

Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

Business Meeting & Garage Sale Brandywine Town Center Saturday, November 15, 2025 starts 10 am

Cookie Person: Michael and Lisa Moore

November Meeting – Steve Ittel

November is the month when we discuss plans for BBS in the coming year. I have already let it be known that I should be replaced as your esteemed president. Just like the Federal Government, I think it is time to bring in a new, younger generation of officers. I understand that elderly retirees have more time for the jobs, but younger members have more energy and enthusiasm.

After we have that portion of the meeting behind us, it will be time for the silent auction free-for-all (not that anything will be free) !! I cannot speak for others, but I can report that I will be bringing in some substantial pieces of material for the auction as I downsize my collection. Let's see some good bids.

Karin: And you should bring some good stuff to sell too.

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, gobbs.org

Sergio Cuan Lecture, Demo and Workshop.

The October BBS meeting was one of the finest we have had. Sergio started off with a slide presentation about his collection, demonstrating the progress of his deciduous trees over time. His trees underwent significant initial modifications to promote the final look that he wanted to achieve years down the line. His foresight was impressive and I really appreciated his explanation of the differences in approach to deciduous versus conifer bonsai.

In the next portion of the meeting he styled a hedge maple that Mark Huf had supplied. The transformation was not to yield a well-styled tree as is often the case with bonsai demonstrations. Rather, the significant cuts that were made were at carefully chosen locations to promote buds that would ultimately transform an awkward foundation which was the basis for a wonderful and graceful final tree. His final recommendation was that next spring, it be hit hard with Osmocote to really push all of the remaining, carefully selected buds. This was an approach that I had not heard before.

Possibly the best part of the meeting was after most of the club members had gone. There were only seven of us remaining at the end of the day. But this allowed very detailed pruning and styling suggestions for the future of the trees that members provided. Most members had only one tree to work on, but one lucky member had three different trees that got significant attention. I was sorry that so many of you had missed this opportunity, but the smaller number of trees allowed ample time for discussion and appreciation. Steve Ittel

Other Bonsai Events of Interest

Nature's Way Bonsai.

November 7-9 Winter Study and Philosophy of Design with Todd Schlafer and Jim Doyle; 1451 Pleasant Hill Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17112

Winter Silhouette December 6 & 7, 2025 in Kannapolis, NC. www.winterbonsai.net

Steve Ittel Notice

I would like to report that there is a likelihood that I will once again have access to a gas kiln for high-firing bonsai pottery later in the winter. I will begin glazing and high-firing the over one hundred pieces that I have constructed and bisque-fired in the past. Those are currently stored in my basement. I will also be making more new pieces. The high-end shed for the kiln (which, for safety, has to be outdoors but protected from the environment) is done. The digitally-controlled gas kiln is installed and, in itself, is a work of art and ingenuity. The operators are being trained. And it did not detonate when they first turned it on only to discover a gas leak. So you can understand why the operators are a bit gun-shy with their new toy. Wish me luck. — Steve Ittel

Regional Club Show at Longwood Gardens

Longwood Gardens is planning a regional bonsai show, June 24-29, 2026. It will feature 34 of the finest displays from five regional clubs including BBS. The weekend of June 26-28 will include: demonstrations and lectures, vendors, cocktail reception (June 27) and auction of significant bonsai material (June 27).

BBS will enter several significant trees in this show so we should be thinking about how the trees will be selected. Those trees will probably need some early prep work. We have full displays: tree, stand, companion, scroll and variations thereof. There will be a People's Choice Award for the best display in show. It is anticipated that the owners of the selected trees will need to provide significant information about the displays ahead of time - things like: species; how tall from the table top to the top of the tree; which way it slants (to decide which side of the display table it will be on); makers of the various components, etc.

BBS will also be contributing significant tree sitting for the show because we live the closest, but other clubs will also be contributing tree watching. Other clubs are handling vendors, tree arrangement, the auction, etc.

Share a Tree: Do you have a tree of which you are particularly proud? Maybe one that is flowering, fruiting or showing brilliant colors or maybe just one that you want to share. Bring it to a meeting regardless the topic of the meeting. We can always carve out five minutes for you to do a show-and-tell with it. It doesn't have to be display ready or a "masterpiece".

Free Classified Ads: We are still carrying your classified ads in the newsletter for free. Are you planning on selling things and you want the club to be aware so they can bring some extra money or offering some sort of bonsai-related services. You can send this info to Karin Simmat (ksimmat@verizon.net) for inclusion in the next newsletter.



Sergio showing one of his bonsai

A Word from Roberta

I'm still hearing wonderful things about our Longwood show! Thank you for all your hard work. It's a group effort, and whatever your role was—displaying a tree, helping with set up and take down, tree sitting, sharing stands and accents, providing demos, and anything else—thank you! Many visitors were impressed that we did the arrangement; they thought Longwood did it. What a compliment! One man came every morning, and on our last day, he said he hopes we're back next year. For me, it felt good to make so many people happy, and I hope you felt that, too. I need to give an extra special thank you to everyone who helped fill the gaps in the tree sitting schedule. Your help is greatly appreciated. Our show made me very proud to represent BBS as the coordinator. Thank you!