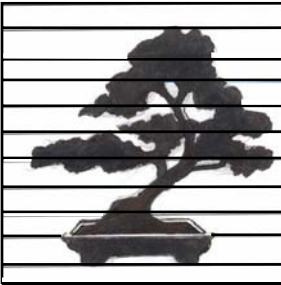


Bonsai Times

Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley



B S L V

P.O. Box 1684, Bethlehem, PA 18016

February, 2009

Message From the President

Happy New Year!

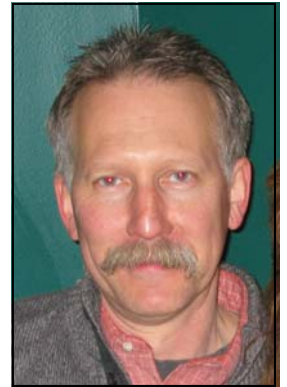
As I sat down to write this message with my space heater under my desk keeping my feet warm, looking out the window and seeing it snowing again, Spring seems a long way off. The days are getting longer so our winter dormancy will be temporary. Well, maybe six more weeks.

If you haven't heard, Bill Valavanis had a house fire last week. Everyone got out safely, but there was significant damage. The bonsai studio and trees were not damaged. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

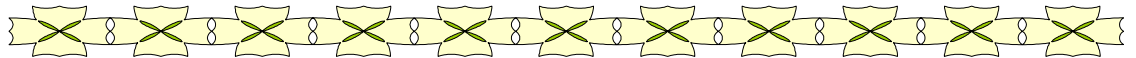
The annual banquet at Sakura Steakhouse was a success. Everyone had a great time, even Roger, who lost some of his eyebrows. Thanks to Jim Gillespie for his efforts in making the arrangements and all who attended.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Jim



*Beauty in bonsai can not be achieved if you do not have
—Japanese saying
beauty within.*



Colin Lewis presents an award to Jim Gillespie at the 1st National Bonsai Exhibition in Rochester, NY Please turn to page 8 for the full story.

BSLV BOARD

- President:** Jim Heacock
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Solita Rosade on Tropicals



Solita's jaboticaba which was entered in the National Bonsai Exhibit in Rochester

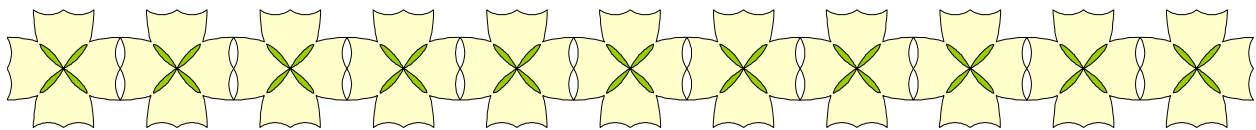


Solita Rosade, assisted by her husband Chase, put finishing touches on the demo tree as Linda Brant looks on

The jaboticaba tree (*Myrcaria cauliflora*), a native of Brazil, is a relative to the familiar myrtle. At the BSLV November meeting, Solita Rosade began her session with a Power Point presentation on her own jaboticaba which was collected in her native Columbia in 1987 and imported to the U.S in 1995. jaboticaba branches remain flexible all year, they tend to be multi-trunked and are propagated by seeds. New leaves are pink, then turn green and the bark exfoliates.

Solita then shared general information and advice on tropicals: they love light and are not fond of air conditioning/drafts. She stressed the importance of washing them once a month in the shower to remove dust from the leaves. Repotting is best done in June. Organic fertilizer twice a month is important and you can skip fertilization in January and February. If aphids appear on new growth, address with Ivory liquid (1 squirt per gallon of water) or straight isopropal alcohol.

Who won the raffle for this lovely tropical? Well, who else? Linda Brant!



BSLV 2009 Spring Semester

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!

February 19 (Thursday) Bill Valavanis from Rochester New York Power Point on early Spring-flowering bonsai and Japan tour, lecture-demo with raffle. Bill has not been to BSLV since the early 1980's. He is the most knowledgeable and respected bonsai authority in the U.S as well as a consummate teacher. ***Don't miss this meeting!***

Note: More MABS registration raffle tickets will be available and drawing will take place!

Bill Valavanis Bio

Bill became interested in bonsai and horticulture at age 11 and pursued his interest by studying Ornamental Horticulture at SUNY Farmingdale and Cornell University. He has made over 40 trips to Japan and formally apprenticed with Kyuzo Murata and Kakutaro Komuro in Omiya Bonsai Village in Japan. Additionally a 30-year study and association with Yuji Yoshimura combined with his formal horticultural degrees, apprenticeships in Japan and his artistic talent provide Bill with the solid background to promote and teach Classical bonsai art around the world.

He is the proprietor of the International Bonsai Arboretum in Rochester, New York where he maintains a fine personal collection of Classical bonsai. He offers introductory and advanced classes as well as seminars and symposia in Rochester, New York. He also maintains a busy teaching schedule for bonsai and horticultural organizations worldwide. In order to further promote the artistic and horticultural expression of Classical bonsai art around the world he began publishing International BONSAI magazine 28 years ago. He has authored two books and many articles published in English, Japanese and other European languages. Bill is an active member and officer of numerous local, national and international bonsai and horticultural organizations. His distinctive bonsai and displays have received many awards both in the United States and abroad. He freely shares his 40 plus years of dedicated bonsai study, experiences and discoveries with students and serious bonsai fanciers through International BONSAI and his educational bonsai programs.

