



Brandywine Bonsai Society

(EMAIL: BrandywineBonsai@comcast.net)

Meeting: **SUNDAY**, March 19, 2006 10:00

Where: Nature's Way, Harrisburg, PA

Subject: Field Dig lead by Jim Doyle

March Meeting - An Invitation to Dig Your Own Trees at Natures Way Nursery

Jim Doyle, owner of Natures Way Nursery, has issued an invitation to Brandywine Bonsai to visit the store and nursery, and to be trucked into his fields where you may wander and dig.

The number of diggers is limited to 15 – 20, so, to be sure that we don't exceed that number, please register with Nancy at (610) 692-7599 or Nancy.Klabunde@comcast.net. Call or email by March 15. If you wish to enjoy a day with BBS friends, spend time in Jim's inviting nursery and store, and forego the field trip - no registration is necessary.

Please remember to bring burlap, twine, shovels, trowels, hand saws, chain saws, clippers, pickaxes, prybars, comealongs, backhoes, or whatever it is that you use to collect. A lunch also would be a good idea. Participants should be at Natures Way before 10:00 AM so that Jim can give his instructions shortly thereafter and organize the trucks going into the fields. There is a minimal charge for each item you dig. You will be surprised at how many treasures you take home, and how little it costs.

Our last dig was March of 2002. It was a glorious day, and many of us still have apples, hornbeams, bittersweet, and other trees and companion plants to show for it.

Take advantage of this opportunity. It only comes to us every few years.

Directions to Nature's Way Nursery

Take US-202 N and/or PA-100 N.

Enter the PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE Westbound (Toll). Go about 65 miles

Take exit number 19, toward I-283

EAST/HARRISBURG/HERSHEY.

Follow signs for I-81 N.

Take exit number 72B toward LINGLESTOWN

You will be on N MOUNTAIN RD. Go one mile to the "town square."

At the circle and flagpole, turn RIGHT onto LINGLESTOWN RD.

In 1.5 miles you will see a yellow sign on the left for Nature's Way.

Turn LEFT into Nature's Way.

Total Distance about 100 miles

Estimated Time about 2 hours

Dues Due! For those few remaining stragglers, the deadline for paying dues is the end of March. Please get your payment to Steve Ittel as quickly as possible. Members who have not renewed by that date will be removed from the newsletter list.

MABS Spring Festival. April 21-23 is the weekend for the Spring Festival that features an exciting line-up of visiting artists, and of course, the unparalleled shopping offered by excellent vendors. To learn more check the MABS website:

<http://midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/>

If you have never participated in this event, consider doing so this year. We are very fortunate that year after year we have a group of world-class artists and outstanding vendors so close to us. Saturday-only attendance also is an option.

For members who have made the decision to attend, please think about items that you might wish to contribute to the Saturday night auction.

Thanks Again to Dominick. Longwood Gardens will feature its annual Plants Experts Demo on Sunday, May 21, 1-4 PM. As he has done for the club so often in the past, Dominick has again volunteered to present the art of bonsai to visitors during this event.

Bring a Friend. Do you have a friend who might be interested in bonsai if you only gave him/her a nudge? Look at the schedule and see what meeting might appeal. April's meeting about quince might be a good choice. It also will be a Member Appreciation Gift meeting, so that adds to the fun.

Notes from Nancy

Companion Plants: Here are some alpine companions to look for when we are preparing for the June exhibit at the Brandywine River Museum, and later, at Longwood. We are doing better than ever as a club in presenting our trees with companions that are of a like climatic region; those of us with pine displays might want to look for these.

Veronica bedwillii: Flowers borne above leathery foliage

Raoulia lutescens: a flowering ground cover

Hypericum yakusimaria: a flowering ground cover

Rhododendrum pumilium: ca. 5" shrub; rosettes that bloom in spring

Erodium chamaedryoides roseum: 3" tall; geranium family

Vaccinium vitis-idaea-minus: 4" shrub, creeping evergreen

Polytrichum commune: low mat of star-like foliage

Draba sibirica: 1/4" rosettes, yellow flowers in spring, succulent

Draba bryoides imbricata: mounded succulent; shape protects it from mountain winds

Found in a Time/Life book: "Bonsai are meant to be seen from all directions, but with a front view that presents the plant at its best, so you must decide where the front is. One expert expressed as the view that would make you think how marvelous the trunk is. If you are led to say, 'Look at all those leaves,' then you haven't found the front."

You Never Know Who Is a Bonsai Lover: The late, great comedian Red Skelton had a California yard filled with bonsai. Said Red, "I take little trees and shape them the way I want rather than trying to shape people."

Trunk Repair When Bark Is Rough Or Plated

Here is a piece contributed by Fred Knobloch on how to cover over an injury in a rough-barked tree that will not heal.



Figure 10 shows a large old pruning scar which is never going to heal over. That's the bottom of a beer bottle for size comparison.



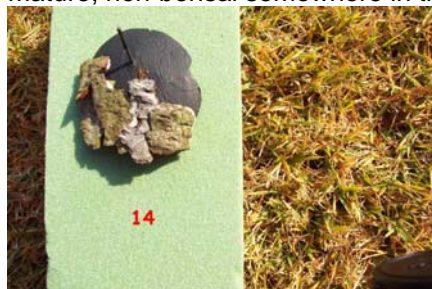
In figure 11, Fred has fashioned a cover to match the hole - this one from a cedar shingle. It was then waterproofed with Minwax wood hardener.



It was painted a dark color (at least as dark as the bark) in Figure 12. .



You will then need to collect a good variety of bark samples. It is best if you can collect them from a mature, non-bonsai somewhere in the landscape.



Begin gluing bark pieces onto your waterproofed plug. Start at the bottom and overlap them shingle-style where possible (Figure 14). The resulting plug is then screwed onto the tree. It may then be necessary to glue a few more small pieces of bark to the plug to naturalize the area. Do not glue to the tree.



The finished result is good enough to be used on a front view of the tree as can be seen in Figure 15.