



Brandywine Bonsai Society

Friday Evening, June 10, 2011 7:00 PM

Min Hsuan Lo presents a program on refinement of trees
Brandywine Town Center, Naamans Road

Please Note that this program is Friday evening, June 10 at 7:00 PM

Our Speaker

Min Hsuan Lo received the grand prize of the JAL World Bonsai Contest in 1999 and he has won several other honors since. He was one of the headliners at BCI 2004 in Taiwan and has traveled to Malaysia, the Philippines, South Africa, India, and the USA. He looks forward to more trips abroad to share his knowledge and to also learn more about bonsai in other countries.

Lo was born in 1956 in Central Bonsai Garden. The family bonsai nursery was built by his father in 1947. As a child, Lo was at his father's side learning the art of bonsai. After graduating from the University of Tam Kang in Taiwan where he studied Chinese literature, Lo returned home to learn more about bonsai, not only from his father but also from every master in Taiwan.

He began teaching bonsai in Taiwan in 1992. In 2001 he started bonsai in Ken Kuo Technical University and in 2004, he became the bonsai teacher at Pei Tou Community University.

Lo is stopping with Brandywine Bonsai, one of several club stops, on his way to the ABS/BCI Convention in Louisville where he is a headliner. You can learn more about him at www.knowledgeofbonsai.org/min-hsuan-lo/index.php.

Interesting Exchange on the Subject of Moss

Nancy mentioned to BBS member and VP Dennis Donald (and member of the Board of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum,

Washington, DC) that the spring flyer/program from the museum is a poster of a Trident maple, styled since from 1895, gift of Prince Takamatsu. This gorgeous tree has not a shred of moss. To moss or not to moss? There seems real pressure to show trees with moss. N then asked D whether he knows about standards on this subject. Dennis replied:

Moss on bonsai is never good health-wise and the trees at the Arb (ed. Arboretum) are always on display so there is no "brief show-time" period when moss would be tolerated unless they were perhaps doing a special photo shoot, but as you noted, they didn't even bother to 'moss-up' the Takamatsu tree. From what I've seen in Japan, the trees in the growing areas have no moss, weeds, or little animals on them. The 'soil' surface looks pristine. However, they do apply moss for major shows – and rent \$10K pots! The moss and the pot go away from the day the show ends. The only long-term exceptions are the satsuki which have a layer of sphagnum moss on them which is necessary because kanuma is inherently soft and easily broken down on the surface by watering. I don't know if you have used kanuma but it is amazing, given how soft it is, how well it maintains its granular integrity in the absence of mechanical abuse. That's why the fine satsuki roots love it so much - they can penetrate the particles and draw much more sustenance than if they were just inhabiting the interstitial spaces around more impervious soil particles like akadama, Turface, and gravel.

Fred Knobloch shared the following: *Walter Pall has just published pics of trees he's entering in an exhibit. Click on the address to*

bring it up. None of the trees have any moss. If you go down to the comments/questions, you'll see why. Traditionally, the Japanese have put moss on their trees. Interesting (if true.) <http://water-pall-bonsai.blogspot.com/2011/05/botanical-garden-munich-2011-1.html/>

If you want to share ideas on this subject, contact the editor at lttelBOK@comcast.net.

Maintaining Your Bonsai.

Occasionally, we will bring you some timeless tips given in the now defunct Bonsai Today. The following comes from 1997-3, p. 55.

Watering is not a matter of simply drawing water; it is knowing how to see; how to touch, and how to wait.

Watering is the cardinal point of basic care. The health of your trees depends on this task.

Although you may know that when the soil dries out you need to water, in reality watering is not so simple since each pot dries out in a different way.

To know when you have to water, look at the surface of the soil and see if it is dry, and taking on a pale color. It is difficult to know precisely when to water especially in summer when the heat dries the surface of the soil rapidly; one way of finding out is to simply pinch small amount of soil in the corner of the pot. On smaller trees, just pick up the pot and sense the weight.

Another method is to insert a chopstick into the root ball. On a daily basis, remove the chopstick and determine the water content by touching the portion that was below the soil mix. When the chopstick is on the dry side (but not completely dry), it is time to water.

When you water, always check the drainage; if water is not leaving the surface of the soil, prick it with a chopstick in order to facilitate the penetration of the water.

After watering, note whether the water runs freely through the holes in the pot. It is also good

to then tip the pots in order to help the water run out.

As the water that filled the pores is absorbed by the roots, fresh air is drawn into the mix. By watering, you not only provide water for the plant's roots but also aerate the soil.

When a tree needs water, be patient. Water it several times in succession to ensure that water is well distributed throughout the pot. Make sure that water exits freely through the drainage holes.

The Picnic/Auction

July 16 is the date for the always fun-filled picnic/auction. This year, it will be a major event because we will be offering trees, pots and books from several estates. Pat Morris is a major contributor. One again, unrivaled auctioneer Dennis Donald will be at the helm with humor and useful information about the items offered. Don't miss this rare opportunity.

In memoriam – Bill MacNeill

Bill MacNeill, a long term member of BBS, died May 2. He was also in the Wallingford Club. In addition to bonsai, Bill was interested in suiseki and tried his hand at making stands for stones and bonsai. He frequently received gifts of nice pieces of wood were from his children. He also had an encyclopedic knowledge of classical music. I never knew him to not be good humored, and gallantly doffing his dashing hat to the ladies.

The Kennett Collection

In May we had a wonderful opportunity to visit the majestic Kennett Collection. Viewing this truly overwhelming selection of important bonsai masterpieces was inspirational. The garden setting certainly does justice to these trees – as one walks from one area to the next, the mood of the layout changes and provides new surprises. Thanks to our gracious hosts.

