session 8:30-Noon or Afternoon session 1:00 to 5:00. There will be 9 slots in each session and these be filled in a first requested first saved spot. You are welcome to come and watch / help during the session you are not scheduled in.

Please send me your tree & session choices to [aabonsai@charter.net](mailto:aabonsai@charter.net) by **March-24th at the latest.**