

Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

Jerome Kellerhals on “Summer Care of Tropicals”

Virtual Meeting, 10:00 until 11:30

Logon details below

This month's meeting will be presented by and hosted by Jerome Kellerhals from The Bonsai Supply. He is originally from Sweden but now residing in Florida, where he says he developed his true love of bonsai. Being in Florida, he focuses mostly on those trees that we commonly refer to as “tropicals”. He is known to be a “rule breaker”. For example, he has redefined the “root over rock” style to “root over statue” (see the picture below). He is recognized as one of the top tropical bonsai artists in the U.S. and his work has been featured worldwide from his many articles in *Bonsai Focus*, one of the top international bonsai magazines.



He has a retail presence on Etsy, eBay and Amazon, which are all accessible through his website, <https://thebonsaisupply.com>. Also through his website, he offers online boot-camps (\$5.00 crash courses on particular species), study groups and one-on-one lessons. I am really looking forward to his program and hope that you are too. This is a rare chance for our club to be exposed to this level of learning on the topic of tropical trees, which more and more of us are adding to our collections.

For you dog lovers, he and his wife are very active in rescuing dogs through Good Karma Pet Rescue and have fostered over 30 dogs.....

Meeting Logon Information

Jerome will control the technology at his end to run the meeting. Please use the following Zoom address to access his program:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7862698404>.

This Month in Bonsai

This is a month with a lot to do on your bonsai. Recommendations for things to watch:

1. If you haven't been staying ahead of your maples, get started now. There will be lots of long shoots that need to be taken back to two leaves to promote ramification. This might entail taking off as much as 80% of a shoot; even if it is at 10 leaves, take it back to 2. Shoots headed up or down can probably be taken off completely. While you have probably started feeding you

other trees, it is best to hold off on the maples until June just to control the initial burst of growth.

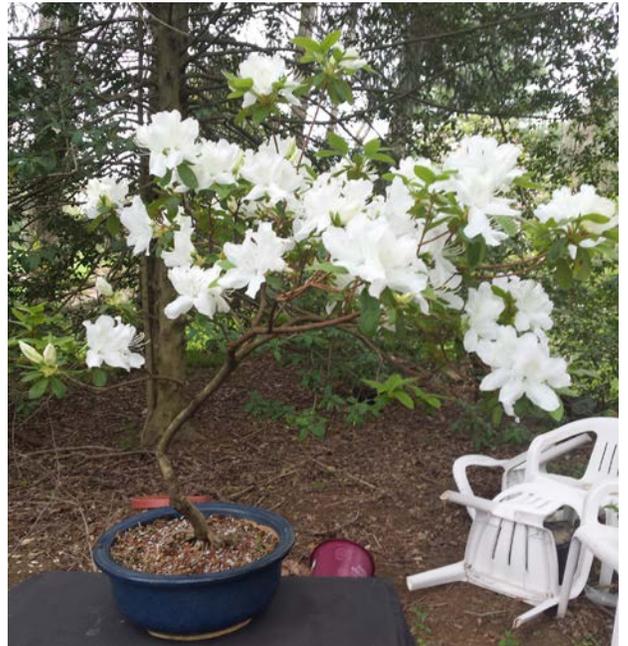
2. We have all shared lots of pictures of people's azaleas in bloom (See some below). They are a real blessing to enjoy in the spring. But they can be a lot of work. After the flowers drop, you really ought to pinch off all of the remaining flower remnants. This will make sure the trees don't put all of their energy into supporting the seed growth. This is also a great time to re-style the trees. Flatten the branches out into discernable pads, removing the uppers and downers. Cut back long shoots and think about wiring, realizing that wire quickly scars thin azalea bark. This will make some room for the flowers next year and enhance the look of your tree.

3. Did you get your fungicide onto the crab apples at the right time? How are they looking? Apparently, I treated too late and have a lot of apple cedar rust this year. I will be removing most of the affected leaves; the defoliation will promote fresh burst of leaves without the unsightly orange spotting. There can also be damage to fruit that set; that will become apparent later in the season and you may have to remove those apples for aesthetic reasons.

If you have any damage from the unsightly orange blobs on your junipers, remove the damaged foliage and dispose of the cuttings to minimize next year's issues.

4. Now is a good time to take hardwood cuttings from trees that you might want to propagate. The larches that the club passed out a couple years ago are good examples. Mine were getting too tall, so I cut the tops off. I stuck the tops into the soil in the bonsai container and they have already rooted, doubling the number of trees in my group planting and providing some diversity in tree age and caliper.

Some club members have had a hard time keeping their larch alive. Larch do not like to dry out, so I have tried a different approach for mine. My bonsai pot is actually sitting in water. (If you look at pictures of larch in nature in New England, they are often in bogs.) It stayed outside all winter, unprotected, in that state and the trees are doing great. In the summer heat, I keep them wet and move them out of the hot sun, but I do not take them into air conditioning as some of you do.



Stay happy. Stay healthy.

Vaccinated? We are planning some in-person meetings.