

Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

Open Bonsai Workshop Anson B. Nixon Park, Kennett Square, PA, Pavilion 1 Saturday, August 19, 2023

August Meeting: Open Bonsai Workshop

This month we will be meeting at Pavilion #1 in the Anson B. Nixon Park in Kennett Square, Pa. This is our annual open workshop in which you bring a tree or two and your tools and spend some time with your trees in a fun environment. While you work on your trees, feel free to ask your fellow artists for their opinions, gather a consensus, and then make those changes. The club will not be supplying any food or drinks so you should provide your own.

August's Meeting Give-Away

We will have four winners. Each will win a number of past calendars with a picture of a Japanese bonsai masterpiece on each month's face page.

Directions to Anson B. Nixon Park

For those of you who get into Kennett Square by taking Route US1 southbound, 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.

New Venue for the BBS

We soon will be losing the BTC as a meeting venue while it is undergoing renovation. We are asking everybody to put on your thinking caps and try to come up with ideas for a new place to meet. We are not restricted to Delaware. In fact, before we met at the BTC, we met regularly in Kennett Square, Kennett, and Longwood Gardens. Also, if you look at Greg's map of where our members live, more live in PA than DE. One thing to remember is we now have members that are quite active in the club and are coming from MD. Ideas to think about are schools, churches, fire stations, nature centers, etc. If you have an idea, please let one of the officers know.

2023 Brandywine Bonsai Schedule

August 19: Open Bonsai Workshop (ABN Park)
September 16: Longwood Show Preview (TBA)
October 1: Kusamono Class (LG)
October 3-10: Longwood Garden Bonsai Show (LG)
October 21: Group Design of a Bonsai I or II (TBA)
November 18: Business Meeting and Garage Sale (BTC)
ABN Park = Anson B Nixon Park, Kennett, PA LG = Longwood Gardens TBA = to be announced

US National Bonsai Exhibition, September 9-10, 2023
Rochester, NY. www.internationalbonsai.com for detailed information and online registration

Longwood Gardens News

We have important news from Longwood! First, the dates for our show will be October 3-10, and it will be in the same area it was last year. More specifics will be available at the August meeting and in a future email. Second, Longwood has arranged for Young Choe and Steve Ittel to facilitate a kusamono workshop exclusively for us at Longwood on Sunday, October 1 at 10 am. I'll send an email with details soon. If you're not on the email list but want the information, please email me at robertacarlson@frontier.com.

The Horticultural Aspect of Bonsai (Rob King)

One year at MABS, I had breakfast with Rodney Clemons from GA. I asked him what did he consider most important, the artistic side of bonsai or the horticultural side. He replied that he thought it was 50:50. If your tree is not healthy, it will not survive the repotting, wiring, branch bending, etc. If you neglect the artistic side, you just have a tree in a pot. I asked him about how he keeps his trees healthy especially in GA. He gave me some good information, which I'll pass along here. I pretty much use his information with some additional info from my American teacher, Jack Billet, Vaughn Banting in LA and what I learned in Japan.

A. You need to have a rigorous regiment of **fertilization**. I start the growing season with organic fertilizer pellets and replace them every month. Every year I make the fertilizer pellets for the following year. I also fertilize every other week with inorganic, water-soluble fertilizer.

B. You need to have your trees potted in a **proper bonsai mix**. Your mix should allow water to flow freely from the top to the bottom; at the same time you need components that hold water so the roots remain wet. It should retain the nutrients provided by the fertilizer and photosynthesis. Also to support the growth of mycorrhizae that will spread in the mix providing minerals and increasing water uptake. It takes very little to inoculate each tree and it only needs to be added one time. I do sell this throughout the year. Lastly, the mix needs to have a component that keeps the pH constant. Everybody has a different recipe for their bonsai mix. I use a recipe that would make most bonsai people shutter. I use 33% media that comes from my repotting, 33% Akadama, 13% pumice, 3% small wood chips, 5% lava, 5% baked shale, 5% river rock, 3% perlite, 3% horticultural charcoal, and 3% vermiculite. This is then sieved for 4 different sizes.

C. You need to keep your trees **pest free**. I treat my trees every week with an insectile/fungicide. I rotate 3 of these: Fungicide + 3, Immunox Multi-Purpose Fungicide, and Shield All Plus. Some express their concern that with treatment with these you are killing the fungus that is part of the mycorrhizae part of that relationship. Personally, I do not believe this happens. Like I said above, I use a fungicide quite prevalently and when I repot my trees, the ones that have an ecto-mycorrhizae have the same amount of this as the trees that are not treated.

Hosting MABS

During and after this year's Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Festival, several members expressed an interest in hosting a future MABS Festival. Looking back at the records, we are the only original member of MABS that has not hosted one. The hosting of a MABS Festival is not as daunting as it sounds. Every responsibility for having a successful festival is controlled by a different club. Our club has taken on two responsibilities: Webmaster (Steve) and Treasurer (Rob).

How this works is that the club wanting to host the festival must scout out possible hotels to hold the festival. We then present the hotels that we are interested in with a form, already created by the board, that states our requirements for hosting at their place. Then there are several things that can take place. 1. The hotel decides not to pursue the possibility of hosting the event, 2. When we get the form back from the hotel and their counterproposal is not acceptable to us, or 3. We find the hotel's information acceptable and we present the forms to the Board of Directors and they either decide that the counterproposal unacceptable in which they eliminate that venue, or they are interested in pursuing hotel, which results in some members of the Board going to the hotel to check out the facilities.

I have spoken to several board members about if our club is too far south to have the board interested in us hosting. Those spoken to said that having the venue in DE probably would be dinged by the board for being too far

south but some said that having it in PA somewhere along I-95, would be a good place to have the event.

Think about it and give Rob your opinion either in person or by email.

Request from Roberta

Kevin Bielicki, the Longwood bonsai curator, would like to know the years that we've held an exhibit at Longwood. I've found the years we've exhibited at the Brandywine Museum, but I can't find the years for the Longwood show. If anyone has information, please email me at robertacarlson@frontier.com. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Superfly Discount

As a member of the BBS, you are entitled to a 10% discount at Superfly Bonsai. You must make your purchase in person at Superfly and inform them that you are a member of the Brandywine Bonsai Society when you are checking out.

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 Superfly or 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.



Flowering Mimosa