

Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

Steve Ittel on Forest Bonsai
Saturday, April 19, 2025, 10:00 am
Mark Huf's Nursery

Cookie Person: **Jason Petrak**

Membership

Annual membership fees are due again. The costs are unchanged. Twenty dollars for an individual, \$25 for a family. See attached registration/dues form and send payment to Karin Simmat as soon as possible OR pay at the meeting. Please fill out all the information requested to keep the BBS records accurate. Karin Simmat, 263 Green Briar Court, Newtown Square, PA 19073-2126.

April Forest Meeting

Steve Ittel will lead the April meeting on forest/clump/group plantings. It will be held at Mark Huf's nursery (Directions Below). The first part of the meeting will critique a number of forest plantings by members. For those members who already have forest or clump plantings and would be willing to discuss them, please bring them along – particularly if they are easily transported. When the discussion portion of the meeting concludes, some of the newer members will participate in a planting workshop. Other members are welcome and encouraged to stay to observe and discuss the process. Please bring something for lunch because we will work into the afternoon.

Plastic trays suitable for forest plantings will be available at a discounted price, but you are also welcome to bring your own pot. Forest plantings can also be started in wooden boxes, particularly if you want to establish an unusual shape. For those of you who ultimately want your forest on a slab, it is generally best to get them started in a pot or box and then move them to a slab when the root systems have meshed together to form one continuous root mass. Drills will be available for making holes in plastic pots or wooden boxes to locate wires to tie down the trees. Club wire and other materials will be available. It would be best to bring your own soil but some will be available. Mark Huf will have a wide variety of plant materials available for sale for deciduous or coniferous forests.

Directions to Mark's:

Take Route 1 to Oxford, PA. Exit onto 472N. Take the first left onto Bethel Road. Stay on Bethel. Go right at the stop sign and then straight through the four-way stop. Take fourth driveway on the right. There is a big sign.

Mark Huf
257 Bethel Rd.
Oxford, PA 19363

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Symposium

The MABS 2025 meeting is scheduled for April 11-13 at the Harrisburg- Hershey Holiday Inn, 604 Station Road in Grantville, PA. This annual meeting is quite good and highly recommended. BBS membership will be well represented, but it is also possible for others to attend for just a day. Access to many vendors and a nice Bonsai Exhibit would make the trip worthwhile. Local vendors are also having open-houses Sunday afternoon, so catch the symposium and vendors in the morning and an open house in the afternoon.

Crown Custom Bonsai

I will be bringing my usual tools and wire to the meeting. In addition, I will be bringing pots, stands and bonsai magazines to sell. Come ready to buy; as I run out of items, I will not be restocking. If there are items that you want, please let me know so I can bring them. Sorry, I have no bonsai mix to sell. Much of it is sitting in my sister's driveway in MI and what I am working on now will have to stay with me because I will not have the ability to get a lot of the individual components in MI. I recommend ordering your bonsai mix needs from Bonsai Jack in FL. It is high quality, pre-screened, a great price and with shipping even if it has many large bags.

Surface: If you are interested in obtaining large bags of Surface (40 lb bags) let me know ASAP and I will get you some and bring it to the meeting or have it here at my sale (see the next section). It is pretty small grained;

about the size of a popcorn kernel but it works very well for my accents and smaller bonsai and as a top dressing for my larger bonsai.

I don't know the exact price because it has been a year since I purchased any and at that time it was \$30.00 a bag so I am guessing it's somewhere between \$35.00 and \$40.00.

Crown Custom Bonsai's Blow Out Sale

On Saturday, April 29 from 9:30 to 4:00, I will be hosting a huge sale at my place (1432 Cider Knoll Way, West Chester, PA 19382), in which all of my inventory (tools and wire), stands, magazines and over 80 pots (training, mica, good quality, and hand-made American, English, Czech Republic, Chinese, and Italian pots of the highest quality) will be on sale. The pots range in size from accent plant size to rather large. The training pots will range in price from \$1.00 to \$10.00 and for the display pots from \$5.00 to several hundred dollars.

Bring a shovel and some loppers and dig up some forsythia bushes for your collection.

If you have questions or can't find your way, call me at 484-354-2473.

Hope to see you there!!!

The 2025 BBS schedule

April 19: Forest Planting with Steve Ittel (Mark Huf's)

May 17: Marco Invernizzi Demonstration (Mark Huf's)

June 21: Your Bonsai with Mark Arpag (LG HH))

July 19: Club Auction and Lunch (ABN Park)

August 16: Concrete Slabs with Steve Ittel (ABN Park)

September 20: TBD (BTC)

October 18: Sergio Cuan (BTC)

November 15: Business Meeting and Garage Sale (BTC)

BTC = Brandywine Town Center, Wilmington, DE
ABN Park = Anson B Nixon Park, Kennett, PA
Mark Huf's = Huf Landscaping, Oxford, PA
LG HH = Longwood Gardens Headhouse
TBD= to be determined

Other Bonsai Events of Interest

Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies (MABS) Convention, April 11-13, 2025 at Holiday Inn in Grantville, PA

Open House at Jim Doyle's Natures' Way Bonsai Nursery, after MABS closes on April 13, 1451

Pleasant Hill Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112. Located very near the Holiday Inn where MABS will be held.

American Bonsai Societies (ABS) Learning Seminars,

September 12 & 13, 2025 DoubleTree, 1111

Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY 14623

9th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition, September 12 & 13, 2025, Rochester, NY

MABS has an opening for Secretary. This job involves taking notes at the board meetings which are monthly but not for all months. If you are interested in the workings of Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies and/or want to get to know more local bonsai enthusiasts, this is your chance. If interested, contact Carl Achhammer Jr., 570-709-3848.

Free Classified Ads: We are still carrying your classified ads in the newsletter for free. Are you planning on selling things that will not be included in the silent auction and that you want the club to be aware so they can bring some extra money, are offering some sort of bonsai-related services, or maybe you are heading to Nature's Way and are offering to pick things up for our members. You can send this info to Karin Simmat (ksimmat@verizon.net) for inclusion in the next newsletter. Title your email "BBS Classified Ad".

Review of Gabe Funke' Native Plants Talk

Thank you, Gabe, it was a very informative and interesting presentation.



Gabe started with a brief introduction of himself, explaining that he has been toying with native plants as bonsai for years.

He first acknowledged that Asian species are traditionally used for bonsai. With that he proceeded into a discussion of the pros and cons of numerous native plants. Plants he discussed were red maple, ironwood/musclewood, American beech, sweet gum, Osage orange, Pitch pine, Loblolly pine, Virginia pine, white oak group, willow oak, American elm, and some other promising species.

If anyone wants details from Gabe's presentation on a particular species, I, Karin, have a photo I can send you.