



Brandywine Bonsai Society

Date: Saturday, June 24, 2006
Picnic and Auction, 11:00 AM
Anson B. Nixon Park
Kennett Square, PA

The Fabulous Picnic/Auction –

Gather in Anson Nixon Park, Pavilion 1, at 11:00 AM, where we will assemble our auction items, share fellowship over a buffet lunch, and then focus our attention on auctioneer *extraordinaire*, Dennis Donald as he humorously shares his vast knowledge of trees, pots, etc., and raises money for our club. If you haven't attended before, or not for a while, get into the fun.

In the meantime, take a serious look at your books, trees, pots, companion plants, etc. What doesn't inspire you any longer may be a light-bulb-going-on for someone else.

Directions to Picnic at Anson B. Nixon Park: Headed south on Route 1 in PA, take the Kennett Square exit and head into town on State Street. Turn right onto Walnut Road, near the bottom of the hill. (The Kennett Square YMCA is opposite.) You will soon see the sign for the Anson B. Nixon Park on the left. Park in the central parking lot and walk to the first pavilion in the woods.

People coming through Kennett Square from the opposite direction on Cypress St. can take the first street on the left after the YMCA, go 1 block, and cross over State St. onto Walnut Road.

Auction Workings - BBS has two types of auctions: the Silent Auctions that occur at most meetings, and the auctioneer style that occurs at the annual picnic. The money raised at the Silent Auctions goes entirely to the member who offered the items for sale. The money raised at the picnic auction goes entirely to the club. Aside from dues and any unexpected gifts, the picnic auction is our major source of revenue, so member support is much needed.

There is a *caveat* to the statement above, "goes entirely to the club." Should you bring an item for auction that you think should not sell for less than \$50.00, please put a tag on it saying "50.00 reserve." If that sum is not bid, you return home with the item. If the sum of \$50.00 or more is raised, the club will get 30% and you will take 70%.

Success Story – Pat Morris, Exhibits Chair, led the club in a very successful and well-received show at the Brandywine River Museum, June 3 and 4. Special thanks go to the following members who exhibited trees, tree-sat, and performed on-going demonstrations: Fred and Sunday Abbondi; Dennis Donald; Dorie Froning;

Steve Ittel, Greg Kanaskie, The Kings: Rob, Becca, and Jessie; Nancy Klabunde, Fred Knobloch; Bill MacNeill; Charlie Mitchell; and Lee Shipman. Now is the time to start planning your entry for next year.

We also had quite a few individuals sign up for the newsletter and other BBS information. To all of you who are getting a newsletter for the first time, or returning, welcome.

Put Boon on Your Calendar – The Boon Manakitivipart seminar is September 23-24 at the Holiday Inn Select, Wilmington. The deadline for getting a break on the fee, July 1, is fast approaching. Please deluge our treasurer with your registrations! For those of you who don't know about Boon, go to our website, goBBS.org, to read about this world-class bonsai talent. Boon maintains a heavy schedule of teaching, travel, etc. Having him with us is a rare opportunity.

The Jack Billet Memorial – BBS has raised \$350.00 in personal gifts to present to the National Bonsai Foundation. Thanks to all who so generously contributed. We know that the money will be used for purposes that Jack would have supported. The board of MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies has voted that its \$500.00 annual gift to the NBF this year will be given in Jack's name.

Notes from Nancy

Reflecting on comments made by Jack Billet and Colin Lewis.

Some years ago, Jack advised me, and doubtless others, to get plant material into the best and most appropriate bonsai pot possible at that moment. If it is a training pot, it should be well scrubbed and oiled, just as an artist's pot would be. This shows respect for the tree or companion. By showing such a degree of respect, Jack felt the bonsai worker would take the tree seriously and would work harder to realize its potential.

When he was a guest artist with BBS a couple of years ago, Colin made an observation that follows on what Jack said: Make every time you work on a tree a time of concentration. Don't just mindlessly pinch, prune, etc. Ask yourself what every decision, every action will contribute to the Grand Picture. Have a plan, consciously work toward it.

