



Brandywine Bonsai Society

Where: Brandywine Town Center

When: Saturday, January 16, 2010, 10:00 am

Subject: Annual Jack Billet Memorial Meeting on Winter Silhouette

Pre-meeting tree counseling: Dennis Donald

Cookie person: Pat Morris

The January Meeting.

The first of the January meetings to be dedicated to the memory of Jack Billet, friend and mentor, and founder (with Dorie Froning) of Brandywine Bonsai, was January 2007.

When the officers proposed this meeting in perpetuity, they did so with the hope that the gathering would be characterized by learning and fellowship in the spirit of Jack who shared unstintingly of his great knowledge of horticulture and styling. The several past years have proved that the hope was not misplaced.

Please bring a tree (s) from storage, whether it is well potted or not, whether you plan to mount a total display or not. Owners will tell the club what their plans for the tree are, and may well in turn get a lot of good advice. Plus, we all get to enjoy the sight of trees at possibly their most glorious – bare branches in winter.

Some of us will remember what Jack would say if we were fainthearted about pruning or some other “irrevocable” step: “If not now, when? Do you want to lose another year?” The possibility of late-winter work looms, so Jack’s words have special resonance.

The MABS Spring Festival, April 16 – 18, 2010.

The Spring Festival will be held again at the Resort & Spa, Kerhonksen, NY. This year will feature three noted guest artists, Michele Andolfo from Italy, Michel Phaneuf from Canada, and Charles Ceronio from South Africa.

Mr. Ceronio will be visiting our Club after the Festival, April 24. He is a renowned expert on styling, and is author of the unsurpassed book, Bonsai Styles of the World.

Flyers, with full information about the artists, as well as forms for attending the Festival, and for making hotel reservations, will be available at the coming meeting. If you have never attended a Festival, give it serious consideration. The

demos and workshops, opportunity to shop, and the chance to rub elbows with other bonsai enthusiasts make this a really worthwhile weekend. The upper New York scenery also is a plus.

Each club is requested to contribute three trees to the Festival exhibit. Please consider showing one of your treasures.

An Idea that Might Transfer to Bonsai

A reader of Fine Gardening (February 2010) magazine shared this practice that might have appeal in the world of bonsai.

The writer, resident of Cleveland Ohio (USDA Hardiness Zone 5) has taken to protecting the roots of container-grown plants from winter cold, and from excessive moisture loss in summer, by lining her pots with thin bubble wrap or with thin bendable Styrofoam.

Provided that the pot drainage holes are clear, and the soil drains properly, this idea might have bonsai application. If anyone tries it, please report to the rest of us.

Haiku

We have fun in the past with the Haiku Challenge. Since it has been quite some time since we have had one, and since we have been experiencing an especially daunting winter, write on the thoughts/feelings of a bonsai lover when the wind whistles and snow piles.

Submit your creation to our newsletter editor, and find yourself a published author!

Refresher note: a haiku generally follows a three-line, 5-7-5 beat or syllable format. It should contain a seasonal reference. For inspiration, here is one from Master Shiki:

*See the red berries
Fallen like little footprints
On the garden snow.*

Pre-Meeting Tree Counseling

We are continuing our custom of having pre-meeting tree counseling. It has proven to be useful, and enjoyable for all involved, so we are continuing the practice in 2010. More experienced club members will be on hand to give advice about growing practices and styling, so don't miss this opportunity. Though this service is directed mostly to new and inexperienced members, old hands might like to bounce ideas about, too. This month, it could be a warm-up for the main portion of the meeting.

Membership renewal time is here

Please return forms with dues as soon as possible. While the Newsletter is provided as a PDF file to conserve digital space, this form is a Word.doc so that you can edit electronically and return it to Steve Ittel electronically. (WE WILL CROSSCHECK THAT PAYMENT IS RECEIVED.) Paper copies with check or cash can be. The deadline for renewing is the end of March. It is important that we know the membership roster by then, and have our finances in order.

BBS Programs for 2010

January 16: Jack Billet Memorial Meeting, Winter Silhouette

January sometime: National Bonsai Federation: repotting the Yamaki pine. Possible carpooling to Washington, DC

February 20: Stone Meeting - Jim Doyle on daiza and suiban. Maybe something on stones and trees together.

March 20: Open workshop

March 21: Collecting trip to Nature's Way

April 16 – 18: MABS Spring Festival, Kerhonksen, NY

April 24: Charles Ceronio, guest artist

May 8-9: (?) Nature's Way Spring Open House

May 15: Ski Dombrovski does Wisteria

June 5-6: Brandywine River Museum Show

June 12-13: National Exhibition in Rochester, NY

June 27 (a Sunday): Ted Matson styling blow-out

July 17: Picnic/Auction in Kennett Square

August 21: A workshop? Possibly repeat of the recent well-attended one.

September: Valavanis symposium, Rochester, NY

September 18: Bob Mahler presents program on azaleas and gives brief reviews of trees from Joyce Smith and Henri Vermeulen.

September 30: Stone Symposium, Grantville, PA

October 23: Ron Lang gives us one of his new programs. Maybe afternoon would be Ameriseki and set-up/sale for show at Longwood.

November 13-14, Longwood Show

November 20: Business, etc and round-robin review of trees people bring in

Directions to the Brandywine Town Center Meeting Hall

The meeting hall is a stand-alone building, removed from the commercial area, with a large glass dome on top.

From Route 202 Southbound: Shortly after crossing into Delaware on Route 202 southbound, turn left onto Naamans Road at the intersection bounded by an Exxon station and the Days Inn. At the second light, turn left into the Brandywine Town Center (You will see a large Target store) and follow the outer parking lot road right to the meeting hall.

From I-95 Northbound and 202 Northbound: Take Exit 8 Concord Pike North. Just beyond Concord Mall at the Days Inn, turn right onto Naamans Road and follow the directions above.

From I-95 Southbound: Take the I-495 and Naamans Road exit just after passing into Delaware. Take Naamans Road westbound. After passing Grubb Road, you will take the next right into Brandywine Town Center. Look for the meeting center described above but you will go left on the circling road.

