



Brandywine Bonsai Society

(EMAIL: BrandywineBonsai@comcast.net)

Meeting:, March 20, 2010 10:00

Where: Brandywine Town Center

Subject: Spring Workshop

Cookies: Bob and Kathy Lorentson

Pre-meeting Tree Counseling: It will be before, during and after. What more could you want?

Spring Workshop - Share Tips on Spring Tree Work

Spring is probably the busiest time of year in terms of bonsai work. Hard as it may be to imagine, with snow still piled, this is a great time to get a handle on your deciduous trees. Maples and crab apples are already starting to push buds. Other trees will not be far behind. Pruning and wiring will never be so easy to accomplish as now. Naturally, advice and good fellowship will abound.

Experts, real and imagined, will be available to consult with novices. This is a great opportunity to get advice on your trees. It is also a great opportunity to watch some of the better members work on their own trees. Ask them to explain what they are doing and why.

Please bring newspapers or plastic sheeting to cover your work area. It will make clean-up easier, especially with the new (and more difficult to clean) floor covering in the BTC.

Collecting Trip at Nature's Way , Sunday, March 21

Jim Doyle, our recent speaker, and proprietor of Nature's Way Nursery, has again offered our club members the opportunity to roam over the acreage adjacent to the Nursery, and find hornbeams, apples, maples, and many other trees. The expedition also is a good chance to find companion plants. There is a small fee per plant to defray Nursery expenses. Bring your own digging equipment and pots, burlap, etc. for containing your treasures. All people interested should be at Nature's Way by 10:00 AM. Specific ground rules about the trip will be given at the coming meeting, or will appear in a special notice sent in a few days.

In the meantime, directions to Nature's Way are as follows:

Directions to Nature's Way Nursery

Take US-202 N and/or PA-100 N. Enter the Pennsylvania Turnpike Westbound (Toll). Go about 65 miles. Take exit number 19, toward I-283 East Harrisburg, Hershey. Follow signs for I-81 N. Take exit number 72B toward Linglestown. You will be on North Mountain Road. Go one mile to the "town square." At the circle and flagpole, turn right onto Linglestown Road. In 1.5 miles you will see a yellow sign on the left for Nature's Way. Turn left into Nature's Way. Total distance about 100 miles. Estimated Time about 2 hours.



Dues Due. Do dues.
Skoobie doobi do.

We are nearing the cut-off date for paying dues and being officially on the club roster. Please make an extra effort, if you haven't already, to get money and information sheets to Greg. Steve will be keeping his list and checking it twice. Gonna find out who is naughty and nice.

Last Call for Mid-Atlantic Festival

There still is time to register for the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival at the Resort & Spa in Kerhonksen, NY, April 16-18. Prices go up for registrations made after April 1, so consider getting your registration in before the end of this month. Registration forms will be available at the coming meeting.

Companion Plants

If your repotting this spring will include dividing companion plants, and you find yourself with more of some variety than you really want, please make them available at future meetings. 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 at the MABS Spring Festival.

Photographing your trees

A couple of times a year you ought to take photos of your bonsai. It is useful to keep a running record of how they change over time. Spring is usually a great time to record, particularly deciduous trees – you can still see the branch structure and make decisions for the future.

If you have Photoshop, it is possible to do virtual pruning of your trees. Clip a branch off. If you don't like it, Undo is an option that is not available in real life bonsai.



Other Spring Chores

Not ready to work on trees yet? Clean pots. We all have got pots on the shelves that could use a good scrubbing. Get out that old soil and sanitize them with Clorox or peroxide. If you have that tartar-like crusts of calcium around the rim, they will take more work.

The glaze used by the potter will determine how tightly these deposits adhere to the pot. Unglazed (or matt-finished) pots are more difficult to really clean. Scrub with a toothbrush using vinegar to get the easiest deposits off. You might want to graduate to steel wool. Want to try something novel to remove iron stains and lime deposits? Tang works wonders. Make up a strong batch of Tang in hot water and immerse the pot. In a day or two, it will be clean. Don't worry about the orange dye in the Tang – it doesn't stain pots – just carpets and clothes. For those of you domestically inclined, tang will also remove brown iron deposits from toilet bowls. And rust and lime from dishwashers – just run a cycle with the dishwasher empty, using half a cup of Tang. (Tang contains citric acid and ascorbic acid. The combination is very good at dissolving iron and calcium. I also use Tang for my annual coffee pot cleaning at work.)