



BONSAI SOCIETY OF GREATER HARTFORD

Volume 2009 Issue 2

February 2009 Newsletter

All regular meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month from 7:00PM -9:30PM.

IMPORTANT MEETING NOTICE

Due to February 16th falling on holiday we will not be able to meeting at the Wethersfield Community Center. As a result these two meetings will be held instead at Sanctuary Bonsai (or Todd's place) in East Hartford. The time will remain the same. If you need directions, see the website at www.sanctuarybonsai.com

January 19 Meeting

Well the weather has not been very co-operative so far this year for our Bonsai meetings. We had a relatively small group for our saikei workshop but those that did get involved. We actually made up two saikei that will be part of our landscape display at the upcoming CT Flower show at the end of February. Thanks to Geof, Bob and Todd we had some nice elms, boxwoods and junipers to choose from to create the saikei. Others brought in some of their own trees to work on. A reminder that these two saikei's will be raffled off at a future meeting and either one would be a nice addition to any ones collection. Sign up sheets were also passed around for volunteers for the flower show and we still need more people to step forward to help out. Bob, also passed out the registration forms for Mid-Atlantic.



February 16 Meeting

The meeting will start off with a slide presentation by Todd on his latest trip South with Jack and Omar and meeting up with Guy Guidry to dig some native bald cypress from a swamp in Mississippi. I have had a preview and there are some awesome pictures. After the slide show Todd will give a talk on horticulture aspect of caring for a bald cypress. These trees can be turned into some really great bonsai with some having the opinion that they are the "king" of American bonsai trees. I personally like the larch for that award.

The second half of the meeting will be a BYOT workshop. So bring a tree to work on or maybe have some others give you a critique on what they see.

Reminder the meeting is a Todd's place

Connecticut Flower Show

This years show will be held from Feb 19th thru the 22nd. Again will be setting up to displays, one landscape display and one in the learning section of the Federated Garden Club. We will be working on parts of the display at the January and February meetings.

This is a fairly large undertaking and we need a lot of volunteers to help sit at he displays to answer question and hand out flyers of the club and our July exhibition. Bob will be distributing a list to sign up for various time slots. We also need help on Monday morning the 19th to set up the landscape display.

If anyone has tree that they would like to display please contact Bob or Geof. We will need about 15 trees to fill out the display.

Larch Workshop with Nick

Nick Lenz will be coming to Connecticut and there will be a Larch Workshop from 1:00pm till 5:00pm on March 21. This is a good time of the year and we all know about Nick's work with larches. This is a BYOT and you can bring others trees as well. The workshop will be limited to six attendees and the fee is \$50.00. The workshop will be held at Sanctuary Bonsai. To sign up for this event or more info, contact Geof.



MidAtlantic Spring Festival

This year's Spring Festival marks MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' (MABS) Twenty-Sixth Anniversary! The Spring Festival will commence Friday evening, April 17, 2009 and will continue through Sunday afternoon, April 19, 2009, at the [Hudson Valley Resort & Spa](#) in Kerhonkson, NY.

The registration flyers will be forthcoming and I cannot encourage you enough to attend this convention. You have many to choose from but MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies is a convention supported by the clubs. Thirteen sustaining member clubs actually sponsor this great event. The Hartford Club is one of them.

Every member that attends effects the financial gain we receive. The way it works is whatever profits are made are divided amongst the clubs, with seed money for next year's event being withheld. 50% of the profit is divided equally between the clubs, the other 50% is distributed by attendance. In short, the more folks from Hartford who attend, the higher our stipend. So, if you're choosing an event, consider this one.

For more info go to <http://midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/>. Also new this year first time attendees will get 50% off basic registration fee

Todd

2009 Schedule

- Jan 6 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- Jan 19 — Regular Meeting 7:00PM Program TBD
- Feb 3 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- Feb 16 — Regular Meeting 7:00PM Program TBD
- Feb 19th—22nd Connecticut Flower Show
- March 3 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- March 16 — Regular Meeting 7:00PM Program TBD
- March 21 — Nick Lenz Workshop 1:00-5:00Pm @ Sanctuary Bonsai
- April 7th — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- **April 16 — Regular Meeting 7:00PM**
Isao Omachi - Afternoon workshop and evening Demo
- April 17th --19th Mid- Atlantic Bonsai Exhibition
- May 5th — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- May 4th — Sandro Segneri Afternoon workshop and Evening Demo
- June 2nd — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- June 11-14 — American Bonsai Learning Seminars Boise, Idaho
- June 6th — Annual Picnic
- July 7th — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- July 11th & 12th Bonsai Society of Greater Hartford Annual Exhibition
- July 20th— Regular Meeting 7:00PM Program TBD
- **Sept 11th & 12th— Tower Hill Bonsai Weekend**

Snacks & Refreshments		
December 15, 2008	Annual Holiday Party	
Jan 2009	Linn Ward	Dave B.
February 2009	Yulia	Jose Warden
March 2009	Con C	Jose Amat

Meeting Cancellation Notices

In case of inclement weather check WFSB, Channel 3 for cancellation of a regular schedule meeting. Vreni will also send out e-mail to all those on GHBS e-mail list.

