



BRANDYWINE BONSAI SOCIETY



Annual Jack Billet Memorial Meeting on Winter Silhouette

Brandywine Town Center

Saturday, January 18, 2014, 10:00 am

Pre-meeting tree counseling will be available

Since 2007, our January meetings have been dedicated to Jack's memory. Select trees have been brought out of winter storage, and displayed in their winter grandeur. When possible, a few trees are mounted in full displays complete with companion plants that show signs of the season.

These programs have been occasions for exchange of knowledge about many species, and about the traditions of display. This has been one of our most popular programs and new members are urged to attend to get a valuable overview not only of the art of bonsai but also the development of deciduous trees when their full ramification can be observed.

The fellowship and learning that are hallmarks of these meetings are much in the spirit of Jack's contributions to BBS. Many of us have fond memories of Jack's unfailing willingness to share his great knowledge of horticulture and styling, as well as his respectful support of our efforts, however halting and fearful. As we are thinking and planning for the bonsai ahead, keep in mind Jack's admonition if we hesitate to make a big styling or horticultural decision: "If not now, when?" Many times he bolstered spirits and kept members from losing another season to faintheartedness.

Membership

The January meeting would be a good time to fill out the attached membership form and pay our low annual dues. Return the form and your remittance to either Steve Ittel or Greg Kanaskie and relax – you won't have to think about it again for another year! No wondering in late spring if you did or didn't.

It is important that we receive a form from each of you simply as a matter of bookkeeping. Steve Ittel admits membership errors in the past, but they were often due to incomplete or non-existent forms. The deadline for renewing is the end of March. It is important that we know the membership roster by then, and have our finances in order.

Participation in the silent auctions and the big July picnic/auction requires current membership. Don't be left out!

Chinese Viewing Stones

We have attached a great link to Chinese viewing stones that is the work of Tom Elias, past director of the National Arboretum.

<http://www.vsana.org/index.html>

It has very useful information for those interested in stones or those unfamiliar with the art of stones. The club is ripe for this in-depth info. - *Dennis Donald*

Bonsai Resolutions (by Pauline Muth)

I will

- *Repot every bonsai that needs it, on time.*
- *Fertilize on schedule...taking care to use the right amounts at the right times.*
- *Complete wiring before winter is over.*
- *Remove wire before damage occurs.*
- *Spend time trimming each day in the growing season to develop better ramification.*
- *Study each species thoroughly to apply the right techniques to the right trees.*
- *Make sure that the ground landscaping does not block the light from the bonsai.*
- *Spend a concentrated time each day working on the bonsai...not just for watering.*
- *Develop some new bonsai.*
- *Remove trees from the collection that will never develop into good bonsai.*
- *Share knowledge with friends.*

Directions to the Brandywine Town Center Meeting Hall

The meeting hall is a stand-alone building, removed from the commercial area, with a large glass dome on top.

From Route 202 Southbound: Shortly after crossing into Delaware on Route 202 southbound, turn left onto Naamans Road at the intersection bounded by an Exxon station and the Days Inn. At

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President, Nancy Klabunde; Treasurer and Shows, Greg Kanaskie; Newsletter Editor, Steve Ittel (302) 778-4546

the second light, turn left into the Brandywine Town Center (You will see a large Target store) and follow the outer parking lot road right to the meeting hall.

From I-95 Northbound and 202 Northbound: Take Exit 8 Concord Pike North. Just beyond Concord Mall at the Days Inn, turn right onto Naamans Road and follow the directions above.

From I-95 Southbound: Take the I-495 and Naamans Road exit just after passing into Delaware. Take Naamans Road westbound. After passing Grubb Road, you will take the next right into Brandywine Town Center. Look for the meeting center described above but you will go left on the circling road. These directions and a detailed map are available all the time on the directions page of the new BBS Website.

Pre-Meeting Tree Counseling

We are continuing our custom of having pre-meeting tree counseling. It has proven to be useful and enjoyable for all involved, so we are continuing the practice in 2012. More experienced club members will be on hand to give advice about growing practices and styling, so don't miss this opportunity. Though this service is directed mostly to new and inexperienced members, old hands might like to bounce ideas about, too. And it is an opportunity for those who have some experience to test their skills or thoughts by commenting before in front of an experienced member. All will certainly learn. This month, it is a warm-up for the main portion of the meeting.

Ski's Bonsai Soil Mixes

Ski Dombrowski has presented information about his various soil mixes for selected species at several meetings. We all know that Ski's trees are very healthy, so we have attached a separate sheet that details all of the information he has presented.

2014 Brandywine Bonsai Schedule

January 18 – **BTC** – Billet Memorial Program, Winter Silhouette

February 15 – **BTC** – Display, Kei Do

March 15 – **BTC** – Workshop with emphasis on styling - Howard McNeal

April 25 – 27 – MABS Spring Meeting, East Hanover, NJ

April – Jim Doyle Open House (date and guest artist not yet known)

May 17 – **BTC** -- Material seldom used in bonsai – Ski Dombrowski

June 21 – **Anson Nixon Park** - Picnic/Auction

July 19 - **BTC** – Forest planting demo/workshop - Rob King

August 16 – **Anson Nixon Park** – Styling workshop devoted mostly to new members

September 20 – **Anson Nixon Park** – Styling Deadwood - Dennis Donald

October 18 – **BTC** – Andy Smith

November 15 – **BTC** – Business. Program to be announced

Again in our Backyard

The MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival will be April 25-27 at the Ramada Hotel, in East Hanover, NJ. MABS will be celebrating its 31st year with a line-up of excellent guest artists, workshops, and vendor offerings.

TAKASHI IURA started his bonsai career as an apprentice to Mr. Takeo Kawabe at Omiya-shi, Saitama-ken, Japan from 1996 to 2001. From 2001 to present he has served as President, manager and bonsai artist at Shoju-en, Japan. He previously appeared at MABS in 2009 as assistant to Isao Omachi and he was also headliner at ARCO bonsai in Italy in 2009 and again in 2011. He teaches bonsai and demonstrates his artistry all over Europe and in the USA.

CORIN TOMLINSON, son of Harry Tomlinson, considers bonsai to be made up of two parts, horticultural and artistic, and feels that one must have sufficient knowledge in both of these areas to achieve best results with bonsai. After a Diploma in Horticulture at Merrist Wood College, he studied with Bill Valavanis. Upon returning to England he became curator of The National Bonsai Collection housed at The Royal Botanical Gardens in Birmingham. Corin and his brother Paul run the family bonsai business.

SUTHIN SUKOSOLVISIT, born in Thailand, has extensive experience with tropical bonsai. His expertise also includes Japanese maple, juniper, azalea and black pine. Suthin has been involved in Bonsai since 1970 and has won nation bonsai awards in Thailand and the United States.

He teaches his bonsai techniques throughout the New England and the United States. Suthin shares new information and techniques whenever he teaches. His bonsai are known for their proportion, refinement and detail. Suthin and his wife operate the Royal Bonsai Garden in Stoughton, Massachusetts.