



# Brandywine Bonsai Society

**Meeting Date:** Saturday, May 20, 2006

**Subject:** Steve Ittel on Pots

**Location:** Brandywine Town Center

Pre-meeting bonsai help: Dorie Froning

Cookie person: Schelly Reynolds

## May Pot Lecture

Pots play an essential but often under-appreciated role in bonsai. This month, Steve Ittel will be presenting a lecture on bonsai pots.

There will be an emphasis on pots made by North American Bonsai Potters. All of you are North Americans. All of you do bonsai. All of you will have the opportunity to make pots. This is your chance at fame, or at least to get your hands dirty.

Clay will be provided as will a limited number of tools for working the clay (rolling pins, knives, spray bottle, shaping tools, cutting wire, bottom-hole cutters, etc, but no wheels). I would ask you to also bring items to mold clay inside or around (Tupperware, plastic sandwich containers, etc) or to texture the clay (place mats, Textured wallpaper, burlap, etc). Don't get too carried away on size – these should end up as shohin pots or pots for accompaniment plants that would do Dorie proud. Simplicity is a virtue.

I presume few of the pots will be complete before we leave, and they certainly won't be dry, but I will take them home or collect them at future meetings. They will be fired sometime over the summer. I will try my best to follow your instructions on washes or glazes that you might want to have applied. If the kiln gods be pleased, the pots will be returned to you in several months and you can plan to use them in the Longwood show (optimist that I am).

Finally, I would ask that those of you who have pots hand made by North American artists please bring them to the meeting. I would like to photograph them for the BBS

site on potters. We don't really need any additional Sara Rayner, Dale Cochoy, or Jim Barrett pots because they are well represented, but pots by some of the lesser-known artists would be appreciated.

-- Steve Ittel

**Brandywine River Museum Bonsai Show, June 3,4.** Our club shows are intended to introduce bonsai to the public and possibly encourage people to get involved. They are NOT masterpiece shows. We want all club members to get involved in some way and not be intimidated by the idea of showing your tree(s). Something we have discussed and I will try out at the June show, is one table of pre-bonsai so that people can see what we frequently start out with. Newer members could contribute to this table. Or, if you do not feel comfortable showing a tree, we can use your help as a babysitter.

Please be thinking about what you will display in our Brandywine River Museum show, and when you can give some time to tree sitting.

Please fill out the enclosed Entry Form and return it to me at the May meeting or mail it to arrive before June 1st. And feel free to contact me (610-869-8401) if you have any questions or issues to discuss.

-- Pat Lucke Morris

## Member Appreciation Drawing

Thank you to all the members of the BBS for the beautiful Dale Cochoy drum pot that I won in the Member Appreciation drawing at the April meeting. Since I have only been a member since January, I hardly feel

deserving. For me, it is more appropriately a Member Motivation gift, since now I must grow a bonsai worthy of such a beautiful pot. Thank you.  
-- Schelly Reynolds

### **Memorial for Jack Billet – National Bonsai Foundation**

Collection of funds, anonymous, began at the April meeting. Members who wish to contribute may do so by placing cash and/or checks in the container that will be available again and for the last time at the May meeting. Contributions also may be made by sending them to treasurer, Brad Taylor.

### **Pre-Meeting Bonsai Help**

Dorie Froning will be on hand to help members (newer ones get preference!) with their bonsai questions. You can't get better than this!

### **The MABS Exhibit**

Four BBS members entered trees in the recent MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival exhibit. Thanks to Fred Knobloch, Pat Morris, Charlotte Smith, and Nancy Klabunde.

### **June Excitement**

The annual picnic/auction will be held in Anson Nixon Park, Pavilion One, June 24. Please look through your pot, tree, stand, etc. collection to see what you would be willing to have our master auctioneer offer to the club.

Charlotte and Nancy, who will be overseeing the picnic part of the event, would welcome help in carrying, setting up, etc.

### **The Boon Manakitivipart Weekend Seminar, September 23-23, Holiday Inn Select, Wilmington, DE**

All club members have now received brochures about the seminar that BBS is sponsoring. This is a rare opportunity to spend time with Boon, who is a world recognized authority on bonsai and their presentation. Please fill out your registration form and send it to Brad Taylor as soon as possible.

### **Notes from Nancy**

**Judging trees.** Pauline Muth, a guest artist and long time participant in the recent MABS Festival, as well as a recognized master of the art of bonsai, provided the following list of criteria by which exhibit trees are judged, to the people who attended her exhibit critique at the recent Festival. BBS has a show in June at the Brandywine River Museum; a review of the following points will be useful now and for the future:

- Health of the tree
- Root system
- Trunk
- Branches
- Foliage
- Apex
- Flowers/Fruit
- Pot
- Tree placement in pot
- Soil Surface
- Artistic impact

Not only are these features important in judging, they are the same features that we should always consider in all of our trees. Not all trees have all of these features, but they all help. It is interesting how great flowers or fruit can all one to get away with lesser quality in other aspects.

Thanks Pauline.

### **MABS**

The MABS festival was a little sparse this year, but it was a great program. We lifted a few in a memorial to Jack, and were entertained by Dennis performing Jack's bonsai song. The speakers did a lot of teaching in addition to the demos. None of the three artists potted the trees - we're making progress! Great demo trees -- but I bid on nothing.