

# Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

## Three Short Programs: "Collecting Yardodori" by Greg, "Bonsai soil" by Everyone and "Mycorrhizae" by Rob

Brandywine Town Center

Saturday, February 15, 2020, 10:00 am

Pre-meeting coffee and tree counseling will be available. **Cookie Person:** Roberta Carlson

**Yardodori:** With a highest elevation of 447.85', Delaware is not an optimal location for collecting mountain Yamadori. But we have some great "Yardodori" available. Trees growing up in Delaware (or PA or NJ) can get some character by being neglected or abandoned by neighbors or pruned by deer. Greg will discuss the creation of bonsai from trees collected from those that have been planted by a person (e.g. homeowner, landscaper, etc.) for something other than bonsai use. About 50% of Steve and Rob's trees have been rescued from hedgerows, flower gardens, yard renovation projects, construction sites and even a juniper from a gas station when the sales agent was putting up her For Sale sign.

**BBS Member's Bonsai Mixes:** Once you have that new tree, you will want to get the Delaware clay off the roots, but then what soil to use and why? By the time we actually meet for this meeting, some of us will have already begun to repot trees. This is a good time to discuss what we are putting our trees into. I can think of nothing more unique to each bonsai artist, with the exception of fertilizer use, than the composition of one's recipe for bonsai soil. This month we are going to hold a round table discussion in which any member who would like can bring a sample of their bonsai soil(s) to pass around and discuss. I would like to create a "recipe booklet" on the different soil recipes of our members. If you would like to be included, please send me the recipe for your mix (I am suggesting you list the components and how many "parts" of each). Send your recipe(s) to me at shenking@msn.com.

**Mycorrhizae:** To go along with the bonsai soil portion of our program, Rob will give a short update on mycorrhizae and its use in keeping your bonsai healthy. He will talk about what he has learned from just finishing the new book, "Teaming with Fungi, The Organic Grower's Guide to Mycorrhizae" by Jeff Lowenfels. Rob's mycorrhizae mix will be available for purchase at the meeting.

### MABS Raffle Ticket

At the end of this month's meeting, we will name the winner of the MABS registration raffle. Tickets are 1 for \$1.00, 6 tickets for \$5.00 or 15 tickets for \$10. You need to be at the meeting to win. Please see Roberta for ticket sales.

### Dues are Due

If you haven't already, plan to get your 2019 dues paid soon – this month preferably! The deadline is the end of March at which time the membership roll will be cleaned up. Also, make sure your checks/cash are accompanied by the information sheet so we can maintain accurate records. Please complete the form and return it with a check made out to Brandywine Bonsai Society to:

**Greg Kanaskie**  
133 North Wawaset Rd.  
West Chester, PA 19382

### Brooklyn Botanical Garden Bus Trip

Rob still is signing people up for the club's June 13 bus trip to the Brooklyn Botanical Garden Bus Trip. The cost to club members is \$5.00 and \$20.00 for non-club members (for any seats available after the member sign-up date).

### Surprise Raffles

Occasionally the BBS will hold random raffles of items donated or purchased by the club. This month we will raffle off an approximately 60 year old, mint condition, art display table/cascade stand. It is 3' tall with a 12" x 12" table.

### 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, but we would like to make the process a bit less formalized. The counselling is often dominated by the more experienced club members and there are those who appreciate that. But others, who might have

significantly different opinions should be willing to be on hand to give advice about growing practices and styling. We will designate an area for a “*Speed-Dating*” process to connect those who want help with those who can provide help.

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 in front of a novice or an experienced member. All will certainly learn. This month, it is a warm-up for the main portion of the meeting so don’t miss this opportunity.

### **2020 Brandywine Bonsai Schedule (Modifications)**

This year’s meetings are as follows:

**January 18:** BTC. Winter silhouette

**February 15:** BTC. Two shorter programs: “Collecting Yardodori” and “A Discussion of Bonsai soil”

**March 21:** Kendall at Longwood (Directions next month) Literati demonstration by Jim Gillespie

**April 17-19:** MABS No BBS Meeting

**May 16:** BTC. Three 30-minute programs: “Selecting Nursery stock,” “Initial Potting of New Material,” and “Repotting Established Trees”

**June 13:** Brooklyn Botanical Gardens bus trip funded by BBS

**July 18:** Nixon Park. Auction and picnic

**August 15:** Nixon Park Workshop

**September 19:** Mark Huff’s nursery. Members’ show-and-tell from trees from the past

**October 17:** BTC. Longwood display discussion

**October 24-25:** Longwood show

**November 21:** BTC. Members Garage Sale/Business meeting

### **MABS Registration Raffle:**

Remember that there is going to be a great program at MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival. Details are online.

To encourage more BBS participation in MABS, we are raffling off a registration to club members. You can buy your raffle tickets from Roberta for the low price of 1 ticket for \$1.00, 6 tickets for \$5.00 and 15 for \$10.00. Each member can only purchase a maximum of \$10.00 worth of tickets regardless if you have an Individual or Family membership (must be a current member to participate). Tickets will be available at the January and February meetings. The winning ticket will be pulled at the end of the February meeting. **You must be present to win because we are only paying for early bird**

**registration which ends not that much later than our meeting.** You will have your choice of the registration for the full weekend (\$160) with Saturday night dinner/auction (\$47), or lesser registrations which might reduce out-of-pocket hotel costs. There are also great workshops and critiques and a tempting vendor area.

### **Inclement Weather Notifications**

Should we have snow or other inclement weather for a meeting, please check your email for a late announcement. We will try to get the email announcements out with ample warning, but once in a while we get surprised. You can call Steve Iltel at 302 778-4546 as a last resort. I leave pretty early for meetings to get that essential coffee brewing, but my wife will patiently answer the phone.



### **The Weather**

I guess that I am going to keep commenting about this year’s weather simply because it is not cooperating. I had a number of trees put away for winter naps that are having insomnia issues. Japanese and Chinese quinces are fully budded out. Buds are pushing on my crab apples and maples. This means that those trees are outside to soak up the available sun and will move back into the garage if we have any hard freezes. But Punxsutawney Phil’s prediction is that we are about done.

