

Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

Little Bonsai Trees Saturday, March 16, 2024, 10:00 am Brandywine Town Center

Cookie Person: Karin Simmat

Membership

Annual membership fees are due again. The costs are unchanged. Twenty dollars for an individual, etc. See attached registration/dues form and send payment to Greg Kanaskie as soon as possible OR pay at the meeting. Please fill out all the information requested to keep Greg's records accurate. Greg Kanaskie, 133 North Wawaset Rd., West Chester, PA 19382.

This Month's Topic: Little Bonsai Trees (Rob King)

This month we will investigate the wonderful world of little trees. You may be asking why we are not calling them mame or shohin trees. There is no consensus on what height constitutes a mame or shohin tree. You can look at many bonsai books and magazines, or talk to bonsai artists, and you will find that the maximum height of a mame can be anywhere from 3" – 6" and a shohin tree 8" – 12". John Naka, one of our greatest bonsai artists, said in describing shohin trees that, "if I have a beautiful tree that is 11" tall, I am not going to cut an inch off the top so I can call it a shohin."

When I started practicing bonsai, I felt the need to classify my trees mame, shohin, etc. One of our founding members, who was known nation-wide for her mame and shohin such that she was known as "Mame Mama" asked me if the tree was more beautiful if I designated it as shohin or mame, was it worth more, and would people consider you a better artist if you said that you work on mame and shohin. When I said "No", she responded, "Then why take the time to measure your trees."

To start off our meeting, Tobin will introduce us to his collection of little trees. Next, Rob will describe some of the techniques used for creating little trees. While he is doing this, he will be using three small junipers for demonstration purposes. As Rob is working on one juniper, the other two will be circulating around the room. These three junipers will be raffled off at the end of the meeting.

Finally, we would love to see your little trees. Please bring some to share.

Monthly Giveaway: Willow (South Africa) oval glazed pot.

April Meeting: Our April meeting will focus on techniques for repotting your trees. George will open the meeting with a demonstration and then we will spend time repotting a tree or two. You will need to supply your own trees, tools,

and bonsai mix (Crown Custom Bonsai will have a supply of pre-made bonsai mix available).

Inclement Weather Notifications

We will email you if the officers decide to cancel the meeting due to unsafe conditions.

Directions to the Brandywine Town Center (BTC)

The meeting hall is a stand-alone building, removed from the commercial area, with a large glass dome on top.

From Route 202 Southbound: Shortly after crossing into Delaware on Route 202 southbound, turn left onto Naamans Road at the intersection bounded by an Exxon station and the Days Inn. At the second light, turn left into the Brandywine Town Center (You will see a large Target store), turn right, and follow the outer parking lot ring road to the meeting hall.

From I-95 Northbound and 202 Northbound: Take Exit 8 Concord Pike North. Just beyond Concord Mall at the Days Inn, turn right onto Naamans Road and follow the directions above.

From I-95 Southbound: Take the I-495 and Naamans Road exit just after passing into Delaware. Take Naamans Road westbound. After passing Grubb Road, you will take the next right into Brandywine Town Center. Look for the meeting center described above. These directions and a detailed map are available all the time on the directions page of the BBS Website.

2024 Brandywine Bonsai Schedule

March 16: Very Small Bonsai (BTC)

April 27: Repotting. Interaction with George W (TBD)

May 18: Marco Invernizzi Demonstration (Marc Huf's)

June 15: Wiring Workshop, Karen Harkaway (TBD)

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

Extra Junipers: The club still has six small junipers available. They will be sold for \$27.00 each (Set price. No auction). These trees will be great to use in the April meeting on repotting. If you would like to purchase one or more, please pay Greg.

Other Bonsai Events of Interest

Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Symposium,
April 19-21, 2024 in Grantville, PA
Nature's Way Open House & Sale (Jim Doyle),
April 21, 2024 12 noon to 4 pm
Potomac Bonsai Association Festival, May 10-12, 2024,
National Bonsai and Penjing Museum, Washington, DC
American Bonsai Societies (ABS) Learning Seminars,
May 9-12, 2024 in Grand Rapids, Michigan

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Symposium

If you are planning on going to MABS in April, you need to have registered or are in the process of registering. All the critiques and one spot of Torres and Boon's workshops are still available, but they are filling fast. Also, and I cannot say this enough, you cannot take part in the banquet unless you pre-register and purchase the banquet at that time. There is no purchasing of a banquet ticket after the Monday before the start of the festival. To get to the registration information and form, go to one of the web browsers and search "Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Society".

Crown Custom Bonsai: To go along with our topic, CCB will be selling many small pots and stands. In addition, CCB will be bringing the usual wire and since we are entering the repotting season, many items related to repotting will be available.

Back Issues of International Bonsai: Tona and Rob will be offering many back issues of International Bonsai magazine. This magazine was one of the first bonsai magazines published in the U.S. and is still considered one of the best. Please pay Rob.

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".

Some Photos from Last Month's Winter Silhouette

