



## Rob King on Styling Bald Cypress Bonsai Brandywine Town Center

Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 10:00 am  
Pre-meeting tree counseling will be available, as will coffee

This month, Rob King will conduct a demonstration on one of the two native deciduous conifers, the Bald Cypress, *Taxodium distichum* (the other being the larch). This species has two characteristics that make it very unique; the mature form forming the flat-top and the ability to develop "knees". Rob will discuss these characteristics and more during the demo.

### Longwood Show Approaching

The BBS Bonsai and Ameriseki Show at Longwood Gardens is scheduled for October 29-30. This annual fall show challenges our members to put on another demonstration of the remarkable styling skills of our club.

The sign-up forms are distributed at a later date. We especially need tree and stone sitters. Members not showing are encouraged to spend a part of the day helping with security. You will likely to be asked more than a few questions where you can share your expertise with the patrons. It's a very rewarding experience. You also get the opportunity to see other members' works of botanical art and viewing stones. Sitters are free to tour the grounds when off-duty.

### Crown Custom Bonsai

Crown Custom Bonsai, Rob King's company, is now going to focus only on tools and wire for the bonsai community. At this month's meeting Rob is going to liquidate his inventory of stands (in time for Longwood) and next month he will make his inventory of pots available to club members.

### Additional Pots Available

We always have the possibility of Silent Auctions at our meetings. Last month Dennis Donald brought in a nice selection from his personal collection of pots that were quickly bid upon with several generating heated bidding wars. Dennis is planning to bring in another selection of pots, so be prepared to bid.

In addition, in response to popular demand, Steve Ittel will be bring in a selection of Kusamono pots that he has made.

### Question about the October Meeting

We are presently scheduled to have a dry run of the Longwood Show at the October meeting. Unfortunately the date of the meeting conflicts with a very important opportunity at the National Arboretum.

The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum at the U.S. National Arboretum marks its 40th anniversary October 15 with an autumn festival, "Aki Matsuri: Bonsai and Beyond." The event celebrates the opening of the redesigned Pavilion that houses the Museum's historic Japanese collection. The free festival will include tours of the new Pavilion and the Arboretum's Asian Collections, interactive family activities, and Asian food trucks.



Demonstrations will be an important part of the weekend. One of the highlights will be a demonstration by Japanese bonsai master, Tohru Suzuki. Mr. Suzuki's grandfather donated a Japanese black pine to the Museum as part of the original donation from Japan to the U.S. in 1976. At the time, the tree was estimated to be 200 years old, the same age as this country. In addition, Young Choe will be doing a Kusamono demonstration.

Festival partners include the U.S. National Arboretum, National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, the Japan-America Society of Washington, D.C., and Japanese Information and Cultural Center.

Dennis Donald is planning to spend the entire weekend at the event. Steve Ittel is planning to attend Saturday and would be willing to take several individuals down for the day. It should be acknowledged that this is probably not the best time to visit the NBF collection because it will be crowded. It is better to visit it on your own during the week or on a non-holiday and non-event weekend.

The options to be discussed at this month's meeting are:

1. Emphasize the Longwood preview meeting to try to enhance our presentation to the public.
2. Cancel the BBS meeting and encourage many of our members to go to the National Bonsai Collection
3. Assume that a limited number of people will travel to Washington and hold the BBS meeting as scheduled.

Choices 1 and 3 may be the same thing, but described differently.

