



Brandywine Bonsai Society

(EMAIL: BrandywineBonsai@comcast.net)

Meeting: April 24, 2010 10:00am

Where: Brandywine Town Center

Subject: Charles Ceronio from Praetoria, South Africa

Cookies: Nancy Klabunde

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

April 24th Meeting - Mr. Charles Ceronio will be a featured artist at the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival, April 16 -18, 2010. He is visiting most of the clubs that are members of MABS in the week following the Festival. Fortunately, Brandywine Bonsai is one of the clubs.

Charles Ceronio started growing bonsai in 1968. He is the President and was co-founder of the Pretoria Bonsai Kai, in 1981. Charles and a small group of South African bonsai growers attended the 25th Anniversary of the California Bonsai Society on the invitation of John Naka. Charles was Mr. Naka's assistant in Pretoria during his numerous visits to South Africa. Charles has been a John Naka disciple ever since. Other great masters who had an influence on Charles are Ben Oki and Roy Nagatoshi. Charles gave a talk on "The Winds of Change to Indigenous Bonsai Styles for South Africa" at the first bonsai convention held in Cape Town in 1980. At that convention, he introduced South African bonsai enthusiasts to six new African styles that he had created. Charles's favorite bonsai style is, surprisingly, not the Pierneef or Baobab styles, but rather forest plantings. In 1999, he published his book, *Bonsai Styles of the World*. Regarded as the bonsai bible on styles, a second edition was published in 2004. During 1999 and 2000, two of Charles's trees were selected as being among the 100 best trees in the world in the JAL World Bonsai Contest held under the auspices of the Nippon Bonsai Association. He was a headliner at the 2005 World Bonsai Convention in Washington, DC. At present, Charles is working on a book on indigenous plants suitable for bonsai in Southern Africa.

At the MidAtlantic Spring Festival, he will present two lecture/demonstrations, and will conduct a critique of exhibit trees.

At the BBS meeting, Mr. Ceronio will discuss styling, and will work on the collected apple tree provided by Ski Dombrovski and pictured here. This is a tree with a history. It was collected about 10 years ago during a dig at Natures Way. From there, it went to Delaware for several years and now is in its second location, i.e., settled, ground grown in New Jersey.

Now it awaits a third home. So, it is no stranger to being ground grown, being dug up and put in a container. It now is in its third container (the box), and waits a bonsai pot in the near future.



Ski has made a pledge to whoever becomes the next owner: This is a large tree, and he will deliver it to the owner's home. If the new owner needs help with re-potting next fall (mid-November preferable), he will help, free of charge. Just provide a container, the dimensions for which will be announced at the meeting.

It Isn't too Late - You can still arrange to attend the MABS Spring Festival. Go to the MABS website at: <http://www.midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com>. In addition to the vendors and presentations by guest artists, you will be able to witness the Joshua Roth New Talent Competition, Friday, April 16, 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m. The bonsai world's hottest new artists often

emerge here. You might also want to consider a day trip though it is a bit long. The vendors and exhibition are excellent and alone make the trip worthwhile.

Nature's Way - May 7-8 will be Nature's Way 37th Open House, and will feature Kathy Shaner who has been a guest artist for our club. There will be workshops and of course, there is the great shopping! See the attached newsletter and www.natureswaybonsai.com.

Getting Ready for the Brandywine River Museum Show – Our annual spring show in the courtyard of the Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford, is coming up at the beginning of June. There are a number of things you might want to consider now.

Prepare your tree for a show over a period of time. Avoid showing a tree that has been newly repotted - the tree should be repotted at least 3-4 months in advance of the show. Showing a tree with wires on it is not ideal but if it is necessary the wires should not be apparent - possibility hiding or visually minimizing the wires with black marker. Water the tree well prior to showing - you want your tree to have every advantage going into a show.

The pot should be shown with a "good front" – that is the side of the pot that has the most visual interest. If you are so lucky to have a tree with two fronts, a small label can be placed on the back of the pot to indicate to tree-watchers that the tree is shown with the correct front.

A pot with rough feet can scratch a fine bonsai display stand. Grind the feet of your pot on a piece of wood with a file or a grinding stone to remove rough spots. Use felt tabs placed on the bottom of the pot's feet to prevent the scratching of the stands. Make sure to clean the pot well and remove all traces of lime buildup on the pot. This can be done using vinegar, CLR or lime away. Baby oil can be used to add a final luster to the pot, but avoid oiling just before the show so that it has a chance to naturalize.

It is certainly not a necessity to have moss on a tree, but if it has not started growing naturally and you want moss, it should go onto the tree at least six weeks ahead of time, so that it is well established. It can really look bad to have moss drying out and curling up during a show. Another issue with placing moss is that squirrels and birds will find loose, newly placed moss attractive. I know they are picking it off my trees at the most inopportune moments.

The National Arboretum – Message from Dennis - As a member of the "Board" at the National Arboretum, we are increasingly being asked to solicit more dues-paying members. I haven't been very pro-active about doing this but plan to be doing so in the near future. Government funding for the Arboretum and consequently for the NBF (privately funded on the

campus)/ infrastructure, has dropped dramatically and I think that this has been a major factor in the resignation of the former director of the Arboretum, Tom Elias - a very strong supporter of bonsai and suiseki. He is moving to California where the climate in the Asian arts - as perhaps the regional one is much, much better.

Perhaps we could consider another bus trip to the Arboretum sometime so that more of our membership becomes aware of what THEY own and should be supporting. We, as a club have always been generous supporters of the collection but more needs to be done on an individual level. I have to admit that the actual payback for the modest NBF membership is a quarterly newsletters with updates on the state of the collection, etc. It also provides information about things like a new blog. The author of the blog is Arboretum horticulturist Chris Upton who has oversight of the Asian Collections. This blog is a complement to Wayne Schoech's "*Bonsai Bark*" blog and like that blog it has a well written and witty style. If you look at it regularly it will give you a good idea of what is happening on the grounds of the Arboretum, including occasional entries on the Museum such as the one last week on the Ikebana exhibit that is currently in the Special Exhibits Wing.

http://1003gardens.blogspot.com/2010_03_28_archive.html

We were the second club on the east coast to bring bonsai masters like John Naka and Yuji Yoshimura to our local venue. LWG brought Yuji, in 1969 I believe although he had been teaching in his up-state nursery for sometime before that. PBS, under the direction of Ernesta Ballard (founder of the Philly Flower Show) brought John out here for a convention in about 1970 or perhaps 1971. He became a regular visitor and the full week "Camp Bonsai" began at Chase Rosade's shortly thereafter and lasted for almost ten years - although the duration became shorter and shorter as the years progressed - oh what memories!

