



Brandywine Bonsai Society

(EMAIL: BrandywineBonsai@comcast.net)

Meeting: February 11, 2006 10:00 **NOTE EARLIER DATE**

Where: Brandywine Town Center

Subject: Marty Schmalenberg Workshop

Cookie Person:

February 11 (NOTE THE DATE):

Daylong Styling Workshop - Marty Schmalenberg.

Marty is a well known bonsai artist who is especially credited with insightful and advanced thinking about styling. Bring your own material and plan to spend the entire day working on it. This is a unique opportunity to take a good piece of material to a higher level. Or for newcomers, get guidance on what a beginning piece of material might become.

There is a \$10.00 fee for the all-day workshop. For those of you who do not intend to participate in the workshop, most announcements are covered in this newsletter so there will be a minimal business meeting.

The meeting is at the Brandywine Town Center. Please bring a lunch because we will take minimal time off at noon. There will be little time to go to neighborhood restaurants.

The January Meeting

Thanks to the members who brought in trees and made presentations with stands and companions. The annual winter silhouette meeting is getting to be one of the top draws of the year. It is a great opportunity to look at the basic structure of a tree and see where next round of improvements might occur. The tree-by-tree explanation of the trees, stands, and companions (plus pots and stones) was a real education.

The March Meeting: Please remember that the March meeting is also on an "off" day, March 19 (Sunday). It will be an excursion to Nature's Way Nursery and another opportunity to collect new material in the wilds of Pennsylvania. Jim Doyle has graciously invited BBS members dig for themselves in his large preserve. Of course, there also is great shopping at Nature's Way. This is a trip to which we always look forward.

MABS Spring Festival 2006

This year's Spring Festival marks MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' (MABS) Twenty-Third Anniversary. The Spring Festival will commence Friday evening, April 21, 2006 and will continue through Sunday afternoon, April 23, 2006, at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in East Hanover, New Jersey.

A program of renowned International and American professional Bonsai artists will perform lecture/demonstrations, workshops, and critiques of Bonsai on display which are provided by MABS member clubs. In

addition, Bonsai vendors will be on-site offering a large selection of Bonsai, Bonsai related plants, containers, tools, books, and other supplies for purchase. To open the 2006 Spring Festival and to welcome all registrants, complimentary beverages and snacks will be offered on Friday evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m. until about midnight. For the first lecture/demonstration of the Festival, starting at 8:00 p.m., Ms. Pauline Muth will create a Saikei using an assortment of conifer material. This lecture/demonstration creation will be raffled following the coffee break on Saturday morning. Featured artists include [Shinji Suzuki](#) – Japan; [Marco Invernizzi](#) – Italy; [Francois Jeker](#) – France; and [Pauline Muth](#) – USA. (Those are hotlinks.)

BBS has had a reputation for outstanding participation at the annual Mid-Atlantic Spring Festival. This is a great opportunity for old-timers to see friends and for newcomers to see what bonsai is all about and to stock up on supplies, material and information.

Will three members volunteer to exhibit trees at the Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies symposium. If you are willing, contact either Rob or Nancy for further details.

The website for MABS is <http://MidAtlanticBonsai.freeseervers.com/>

Dues are due

Please remember that annual dues were due in January. For those of you who have procrastinated, this is your reminder and another form is attached. For those of you who have already paid, thank you for your promptness and please excuse the reminder and form.

When a tree won't heal

Here is a piece contributed by Fred Knobloch on how to cover over an injury in a tree that will not heal. This bougainvillea was exhibited at Longwood Gardens (Nov. 4-5, 2005), after a major trunk restoration. The remarkable steps Fred took are shown in the series of photos. A rotted 7 in. section of the tree was removed and sealed with Minwax wood hardener. The first thought was to use Styrofoam packing chips to help fill the wound.



They give you some idea of the depth of the wound. The white foam packing idea was discarded in favor of a continuous foam plug.

A section of a pigmented plastic store jug was cut to shape, sanded for good paint adhesion and roughly color matched to the bark using acrylic stencil paints (2). The back was scored for easy bending.



"Great Stuff" foaming caulk was used to fill the cavity and allowed to harden (3). More was added after this photo.



The foam was shaped; first with a hacksaw blade and then sanded flush to the edge of the bark, being careful not to harm the live portion. (4)



A ribbon of "Gorillas Glue" was applied around the inner edge of the "plastic bark" and the plastic was set in place. It was then covered over with wax paper (not shown), and wrapped tightly with elastic shock cord. (5)



After the glue hardened, any gaps were sealed with additional glue.(6)



The repair was completed with a finish coat of paint. The darker upper trunk, above the repair, was wire brushed later, to better match the lighter color of the lower trunk. One can see the finished product (7) and a troublesome knot (8) on the other side of the tree below.



You all had the opportunity to see this tree when it was featured at the last BBS meeting

This transformation will be article will be included on the BBS website in the near future and will include links to blow-ups of the photos and more information. Another article on trees with rough bark will follow shortly. Thanks Fred.