



Brandywine Bonsai Society

(EMAIL: BrandywineBonsai@comcast.net)

Meeting:, March 21, 2009 10:00

Where: Brandywine Town Center

Subject: Crabapple Horticulture and Styling by Ski Dombrovski

Cookies: Eleanor Chamberlain Pre-meeting Tree Counseling: Charlotte Smith

The March Meeting

There could scarcely be a better person to lead a program on crabapple styling and care than Ski Dombrovski. When he has displayed his crabapples in our fall Longwood show, they always are a show stopper. Those of us who have been "tree sitting" have had many times to answer the visitor question about the abundant fruit: "Are they real?"

Crabapple trees are abundant in local woods or can be collected when we take our collecting trips to Nature's Way, so there ought to be crab apples in everyone's collection. Come with your questions, and if you have apple trees, bring them for club enjoyment and discussion.



There's Still Time, but Barely

The Early Bird rate for MABS Spring Festival registration will apply until April 1, so if you are still undecided, maybe the savings will push you over the edge. Consult your flier for details.

Those who attended the 2008 Festival will remember *Isao Omachi* who assisted Shinji Suzuki. His expertise and charm were a winning combination, and this year, he will be a headliner.

If you are subscribing to Bonsai Focus, you likely are familiar with *Farrand Bloch*. His personal interest has been on Japanese gardening, but also naturalistic bonsai created by nature's harsh conditions.

David Easterbrook visited our club two years ago and presented a program on weeping willow. He is curator of the Montreal Botanical Garden's bonsai collection, and was a founder of the Montreal Bonsai and Penjing Society.

Quite a new dimension will be added to the Festival by *Susan Amoy* who grows and styles succulent bonsai along with conventional tree material. BBS members who are interested in tropical material, and plant material that is largely grown indoors will find her presentations and critiques of great interest.

Think about attending. The scenery makes for a lovely drive (ask Charlotte about wild turkeys); and the vendor offerings are one-stop shopping for everything you could need.

Repotting 1

If you are engaged in repotting and have some trees that need some definite help with root development, consider Granny Grits. Many bonsaists resist using this material because it is white and is a great contrast with the soil they are using. Set that prejudice aside and, for the sake of great fine root growth, use it.

I've begun repotting, and in several cases so far, there has been so much fine root growth that I've had difficulty getting the tree out of the pot. As for the poor appearance: if

you plan to show the tree, pick the white particles off the surface and/or cover with moss. (NGK)

Repotting 2

If your repotting this spring will include dividing companion plants, and you find yourself with more of some variety than you really want, please hold onto them until our April meeting. At that time, we will be doing a *kusamono* workshop, literally creating weed pots, or bonsai companions. Bring your extras to the club meeting for other members to use. Maybe you will have plants from your garden: dwarf campanula, dwarf hosta, etc. Don't forget companions that would be suitable accompaniments to tropical bonsai. An assortment of companion plants will be for sale, fresh from Meehan's Nursery and the MABS Spring Festival.

Start scrubbing your small pots. We have the Brandywine River Museum and Longwood shows to look forward to.

Dues are DUE!!

March 31 is the deadline for you to send in your dues. Please make every effort to see that you are up-to-date with the club, not just in terms of money, but with the information we need to stay in touch with you. It is very frustrating and time-consuming for the officers not to have the latest on your email, telephone, and street address changes. Please keep BBS in mind when you move, etc. A membership sheet was sent with the January Newsletter

Pacific Rim Collection

Some of you may have heard that the Pacific Rim bonsai collection funded by Weyerhaeuser is closing due to the economic downturn. This is a magnificent collection in a wonderful setting – it will be missed. They say that the trees will be preserved until final decisions are made. If I have space, I will try to do a feature on this collection in a coming issue.