

Bonsai Times

Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley

B S L V

September, 2005

*“Canst thou prophesy, thou little tree,
What the glory of thy boughs will be?”
Lucy Larcom 1826-1893*

Arthur Skolnik Warns: “Bonsai is Not for the Faint of Heart”

“Experience the limits of your trees by bringing them to the brink of death so you learn what they can take.” He cautioned us that “if you do bonsai by the rules all the time, you will never have great bonsai.” It seemed like Arthur Skolnik’s goal on this chilly February night was to liberate our minds from stale ways of thinking. “Buy weird stuff on sale in the fall—try all kinds of stuff—and don’t worry if it dies. Discover!” He then proceeded to give us LOTS of facts and helpful hints as he expertly styled a 15-18 year-old tsukomo, or false cypress. He even showed us some ways to “Kimuratize” (his term for artfully disguising faults) a tree. He explained how to balance the vigor of a tree, reviewed how to position wire, and emphasized the importance of the relationship between the first and second branch. Arthur Skolnik convinced us we have many options when styling a tree and he gave us. “With time, experience, muscle and tools, you can do anything,” he encouraged. Below: Don Graham with the tree he won.



See page 6 for a special

Message From the President

Board Elections

Nominations for BSLV Board of Directors are being accepted until the end of October. Elections will take place in November. Please contact Roger if you would like to nominate anyone—even yourself for the next 2-year term. Currently the Board Members are:

- President: Roger Krauss
- Vice President: vacant
- Sec/Treasurer: Joseph Sauer
- Education: Jim Gillespie
- Newsletter: Linda Kondikoff
- Ed Bauer: Director
- Bill Castellon: Director



Cheryl Manning Lecture/Demo in April



Cheryl selected this nursery stock for its "wonderful curves"



The same tree after styling



A sketch Cheryl made of the tree showing the perfect pot

Cheryl Manning is very much "in the moment" when she works on a tree. She observes it, gets to know it on a personal level, then makes her intentions known. She shared her reasoning for every move she made as she tamed an unruly San Jose juniper during her lecture/demo on April 19th. With the deft hand of an artist, Cheryl showed us exactly how to echo the bends and twists of the trunk by manipulating the wired branches. Likewise did she deal with the negative spaces. She gave us pointers on how to determine where the lifeline should be and how to make it move along the trunk naturally. Yours truly won the raffle for this literati style tree and as a bonus, Cheryl also made a sketch for me so I would know what size and type of pot to use.



In the BSLV May meeting, **Ted Matson**, shown here with **Bill Castellon**, winner of the raffle, created a geologically intimate environment before our eyes. In his saikei, or miniature planted landscape, Matson mounted boxwoods in muck in and around well-placed rocks. He used clumps of dwarf acorus to lead your eye through the composition. The 22 members in attendance were inspired with this dynamic demonstration. In the other raffles, **Tom Bender** won some boxwood and **Kevin Gain** won some dwarf plants.

BSLV 2005 Fall Calendar

All meetings are held at the Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted. In case of inclement weather, please call Joe Sauer @ 610 262-9796 or Roger Krauss @ 610 867-5797.

Note: No smoking anywhere on BAVTS campus!

September 16 (Friday) 7:30 pm - BSLV/PBS combined meeting at the Hampton Inn on Route 663 (a.k.a. John Fries Highway) in Quakertown, close to the Turnpike Interchange. Lecture/demo by Tomihiro Masumi, Shohin expert from Japan.

Note: Brandywine Bonsai Society is opening its doors to anyone who would like to attend their sponsored demo/workshop with Masumi on Saturday, Sept. 17th . It is a BYO shohin demo and-workshop and will be held from 1:00-4:00. The demo is free but the cost of the workshop is \$25. Silent observers are free. Please notify Rob King asap @ (crowncustombonsai@msn.com) if interested as space is limited.

Masumi Bio

Tomihiro Masumi and his father operate Koju-en Shohim Bonsai Nursery in Kyoto, Japan. They sell trees onsite as well as on the internet (www.remus.dti.ne.jp/~masumi-t) In 200 Masumi was a headliner at the BCI/ABS convention in St. Louis, MO. He believes that the term shohin applies not only to the tree but also to the manner of presentation.

