



## Summer Workshop – Style Your Trees

### Anson B. Nixon Park, Kennett Square, PA

#### Pavilion 1

### Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 10:00 am

This is the third (and apparently annual) August open workshop aimed at improving our collections. In the past, the meetings have been a rousing success so we will do a repeat this year. All members are encouraged to join us and work on trees, but we are going to be paying special attention to the needs of newer members. You can get help on the trees you purchased at the June auction or maybe some members will bring additional trees available for sale to members. You ought to be able to start from scratch on nursery stock and take home a good start on a new bonsai. Experienced club members will be available to help you make some of those tough initial decisions and get the styling process underway. Club wire and some tools will be available, but please bring your own scissors.

Bring your own food and drinks if you plan to work thru lunch.

#### Directions to Anson B. Nixon Park

Head south on Route 1 in PA, take the Kennett Square exit and drive into town on State Street. Turn right onto Walnut Road, near the bottom of the hill. (The Kennett Square YMCA is opposite.) You will soon see the sign for the Anson B. Nixon Park on the left. Park in the main parking lot.

Members coming through Kennett Square from the opposite direction on Cypress St. can take the first street on the left after the YMCA, drive one block, and cross over State St. onto Walnut Road.

#### Tools and Supplies Available

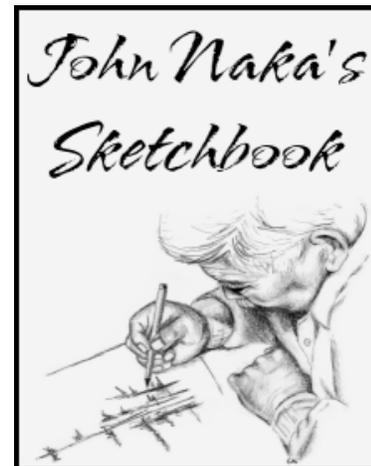
Rob King has agreed to sell tools and wire at the workshop. This will be a good opportunity to stock up on those items you need.

#### 100 Years of John Naka

August 16<sup>th</sup> would have been John Naka's 100th birthday. John is widely considered to be the dean of bonsai in the United States. Brandywine Bonsai was fortunate to have hosted him multiple times and he was a close personal friend of some of our founding members.

During demonstrations and workshops, John (the bonsai master) would transform bonsai material. But this was just one step in a development process that might take years – and John (the teacher) wanted to enlighten his student on how the final design should look. As it was easier for him to express his ideas with a pen than with words, John (the artist) would sketch his vision of the refined bonsai, and the lucky owner would be left with a beautiful sketch for guidance and inspiration.

In 2000, Jack Billet and Dorie Froning, founding members of Brandywine Bonsai Society, proposed collecting these sketches into a book which would offer insight to John's artistic process. The range of bonsai styles and artistic approaches is diverse, and John's sensibility regarding balance and proportion is evident on every page. Each sketch was drawn for just one person – but now we can all appreciate their artistic and educational value.



Brandywine Bonsai had the privilege of repotting Naka's masterpiece, Goshin, at the National Arboretum. On another trip, we watched as Naka guided the pruning and restyling of Goshin. Confined to a chair, he used a long bamboo pole to point out those branches that should be pruned. Steve Ittel packed some of those clippings in wet paper towels in a plastic bag and managed to get a few to root. Goshin akachan?

In Memorium:  
**Dorie Froning**

Age 93

Dorie Froning was born on March 26, 1921 in South Bend, IN, where she spent most of her childhood. She moved to Wilmington, DE in June 1940 upon her marriage to J. Fendall Froning. In 1949, the family moved to Kennett Square, PA. There she raised five children and was an active volunteer in the Girl and Boy Scouts and the Seedlings Garden Club. In 1998, she moved into her Lovering Avenue home where, surrounded by family and caregivers, she died on August 4, 2014.

Dorie's passion was the art of bonsai. She became a master, co-founding the Brandywine Bonsai Society and becoming President of the American Bonsai Society. She presented workshops around the country and was the first foreign woman to view the Japanese Emperor's bonsai collection. She was a particular expert in small Shohin (mame) bonsai, with trees from her collection currently displayed at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. and at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA.

Those of you who met Dorie would appreciate her fanciful story about her stature. She claimed to have been 5'7" when she took up bonsai. Over the years, she reduced to 5'2". When she specialized in shohin and mame, she further reduced to her final stature – under 5'.



**Dorie mucking at a kusamono workshop**

When I joined the club, meetings were held at Dorie's garage in Kennett Square. There was a wood-burning stove to keep us warm in the winter months and I remember more than one occasion where the tractor had to come out to pull stuck cars out of the mud at the orchard parking area. At a late fall meeting, we would form a "bucket brigade" to move her trees from summer benches to winter storage.



**Dorie Froning, Pat Morris, and Jack Billet – an awesome trio**

Dorie and Jack Billet staged a two-person shohin display at the National Arboretum. They had plenty of plants to show, but with so many plants, stands and display became an issue. I made a series of nice wooden blocks of differing widths and heights and when placed on a tatami mat, they made quite a nice display.



**Dorie in the thick of it at an azalea workshop.**

Dorie had an impressive collection of small pots she had accumulated as she traveled the country and the world. Many of the domestic pots featured in the BBS web site about North American Potters are from her collection. On trips to Japan, she was frequently honored with a selection of choice hand-made pots. Later in life, a Japanese visitor remarked that her pot collection would be worth a long, first-class trip to Japan just to get the pots repatriated. Whenever Dorie donated a pot for auction at MABS, as bidding started to slow, she would kiss the pot and then bidding would go up another \$25-50.

**Remembrances by Steve Ittel**