Ramblin's from Todd

Happy Feb. Everyone! Cold and snow everywhere! I'm ready to move South!!

Speaking of the South, some of you know that Omar was able to glean permission for a Bald Cypress dig in Mississippi. After a few months of negotiating schedules, planning and making flight, hotel, and vehicle reservations the departure date arrived. Jack, Omar and myself would be winging it to New Orleans to meet up with Guy Guidry. Unfortunately going through security, I broke a toe (long story) going through security right here in Hartford. Undaunted we proceeded to board. I hobbled through airports, swamps and all the way home. I'm still hobbling but it is still all worth it.

We arrived safely in New Orleans and of course, first things first, required that we go to the French Quarter for an evening of hobbling fun.

This is where Jack met up with the first peril of our voyage. ((Insert photo 0338)) A fun but early evening was had by all and we headed for Bonsai-NorthShore, Guy's nursery in Covington.

We were up early and on our way as the swamp was 3 hours away in MS. Amazingly, we were in the swamp and tree shopping by Noon!



It was a beautiful place and young and old Balds were everywhere. ((insert photo 0349)) It was difficult to know where to start. Spirits were high and there was only one moment of discord where Guy had to tell Omar, " Get off my back!!!!". ((insert photo0350)) We started small learning from Guy the muddy, wet, and cold art of harvesting Balds for Bonsai. After that we split up and went crazy shopping as there were also many great Hornbeams to chose from!



Despite the hard work, the cold water and rain the second day, I would occasionally take pause of the beauty that surrounded us. My cell phone didn't get signal in the swamp and I couldn't have been more pleased. At the end of the first day I stood wet, cold, tired, broken and throbbing toe and I could not have been a happier man at that moment! ((insert photo 1674 and 1695)) We were miles from anything human and grateful for the opportunity.



Ramblin's from Todd

We were harvesting in January in hopes the cold water would keep the alligators and snakes in hibernation. This turned out to be true although evidence of alligators was everywhere. Along one shoreline I shopped, I found 4 den entrances within 50 feet of each other. You find them easily as you tend to just suddenly step off into deep water. Just a little spooky! We were informed by the landowner that there was also a Panther to keep our eyes out for. She might be aggressive as she had cubs. We didn't see her at all. We did however encounter one perilous beastie when we were potting up the trees. Check out this 2" long, serious bug predator, mandibles to the front and back. ((insert photo 1737)) We spent two days in heaven wresting just over 20 trees of all sizes out of the swamp. Carrying out the big ones took a great deal of effort as there were briars everywhere and the larger root balls were very wet and heavy! ((insert photo 0711)) We bagged and loaded all of the trees into our vehicles and bid the swamp farewell, for now.

Sunday night saw a quick meal and a long drive back to Covington, LA. Once in for the night we sat around the dining table laughing and reminiscing about a trip which already felt like a dream. Guy's home and hospitality had returned the feeling to our feet, and the smells, the breeze and the cold of the swamp dissipated. We all turned in early as there was still work to do.



The next morning we sorted all the bagged trees and cool rocks destined for New England. ((insert photo 1716)) They were stretch wrapped on a pallet and made ready for shipment. We then had to say our goodbyes and head for the airport. The trip home was long, but pleasantly uneventful. We were three tired puppies! But the work didn't end there as once the shipment arrived the 3 day potting sessions began.

All the work was well worth it as we have many sweet trees being forced in the greenhouse. ((Insert photo 1738)) The big one in the front is you know who's? Yup, Omar's! Jack got one almost as big!

Reflecting on the trip now a few weeks later, I am taken with memories of reflecting pools filled with grand trees. I smile thinking of the comradely and good times shared with close friends. I constantly look in the greenhouse for signs of budding and to further reinforce that it wasn't a dream. I wish I could feel the peace and contentment I felt there in my everyday life here. These memories coupled with the current cold snap are drawing me Southward. Maybe, just maybe, someday when the timing is right. T

