



THE TWIG



BEGINNER'S WORKSHOP AT HVCC

AT THE CAPITAL DISTRICT GARDEN AND FLOWER SHOW
MARCH 28 ONE PM



< last year's workshop

Come and help us introduce people to the wonderful world of bonsai. We hope to have enough members to work one on one with people who sign up for the workshop. People of all ages sign up for the event. Bring your tools, wire and turntable (if you have one). Call Pauline (882 1039) to volunteer or email her at Pauline@pfmbonsai.com , We will be working with shohin sized Shimpaku Juniper that is easy to style.

IF you have some time, Pauline could use some help setting up her bonsai display in Sunday March 21 at 6 PM or evenings that week. She also needs hosts to protect the trees and answer questions from the public March 26-28 as well as helping take down on March 28 at 4 PM after the beginner's workshop. Call or email her to volunteer.

Hosting at the show is a great time to promote our club to the public.

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies 2010 Spring Festival in April

BROCHURES FOR THE FESTIVAL HAVE BEEN MAILED TO MEMBERS. PAULINE HAS MORE AT THE STUDIO. YOU MAY ALSO FIND REGISTRATION INFORMATION AT <http://www.midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/fescurr.htm> REMEMBER THAN FIRST TIMERS GET THE CONVENTION AT HALF PRICE!!

A BONSAI ODE TO SPRING (IN THE GREAT NORTH EAST) by Pauline Muth

The days are becoming longer

The sun makes valiant efforts to shine its rays upon us

Snow melts more day by day

We watch with trepidation for late winter storms

The short days of winter gave us time

Our stack of bonsai magazines, put aside last summer, is read and digested

Our trees were wired while in winter sleep

Pots have been lined up all winter

Days have been spent in making the perfect tree and pot match

Soils are ready

Fertilizers, nutrients, spores all lined up in jars

Tools are sharpened

Pleas of help to friends and family have been made



The thermometer watch is on

Waiting for the ideal temperatures

The bonsai come out into the sun one day

The next night they are rushed back into the garage

How many times can I do this?

Suddenly the wait is OVER!

The temperatures rise!

The sun shines!

Up at dawn to pot and plant until the sun goes down

Running here and there to collect new wild stock before the warming sun forces growth

Maples growing far too quickly

Wires put on a month ago, strangle growing branches

Birds steal the moss for nests

Running little mammals grab poo balls and run

Days are too wet

Days are too dry

Days are windy, trees blow off the benches

A late frost threatens baby leaves

Everything needs trimmed

What were those rules about pines?



WHAT? WAIT! WHY IS SPRING SO SHORT!!

SO SERIOUSLY, WHAT SHOULD WE BEING DOING IN MARCH?

1. Be careful! As days warm and lengthen, we are tempted to move ahead with our trees. There can be plenty of very cold days yet. After all our average last frost dates are from May 15-30. During the last few years this date has been considerably earlier....but then there is this year.
2. Bring in trees one at a time and complete any wiring not done over winter. It is a great time to wire while the trees are dormant and still stable in the pot from last year's growth.
3. If you have not sharpened your tools recently, do so. Be ready for spring work.
4. Stock up or mix "soil." Check on fertilizer and micronutrient supplies. Be sure you have fresh spores ready....yes they do have a short shelf life!
5. Have you determined what pot changes you are going to make and prepared the pots with screening and tie downs?
6. Set up a potting area so you can have an efficient assembly line ready.
7. Check with friends about possible collecting trips....the time for collecting is very limited.
8. If you have a lot to transplant, consider trading some time with friends and do concentrated work on each of your collections. Many hands make light and fun work. Pizza or take out afterward will give time to admire the day's work.
9. Clean your outdoor benches between snow storms.
10. Determine a repotting order for your trees (hopefully you did this as you stored them for winter and they are stored in order for repotting) so you will repot the ones that need it the most first.
11. Attend spring garden shows to see the bonsai forced for your pleasure and inspiration!

**Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society
Minutes for February 28, 2010**

Vice President Jon Staples called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

9 members were present.

Refreshments provided by Olga and Walter Kostuk.

Program: Making fertilizer cakes with Bill Jones.

Treasurer Michael Curthoys reports a balance on hand of \$2604.28.

Old Business:

VP Jon noted that the pots done at the workshop last month are available for pick up and that various sign-up sheets for Spring events were in the back of the room.

Upcoming Events:

Wildwood Show: We need members to help with set up on Sunday night and the Monday before the show opens, volunteers to be available for questions and to staff the beginner's workshop and breakdown Sunday night.

