

Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

Wiring with Karen Harkaway
Saturday, June 15, 2024, 10:00 am
Headhouse at Longwood Gardens

May Cookie Person: Jerry DiBello

June Program

For the second year in a row, we're welcoming Dr. Karen Harkaway as our guest speaker. This year, she'll be teaching us about successful wiring and leading a hands-on demonstration. If you have aluminum wire, please bring different gauges if you'd like to practice. The club wire caddy will also be available. Bring a small or medium sized tree you want to wire. Branches and pipe cleaners will be provided as well.

Dr. Harkaway is a member of the Pennsylvania Bonsai Society, has served on the National Bonsai Foundation Board of Directors, and is currently the President of the American Bonsai Society. In April of this year, she displayed a Colorado blue spruce at the MABS Spring Festival, and afterwards, it was donated to the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum in Washington D.C.

Map of Longwood's House



Address: 1010 East Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford, PA

Plants that we are not allowed to bring into LG facilities:

- 1) Any cultivar of boxwood
- 2) Any cultivar of chrysanthemum

Thoroughly inspect any tree you bring to the meeting for signs of disease or insects. Only healthy, pest-free trees may be brought.

Meeting Giveaway (ROB King)

This month our give-away will be a large branch/trunk bender.

Bonsai Magazines: Rob will continue to bring bonsai magazines from himself and Tona to sell.

July Picnic

A reminder that our annual picnic/auction will be held at Pavilion 1 at Anson B. Nixon Park in Kennett Square, PA. on July 20. Members are asked to donate items to be auctioned. The proceeds from the auction are our biggest fundraiser. It's not too early to think about plant material, tools, books or other bonsai related items that you may donate. The club will supply lunch.

Longwood Gardens Show in October

We have Longwood show dates! Our annual show will be held from October 2-7 in the Pierce DuPont House. Because Longwood will be in the final phase of the massive construction project, we won't be able to use the Conservatory this year. Also, instead of pedestals, we'll use tables totaling 32 feet long. How many trees can we include? As many as we can elegantly fit on the tables. Start preping your possibilities now, and then bring your trees to the September meeting. We'll make final selections then.

For our newest members, our annual show at Longwood Gardens is our only public show for 2024. If you don't have a tree ready to display, we'll have other

opportunities for you to participate. Further details to come!

Share a Tree

Do you have a tree of which you are particularly proud? Maybe one that is flowering, fruiting or showing brilliant colors or maybe just one that you want to share. Bring it to a meeting regardless the topic of the meeting. We can always carve out five minutes for you to do a show-and-tell with it. It doesn't have to be display ready or a "masterpiece"; just something you would like to share.

2024 Brandywine Bonsai Schedule

July 20: Club Auction and Lunch (ABN Park)

August 17: Open Workshop (ABN Park)

September 21: Scrolls and Screens (TBD)

October 19: TBD

November 16: Business Meeting and Garage Sale (TBD)

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

New Jersey Bonsai Societies, "Art of Bonsai" Exhibition & Sale, July 20-21, 2024 at Brookdale Community College, Warner Student Life Center, 765 Newman Springs Road, Lincroft, NJ

Next Year's Programs (Rob King)

I know it is only June but this is the time to start thinking of programs for next year. We have three venues but they are not available every month. We also have to match programs with the proper seasons. Other things that we look for is to have members of the club to step up and present a program, especially the new members. If you don't think that you have enough for the whole two hours, we can set you up with a shortened time and have somebody else take the other part of the meeting.

I have been approached by several members who requested another bus trip, maybe to the Potomac Bonsai Association Festival. This is a great idea to do especially for those that have not attended MABS, who are not comfortable putting up the MABS' fees. The PBA Festival gives a good taste of what a Festival is like

because it is free - not counting the bring your own tree workshop.

Visiting artists to come to our place present their own set of challenges. We have to find out the artist's schedule to see if it matches both our meeting dates and the venue. If they live more than 2.5 hours away, we offer them a hotel room for Friday night. When coming up with ideas, please remember that we already have January, May, July, August, and November booked.

Rob's Bonsai Care Schedule

What do I do: There are three necessary activities that you must take with your trees to keep them healthy. They are bonsai mix, fertilization and treating the trees with pesticides. The problem that comes up time and time again is what do you use so that your tree has maximum health. Ask 12 different bonsai artists about advice in doing these and you get 12 different answers. I've come up with my procedures and I do know that they differ from almost all the bonsai artists with which I interact. Here are my workings.

Bonsai Mix: Akadama, Perlite/Pumice, Vermiculite, Stone, Mulch and Charcoal. Once I run out of Akadama and Stone, I will order more with Bonsai Jack (switching from stone to lava). I hand screen all my mix before using it. Just this year, I screened >175 gallons of my four sizes of mix.

Fertilization: I fertilize my trees quite heavily. I use organic fertilizer pellets on the surface, which I change once every month. Every week, I fertilize with an inorganic fertilizer (Any dry fertilizer that is blue in color and which contains micronutrients) to which I add either HB101 or SuperThrive, and a silicon splash.

Pesticide: The main kind of pests I get on my trees are mainly Juniper-Apple Rust (Mainly junipers because I have no apples), Chinese Elm leaf rollers, and scale on my ficus. I have four pesticides that are very different from each other and I apply them in a weekly rotation. For me, I find that when I use these in rotation, my trees stay fungus and insect free. What I am most glad about is that I have removed the ugly, slimy apple-cider rust from forming on my junipers. I had junipers that would be 80% covered in the fungus. Three years ago, I started using a pesticide that was aimed heavily at preventing fungus and it has worked like magic.

My recommendation is that if you are doing something that works for your trees, don't change!!! If you decide to change something, test it on a few "throw away" trees before adding it to your regiment.

Opening for Club Treasurer

Greg Kanaskie has been doing a fantastic job for 16 years as club treasurer and is taking a well-deserved retirement. If you are interested, talk to Greg about what it involves.

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.