October (date to be announced) - Negotiations are currently underway for securing David Prescott from England for a lecture/demo. E-mail notification will go out to members if/when the date is determined. If Prescott cannot be present, arrangements for another speaker or program will be made.

Prescott Bio

David Prescott, who has been involved in bonsai for the past 12 years, often uses collected material from Scotland, Wales, and the Italian Alps. He studied under Salvatore Liporace, Kevin Willson and Colin Lewis and others. Besides lecturing throughout Europe, Prescott published the best-selling The Bonsai Handbook which has been translated into many languages. He regularly exhibits his trees in the United Kingdom as well as at the Ginkgo Exhibition in Belgium.

November 15 (Tuesday) - Fall Auction! That's right, back by popular demand, another opportunity for us to have fun buying and selling bonsai-related things!!! The ever-entertaining Jim Gillespie will be in charge of the evening's event. Bring lots of stuff and lots of money (our Secretary/Treasurer Joe Sauer likes a challenge!) As in the past, it will be a 75-25 split. Note: The June auction brought in \$424.25 net profit for our club!

January, 2006 (date to be announced) - BSLV Banquet

Bonsai-Related Events

-compiled by Jim Gillespie



Jim inspecting a styled tree at MidAtlantic

- Sept 9 & 10 - Wildlands Conservancy Fall Native Plant Sale – Pool Wildlife Sanctuary, Emmaus, 9A-6P
- Sept 9-11 - International Bonsai Symposium 2005 “Unyewsual Bonsai” – Rochester, NY Registration
- Sept 15 & 16 - All-American Shohin Society/Crown Custom Bonsai Shohin workshop with Tomihiro Masumi Wilmington, DE Registration
- Sept 16-18 - Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Assoc Convention XVI – Bremerton, WA Registration
- Sept 18 & 19 - 5th Ginkgo Exhibition in Laarne, Belgium \$\$
- Sept 20 - PHS - Trees of PA, Morris Arboretum of U of PA, Philadelphia 5:30-7:30P Fee
- Sept 23 & 24 - Brussel’s Bonsai Nursery Open House & Sale, Olive Branch, MS
- Sept 23 & 24 - Mohawk/Hudson Bonsai Society Annual Show, Albany County Cooperative Extension in Voohreesville, NY 10A-5P
- Oct 8 & 9 - Rosade Bonsai Studio Fall Open House, 11A-5P
- Oct 8 & 9 - North Carolina Arboretum 10th Annual Bonsai Expo, Ashville, NC Free
- Oct 14-23 - Yama Ki Bonsai Society Exhibit at NY Botanical Garden
- Oct 15 - Natures Way Nursery Fall Open House & Sale with Walter Pall 9A-6P
- Oct 15 - PHS – The Japanese Garden: Basic Design Principles at Shofuso Japanese House & Garden, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia 1-3P. Fee
- Oct 29 - Bergen Bonsai Society collecting trip @ Rye Marshlands Conservancy, Rye NY
- Oct 29 - National Arboretum Fall Foliage Bonsai Exhibit, Special Exhibits Wing, Nov 6 10A – 3:30P
- Oct 31 - WBFF World Bonsai Contest 2005 – Deadline for photo entries
- Nov 3 – 6 - Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention XXIII, Anaheim CA Registration
- Nov 5 & 6 - Brandywine Bonsai Society Annual Show at Longwood Gardens, Admission
- Feb 6 – 15 - International Bonsai Japan Tour with Bill Valavanis & Kora Dalager 2006 \$\$

Plan Ahead for Future Events

April 21-23, 2006 - MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival 2006 at Ramanda Inn,
East Hanover, NJ Registration

April 30 - May 7, 2006 - BCI World Penjing & Shangshi Exposition 2006, China, \$\$

June 15-18, 2006 - ABS 2006 Learning Seminars @ Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY Registration

Sept 23 & 24, 2006 - Brandywine Bonsai Society sponsored Weekend with Boon Manakitivipart @
Holiday Inn Select, Wilmington DE, Registration

Sept 28-Oct 1, 2006 - International Stone Appreciation Symposium @ Grantville Holiday
Inn, Hershey PA, Registration

Contact Jim Gillespie, 610-837-6688 for further information.