Montreal Trip: Not enough people have signed up to justify the cost of a full-size bus. Mike Curthoys suggested looking into a 14 passenger van as an alternative and will check pricing. Michael also suggested visiting David Easterbrook on Saturday and the gardens on Sunday. The members present thought this was preferable. Pauline Muth will follow up with Adriano Manocchia about the hotel.

MABS Spring Festival: Pauline reports we have only one tree for the exhibit. We need two more or possibly do a shohin display. Interested members are asked to bring trees for evaluation to the Wildwood show. Bill Jones asked if a decision had been made about the location of future conventions. Pauline reports the meeting was cancelled because of the weather last week. It has yet to be rescheduled.

National Bonsai Exhibition in June: Recommended - great trees, speakers and vendors for a small price - \$15 for the weekend.

New Business:

The member survey produced 10 responses with some interesting ideas and suggestions. The results will be made available to members. Many thanks to David Payton for collecting and collating the information.

Miscellaneous Information:

Bill Jones commented that the pots made in January came out great and that he'd enjoy doing that again next year. Bill also has 2 new soils available this year, a new shohin mix with larger particles and a tropical mix.

Pauline is having a soil and supply sale for the spring.

Michael Curthoys moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by David Payton.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Raymond
Secretary - MHBS

MAY 1-2 TRIP TO MONTREAL IS STILL UNDER RESEARCH...WILL SEND DETAILS IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE AS SOON AS I HAVE THEM. AT THIS POINT IT LOOKS LIKE WE WILL GO MAY 1 EARLY. TOUR DAVID'S, HAVE DINNER AND FUN, STAY OVERNIGHT, VISIT THE BOTANICAL GARDEN IN THE MORNING AND THEN HEAD HOME. IF YOU DID NOT SIGN UP AND WISH TO GO CONTACT PAULINE.

MHBS and beyond Calendar 2010: Items shaded are non club events that members may wish to attend and are provided as a service to our members.

date	event	location	host if needed
March 20-21	BYO workshop with Martin Schmalenberg..openings for both days call 518 882 1039	pfm bonsai	
March 26-28	Capital District Garden Show	HVCC	
March 28	Beginner's WS for HVCC people	HVCC at 1 PM	
April 10	Larch Clump Workshop pfm	pfm bonsai	
April 16-18	MABS www.midatlanticbonsai.org reeservers.com	Hudson Valley Spa and Resort	CHECK YOUR MAIL FOR FORMS FOR MABS
April 25	Spring Transplanting and Pruning with Dorothy Raymond	Voorheesville NY	Payton's
May 1-2	Trip to Montreal		
May 14-16	Upstate Bonsai Society Show	Rochester NY	
May 23	David Easterbrook Hinoki Cypress ws and demo	pfm bonsai	Muth's
June 11-13	2nd National Bonsai Show	Rochester NY	
June 20	Ted Matson ws and demo	pfm bonsai	Kizskiel's
June 25-27	MABA Convention	Grand Rapids MI	
July 25	Jim Doyle ws and demo	pfm bonsai	
August 29	Pauline Muth The Great American Larch	pfm bonsai	
September 9-12	North American Bonsai IB Symposium	Rochester NY	
September 18-19	MHBS Club Show	Saratoga NY	ALL members
September 30- October 3	BCI Convention	China	

date	event	location	host if needed
October 23-24	pfm 20th Anniversary open house	pfm bonsai	
October 31	Growing bonsai under lights with Iris Cohen	Voorheesville NY	
November 24-28	FELAB in Mexico Muth speaking	Meridia MX	
November 28	3 members design one bonsai	Voorheesville NY	
December 4 or 5	Holiday Dinner	Charlton Tavern	



Contest from the American Bonsai Society

ABS Joshua Roth Bonsai New Talent Contest for those engaged in bonsai 10 years or less. www.absbonsai.org THIS YEAR'S CONTEST WILL BE AT OUR OWN MABS!! The prize will include reimbursement for registration and the banquet.

PLAN FOR June 2011...ABS-BCI Louisville Kentucky

BONSAI IN THE BLUEGRASS <http://www.bonsaiinthebluegrass.com/>

FOUR DAYS OF GREAT BONSAI CLASSES, DEMOS, VENDORS AND FUN

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check out these bonsai links

American Bonsai Society - www.absbonsai.org

Bonsai Clubs International - www.bonsai-bci.com

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies - www.midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com

National Bonsai Federation - www.bonsai-nbf.org

The MHBS newsletter "The Twig" is also posted at www.pfmbonsai.com

