



# BONSAI SOCIETY OF GREATER HARTFORD

Volume 2007 Issue 4

April 2007 Newsletter

All regular meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Pond House at Elizabeth Park in West Hartford from 7:00PM -9:30PM.

## March 19 Meeting

### Bernie Gastrich— Developing Pines from Nursery Stock

Bernie brought with him three beautiful muhgo pine nursery stock in 5 gallon caontainers. He pointed out that when looking for nursery stock the importance of getting down and getting dirty. One needs to really look for a good looking nebari and trunk size . The next important point is study the trunk for movement use full branching and most importantly see if the tree has a “wow”. A really string accent that will show the tree off. When you get the tree home the you want to clean off any dead needles, dead branches, basically just clean it up. Then next step is to carefully remove small branches or what you see as problem branching, low branches. At this point you should have cleaned it up to get a better look at the trunk, movement and taper. Study carefully to find the best view to accent the “wow”. Now you can begin to choose the better branching options to get the look of your future tree and remove the branches you will not be needed for the final design. These steps can be seen in the picture.



Bernie spent the remainder of the evening doing a demo on a scotch pine “waterii” which was later raffled off.



## April 17 Meeting — Robert Stevens

**Reminder — This will be the Third Tuesday**

There will be an afternoon BYOT workshops at Todd's from 1PM—5PM. Silent Observers Welcome.

That will follow by our regular meeting at the Pond House at 7PM and Robert will do a Demo on a tropical.

Robert has been involved with Bonsai since 1979 and resides in Jakarta, Indonesia. He has also won over 200 Bonsai awards, including the Bronze Award in the 2006 BCI Convention in China. Robert is currently a BCI director and actively authors Bonsai and Penjing articles for BCI magazine.. He recently published his first book Visions of my Soul in April of 2005 and can be found in our club library. There is also a published article by Robert in Issue #82 on Shuihan Penjing. This is a day not to miss.

## May 8, 2007 Dave Benavente

<http://www.davidbenavente.com>

*This is a special event in addition to our regular May meeting.* There will be an afternoon workshop from 1-5pm and a Lecture/demo for 7:00-9:30pm. Weather permitting the afternoon workshop will be outdoors. Anyone needing directions contact myself or Todd. More info on lecture/demo to follow. Also please bring a folding chair.

## May 12 Winterberry Gardens 10:00am—2:00pm

Winterberry Gardens has extend an invitation for us to host a club open house where we can gather to work on trees etc. This is a good event for beginners to sit in a relaxed atmosphere with other members to get some hands on help and instructions. Winterberry has some excellent quality plants that would be great future projects and have some more experienced members assist in picking out your selection.

We will also be doing a Lecture/Demo on an intro into the art of Bonsai for beginners. The general public will be invited. This will hopefully be a good publicity for Bonsai, our club and our upcoming show. So come on down and bring a tree or enjoy some good discussion on Bonsai.

Winterberry gardens (<http://www.winterberrygarden.com>) is located at 2070 West St, Southington, Ct. Across the street from ESPN

## MidAtlantic Bonsai Society

### Spring Festival 2007

This year's Spring Festival marks MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' (MABS) Twenty-Fourth Anniversary. The Spring Festival will commence Friday evening, April 20, 2007 and will continue through Sunday afternoon, April 22, 2007, at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in East Hanover, New Jersey

A program of renowned International and American professional Bonsai artists will perform lecture/demonstrations, workshops, and critiques of Bonsai on display which are provided by MABS member clubs. In addition, Bonsai vendors will be on-site offering a large selection of Bonsai, Bonsai related plants, containers, tools, books, and other supplies for purchase.

This years artist include Robert Steven—Indonesia, Guy Guidry—USA and Ted Matson—USA

If you do not have a registration form see Sully, Bob or Diana. Get your registration in early for a discounted rate.