March 24 (Tuesday) BYO Workshop. Bring trees, tools, wire, etc. and get advice from experienced members.

BSLV 2009 Spring Semester, continued

April 17-19, 2009 MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies 2009 Spring Festival

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies 2009 Spring Festival

April 17-19, 2009

@ Hudson Valley Resort & Spa
Kerhonkson, NY

(in Catskills only 2 1/2 hours from the Lehigh Valley
Just off NY thruway @ New Paltz or PA/NY Rt 209)
www.hudsonvalleyresort.com

Headliners: Isao Omachi-Japan
Farrand Bloch-The Netherlands
David Easterbrook-Canada
Susan Amoy-New York

Visit www.midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com

May 1 (Friday) and May 2 (Saturday) Pauline Muth from West Charlton, NY. Rescheduled visit from Oct. 2008 and added workshop.

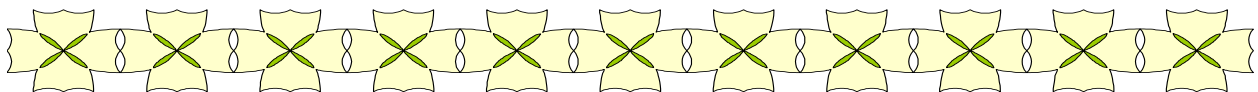
Friday, 7:30 pm at BAVTS, lecture/demo on “Forest Creation” with Dwarf Alberta Spruce, raffle
Saturday, am Workshop (location to be announced,) limit 8 participants fee- \$25.00
Plus materials, bring tools, wire, turntable, and pot (or purchase pot from Pauline)
observers welcome at \$5.00 each.

***Please return Reservation Form on page 5, with payment, to Joe Sauer by April 1 ***

Containers: Participants may bring their own forest type pots or slabs within the size guidelines or a selection will be available from Pauline at cost.

*Necessary dimensions: for Dwarf Alberta Spruce forest-16”
for Larch forest-25 “ plus
for Shimpaku– forest 22”*

Soil: Available at cost or bring your own (suggested: regular bonsai soil for Larch and Shimpaku. Shohin bonsai soil for Spruce)



BSLV 2009 Spring Semester, continued

(Forest Creation Workshop info, continued)

Trees available for forest plantings:

Dwarf Alberta Spruce (from seed) in 3/5/7 tree groups
\$15 each for small forests 8-12" tall with finger-sized varying trunk diameters so
average 5-tree group would cost \$75 (\$100 if also buying a pot from Pauline)

American Larch (collected in Maine, 4 years in pots, transplanted twice)
For 5 trees & up, well-branched & rooted-\$5 each for smaller diameter young trees for
background & foreground, \$20-\$40 each for main trees, so average 5-tree group would
cost \$100 (\$200 if also buying a pot from Pauline)

Shimpaku Juniper (5-6 years old, from cuttings)
\$20 each, thumb-size diameter & 12" tall so average 5-tree group would cost \$100
(\$200 if also buying a pot from Pauline)

May 26 (Tuesday) BYO Workshop & Website Photo Shoot, same as March workshop, in ad
dition you may bring a bonsai or two to have photographed on the BSLV website gallery.
To be featured on the BSLV website gallery, your finished bonsai must be well-groomed
and in a bonsai container (pot, slab or rock) which is clean and weed-free. The following in-
formation must be included: common name, botanical/Latin name, style, height in inches, pot
origin (country) and potter, if known, age of tree, number of years in training.

June 20 or 27 (Saturday) Tentative dates for BSLV picnic/auction at the Kondikoff farm.

Mail-in Registration Form for Pauline Muth Forest Creation Workshop on Sat. May 2, 2009

Name _____

Phone/email _____

Type of trees (please circle one) Dwarf Alberta Spruce, American Larch, Shimpaku Juniper

Size of forest/# of trees _____

Will you need to buy a pot? _____

Please mail this form with a check to BSLV for \$25.00 by April 1, 2009 to

Joe Sauer

5400 Oswego Dr.

Bethlehem, PA 18017-9120

Pauline Muth Bio

Pauline Muth has been deep into bonsai for over 30 years. During this time she attended numerous workshops and conventions traveling nationally and internationally “spreading the joy of bonsai” wherever she could. Pauline contributes articles to a local newsletter, *Bonsai On Line Magazine* and the *ABS Journal*. She served on the Board of Directors for BCI and was an Ambassador for that group. Pauline chaired the ABS Learning Seminars 2006 in Saratoga Springs and 2007 in Virginia Beach and was also involved with the 2008 sessions in San Antonio and Boise in 2009. She is currently the president of ABS and has served that organization in other ways as well. Pauline was a Director of MABS and has spent over 25 years in the Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society involved in practically every way possible! On top of this, Pauline taught junior high school science for 35 years. Her website is www.pfmbonsai.com



“Experience Art in Nature”

Jim Gillespie
3183 Pine Rd.
Danielsville, PA 18038

(610) 837-6688
jagill@verizon.net

BSLV DUES

\$40.00/ individual
\$45.00/ family
(still a bargain!)



