



BRANDYWINE BONSAI SOCIETY



Dan Snipes on "Improving Your Trees"

Saturday, March 16, 2019, 10:00am

Brandywine Town Center

Pre-meeting advice on trees will be available



On Saturday March 16, Dan Snipes will be our special guest. Dan will analyse members' trees and give advice on their improvement. Son of BBS member, Ingeborg Snipes, Dan was the 2016 European New Talent Contest winner at the European Bonsai Association Show in Hungary and is a Certified Level 1 Bonsai Judge in the Netherlands. His life long interest in bonsai was nurtured through his family's nursery business and through exhibits at the Philadelphia Flower Show. His active involvement in bonsai began after moving to the Netherlands in 2007. He currently is on the board of his club, takes lessons from Teunis Jan Klein, participates in the Kabudachi Bonsai School from Marc Noelanders and works weekly on trees for Bonsai Plaza from Maarten van der Hoeven.

BBS members are encouraged to bring their trees for Dan's expert advice. Dan will analyse as many trees as possible, either singularly or in common species groups. The emphasis will be on styling options, care and development of the tree. He will also help us understand the sometimes subtle focus differences between American and European Bonsai.

Dues Reminder

March is the deadline for renewing or initiating membership in BBS. Spring is our time to clean out that old membership roster (we have already done the initial pass and notice a number of familiar names that are still highlighted in red rather than being in the black). So if you want to keep receiving our informative newsletters and participate in auctions, please send your dues payment and membership form to:

*Greg Kanaskie
133 North Wawaset Rd.
West Chester, PA 19382*

To those of you have taken care of this annual chore long ago, we thank you for your promptness.

Sales and Silent Auction

This is the perfect kind of meeting to be selling trees, pots, wire, and tools. While the silent auction approach works well for many of these items, we may want to have some outright sales so that people can get what they need early in the meeting.

Reminder: You are supposed to have paid your dues to participate in these sales and auctions. Thanks.

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Registration

Information about the MABS Spring Festival is available at <http://midatlanticbonsai.org/>. We have provided some details about the meeting in the previous meetings and newsletters.

If you wish to attend this high quality regional meeting, time is getting short so act

now. You have already missed the early-bird pricing.

There is space for a number of BBS members show trees, so please let Steve Ittel know if you are able to do so ASAP. BBS also has some organizational responsibilities during the meeting. We are currently have five members registered for the meeting and would hope for more. There are lectures, workshops, a display of member trees and a display of trees by bonsai professionals. In addition, there will be a large vendor area and auctions of various bonsai-related materials.

Rob King's Fertilizer Cake Recipe

Mix in a large wheel barrow:

Blood Meal, 13-0-0; 3 lbs.

Super Phosphate, 0-20-0; 3 lbs.

Bat Guano, 10-3-1; 3 lbs.

Fish Meal, 11-5-1; 3 lb.

Kelp Meal, 1-0-2; 3 lbs.

Cottonseed Meal, 6-2-1; 3 lbs.

Fermented Fish Fertilizer, 2-4-0; 1 quart

Scott's Fertilizer with micronutrients, 20-20-20;

1 cups

Azomite, 0-0-0.2, 1 lb. (Excellent source of micronutrients)

Superthrive, 1/8 cup

Humboldts Secret Best Plant Food, 1/8 cup

Mycorrhizae Mix, 3 tablespoons

Nothing in the recipe is essential so components can be switched in and out.

Mix well with a garden spade and add water until the mix is very thick in consistency but drains freely between your fingers. Let sit uncovered in the shade of a tree. Check mix daily to make sure the mix has a constant consistency; stirring every day. After ~10 days, add 2 cups of horticultural lime. By this time the mix should smell horribly, have lots of flies and maggots on it and have bubbles forming in it. Continue to mix but do not add water any more. When the mix will form a ball in your hand, you're ready to pour the cakes.

Pour your mix into flat containers at about 0.5 - 1 inches in height and let it solidify (if they get white and fuzzy that is good. The needed microorganisms are colonizing the cakes).

When they are almost dry, score the mix into

the wanted size with a spatula or pizza wheel. Wait until the cakes are dry all the way through, break them into pieces and store in tightly sealed containers until use.

(Final Note by Steve Ittel) Before starting this process, you may want to consult with a lawyer concerning your civic association's rules or for advice concerning a potential divorce. You might also consult with Rob to see if you can use some of his cakes and then skip the lawyer.

Views From MABS

