

Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

Annual Picnic and Auction

Anson B. Nixon Park, Kennett Square, PA, Pavilion 1

Saturday, July 15th, 2023

Set-up at 10:00 am – Auction starts at 10:30 – Food at 11:30

Annual Auction/Lunch Meeting:

Our July meeting is our annual auction/lunch meeting. It is our most profitable fund raiser and one of our most fun and spirited. Members of the club are asked to donate items that will be put up for auction. In the past, items have included plant material, pots, tools, books, scrolls, etc. This year an entire collection of Bonsai Today will be auctioned in one lot. So bring your checkbook!! We will take a short break during the auction to have lunch, which will be supplied by the club. If you would like to contribute to our lunch, drinks and desserts are always welcome. You must be a current member to take part in the auction/lunch.

From 10:00 – 10:30, items will be organized and available for member inspection. The auction will start at 10:30 for approximately an hour. We will break for lunch and then the auction will continue until no items are left.

We are meeting in Kennett Square at the Anson B. Nixon Park, [405 N Walnut Rd, Kennett Square, PA 19348](#). Park in the parking lot where the permanent bathroom structure is. We are in Pavilion #1, just past the bathrooms.

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.

August – Open workshop

Our August meeting is an open workshop for all members. Bring a tree or two to work on and enjoy the fellowship of your fellow bonsai artists. We will meet at Pavilion #1 at the Anson B. Nixon Park in Kennett Square.

New Venue for the BBS

As discussed at our last meeting, 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 Workshop (ABN Park)

September 16: Group Design of a Bonsai I or II (ABN Park)

October 21: Longwood Show Preview (TBA)

November 18: Business Meeting and Garage Sale (TBA)

ABN Park = Anson B Nixon Park, Kennett, PA

TBA = to be announced

New Jersey Bonsai Societies Open Show & Sale, July 22, 2023 at Christ Episcopal Church, 90 Kings Highway, Middletown, NJ 07748 (10 am to 4pm) free

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

2024 Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Society Festival

Next year's MABS' Festival will take place at the Holiday Inn in Grantsville, PA (Between Harrisburg and Hershey). The dates for next year's program are April 19 – 21 and our artists will be Rafael Torres (Spain), Boon Manakitivipart (USA) and Sergio Cuan (USA).

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.

Karen Harkaway on Show Preparation (Karin)

Karen discussed preparing bonsai to be shown to the public. She divided the type of preparation into those bonsai shown at high-level or professional shows and those for club or nonprofessional shows. The National Bonsai Show in Rochester, NY every other year is an example of a high-level show. Those showing their bonsai at that show are generally professional bonsai artists or more advanced and skilled bonsai artists. This kind of show requires beginning preparation two years ahead of time.

But most of us are interested in preparation for club shows like Mid-Atlantic Bonsai. She identified the major tasks before club shows as: rudimentary cleaning (remove dead foliage, weeds, etc.), clean and lime sulfur deadwood, remove wire if needed and wire what needed, major pruning, and detailed grooming.

Then she went into detail with tips for accomplishing each of these tasks. A few are as follows. Water deadwood before applying lime sulfur. Lime sulfur can be darkened with Indian ink. Spray algicide on deadwood. Remove downward growing branches. Several colors of moss should cover the bonsai soil but it needs to be woven together to avoid looking like a patchwork quilt. Use vinegar to remove mineral stains on the pot. Use baby oil to clean the pot. Wipe off excess. Water heavily the day before. Use copper wire which is thinner. Paint copper wire with lime sulfur to darken it. Stop wiring before the end of a branch.

I found a photo of the eastern white cedar Karen showed at the 2022 Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Show. It was enormous.

