



# Brandywine Bonsai Society

November 18, 2006

Brandywine Town Center

## Critique and Work on Shohin Bonsai by Dorie Froning

Pre-meeting Tree consultant: Pat Morris

Cookie Person: Brad Taylor

### The November Meeting

More and more bonsai enthusiasts are becoming interested in shohin bonsai, i.e., trees that are eight inches tall from the soil surface. Dorie will lead us in a program that will follow the previous Jim Barrett and Marty Schmalenberg models: Dorie will give a quick critique that sets the tree's owner on a course of action, and will then move on to the next tree/owner.

In order to make this workshop operate in an evenhanded manner for everyone, please observe the following guidelines: Trees that are larger than shohin size for which you want advice can be reviewed in the 45 minute pre-meeting period with Pat Morris. When Dorie arrives to critique your tree, please offer only one tree. The time that you take for two trees is time that you take from someone else. Your second or even third tree will be dealt with in succeeding rounds.

### Annual Elections

The November meeting will also feature the annual elections. Mela Koussis is going to preside over nominations, and will be running that part of the meeting.

### Longwood Show

Another successful Longwood show has been packed up and all the trees and accompanying stands and equipment returned to their homes. A LARGE thank you goes to all who displayed trees and helped to keep watch over the exhibit, ESPECIALLY the several who did not have trees on display but came out to help regardless. The participants include Ski and Cecil Dombrovski, Dennis Donald, Polly Kalesh, Greg Kanaski, Rob King, Nancy Klabunde, Carmella Koussis, Fred Knobloch, Bill MacNeill, Lee Shipman, Charlotte Smith

and Henry Vermeulen. Thanks to all of you from Pat.

And thanks to Pat from all of us for organization of the Longwood show. Job well done!

### Club Lost and Found

A year or more ago, a club member left a navy blue windbreaker either at the BTC, or in the pavilion in Anson Nixon Park. I took it home with me, and unfortunately, put it away and out of sight until recently. On the front are the words: "Signaling & Cross Talk, War 2001, Discovery Research Retreat." I will bring the jacket to the November meeting, and hope that the owner will claim it. If you recognize that the jacket is yours, but you can't attend the coming meeting, please call me so that I don't unnecessarily carry it about.

Nancy Klabunde

### National Bonsai Foundation to Honor Jack Billet

Set aside the date May 4, 2007. Two bonsai benches memorializing Jack are going to be officially dedicated in the bonsai display at National Bonsai Foundation, at the National Arboretum, Washington, DC.

BBS would like as many members as possible to participate in honoring Jack, and would like to charter a bus to enable as many as possible to attend the ceremony. Look for more information in newsletters and meetings to come.

### A Winter Thought

Three Friends in Winter. The "Three friends in Winter" is an ensemble motif of Chinese origin that teams the pine, bamboo, and plum, which are all symbols of winter, long life, and the cultured gentleman. This convention of

linking the three plants, which are consistently ranked in the same order, remains so popular among the Japanese that they use the Three Friends as both a design motif and an elegant system of designating such things as banquet rooms or menu options in traditional restaurants.

Symbols of Japan, Merrily Baird, p 66...

### **Incredible Report about *Podocarpus macrophyllus***

We have Lee Shipman to thank for the following information that is drawn from the Wall Street Journal. This tree, also known as the Buddhist pine, has become a prime subject for smuggling from Hong Kong's forests to mainland China because the tree is believed to bring good luck. The smugglers dig them up, chop off branches to make them portable, and load them into ships. Until the recent boom in the Chinese economy, few mainland Chinese could afford to have these decorative trees from the wild in their gardens. Now the demand is so great that environmentalists predict that if smuggling continues at present rates, Hong Kong forests will be empty of pines in 50 years. It takes a *Podocarpus* 10 years to produce seed.

Danger is real also for mainland Chinese nurseries that stock the stolen trees. Thieves abound. One nurseryman now sleeps in his garden to protect the trees; thieves killed his dog while carrying off booty. Most know that the trees have been stolen but choose not to ask questions.

People who want the luck, and the good *feng shui* the trees supposedly bring, but haven't the money to afford landscape size trees have turned to bonsai *Podocarpus*, but those aren't safe either. Many buyers don't know how to maintain them, and the bonsai also are subject to theft.

Buddhist tree thieves can receive up to two and a half years in prison, but here's the catch: the prosecutor must be able to prove that the trees were stolen from Hong Kong. The alternative to prison is deportation to the mainland.

If you have a *Podocarpus macrophyllus*, you may now look on it with different eyes

### **Pots!**

In July I gave a lecture and ran a workshop on pots with the promise that anything you made would be glazed, fired and returned. For those who have forgotten or assumed that I made off with your creations, I want to let you know that they will miraculously reappear at the November meeting. Issues with the kiln and a crimped gas line slowed things down.

Steve Ittel

### **Proposed 2007 Schedule**

January 20 BTC: The Jack Billet Memorial Meeting: Winter Silhouette

February 17: Open

March 17 BTC: Materials Seldom Used for Bonsai. Dennis Donald on Beauty Berry; Nancy Klabunde on Rhus Aromatica

April 14: Open

April 21: MABS Spring Festival

May 19 BTC: Ted Matson

June 16: Anson Nixon Park. Picnic/Auction

July 21: Open

August 18: General Workshop

September 15: Julian Adams

October 20: Longwood Show

November 17: Business Meeting