

# Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

## Business Meeting/Garage Sale Brandywine Town Center Saturday, November 18, 2023

### Cookie People: Rob King

#### November Meeting

November is the month in which the officers for the coming year are determined. The present officers are President: Rob, Treasurer: Greg, Secretary: Karin, Exhibit Director: Roberta and Webmaster: Steve. If you would like to fill one of these positions, please talk to Rob so that we can prepare the election. Another option is to approach one of the current officers to be mentored so that sometime in the future you can move into that position.

The garage sale is a mega silent auction. We encourage members to go through their bonsai-related items and thin out those things that you are not using or do not need. Bring them to the meeting and set them up for auction. Greg can help you with that.

#### November Give-away

Every month, when we can, we give some sort of bonsai related item away to a lucky member by a free raffle. Prizes we have previously given are books, stands, tools, and tree material. In November, we will give away our best prize of them all, a full registration to the 2024 Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Festival. Here is how this works. If you win, you pay the full registration, plus any activities that you want to take part in. Once you do that you inform Greg of your registration, and he will refund your money for the registration part of it. Things that the registration covers are all the demonstrations and breakout rooms, access to the vendors, access to the member's exhibit, coffee breaks and lunch, and the auctions. Things for which you can sign up for, but the club does not reimburse are workshops, workshop observer, critiques, and the banquet. Distribution of the ticket follows these rules.

1. Every member in good standing will get a free ticket.
2. For family memberships, the family is eligible for two tickets but both members must be present at the November meeting to get the two tickets.
3. The ticket is non-transferrable; therefore whoever wins the ticket must attend the event.

#### 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.

#### October Kusamono Class

##### Comments by Rob:

On October 1, 20 members from BBS met at LG to participate in a kusamono workshop with Young Choe, who is one of the best known. We began with a short presentation on the art form and then moved to the work area to create our own – most of us created two or three. LG and Steve supplied pots and plants (about 20 different species) for everybody to use. As we put together our creations, Young moved about the tables giving advice and encouragement.

##### Comments by Roberta:

Young Choe led our kusamono workshop on October 1 at the headhouse for Longwood's greenhouses off Rt. 1 (where our January meeting will be held). She shared her history with the art and her approach. We learned tricks for combining color, shape, and height all while balancing the plants' moisture needs. After seeing her examples, we made our own with her guidance. Some of us took our time and carefully crafted one or two exquisite examples, and some of us took a more unkempt, naturalistic approach. Either way, all of our "grass things" represented a day of fun learning. Thank you Young Choe, Steve Ittel, and Kevin Bielicki for making it happen!



### Longwood Gardens Bonsai Show

Our annual show ran from October 4-9. Sixteen diverse trees were on display including tropical ficus, a deciduous maple and hornbeam, and lots of conifers (dawn redwood, American larch, pine, and junipers). The soft, neutral backdrops and lighting gave the trees a casual elegance that delighted the visitors. Sharing our passion for bonsai with people was exhilarating, and people from our region and from all around the world felt awe and wonder while looking at our trees. This year, we included an educational display. Steve Ittel brought some in-process junipers from a class that he taught, so we used those to show people what they can do with a nursery juniper in one day. Visitors of all ages were wowed, and many left inspired to make one. Congratulations to all for creating an educational and inspiring display that helped visitors connect with nature.

### Longwood Garden Exhibit Thank You

I know Roberta is too modest to shine light on herself so I will do it. I want to extend a huge "Thank You To Roberta". Most of us do not realize what goes on to put on our annual Longwood Garden's Show. At the start of summer, Roberta starts brainstorming with LG to discuss venue,

date, number of trees, and the artistic set-up. As time approaches, she must recruit trees and babysitters for the show, and fills in the babysitting spots that are not taken. Finally, she is at LG for tree drop-off and pick-up; as well arranging trees to show them off at their best. I truly believe that this was one of the best shows that we put on. I just would like to say again, "Thank You, Roberta."

### Thanks from Roberta

Congratulations for another amazing show! Thank you for your help and your time. Maybe you loaned your trees for a week (something I take very seriously). Maybe you watered the trees or misted the moss. Maybe you came in for a few hours and answered questions. Maybe you helped with set up or take down (many, many thanks for help with the set up!). Maybe you took care of my animals so I could leave my zoo for a while. Whatever you did, it contributed to making our show immensely successful. Without exaggerating, it was truly my honor and privilege to coordinate it one more time. Thank you for your efforts, and thank you for your trust.

Special thanks to Steven Adams, Tony Bullock, Paul Carlson, Jesse Cook, Jerry & Mike Estep, Mark Huf, Tobin Hough, Steve Ittel, Elisa & Greg Kanaskie, Rob King, Phyllis Kinser, Bob MacDonnell, John McPeak, Liz Pavlick, Mark Price, Charlotte Smith, Ed Sobel, Janet & Paul Stea, and George Wrede.



### October 19 Group Styling Workshop

October's BBS meeting was unique to the club. Members broke into five groups to design similarly aged and sized junipers. The object was to create a first styling design for their tree and then carry out the design. One member was selected to 'winterize' the tree. Each group will continue to work on its tree at timely selected future meetings. Repotting will likely be scheduled for either March or April of 2024. Each group had a range of bonsai knowledge and expertise. In the

words of Kathi MacNeill, one the BBS's newest members, "Everyone had some special knowledge to share."

The styling process ranged from the thoughtful (clean out the tree to see the structure, find the roots under the top layer of nursery soil, eliminate weak branches, leave possible branches for later development of the design or possible sacrifice branches) to disciplined but radical cutback (a semi-cascade with few branches and tightly wired).

Group discussions ranged from playful to serious. The opportunity to ask questions, especially by the less experienced members, and explanations by the more advanced was a highlight of the workshop. Another highlight was the camaraderie that developed in each group.

The ultimate future of the styled trees is yet to be determined.



### Rob and the American Bonsai Association:

Last month, Rob became an Assistant Editor of the journal "Bonsai" published by the American Bonsai Society. His main responsibility will be to write articles and take photographs describing club shows, exhibits and conventions/festivals. The regions that he will cover are Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and when needed southern NJ.

### New Venue for the BBS

We soon will be losing the BTC as a meeting venue while it is undergoing renovation. We are asking everybody to put on your thinking caps and try to come up with ideas for a new place to meet. We are not restricted to Delaware. In fact, before we met at the BTC, we met regularly in Kennett Square, Kennett, and Longwood Gardens. Also, if you look at Greg's map of where our members live, more live in PA than DE. One thing to remember is that we now have members that are quite active in the club and are coming from MD. Ideas to think about are schools, churches, fire stations, nature centers, etc. If you have an idea, please let one of the officers know.

### Superfly Discount

As a member of the BBS, you are entitled to a 10% discount at Superfly Bonsai. You must make your purchase in person at Superfly and inform them that you are a member of the Brandywine Bonsai Society when you are checking out.

**Free Classified Ads:** We are still carrying your classified ads in the newsletter for free. You can send the info to Karin Simmat ([ksimmat@verizon.net](mailto:ksimmat@verizon.net)) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

**2023 Winter Bonsai Show:** Dec 2 & 3 at Kannapolis, NC. Interested? Ask Karin to send you a copy of the flyer.

### Some Pics from Longwood Gardens Show