Member News

Our president, **Roger Krauss**, has been asked to give a presentation on bonsai to the Northampton Community College Update Program on November 8. In the works is a bonsai class Roger will be teaching in the spring. What a great opportunity to promote our club to the public!

Board members **Ed Bauer and Bill Costellon** spoke to the owners of Neighbors Home and Garden in Hellertown about the possibility of BSLV having a bonsai exhibit there. Neighbors invited us to be part of their Fall Festival on October 8 & 9. They will provide shelters and benches for the trees and also a secure spot for overnight storage. Neighbors would also advertise the event in a variety of ways. Roger will be contacting you soon to see if you would like to display a tree and/or help "tree-sit" over the weekend. As in the past, we will have "People's Choice" vote with prizes.

Secretary-Treasurer **Joe Sauer** investigated ways and means of posting and maintaining a BSLV website. We would need a webmaster for this proposed site.....anyone interested?

Jim Gillespie will be in Belgium for the Ginkgo Exhibit and should have lots of good information to share with us when he comes back. Then, in February, he is off to Japan for a tour of the bonsai world! Poor guy!

Special Note to Members

Since, technically, we're supposed to vacate BAVTS by 10:00 pm, we really need to start the meetings promptly at 7:30 pm. Please consider coming earlier, say, 7:00 pm, to socialize and partake of refreshments.... even bring a problem tree and gather advice/opinions from others as time permits. Or bring a bonsai that you would just plain like to show off!...we'd all enjoy seeing it!

Deep Concentration at the March "BYO"



Horst Krekeler at the May meeting

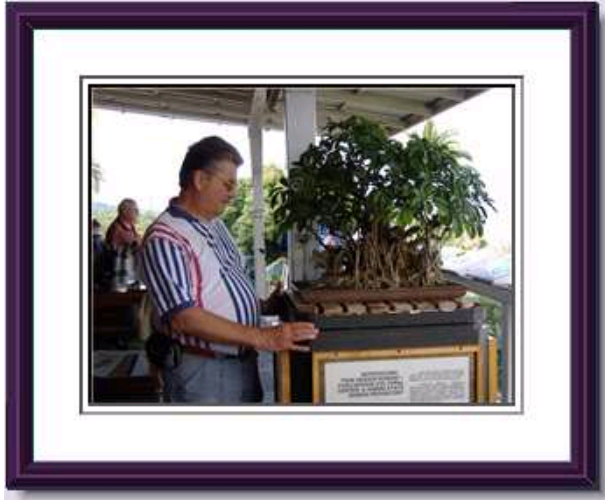


"Experience Art in Nature"

**Jim Gillespie
3183 Pine Rd.
Danielsville, PA (610) 837-6688**

President's Message

In Keeping with the time of year (school is about to start) I thought I'd do a little Show and TellThis is how I Spent my summer vacation:



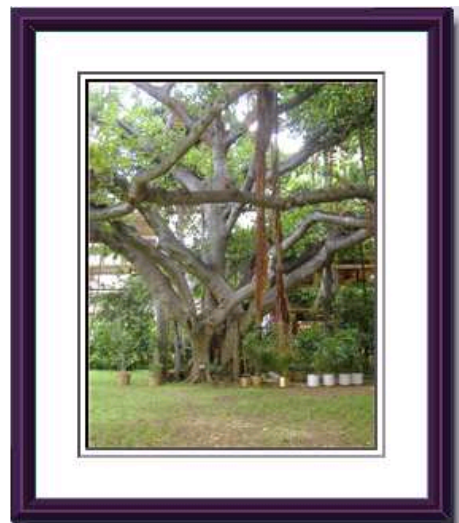
Yes, in Hawaii there is a bonsai club. Susan and I found this tree in Kona, Hi. Sponsored by Fuku Bonsai.



In Jerry Meisler's book, "Ficus" on page 13 he states "the world's second largest ficus is in Hawaii." It spans one city block and was planted in 1873.



Can you say "nebari?" This tree is three paces from the main street.



Can you say "air roots.?"

Here's wishing you a sense of wabi and sabi.

Roger

**BONSAI SOCIETY
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY**
c/o Linda Kondikoff
2135 E. Scenic Drive
Bath, PA 18014



Bonsai Times



Dave Tettemar's 15-year-old white cedar, a popular display tree at this year's MidAtlantic Conference.