

Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

Bonsai Book Discussion/Pot Selection Saturday, March 18, 2023, 10:00 am Brandywine Town Center Community Center, Wilmington, DE

February Cookie Person: Liz Pavlick

Membership

Annual membership fees are due again. If you have not yet paid your dues, you need to do it ASAP. Greg needs your membership fee before March 31st or you will be deleted from the membership list. The costs are unchanged. Twenty dollars for an individual, etc. See attached registration/dues form and send payment to Greg Kanaskie as soon as possible. Please fill out all the information requested to keep Greg's records accurate. Greg Kanaskie, 133 North Wawaset Rd., West Chester, PA 19382.

March Meeting

In the first half of the meeting, Steve Ittel will have a presentation on how to select pots to match your bonsai. Size? Color? Shape? He will express his own opinions and ask for your opinions on a number of matchings. Be prepared to interact. It is common to have many, many pots but never have the correct one. Rob says he has many Japanese quince in his collection but how does he select the ideal pot for flowers in the spring, beautiful foliage in the summer, fruit in the fall and highly ramified branches in the winter? Rob is anxious to find out more at this meeting.

In the second half of the meeting, we are asking you to bring your favorite bonsai book or journal, those you use frequently, to share with the group. If you prefer blogs, websites, or Facebook pages, bring those addresses. We'll make a list of everyone's favorites and share our knowledge! Roberta will lead a group discussion of these bonsai sources. **So please bring your favorite bonsai sources.**

The club giveaway this month will be a Japanese bonsai book by Kunio Kobiyashi.

Steve Ittel will bring in quite a few more hardy trees for the silent auction. These continue to be an estate sale with possibly a few of his own trees mixed in.

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies (MABS)

MABS will hold their annual meeting at the Hampton Inn/Hilton Hotel (both are in the same building but on opposite sides) on March 31 – April 2 in Parsippany, NJ. Complete information, registration form and hotel

information can be found at [MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Home](#). It is a fantastic experience if you have not gone before. There will be three guest artists (Will Baddeley (USA), Todd Schlafer (USA), and Hugo Zamora Luna (Mexico)), that over the weekend will each create two incredible trees from raw material that will be raffled off, have workshops with silent observers, and will critique the trees in the exhibit room. After each demonstration and Saturday night's banquet many exciting bonsai related materials will be auction off. If you are undecided about going, read the following piece on [Mid-America Bonsai Alliance \(mababonsai.org\) about the importance of attending conferences](#).

Each club is to bring three or four trees to put in the MABS members' exhibit room. If you have a tree that you think you can display, please give the information to Rob so that he can provide this information to the MABS Exhibit Chair. If you want to show a tree but are not attending the symposium, you can let Rob know and he can take care of this for you. Rob will need the following information about your bonsai: exhibitor's name, club name, common name of tree, scientific name of tree, makers of stand and pot if known, years the tree has been in training if known.



Peony Garden, Ueno Park, Tokyo (February 15, 2023)

Hershey Azalea Farm

Don't forget that in lieu of April's meeting, we'll be visiting Hershey's Azalea Farm in Gap, PA on Saturday, April 29 at 10 am. (hersheysazaleafarm.com). We'll have a tour and shopping at wholesale prices. Plants will not be potted, so have boxes and protection for your vehicle. The address is 773 County Line Rd., Gap, PA. For directions, please refer to Hershey's website. Basically, if you can make it to Rt. 30, you've got it. If you're unsure, please email Roberta Carlson.

Results of February Survey

25 members took a survey about interests for meetings.

Zoom meetings: 6

Field trips (long distance): 10

Field trips (regional): 21

Meetings at member's: 22

Guest artist demos: 23

Presentations from fellow members: 22

Group workshops (open): 17

Group workshops (specific tree/topic): 18

Basics (soils, etc): 14

Advanced topics (grafting, etc): 18

Displays (pots, etc): 18

Philosophies: 9

Write-in ideas: Tool sharpening and maintenance, grafting, guidelines for competition entries, pottery/ceramics, and carving.

Negative Space In Bonsai Design: A Summary by Greg Kanaskie

In bonsai the tree is the positive space. The open or "empty" areas around and between the positive space is the negative space. John Naka believed that negative space was as important as the tree itself. Bonsai artists operate in positive space. The choice of tree species, trunk style, branch placement and other elements determines the mood and aesthetic of the tree. The design is guided by a set of principles or "rules," the mechanical "nuts and bolts."

