



Brandywine Bonsai Society

(EMAIL: BrandywineBonsai@comcast.net)

Meeting: July 19, 2008 10:00

Where: Brandywine Town Center

Subject: Two Tree Display by Dennis Donald

Cookie Person: Steve Ittel

Pre-meeting bonsai help: John Jennings

The Two-Tree Display Workshop.

This past February Dennis presented a PowerPoint program on two-tree display. Many of you will remember that Ted Matson explained the growing importance of this presentation mode in California where bonsai enthusiasts realized that numbers of trees in the eight to 15 inch height category were seldom, if ever displayed, and thus were generally unappreciated.

Dennis's presentation demonstrated that two-tree display is a regular feature of Japanese exhibitions, and that well-chosen, smaller trees (or, in between size trees), shown together can complement each other, and in turn can be complemented by the addition of well chosen companion stones or plants.

In the spirit of experiment, please bring some of your in between size trees, with stands and companions, so that all of us can "build" displays using all the trees and stands that are brought in. This is a learning experience not presentation of a finished display to be publicly shown. BBS members who also are members of Ameriseki know the fun and learning that are had at Ameriseki meetings where we build presentations with the stones and stands brought in, and suggest changes.

If your trees are not in show shape, aren't in quite the pots you intend, etc., don't let that deter you. We all have imagination enough to envision the "final" display.

Dennis will be showing highlights from the February program to refresh our memories before we get started.

Some Gleanings from the Yama Ki Bonsai Society (New York and Connecticut)

Yama Ki recently hosted bonsai artist Pedro Morales from Puerto Rico, who presented a daylong program in their ongoing styling series. It is always interesting to learn of the insights and preferences that different artists have. Some are eye-openers; some support our own prejudices/experience.

Pedro, after many years of experience, believes that bonsai is 20% technique and 80% horticulture. He also has come to prefer styling in the *penjing* manner that he thinks is closer to nature, and closer to a tree's natural growth pattern.

If your collection includes ficus, do you know its origin? Ficus native to Puerto Rico have low and wide growth while those native to Taiwan are long and narrow. Promote taper on focus by keeping them well trimmed within standard proportion guidelines. Aerial roots are typical of these trees, but be aware that they may promote reverse taper. Propagate ficus by starting root cuttings in potting soil. Thrips are a problem for these trees, and are best eliminated with regular spraying and incorporating a systemic in the soil. Pedro's preference is for organic fertilizers and insecticides.

Styling bougainvillea: Since this plant is not a tree but a vine, it is admired for its flowers and not line; therefore, there is no style, and the owner can please himself in shaping it.

Pedro's experiments with timing lead him to recommend that root cutting be done in the first quarter of the moon's phases. He finds that tree survival rate, when observing this timing, is dramatic.

He likes 1 teaspoon of lime sulfur to a gallon of water as an insecticide/fungicide. He also likes neem oil for this purpose.

Colin Lewis Truth and Humor: Colin has been a frequent instructor at Yama Ki. In the course of a recent visit he observed that "Rape seed provides a good meal for mice who are then eaten by raccoons which probably overturn bonsai pots."

(Thanks to Yama Ki for allowing their newsletter contents to be shared among MABS member clubs.)

any presentation? Please tell us that, too. Remember that an experienced club member is available before most meetings to advise on horticultural and styling questions.

Message from Nancy

Dear Brandywine Members,

Thank you for the flowers, and for the many emails, phone calls, and cards that I've received since being brought low with a broken leg. I'm making steady improvement, and hope to attend (and participate in!) the July meeting.

Numbers of you asked after my trees: The repotting and wiring that I had hoped to do were put on hold. At this point, I feel glad to be able to keep them alive and reasonably healthy, and I owe all of the effort of watering, spraying, and fertilizing to Ulrich.

Best wishes to all of you.

Nancy

High Time Again for Haikus

Our last gathering in of haiku was February when we wrote about anxiety/anticipation when winter shows signs of yielding to spring. Now we are going to be moving into high summer. Please write about the effect of our summers on your trees and/or, on you. Send your compositions to Steve for inclusion in the August newsletter.

Programs for 2009

Your officers are working to bring you interesting and informative programs for the coming year. It would help if we are informed of your wants and needs. To the extent that time and treasury allow, we will try to honor requests. Please contact any of the officers with your ideas. Do you think that we need a repeat of