

# Brandywine Bonsai Society

Promoting the art and horticulture of bonsai since 1967

## Group Design of a Bonsai Brandywine Town Center Saturday, October 21, 2023

**Cookie People: Rob King**

### October Meeting

Using similar junipers, we are going to break into groups of 3 to 4 people and each group will create a design for their tree. Once a design is agreed upon, the group will then carry out their design. There will be aluminum wire provided by the club and Rob. But each group will need to provide their own tools. Since you don't know which group you will be in, it will be a good idea to bring your tools in case nobody else does. At the end of the meeting, each group will give a description of their group's design.

A person from each group will be responsible for overwintering the group's tree and at a future meeting, each group will continue to work on the tree.

### October Give-Away

We will be giving away Kunio Kobayashi's new book. It is written for both the beginner and those that are more experienced. It has pictures and photographs of the work as it is going along, and pictures of some of his greatest trees. I only have one complaint about this book, which is I only bought one copy from my wholesaler, so I do not have a copy for myself, and the shipping is too expensive to ship just a single book. Three options: win the book at the give-away, have enough members interested in the book that I can bring in several books together, or sell enough inventory so that I can bring in another shipment from Japan (which means I need you to buy those scissors and wire!)

### 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.

### Longwood Gardens Exhibit

Our annual Longwood show is October 4-9. The set up is October 3 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. The pick up is October 10 at those same times. All participants will receive an email to verify information and provide any other instructions. This show promises to be beautiful, so please go see it if you're not displaying or tree sitting.

### October Kusamono Class

Our kusamono workshop with Young Choe is October 1 at 10 a.m. in the headhouse of Longwood's Production Facility. Remember to bring a kusamono pot if you have one. Plants and soil will be provided. Please register with Roberta Carlson (robertacarlson@frontier.com)



### A Tree That Promises Not to Die (Rob)

While at the Frederik J. Meijer Garden and Sculpture Park (see last month's newsletter), I wandered through the gift shop and while in there, I found the perfect bonsai tree. One that is guaranteed not to die. This happens to be created by LEGO. This tree can be created as a tree with pink cherry blossoms or green deciduous leaves. You are even able to build an Asian display stand of proper proportions to set your tree upon. See photo below. However, this is not a child's LEGO set. It took two of us several hours to complete.



### US National Bonsai Show (Rob)

In September, Bill Valavanis hosted the US National Bonsai Exhibit. This was a weekend of everything bonsai from international artists performing demonstrations, critiques, exhibition of some of the best trees in the U.S., auctions, and **vendors**. Vendors are highlighted because that is where I spent most of my time and money. When I say I mean I spent money; I mean spent money!!! I had a need for two specified bunjin pots and found them within

the first hour that the vendor area opened. At the end of the exhibition, I found that the vendor who was selling scrolls still had many of them unsold. After discussing these unsold scrolls with him and not being able to make up my mind about which one(s) I would purchase, I negotiated a great price, and I bit the bullet and bought all 11 that were unsold.



Brandywine Bonsai Society founded in 1967. [BrandywineBonsai@gmail.com](mailto:BrandywineBonsai@gmail.com)

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### US National Bonsai Show (Karin)

The show had the highest attendance I have ever seen and I have been to all but two. Sarah Rainer sold out of pots on the first day. The vendors were very popular. Especially some such as Suthin did quite a bit of business. Sean Smith lectured about suiseki and bonsai display. Corin Tomlinson (son of Harry) did a demo on a hinoki. The tree turned out so nice I wished I could have Corin work on mine. Two Pennsylvania Bonsai Society members won awards – Karen Harkaway for Best Native American Bonsai (Colorado Blue Spruce – by the way, I included a picture of this tree in a different pot in the July newsletter but mis-identified it as a eastern white cedar) and Lucas Glass for Best Deciduous Bonsai.

**Crown Custom Bonsai (Rob):** Rob will be selling his usual inventory of tools and wire. Currently, he had added bonsai pots from Japanese and China to his inventory. From the response he got from the pots that he brought to the September meeting, he will be importing more. However, from China/Japan it takes several months. Also, this month is the last time that you will see his inventory until January.

### 2023 Brandywine Bonsai Schedule

**October 1:** Kusamono Class (LG)  
**October 3-10:** Longwood Garden Bonsai Show (LG)  
**October 21:** Group Design of a Bonsai I or II (BTC)  
**November 18:** Business Meeting and Garage Sale (BTC)  
 ABN Park = Anson B Nixon Park, Kennett, PA LG = Longwood Gardens TBA = to be announced

### Nature's Way Bonsai 50 years Celebration

October 28. 9 am to 8 pm. Guest artist is Larry Jackel, curator of the Denver Botanic Garden. 20% discount on sales. 10% for BBS members. 1451 Pleasant Hill Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112 phone: 717-545-4555

### 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.

### Pre-Show Photos

I am including only a few bonsai since there is some space limitation and I (Karin), may mis-identify some



Dawn Redwood



Maple



**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 of so they can bring some extra money, are offering some sort of bonsai-related services, or maybe you are heading to Superfly or Nature's Way and are offering to pick things up for our members. You can send this info to Karin Simmat ([ksimmat@verizon.net](mailto:ksimmat@verizon.net)) for inclusion in the next newsletter.