



Brandywine Bonsai Society

Where: Brandywine Town Center

When: Jan. 20, 2007, 10:00 am

Subject: Winter Silhouette – Dedicated to Jack Billet

Cookie Person: Nancy Klabunde

Pre-Meeting Tree Advice: Steve Ittel

This meeting is the first to be dedicated to the memory of Jack Billet: *Winter Silhouette*. For several years, we have brought our trees out of storage for this program. Please bring tree(s) that demonstrate silhouette whether they are well potted or not, whether you can mount a total display or not. The owners will discuss their trees, what future work they plan, and anything of interest about the pots, and principles of presentation.

When the officers proposed that this meeting be dedicated to Jack's memory, in perpetuity, they did so because the fellowship and learning that have become hallmarks of these gatherings are so much in the spirit of Jack. Many of us have fond memories of Jack's unfailing willingness to share his great knowledge of horticulture and styling, his respectful support of our efforts, and his affection, and humor.

Pre-meeting Tree Counseling. Even in January, there can be lots of questions about work to come. Steve will be on hand to answer questions, theoretical and practical – maybe you can bring a tree out of storage to discuss. If you are rather new to bonsai, don't miss this opportunity. If you aren't new to bonsai, bounce your thoughts off a fellow member.

Membership. As we start the new year, it is once again time to renew membership. Please return the membership forms with dues to Steve Ittel as soon as possible – the January meeting would be great! We know that for most individuals, little has changed, but please take the time to fill out the form completely just to make our life simpler. Prompt payment will also make life easier for

our new treasurer, Greg Kanaskie. The deadline is March.

Bonsai Stamps. The wish that the U.S. Postal Service would issue a series of stamps about bonsai has been discussed for several years. A bonsai enthusiast from Cadillac, Michigan, Eunice Corp, has spent the past year writing a proposal to the postal service that she thinks has a chance of being favorably received. The major problem, according to her, is to convince the Postal Service that bonsai is mainstream American, not withstanding its history as an oriental art and its Japanese name.

Should the proposal be accepted, and if the postal graphic arts committee wants samples of trees from which to develop designs, various American bonsai masters (American citizens), will be asked to submit photos of their favorite trees to use as models.

A petition sheet will be circulated at the January meeting so that BBS members who wish to add their voices to the request can do so. The petition will be sent to Ms. Corp who will add it to others that are being sent to the Post Master General.

Steve Ittel commented that it might also be good to have the trees focus on North American species.

A Haiku Challenge. We all know the basics: a haiku should have seventeen beats or syllables (generally 5-7-5), and should have a seasonal reference. But what should a haiku poet make of the winter season we are having in the northeast US? January 6th and 65 degrees F?!

If you are moved to capture this strange situation in verse, send your composition to

the newsletter where it will be published. We hope to receive many submissions!

MABS Spring Festival, April 20 – 22. The Twenty-third Annual Spring Festival of the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies begins Friday evening, April 20, 2007 and will continue through Sunday afternoon, April 22, 2007 at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in East Hanover, New Jersey. Information is available on their website

<http://midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/> and you will all receive fliers shortly. This is a great meeting every year and it is very convenient to BBS. Featured artists include Robert Steven from Indonesia and Ted Matson and Guy Guidry from the US.

As you look over your trees in storage, consider which of them could be presented in the Member Society Exhibit at the coming MABS Spring Festival. Each member society is requested to show three trees so please consider representing BBS.

North American Potters at the BBS website. This is a reminder that BBS sponsors a website dedicated to North Americans potters who supply those pots we all enjoy. It has been substantially expanded since last year. We continue to look for good examples of pots from known artists and also for new or overlooked historic artists. If you have additional pots or potters that might be good additions, please let Steve Ittel know. The site is <http://www.gobbs.org/Potters.htm>

Bonsai on the Beach. These special ABS Learning Seminars will be held June 21-24, 2007 at the Virginia Beach Cavalier Hotel, VA. They will feature Michael Hagedorn, Julian Adams, Mary Miller, Suthin Sukosolvisit, Marty Schmalenberg, Bill Valavanis, and Pauline Muth and most importantly, our own Dori Froning and Dennis Donald. Registration for ABS members is \$275 until 1 February 2007 and \$300 thereafter. Details will be announced at <http://www.absbonsai.org>.

2007 BBS and Ameriseki Schedule.

January 20, BTC, Winter Silhouette

February 17, BTC, Ilex Suitable for Bonsai, Rob King. Raffle of demo material

February 24, BTC, Ameriseki

March 24, BTC, Air Layering and other Propagation Methods, Ski Dumbrovski

April 14, BTC, Styling Workshop, Dori Froning

April 20-22, MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival, East Hanover, NJ

May 4, Dedication of benches at the NBF to the memory of Jack Billet

May 19, BTC, Shohin demo and workshop, Ted Matson

June 2-3, Annual show at the Brandywine River Museum

June 16, Annual Picnic/Auction at Anson Nixon Park

June 21-24, ABS Festival, Virginia Beach, VA

June 28, BTC, Ameriseki

July 21, BTC, Materials Seldom Used for Bonsai, Dennis Donald and Nancy Klabunde

August 18, BTC, General workshop

September 6-9, International Bonsai Symposium, Rochester, NY

September 15, BTC, Julian Adams on Scots Pine

October 20, BTC TBA

October 27, BTC, Ameriseki

November 10-11, Longwood Show

November 17, BTC, program TBA