

Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

Flexible Species – Elms and Junipers Saturday, February 21, 2026, starts 9:30 - 10:00 am Longwood Gardens' HeadHouse

Cookie Person: **Gil Beckett**

Membership

Annual membership fees are due again. The costs are unchanged. Twenty dollars for an individual, \$25 for a family. See attached registration/dues form and send payment to Karin Simmat as soon as possible OR pay at the meeting. Please fill out all the information requested to keep the BBS records accurate. Send form to Karin Simmat, 263 Green Briar Court, Newtown Square, PA 19073-2126.

The February Meeting:

We will have a lively discussion about the care and styling of various varieties of elms and junipers. Bring your own elms and junipers if you can. There will be an opportunity to purchase an elm or juniper at the meeting for a very reasonable price. If you are interested in purchasing a tree, please contact Mark Huf at huflandscaping@gmail.com.

Newbee Advice Corner

If you are new to bonsai (0 to 5+ years) and you need some help, please come early (9:30 am) to the meeting. There will be some experienced people eager to help you sitting off to one side in a corner!!

Inclement Weather Notifications

Should we have snow or other inclement weather for a meeting, please check your email for a late announcement. We will try to get the email announcements out with ample warning, but once in a while we get surprised. You can call Steve Ittel at 302 778-4546 as a last resort. Steve leaves pretty early for meetings to get that essential coffee brewing, but his wife will patiently answer the phone.

Longwood Garden's Headhouse location



Address: 1010 East Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford, PA
At the intersection of route 52 (on right) and route 1 (at Lenape Road) when driving in the south/west direction on route 1, turn left and immediately left again and proceed straight ahead to the LG headhouse building. The door is on the building end facing the direction you came from.

Boxwoods and chrysanthemums are not allowed on LG property. Do not bring them.

MABS and Longwood Bonsai Spectacular

This is going to be a great year to show off the best bonsai that Brandywine Bonsai Society can provide! Both the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies and Longwood Gardens are putting together impressive regional shows for our participation and entertainment.

First, we have MABS on April 17-19. BBS wants to provide developed, formal bonsai for that venue, so please be thinking about what high-quality displays you might be able to include. After MABS, Longwood Gardens is having a regional bonsai spectacular on June 23-30. BBS is being asked to provide six to seven displays. These will be juried, and six displays will be accepted for the event. The best trees from MABS could carry over to the Longwood exhibit.

There is also an auction at the end of the event, where members will be able to sell (and/or buy) some impressive trees. Again, the trees for the auction will be selected through a juried process. Both jurying processes will require early submission of information and pictures of the trees, so we

need to start thinking about this now.

We'll be exhibiting only the best of our best trees. If you have highly-refined trees, please think about what you would like to display and begin optimizing trees and other elements of the composition today.

BBS is also going to play an important role in tree sitting for the Longwood event, and we will need tree sitters (docents) for that time period. This is a critical task, but we can do this! Please start thinking about your schedules now.

Tentative 2026 BBS schedule

February 21: Flexible Species (LGHH)

March 21: Air Layering/MABS Tree Prep (BTC)

April 25: Longwood Show Prep (TBD)

May 16: Marco Invernizzi Demonstration (Marc Huf's)

June 20: TBD (TBD)

July 18: Club Auction and Lunch (ABN Park)

August 15: Longwood Show Prep (ABN Park)

September 19: TBD (BTC)

October 17: TBD (BTC)

November 21: Business Meeting and Garage Sale (BTC)

BTC = Brandywine Town Center, Wilmington, DE

ABN Park = Anson B Nixon Park, Kennett, PA

Mark Huf's = Huf Landscaping, Oxford, PA

LG HH = Longwood Gardens Headhouse

TBD= to be determined

Other Bonsai Events of Interest

PBS Bonsai Exhibit at PHS Flower Show, February 28 thru March 7, 2026, Philadelphia Convention Center

Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Convention,

April 17-19, 2026 at Holiday Inn in Grantville, PA

Natures Way Bonsai Nursery Open House, April 19

Potomac Bonsai Festival May 8-10 US National Arboretum

Multi-Club Bonsai Exhibit at Longwood Gardens, June 24-29

Natures Way Bonsai Nursery Swap and Sale, August 22

Natures Way Bonsai Nursery Winter Open House,

December 4 through December 6

Winter Silhouette Show, Annapolis NC, December 5 & 6

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Symposium

This year MABS will again be holding their annual festival in the Holiday Inn in Grantville, PA (between Hershey and Harrisburg) April 17-19. The new MABS website where you will be able to register online will be available sometime in mid-January. We hope to make the first two weeks after the website opens available to only members of supporting bonsai clubs to give them first shot at signing up for the workshops. I will be sending club members a notice when the MABS website is open for registration.

MABS has an exciting line up of bonsai artists this year. The bonsai artists will be doing bonsai demonstrations Friday night through Sunday morning. There will be at least 3 raffles for the finished demo material.

Each artist will lead a workshop on Friday afternoon. The workshops fill up fast. Workshops are limited to 8 participants so sign up early

Peter Warren, a bonsai artist from England is known for his expertise on azaleas and preparation and display of bonsai for exhibition. Peter Warren was an apprentice under the world recognized master Kunio Kobayashi for six years. He has written bonsai books and presented bonsai programs on radio and TV. His home base is Saruyama Bonsai. His azalea workshop costs \$175 (early bird price).

Jonas Dupuich currently lives in California. He founded the website Bonsai Tonight. He also has an active Blog, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter account. Jonas met Boon Manakitivipart when the latter styled a tree at the Dupuich Family nursery and subsequently studied with Boon for many years. He has recently written two very good bonsai books – *The Little Book of Bonsai: An Easy Guide to Caring for Your Bonsai Tree* (2020) and *The Essential Bonsai Book* (2025). I think he explains things very well and is an excellent teacher. Jonas' dwarf Japanese maple workshop costs \$175 (early bird price).

Kaya Mooney studied with bonsai master Keichii Fujikawa for six years. He received his professional certification from the Japanese Bonsai Association in 2024. He posts his art on Instagram and Facebook under the name Moonlight Bonsai. He currently still lives in Osaka, Japan and offers guide tours. Kaya's Japanese black pine workshop costs \$600 (early bird price).

There will be an exhibition room for the bonsai of members of supporting bonsai clubs. Each club should try to display at least 3 bonsai trees. The three guest artists will comment on selected bonsai from this room on Saturday. This could be a great learning experience for both those who participated by displaying their bonsai and for the observers.

Lunch is included if you have signed up to be there on Saturday. First time registration is a discounted price. For those who did not sign up for a workshop, a silent observer ticket will allow you to view each workshop at your leisure.

MABS has an opening for Secretary (who is desperately needed). If you are interested, contact Carl Achhammer Jr., 570-709-3848 or Joseph Matson at 870-955-8174.

BBS Nametags

Members are in charge of their name tags now. Remember to wear them at meetings and events. Paul Carlson has temporary ones if you forget yours. See Paul if you don't have one.

Japanese Bonsai Calendar

Karin, who is an addict about visiting Japan, has acquired an extra 2026 bonsai calendar which she would like to rally off FREE to those who attend the meeting.

Free Classified Ads: We are still carrying your classified ads in the newsletter for free. Are you planning on selling things that will not be included in the silent auction and that you want the club to be aware so they can bring some extra money, are offering some sort of bonsai-related services, or maybe you are heading to Nature's Way and are offering to pick things up for our members. You can send this info to Karin Simmat (ksimmat@verizon.net) for inclusion in the next newsletter. Title your email "BBS Classified Ad".

If you Know "Frozen"

A nice happy tree on the third Saturday of January showing off its winter silhouette.



But then twenty-four hours later, Elsa happened by and the tree was instantly transformed to mid-winter crystalline foliage.



But a week later... Come on, Elsa. Lighten up!

