



BRANDYWINE BONSAI SOCIETY



Annual Jack Billet Memorial Meeting on Winter Silhouette

Brandywine Town Center

Saturday, January 21, 2012, 10:00 am

Pre-meeting tree counseling will be available

January Meeting

The first Jack Billet Memorial meeting was held January 20, 2007. The words of that newsletter apply as well now as they did then.

“For several years, we have brought our trees out of storage for this program. Please bring tree(s) that demonstrate silhouette whether they are potted or not, whether you can mount a total display or not. The owners will discuss their trees, what future work they plan, and anything of interest about the pots, and principles of presentation.”

When the officers dedicated this meeting to Jack’s memory, they did so because the fellowship and learning that have become hallmarks of these gatherings are so much in the spirit of Jack. Many of us have fond memories of Jack’s unfailing willingness to share his great knowledge of horticulture and styling, his respectful support of our efforts, and his affection and humor.

Please plan to attend and bring a tree for discussion. For new individuals, this is one of the most informative meetings of the year because it is possible to look within the structure of the trees and see what the future brings.

Some of us will remember what Jack would say if we were faint-hearted 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 MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival, April 20-22

The 29th annual MABS Spring Festival starts Friday evening, April 20, and continues through Sunday afternoon, April 22, 2012. It is being held at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey hotel.

Bonsai artists this year include Isoa Omachi of Japan, Mario Komsta of Spain, and John (JT) Thompson of the USA. They will present lecture/demonstrations, workshops, and critiques of bonsai. Registrants will have weekend-long opportunities to observe and spend time with the artists at breakout sessions between demonstrations, and to view the MABS member clubs’ Bonsai Exhibit and the Professional Invitational Artists’ Bonsai Exhibit. In addition, bonsai vendors will be on site offering a large selection of bonsai, bonsai-related plants, containers, tools, books and other supplies.

The Festival’s opening lecture/demonstration, starts at 8:00 p.m., and will be given by John Thompson. Their styled trees will be raffled following the completion of styling.

This year will also feature the MABS regional runoff for the ABS-supported Joshua Roth New Talent Competition. It will take place on Friday, 8

am–5 pm. Registrants are welcome to observe these emerging artists working on their contest entries.

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 2012. 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. And it is an opportunity for those who have some experience to test their skills or thoughts by commenting before in front of an experienced member. All will certainly learn. This month, it is a warm-up for the main portion of the meeting.

Membership renewal time is here

Please return forms with dues as soon as possible – preferably in the mail or at the next meeting so we can get this behind us. While the Newsletter is provided as a PDF file to conserve digital space, the attached dues form is a Word.doc so that you can edit electronically and return it to

Brandywine Bonsai Society BrandywineBonsai@Comcast.net

President, Nancy Klabunde; Treasurer and Shows, Greg Kanaskie; Newsletter Editor, Steve Ittel (302) 778-4546

Steve Ittel in the mail or electronically. It is important that we receive a form from each of you simply as a matter of bookkeeping. We have made errors in the past, but it is easier to sort them out if we have a completed form. (*For electronic returns, we will crosscheck that payment is received.*) 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, Ameriseki and other Bonsai Programs for 2012

January 21. The Jack Billet Memorial Meeting on Winter Silhouette.

Bring your trees in whatever stage of development and share your plans for them. This is a chance to practice staging and share those principles as well. (BTC)

February 18. New techniques in tree carving. Dennis Donald. (BTC)

March 17. A demonstration on creating the raft style and perhaps one other by Jim Gillespie. The demo tree(s) will be raffled. (BTC)

April 20 – 22. The MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival, Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA.

For most members, Grantville is a 1 and ½ to 2 hour drive. It is worth the effort to attend for a day if not for the entire weekend.

May 19. Azalea growth and styling with some notable plants offered for sale. Ski Dombrovski – of course. (BTC)

June 2-3. Annual show at the Brandywine River Museum.

June 16. Growing and styling Ilex. Demo tree to be raffled. Rob King (BTC)

July 21. The annual picnic/auction at Anson Nixon Park, Kennett Square, PA

August 18. Workshop: an opportunity to catch up on work that has gotten away from you during the summer, to get ideas from other members, and to help those less experienced. You will be on your own for any food/drink. (BTC)

September 15.
TBA

October 20.
Possible program and workshop on scrolls by Sean Smith. (BTC)



November 17. Business meeting; other program TBA. (BTC)

Early in month, our annual show at Longwood Gardens. Date to be announced.

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.

These directions and a detailed map are available all the time on the directions page of the new BBS Website.

U.S. Postal Service and National Bonsai Foundation Join Forces

A series of Forever stamps depicting bonsai will be issued by the U.S. Postal service sometime in 2012. Efforts to honor the bonsai art form in this manner have been made for the past 10 years with petitions circulated among clubs all over the country. Brandywine Bonsai participated and sent the petition to the petition organizers Eunice Corp of Cadillac, Michigan and Jerry Antel of Columbia, Missouri.

Stamp designers from the USPS, with advice from NBF staff members Jim Hughes (former Museum curator) and Jack Sustic (present curator), pushed the endeavor forward. The actual art work was done by John Dawson of Hawaii.

When the stamps appear, be sure to get some for your personal use and collection of bonsai memorabilia. They will be available until they are sold out.