



## Summer Workshop – Newer Members Work on Trees Anson B. Nixon Park, Kennett Square, PA Pavilion 1 Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 10:00 am

This is the fourth (and apparently annual) August open workshop aimed at improving the collections of our newer members. 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 July 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.

### The Future of the Club (An opinion of Steve Ittel based upon conversations with a variety of members)

Brandywine Bonsai is one of the healthiest bonsai clubs around. We have an expanding membership, a demographic that is younger than most clubs around us, and a good financial underpinning due to our dues, auctions and raffles.

So what don't we have? Maybe some creativity? We tend to have the same mix of meetings year after year. Do you feel the club meets all of your needs? Have you thought about what you would like to get from Brandywine Bonsai? If you have thought about

it, have you expressed it to officers? I know that a couple of you have. Are we doing the best we can to educate, stimulate and facilitate your quest for bonsai improvement if not perfection?

I know that members want to go see important collections, go on collecting trips together or go to nurseries together. These types of meeting have not happened because they take organization. We did them in years past but have not done them recently.

I would like to challenge some of the new membership to take responsibility for some of these things. That does not mean that you have to do it, but you have to organize things so that the right people do whatever is necessary.

As the officers began this discussion, Greg Kanaskie provided a list of well-considered thoughts about topics for future meetings or events. I present that list here as a way to start what I believe to be an important discussion:

- Horticulture--- when, what, how (fertilizer, pH, water, light, etc.)
- Art --- Golden Ratio applied to bonsai, the importance of drawing
- Bonsai Search Party --- Picking specimens @ garden centers (Sept-Oct?)

- Member Presentations--- Group interaction
- Member led workshops
- Collecting field trips--- where? --- add trees at reasonable prices
- Trips--- meeting attendees get first dibs, so we take roll at meetings
- Interaction with other clubs--- co-visits, programs
- “Don’t touch my tree” verbal advice
- “Touch my tree” help me cut type advice
- Club ‘mingle’
- Idea/Source exchange--- email, Facebook
- Personal tips
- Newsletter articles from members
- “The Next Level” ---If it is solitary why do I need BBS?
- Rescue updates
- Produce our own seasonal guide
- Progressive tree development--- Group style a tree - one change/person
- Preserve Japanese traditions; other influences
- New thinking, i.e. Lenz (avant garde, Paul (like nature)
- Club challenge--- Non-typical bonsai; show-n-tell or show like silhouette
- Member history--- How did you get to this point?
- Report or summary of a personal trip or bonsai experience
- Pictures/slide show
- Nursery hopping excursion; specimen search
- Book review--- new books (i.e DeGroot, Bonsai Design; Jeker, Deadwood
- Follow-up Show-n-Tell based on presentation of a previous meeting
- Non-traditional potting
- Workshop series; 3-part tree development--- i.e March, June, September

Is that enough to think about? Do you have other suggestions? Do you want to volunteer to push toward one of those goals? Lots to talk about during the August workshop and hopefully we can bring this discussion to some sort of conclusion by the November Business Meeting, if not sooner.

### Interesting Bonsai Article

The following link is about a National Arboretum tree.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/the-390-year-old-tree-that-survived-an-atomic-bomb/2015/08/02/3f824dae-3945-11e5-8e98-115a3cf7d7ae\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/the-390-year-old-tree-that-survived-an-atomic-bomb/2015/08/02/3f824dae-3945-11e5-8e98-115a3cf7d7ae_story.html)

### September Meeting on Tools

Dennis Donald is going to reprise his workshop on how to maintain bonsai tools. You can tell a good carpenter by his tools,” so we should all learn how to keep them in good shape.

In keeping with one of Greg’s comments above, we would like to have a follow-up Show-n-Tell on kusamono at the beginning of the workshop, so all of you should bring your recent kusamono creations. Three of Tona’s creations have been shown on the Kusamono page of Facebook and gotten over 90 “Likes” and some wonderful and gratifying comments. We hope that these works will be shown.