Benefits include:

- Educational Programs & Workshops
- International Speakers
- Newsletters
- BSLV Website
- 10% Discount on Sho-Fu-En Merchandise
- Auction/Picnic
- Annual Banquet

BONSAI-RELATED EVENTS

.....compiled by Jim Gillespie

Contact Jim at 610-837-6688 or
jagill@verizon.net for more information



Jim inspecting a styled tree at MidAtlantic

March 1-8 Philadelphia Flower Show @ PA Convention Center, Phila., “Bella Italia” with PBS exhibit and Rosade Bonsai Studio exhibit, *admission* www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org

March 19-23 Bonsai Society of Florida “Bonsai in Florida Through the Years,” Orlando, FL.
www.bsf-bonsai.com

April 17-19 26th MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival, Hudson Valley Resort & Spa, Kerhonkson, NY, lectures/demos, critiques, workshops, vendors, exhibit, dinner, auction, registration, www.midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com

April 24-26 Shohin St. Louis “Little Trees-Big Event,” Collinsville, IL, *registration*
www.stlbonsai.org/shohin.htm

May 1-3 Potomac Bonsai Association Spring Show/Exhibit @ U.S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., exhibit, vendors, demos, *free*

May 8-9 Natures Way Open House with Suthin Sukosolvisit, Linglestown, PA
www.natureswaybonsai.com

May 15-16 Wildlands Conservancy Native Plant Sale, 8am-4pm @ Pool Wildlife Sanctuary (off Cedar Crest Blvd.) Emmaus, www.wildlandspa.org

June 6 Great Swamp Bonsai Society Annual Exhibit @ Frelinghusen Arboretum, Morristown, NJ, 10am-3pm, *free*

June 6-7 Brandywine Bonsai Society Exhibit @ Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford, PA

June 11-14 ABS Learning Seminars, Boise, ID, *registration* www.absbonsai.org/seminars/abs2009

June 19-21 BCI “Survivors of the Storm.” New Orleans, LA, *registration* www.bci2009.com

July 7-13 World Bonsai Convention VI: “1st Bonsai Olympics,” San Juan, PR, *registration*
www.worldbonsaiconvention2009.com

September 10-13 International Bonsai 2009 Symposium featuring Shohin bonsai, Rochester, NY, *registration* www.internationalbonsai.com

1st National Bonsai Exhibit

by Jim Gillespie

There were 138 pre-juried displays containing over 200 bonsai from all over the U.S. featured in this exhibit held in Rochester, NY. Bill Valavanis solicited financial help from the bonsai community for this enormous and costly endeavor which was held at the Monroe Community Hospital Auditorium on October 11 & 12, 2008. Several sponsors put up over \$11,000.00 for 10 awards with various criteria. Judges were Seiji Morimae (Japan,) Peter Warren (UK,) an apprentice with Kunio Kobayashi and Pedro Morales (Puerto Rico.)

The award I won was called the Ho Yuku Award sponsored by Colin Lewis (formerly of the UK, now living in Massachusetts,) with \$1000.00 for 1st prize. The purpose of this award, as Colin Lewis put it, was “to stimulate a more creative, independent approach to the art and presentation of bonsai and encourage Western artists to take another step towards claiming the art of bonsai as their own.” His guidelines required competitors to “create a formal display (one that achieves the aesthetic goals of traditional Japanese display) using an original concept and incorporating Western elements.” My approach used the seasonal theme of Halloween to unify the display featuring my formal upright ginkgo (pre-selected by Bill,) which I defoliated to emphasize the “bones” of the tree. This tree grew from seed collected by Bob Braxmeyer and me in fall, 1980, in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia. The pot is a rustic, round, unglazed pot made by Bryan Albright of U.K. The tree was placed on rustic barn boards which were arranged to accentuate the tree’s flow. A critical element to a “formal display” is the scroll. Rather than a traditional vertical hanging, I wanted a different format. Our own Linda Kondikoff and I devised a staggered, horizontal panel (again, to emphasize direction and flow) of a misty moon with witch-like finger clouds. Linda rendered the subject expertly and artistically in charcoal on mat board. The accompanying accent was hand-carved mini Jack-o-lantern with a battery powered tea-light inside, coupled with a cob of mini Indian corn on a willow tray. Altogether, spooky and eerie!



Needless to say, I was deeply moved and surprised by the honor at the awards banquet on Saturday night when Colin presented me with a check and an original sumi brush painting.



(Left) the winning display and (above) a close-up of the accent items.

BSLV Annual Banquet

The Sakura Japanese and Chinese Steakhouse in Allentown was a change of venue for the BSLV's annual New Year get together. We all reveled in the sizzling, steaming atmosphere of the hibachi and also reveled in each other's company. Door prizes were provided by the Tette-mers and the Gillespies



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

Bonsai Times

