

Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

**Jack Billet, Dorie Froning and Pat Morris
Memorial Winter Silhouette
Saturday, January 17, 2026, starts 9:30 - 10:00 am
Longwood Gardens' HeadHouse**

Cookie Person: **Ed Sobel**

Happy New Year 2026

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 January Meeting: Winter Silhouette Display

We are having our annual Winter Silhouette Display meeting. Originally this meeting was created to honor one of our earliest members and most talented artist, Jack Billet. Jack was fond of saying that the best time to look at a bonsai tree was in the winter when you could focus on its skeleton. This meeting's name was changed to honor two other long time and dedicated members, Dorie Froning who was one of the founders of this club and was known nationwide for her expertise with shohin bonsai, and Pat Morris who played many leadership roles in our club and The American Bonsai Society.

We invite all to bring a tree and any accessories (stands, accent pieces, etc.) that you may want. Your tree does not have to be show ready; just something that you want us to see.

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.

Photographer On-Site January 17th

Cindy and Dave Sullivan from Kitaku Bonsai (Hershey, PA) will be visiting us with their portable photography studio. They enjoy yardeni, growing from cuttings, and meeting other enthusiasts. If you'd like to learn more about them, they have many videos on YouTube, including an interview with Chase Rosade. Please bring a tree or two to be photographed!

The tentative 2026 BBS schedule

January 17: Winter Silhouette Display (LG HH)
February 21: TBD (LG HH)
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
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.

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".