The negative space created creates balance and harmony and a sense of depth. Since the viewer's eye is drawn to empty space it can create a visual tension that contributes to the overall impact of the tree.

Negative space can also show age, the primary goal in bonsai design.

Wabi-sabi by Roberta Carlson

Wabi-sabi is the acceptance of the imperfect; to see beauty in the flawed. Roberta drew her discussion of wabi-sabi from two sources:

1. Peter Chan's *Bonsai Masterclass*. While Roberta used the book, his videos on YouTube incorporate his wabi-sabi approach. Search using his name or Heron's Bonsai.
2. Pam Woythal's *Quiet Crow Bonsai* (quietcrowbonsai.com).

2023 Brandywine Bonsai Schedule

March 18: The Bonsai Book Club; Matching the Bonsai Tree to the Bonsai Pot (BTC)

April 29: Visit to Hershey's Azalea Farm

May 20: Marco Invernizzi Demonstration (Marc Huf's)

June 17: Creating a Bonsai Display, Karen Harkaway (BTC)

July 15: Club Auction and Lunch (ABN Park)

August 19: Open Workshop (ABN Park)

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

October 21: Longwood Show Preview (BTC)

November 18: 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

Marty Smalenberg Bonsai Sale

March 24, 25 9 am to 5 pm; March 26 10 am to 4 pm

926 Middleville Rd, Stillwater, NJ

Amy Smalenberg 908-578-3138

Other Bonsai Events of Interest

March 31- April 2: Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Symposium, Parsippany, NJ

May 13: **Nature's Way Bonsai 50th Anniversary Open House**, 1451 Pleasant Hill Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111
Tony Tickle, a well-known British bonsai artist, will be demonstrating. Offering a 15% discount to BBS members on purchases.

June 8 – 11: American Bonsai Societies Learning Seminars, Denver, Colorado

Three Mountain Bonsai Studio open house (Sean Smith), TBA

Kifu Bonsai open house (Bob Mahler), TBA

Superfly Discount

As a member of the BBS, you now 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.

Directions to the Brandywine Town Center (BTC)

The meeting hall is a stand-alone building, removed from the commercial area, with a large glass dome on top.

From Route 202 Southbound: Shortly after crossing into Delaware on Route 202 southbound, turn left onto Naamans Road at the intersection bounded by an Exxon station and the Days Inn. At the second light, turn left into the Brandywine Town Center (You will see a large Target

store), turn right, and follow the outer parking lot ring road to the meeting hall.

From I-95 Northbound and 202 Northbound: Take Exit 8 Concord Pike North. Just beyond Concord Mall at the Days Inn, turn right onto Naamans Road and follow the directions above.

From I-95 Southbound: Take the I-495 and Naamans Road exit just after passing into Delaware. Take Naamans Road westbound. After passing Grubb Road, you will take the next right into Brandywine Town Center. Look for the meeting center described above. These directions and a detailed map are available all the time on the directions page of the BBS Website.

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.

Crown Custom Bonsai: Bonsai Supplies (Rob)

This winter CCB brought in about a half ton of bonsai tools and accessories from China and Japan. This was the first time that I purchased items without going through a US wholesaler. This was an interesting experience in that I had to wait about 5 weeks for the items to come directly to me by ship from the manufacturer. Also, the amount of paperwork was much easier than I imagined since the shipper took care of all the US Customs paperwork required.

I will bring some of the items to the club meeting for you to look at and maybe purchase. I have three types of scissors that in my opinion are high quality. The prices for these range from \$15.00 - \$25.00. I will be phasing out the \$10.00 (green and yellow handle and red and white handle) scissors. You will get a much higher quality scissor for an extra \$5.00. I have every diameter wire from 1.0 - 6.0 mm and the sizes roll 100 gr, 500 gr and 1 kg. Some sizes may be in short supply because the manufacturer may not have been able to produce these items with a profit that he and I could agree on.

Crown Custom Bonsai: Tool Sharpening

It is time to get your tools cleaned and sharpened. If you have tools needing this maintenance, bring them to the club meeting and Rob will clean and sharpen them and then bring them to the next meeting. The cost of this service for most tools is between \$1.00 - \$5.00.

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.