



Brandywine Bonsai Society

October 20th, 2007 - 10:00am

Brandywine Town Center

Charlotte Smith Discusses Creating Cascades

Pre-Meeting Bonsai Counseling: Steve Ittel

Cookie Person: Polly Kalish

The October Program - Cascades including Windswept, Full, and Semi

Charlotte Smith plans to give a short talk and demonstrate techniques on several trees that she will bring with her. Thereafter, she would like to discuss trees that people bring with them. If you bring a tree and want to work on it right then while information and inspiration are at the fore, bring your tools. Even if you don't want to work on your tree, bring it for the learning aid it may be to others.

Porcelain Berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)

Several years ago at the Longwood show, longtime member Fred Abbondi wowed the public with his porcelain berry. His cascade set off a rage for members to get their own plant material and get started.

Unfortunately, this vine is quite invasive, and even those prepared to give it every credit for beauty are aware that if they grow it, it is likely to be spread far and wide by the birds that love the fruit.. It also seems to be caviar to Japanese beetles. With these negatives before us: who now has a porcelain berry bonsai? We are in the season when the berries appear, ripen, and attain the gorgeous shades of blue and pink.

Will members who have them bring them to the October meeting for all to enjoy?

The definitive article about *Ampelopsis* training to be bonsai is probably the one written by Bill Valavanis that appeared in the September/October 1986 issue of BCI (Bonsai Clubs International).

This article, in an issue almost 20 years old, is a good example of why getting rid of old (back) copies of any bonsai publication may be an unwise decision.

A Star in our Midst

If you followed the new Ken Burns series, The War, and you were watching Monday evening, September 24, you would have seen long-time member Katharine Spitz. She appeared in a segment that followed the main feature called Voices from the Delaware Valley, Faces of War. And there she was: U.S. Army Nurse, Katharine Spitz. You could go to PBS.org/TheWar to see the stories of the Delaware Valley veterans.

A Reminder about the Library

The club's collection of video tapes is rather low. If you took any and have just forgotten time and again to return them, please do whatever you can to remind yourself to bring them to the next meeting and put them in circulation for others.

A copy of Julian Adam's program on Scots pines, which many of you saw him give at our last meeting, is now part of the library.

Dates to Mark on Your Calendar Now

At Nature's Way in December, Jim and Mary Kay will be having their Holiday Open House and Sale, December 1-2. Thereafter, they will be open for shopping Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 8 pm, Friday – Saturdays, 9 am – 6 pm, and Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm. Their Spring Open House, May 9 – 10, 2008, will feature Marco Invernizzi as guest artist who will also hold workshops. Nature's Way is relatively close to most of us, and the goods and services Jim offers are too good to pass up.

Final Reminder about the Longwood Show, November 10-11

The fall show at Longwood is by far our biggest show of the year. Start working now on the final grooming of your chosen trees. And,

please remember that we want to have the participation of ALL members. If you do not have a tree that you feel confident about showing, we can still use your help watching over the exhibit and answering the many questions that the public comes up with. Hope to see you all the weekend of Nov. 10 & 11.

Set-up for the show in the conservatory will begin at 7:00 AM for a 9:00 AM conservatory opening. Because of the late date of this year's show, Exhibit chair, Pat Morris, has urged members to think in terms of winter silhouette for many trees.

Please respond as soon as possible to the enclosed forms regarding the Longwood Show.

In addition to showing trees, the club urgently needs members to give time to tree-sit during the weekend. Usually there are many volunteers for the Saturday hours right after the show opens, and the Sunday hours before the show closes. Please consider working during the other time periods. The exhibit is spread over a large area and there are more guests, so we will also need more volunteers for watching.

Contact Pat Morris, exhibits chair,

A Service for Newer/Less Experienced Members : Hands-On Help –

It has been a year since we started our Hands-On Help for new members. Twenty minutes to half an hour before each meeting, an experienced member is available to counsel newer members about their trees. Response has been very favorable. We encourage more new members to avail themselves of the service. Steve Ittel will be providing the service this month