

Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

Sergio Cuan
Brandywine Town Center
Saturday, October 18, 2025 starts 10 am

October Cookie Person: Liz Pavlick

October Meeting



Our guest artist, Sergio Cuan, will start the meeting with a presentation on bonsai styling. This will be followed, if there is time, by a demo on a hedge maple supplied by Mark Huf. If you want to stay for the afternoon workshop, please bring your own lunch and tree(s).. There will be an afternoon workshop where Sergio will give you advice on bonsai you bring to the meeting. You can either work on your trees to apply his suggestions or follow him around to hear all of the suggestions about members' trees.

Sergio Cuan

Sergio Cuan is a visual artist who graduated with a BFA in Art and Design from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. Sergio works professionally as a creative director for a major entertainment company in New York City. A highly versatile artist working on a diverse range of projects across the globe which include hotels and resorts, on-air rebrands, consumer products, live events and themed parks. He also has a passion for painting and horticulture alike. Early on he realized that bonsai was the ideal

synthesis of both. As a result he became fascinated with bonsai as an art form.

Sergio Cuan (AKA MACH5 in the bonsai community) is a largely self taught bonsai artist. He has taken workshops with prominent bonsai masters Bill Valavanis, Mauro Stemberger and Bjorn Bjoerholm which he continues to take periodically to further his own bonsai skills.

Although Sergio works on a variety of conifers such as Engelmann spruce, Subalpine fir and Eastern white cedar, he has developed a particular interest and passion for a wide range of deciduous species which include maples, elm and beech among many others. In 2014 he built a bonsai garden in Northern New Jersey in a beautiful setting surrounded by rolling hills, lakes and deciduous forests. The garden which is inspired by Japanese design aesthetics, features a diverse bonsai collection of species. Recently, Sergio started to conduct virtual consultations, workshops and lectures for groups as well as individuals from his own studio and garden.

Sergio believes that bonsai as a true art form holds commonalities with painting, drawing and sculpture. Although the artist is bound by the physical limitations of the plant material itself, bonsai can be effective vehicles for self expression. But unlike other art forms, bonsai is alive and constantly evolving. The bonsai practice is an intimate and continued dialogue between artist and nature. This relationship gives bonsai its own unique dimension. Sergio also believes that one must allow for the tree to help guide us as we strive to evoke a clear and crystalized expression of nature in its most essential and simplest form.

EXHIBITIONS:

2020 World Bonsai Day on-line exhibition
2018 6TH US National Bonsai Exhibition, Rochester, NY.
2016 5TH US National Bonsai Exhibition, Rochester, NY.
2016 Winter Silhouette Expo, Kannapolis, NC
2015 Mid-Atlantic Spring Festival Exhibition
2014 4TH US National Bonsai Exhibition, Rochester, NY.

AWARDS:

2020 Placed 1st and 4th in World Bonsai Day on-line exhibition sponsored by the California Bonsai Society.

2016 'Best in Show' Winter Silhouette Expo, Kannapolis, NC.
2015 1rst place on-line competition sponsored by American Bonsai Tool & Supply Co.
2014 'Finest Deciduous Award' 4TH US National Bonsai Exhibition, Rochester, NY.

PUBLICATIONS:

Bonsai Focus Magazine
International Bonsai Magazine
Bonsai Bark Blog
Illustrated 'BONSAI HERESY' by Michael Hagedorn

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

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".

Brandywine Bonsai Schedule

October 18: Sergio Cuan (BTC)
November 15: Business Meeting and Garage Sale (BTC)
BTC = Brandywine Town Center, Wilmington, DE

Other Bonsai Events of Interest

The Art of Bonsai Exhibition & Sale. New Jersey Bonsai Societies; October 4-5, 2025. Brookdale Community College, Warner Student Life Center, Arena Drive, Lincroft, NJ

Nature's Way Bonsai. October 25 Fall Festival with Mike Lane 9 am to 5 pm; Music 5 to 8 pm. 1451 Pleasant Hill Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17112
November 7-9 Winter Study and Philosophy of Design with Todd Schlafer and Jim Doyle
Winter Silhouette December 6 & 7, 2025 in Kannapolis, NC. www.winterbonsai.net

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.