



BRANDYWINE BONSAI SOCIETY



**See you at the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival
Ramada Hotel, East Hanover, NJ
Friday, April 25 thru Sunday, April 27, 2014**

As in previous years, we have not scheduled a regular BBS meeting for April. Rather, you are encouraged to attend the 2014 MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies (MABS) Spring Festival. Directions to the festival venue in northern New Jersey as well as details of everything going on are available on the MABS website at:

<http://midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com/fescurr.htm>

The 31st annual MABS Spring Festival begins Friday evening, April 25, and will continue through Sunday afternoon, April 27, at the Ramada Hotel, East Hanover, NJ. The bonsai vendors alone make the trip worthwhile. But there are great presentations by guest artists who will bring new insights into the art and horticulture of bonsai. The bonsai exhibition is a wonderful opportunity to see some of the best trees in the area and the special exhibition by local masters always contains some real gems. For those of you who do not want to stay overnight, you might want to consider a day trip since the meeting is so convenient. The vendors and exhibition are excellent and alone make the trip worthwhile.

The featured speakers are

TAKASHI IURA - Japan
CORIN TOMLINSON- United Kingdom
SUTHIN SUKOSOLVISIT- USA

A number of members of BBS will be attending and several are showing trees so come show your support for you club. Be sure to let registration know that you are from BBS because money is returned to BBS on the basis of our participation in the meeting.

Brandywine River Museum Show

Our annual spring show in the courtyard of the Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford, is on May 31st and April 1st. It is time to start thinking about what you might like to exhibit and maybe start prepping the trees after this unusual winter.

We would like to encourage everyone in the club to participate – this is a lower-keyed exhibit compared to the show at Longwood.

The show is also an opportunity to present the art of bonsai thru demonstrations and discussions. We have a core of individuals who are willing to present, but there is no set schedule and we can have people answering questions or working on trees then entire two days. This is an opportunity for any first-time presenters or tag-team demos. There is generally a good turnout Sunday mornings when the museum is open for free.

We will be asking you to sign up for trees, tree-sitting and demos in the near future.

Bonsai Styles

Bonsai are designed based on observations of trees in their natural state. Trees in nature grow in many forms dictated by their species, variety, and environment. Therefore, bonsai have been classified according to naturally occurring “styles” by the Japanese, and even more recently by others who have trees that do not grow in forms familiar to the Japanese. To classify bonsai, you have to ask several questions. Is the bonsai composed of one trunk or several trunks? What definition will you give to the base, form, and trunk direction? Is the tree rooted firmly, or growing on a rock or with exposed roots? Is the trunk straight, curved, or multiple? Does the tree stand upright, slant or cascade?

Formal Upright

A single upright trunk that tapers toward the top with very formal branch placement.



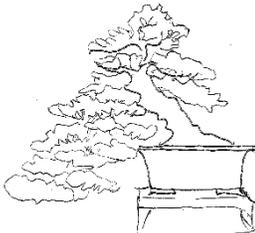
Informal

A single upright trunk with well-balanced curves. The top or apex always terminates almost directly over the base, but usually bends slightly toward the front.



Semi- or full cascade

A single arcing or cascading trunk, either slanted down below the top of the pot (semi-cascade)



or extending below the container (full cascade).



Group or forest

Usually styled with trees of a single species representing a miniature landscape.



Free form (*literati*)

A sparse single upright trunk. Straight, slanted, or curved, they are characterized by a tasteful, simple elegance.



Other styles include slanting, broom, wind-swept, multiple trunk (twin, triple, clump), and rock planting (on, in, or over).

Bonsai Size

Bonsai come in a large range of sizes, though most exhibitions focus on trees that are 3 to 36 inches in size. The large range in size of these trees makes allows a wide range of styling opportunities.



The smallest classification of tree commonly seen is *mame* which range from 2 to 8 inches. It is difficult to express the art of bonsai in such small packages where the number of branches may be quite limited.

The largest trees in the Imperial Collection in Japan are referred to as four or six hand trees, indicating the number of people required to carry them.