Haiku. Occasionally the newsletter contains *haiku* from Japanese masters, and sometimes from BBS

“masters.” Ikebana International, a publication of the world-wide Ikebana associations, has recently published an article about *haiku* in which they say that in English, one has two choices in writing a *haiku*: follow the 5/7/5 three line structure, or, ignore the 5/7/5 beat and write three lines in as few words as possible, with the last line containing the defining image. As illustration, they offer a translation of what they explain is the most famous poem in Japanese, Basho’s celebrated frog *haiku*. I offer it here for your delight and edification:

Furu ike ya	Old pond
Kawazu tobikomu	A frog jumps
Mizu no oto	Plop

If you think this translation is inadequate, the publication’s editors can be reached in Tokyo. If this new definition of *haiku* inspires you, please send entries to our patient and aesthetically lenient (perhaps) newsletter editor. (Basho: 1644-1694.)

Applause. Check the club’s website if you haven’t done so for a while. Our newsletter editor, Steve Ittel, has compiled, and continues to work at a catalogue of North American bonsai ceramic artists that is drawing very favorable notice.

The public face of our club is getting better and better Thank you Steve, and thanks to our intrepid and faithful webmaster, who also is our treasurer, Brad Taylor.

Slab Planters from Slate. *by Fred Knobloch*

What follows are instructions for making a slab planter or pot from a piece of slate.



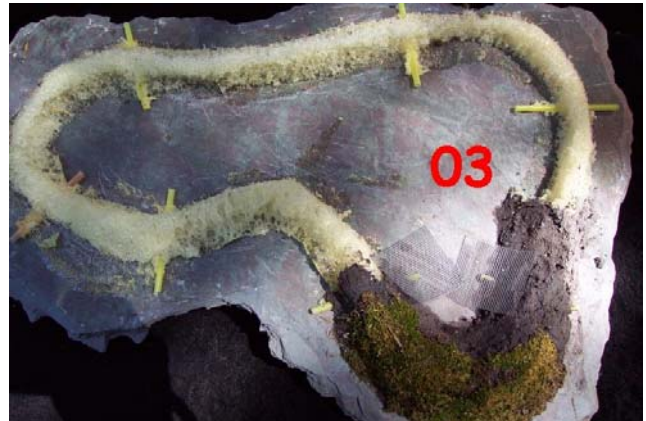
The slate used for this example was 18 x 24 x ½ inches and is pictured in Figure 1. Thin slate makes a reduced



weight finished tray, but gives less of a textured edge. Thicker slate makes a more attractive edge, but makes for a heavier tray.

Picture 2 shows the sequence of steps. The first step is to texture the edge using a pipe wrench (to the left of the picture and a little dark). With the jaws opened a little wider than the slate thickness, and a bite of 1/2-3/4 inches, snap the wrench inward from the position shown. **WARNING! SOME SECTIONS OF EDGE WILL BE AS SHARP AS YOUR BEST KITCHEN KNIFE. TAKE CARE!**

These sharp edges can be dulled in various ways such as a file or tapping them with a hammer, but use gloves if this is left until later.



Next, (for drainage); tape pieces of plastic straws to the slate where the sidewalls are going to be. Leave them long because you will be able to trim them later. Screening is placed over the inner straw ends before soil is added.

Make sidewalls from "Great Stuff" foaming caulk. Allow it to harden for a day or two. Trim the caulk with a hacksaw blade. This gives an open cell surface for the next step – mucking the wall. The open-cell surface helps the muck adhere.

Now you can attach tie-downs for trees (epoxy wires in place or drill holes) and start creating a landscape such as the raft planting shown here in Figure 4. Finish it off with moss and lichens, and you have a nice island.



A Final Oops

I know that I said I would pick up dried pots at the next meeting, but I will not be able to attend this year’s picnic. Nancy has agreed to collect them at the picnic, but you could also bring them to some future event.

Steve Ittel