



Brandywine Bonsai Society

(EMAIL: BrandywineBonsai@comcast.net)

Meeting: April 25, 2009 10:00

Where: Brandywine Town Center

Subject: *Kusamono* (companion plant) workshop

Cookies: Kathy and Bob Lorentson

Please note that the April meeting is fourth rather than the normal third Saturday of the month due to the MidAtlantic Bonsai Society meeting.

Do Your Kusamono Homework!

Go to www.bonsai-nbf.org, website of the National Bonsai Foundation, and look for references to special displays for spring http://www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/exh-spring_08_kusamono.html and the kusamono exhibition.

<http://www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/exh-kusamono.html>
Two outstanding references are Bonsai, Kusamono, Suiseki: A Practical Guide for Organizing Displays with Plants and Stones by Willi Benz; and The Four Seasons of Bonsai by Kenzo Murata.

At the April meeting, we will create our own *kusamono*. Members who have plants to share are requested to bring them; a supply will also be made available for modest amounts, from Meehan's Miniatures. Any member who has "weed pots" to make available – please do.

Study the pots shown on the NBF website, or Benz book, and bring yours to start (or profitably continue) this fascinating aspect of bonsai display. Note that many of the pots shown on the NBF website are made by Ron Lang. Ron will be our guest speaker at the May 23rd meeting, and will advise on the art of matching pot to tree (plant).

From September 26 - November 29, the NBF will hold an "Autumn Arts of Nature" exhibit at the National Arboretum. Autumn *kusamono* will be displayed with chrysanthemums, stones, and bonsai.

Features of *Kusamono*

When you are creating your arrangement, here are some points you may keep in mind for use of the *kusamono* in a display:

1. The arrangement should harmonize with the bonsai, suiseki or art object you are exhibiting.
2. The arrangement should be appropriate to the season.
3. It should indicate where the bonsai or suiseki originated (wetlands, desert, etc.).
4. The theme and beauty of the bonsai or suiseki should be accentuated by the *kusamono*.
5. The *kusamono* should be harmonious in shape, size, and color with the main object of display. (From Willi Benz)

Catching up with Colin - Colin Lewis has sent word that he is going to relocate from Salem, Massachusetts to Biddeford, Maine which is near Kennebunkport. In his new home/studio, he will be prepared to foster learning through total immersion. Check his website, colinlewis@earthlink.net, to find out what weekdays and weekends are available. Overnight accommodation is a possibility.

Nature's Way - May 8-9 will be Nature's Way 36th Open House, and will feature Suthin Sukosolvisit who has been a guest artist for our club. Friday, there will be workshops from 9 AM – 12, and from 1 PM to 4. Trees for the 8th Annual Doyle Cup bonsai design competition can be registered Friday from 9 AM to 9 PM, and Saturday until noon.

Of course, there is the great shopping!
See www.natureswaybonsai.com

Looking for a Volunteer

The annual picnic/auction will be held July 18 at Anson Nixon Park in Kennett Square. For the past few years, the club has provided hoagies from Capriotti's. Would a member volunteer to take hoagie orders and see that they are brought to the park? Please contact Nancy: Nancy.Klabunde@comcast.net, or (610) 692-7599. If you have a good hoagie shop near you – not Capriotti's – that is also acceptable!

Member Appreciation Gift

A prize that will be particularly useful at this time of the bonsai year will be awarded at the coming meeting. You have to be there to be part of the drawing. Good luck to all!

Weyerhaeuser's Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection

As mentioned at our last meeting, Weyerhaeuser's Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection closed to the public on April 2, 2009. Weyerhaeuser had dedicated a spectacular setting as the home for one of the best bonsai collections in the US. It featured over sixty outstanding bonsai donated from six Pacific Rim nations. The setting was spectacular, will all of the trees displayed elegantly in a woodland setting shown below.



I always took the time to stop by and enjoy the collection when I was in the area. David DeGroot was a charming host the last time I took my wife to see the collection, making the visit all the more enjoyable. Many of you will remember David from his lecture at Brandywine Bonsai Society.



Hopefully the collection will re-open at some point after the economy gets straightened out. In the mean time David will be taking good care of the trees. There is a good record of the collection by the Puget Sound Bonsai Association available at the link

<http://www.psba.us/pic/rim/rim.html>

Should any of you wish to comment on the collection or get in touch with David, he can be reached at david.degroot@weyerhaeuser.com

(Photos by SDI)