



Brandywine Bonsai Society

(EMAIL: BrandywineBonsai@comcast.net WEB: <http://www.GoBBS.org/>)

August Hands-On Workshop

Where: Creative Arts Center, Yorklyn, DE

When: August 19th, 2006, 10:00 am

No cookie person. BYO. The shop is closed

The August Meeting

A general workshop is the plan for this gathering. Bring trees and tools, and share bonsai advice with fellow members. For members new to bonsai: this is an excellent opportunity to spend concentrated time with more experienced members and get hands-on help styling and training. There is no particular time limit for this gathering, so it is up to you if you think you should bring a lunch. If you plan to do serious, long-term work, bring a brown bag.

Some August jobs you might consider: removing wire that has gotten too tight; wiring current season's growth that needs positioning; trimming back overly long new growth on all trees, particularly on pines whose candles weren't pinched out in the spring; and pruning branches on many conifers and deciduous trees. Club wire will be available.

Notice: The club beverage service and the pastry shop are closed for vacation during August. If you want a drink and/or snack, please bring them with you.

Directions to Hockessin Center for Creative Arts

From Wilmington: On Rte 41 northbound north of Wilmington, at the major intersection of Rte 41 and Yorklyn Road, make the first right after crossing the railroad tracks. The intersection is a few yards past Gateway Nursery on the right. Proceed approximately a mile and a half past the old industrial complex. The Center is a red brick building that will be on your right. You will see it across a grassy area. Parking is in the rear.

Driving toward Wilmington on Rte 41 from Pennsylvania, at the major intersection (Wawa will be on your right) in Hockessin, turn left. Proceed approximately a mile and a half past

the old industrial complex. The Center is a red brick building that will be on your right. You will see it across a grassy area. Parking is in the rear.

Program Planning

If you have program requests and ideas, please convey them to any of the officers. Planning for 2007 is well underway.

Longwood Reminder

The Chrysanthemum Festival, October 28-November 19, is an event in which our club plays an important part. If you are willing to represent us as an Expert on Duty on any of the following dates, please contact Nancy: Tuesday, October 31, and November 7 and 14 from 1 to 4 PM.

Our exhibit dates are November 4 and 5. Now is not too soon to select and begin grooming your trees.

Notes from Nancy

Occasionally, bonsai wisdom from our newsletter has found its way into the newsletters of clubs in our Mid Atlantic Region. The following comes from the newsletter of the Yama Ki Bonsai Society (New York and Connecticut), produced by Irv and Rhoda Kleiman. In May, YKBS hosted Graham Potter from England who gave them much to think about.

For instance, Mr. Potter said that a tree should be designed around its best point. What is unstated here is that the best point may not be the *nebari*, (though one begins investigation there), and may even mean relegating *nebari* to a secondary consideration. For those of us trained in the tradition that the *nebari* is everything, this is an idea that may at

first be difficult to accept, but at the same time is quite liberating.

A further point from Graham Potter: make large cuts in deciduous trees a major part of the design. Because such cuts seldom heal well, don't try to arrange your design with concealment in mind; hollow them, and put them in front. Even so, a well-made cut is desirable. An elliptical cut that narrows at the top and bottom heals better than a round cut because healing occurs on the sides, not the top and bottom of the cut.

During his presentation, he also dealt with rot in deciduous trees. He pointed out that it is the heartwood that is soft and stays wet, that will hollow out. It usually occurs in the lower portion of the tree. He makes the hollows a design element by stabilizing them with readily available wood preservative. Thereafter, he uses teak oil. Once he has decided to make a deadwood hollow part of a design, he first lets the wood go untreated for a year or two.

Mr. Potter's demo tree was a bagged and burlapped nursery Japanese yew (*Taxus cuspidata*). A light bulb went on when I read the following because of a yew more than 50 years old that I removed from Ocean City, NJ: "With Yews, roots may begin several inches beneath the soil line, so you might have to dig a bit. A Yew will go into shock immediately when dug and often will not resume growth for 1 – 2 years. Graham keeps his Yews burlapped for 1–5 years before potting. The burlap permits good air circulation and allows the soil to dry out between waterings. They hate wet feet but like lots of feeding – 20% nitrogen on a weekly basis when young, lessening as the tree matures. They have no taproot, and are best transplanted in spring just as their buds begin swelling. A second good time to transplant is just before the late summer growth spurt."

HOT POTS!

If you're off to work each day, you may not realize how hot bonsai pots can get in direct sun. My solution is to make collars from aluminum foil to keep them cool.

To cut down glare, I paint the foil with a light color paint. I tape down about 20 feet of heavy duty foil on the driveway and roller paint it. (If you don't have newspaper protruding from underneath, you risk having a light color stripe for 20 feet down the drive). Cut the foil in half lengthwise and fold these two strips in half lengthwise. This gives a double thick strip which will be about the right height for most pots. I overlap several inches and fasten with clothes pins. If guests are coming, it's easy to remove the collars, but hard to get them back on the right pot if you haven't labeled them with a marker. They can be reused for a couple years



A timely contribution by Fred Knobloch

*Stones and trees that meet
My eyes glare straight at me
In this glazing heat
Kyorai*