<http://www.midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com/>

## April 28, 2007 BYOT workshop with Nick Lenz

There is one opening left for this all day workshop to spend with one of best Bonsai teachers. If interested contact Geof. Email — [gldholmes86@msn.com](mailto:gldholmes86@msn.com)

## Calendar of Club Events for 2007

- March 6 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Todd' s House
- March 19 — Club Meeting at Pond House, 7— 9:30  
Bernie Gastrich— Developing Pines from Nursery Stock
- April 3 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- April 17— **Tuesday** Club Meeting at Pond House, 7— 9:30 - Guest Artist Robert Stevens  
Afternoon Workshop and Evening Demo/Workshop
- April 20-22 - Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Society Conference <http://www.midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com/>
- April 28 - Workshop with Nick Lenz's
- May 1 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- **May 8 - Special Event - Lecture/Demo with Guest Artist David Benavente 7:00pm**  
**Afternoon Workshop with David—BYOT 1Pm-5PM**  
**Both events at Todd's House**
- **May 12 — Open House BYOT and Lecture/Demo at Winterberry Gardens**
- May 21 — Club Meeting at Pond House, 7— 9:30  
**Bring Your Own Tree and wire & tools**
- May 26 & 27 - Greater Hartford Annual Bonsai Exhibition & Show
- June 5 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- June 9 — Annual Club Picnic Food, Demo, Raffles and Auction  
Morning workshop with Michael Persiano—Kingsville Boxwood or BYOT
- July — No Board Meeting
- **July 14 — Club trip to NE Bonsai & Bonsai West**
- **June 23 China Trade Bonsai Society Bonsai and Asian Arts Festival**  
<http://www.chinatradebonsaisociety.org/annualshow.htm>
- **June 21-24 American Bonsai Society Learning Seminar** <http://www.absbonsai.org>
- July 16 — New Members Meeting
- August — No Board Meeting or Regular Monthly Meeting
- Sept 4 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- **Sept 15-16 Tower Hill Bonsai Societies Exhibition**
- Sept 17 — Club Meeting at Pond House, 7— 9:30 BYOT Workshop
- Oct 2 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- Oct 15 — Club Meeting at Pond House, 7— 9:30 Marco Invernizzi
- Nov 6 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- Nov 19 — Club Meeting at Pond House, 7— 9:30 Program TBD
- Dec 4 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- Dec 16 — Annual Christmas Party

## Ramblings from Todd

Happy April folks!

I wanted to start this month's Ramblings' with a quote from Susan of the China Trade Bonsai Society. We were emailing back and forth regarding some upcoming events and she mentioned that she'd been to the Philadelphia Flower Show and saw the Bonsai Exhibition. I sent her the photos that Christine took of our installation and she replied, "Todd- your exhibit far exceeded what they did in Phili!!!! What a phenomenal job. I hope you received an award for it, you guys certainly deserved one. Congrats!"

So there you have it. The extra effort everyone put into this really made a great exhibit!

Sorry I missed you folks at the last meeting. I certainly missed out not seeing Bernie. But, I was packing for a trip with a very early departure. Business? Nope, for a change great pleasure. I winged my way through Charlotte to New Orleans. A 50 minute drive North over the longest bridge in the world, the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway (24 miles long), lead my way to Guy Guidry's, Bonsai North Shore.

Upon my arrival, I was met by Guy and Chris Guidry and after settling in and a short chat, we headed for the nursery. I was overwhelmed by the quantity and quality of the trees presented before me. I spent the first afternoon wandering in awe realizing that the last amazing tree would be followed by another and yet another. Huge collected Bald and Pond Cypress, Guy's specialty, seemed to be everywhere. The nursery was complete with most species of good bonsai material to be had. Over the next couple days I heard some of the stories behind such amazing material. Guy is very aggressive in both locating and developing great stock.

Guy shared with me that he's taken to adding a mix of composted manure or worm castings, peat, and potting mix to his soils bonsai mix. He adds about 10%. The biggest reason for this is for daily feeding, not just when you remember to fertilize a soil-less mix. He doesn't use bark for an organic citing that it doesn't break down fast enough. Just when you're changing out the soil, the bark is finally ready to contribute.

Guy also related that most artists he encounters over water and under fertilize. His drive is to control these factors better to take advantage of his long growing season and maximize growth and vitality.

Below you'll see some shots of the Causeway and a few of Guy's trees. Be amazed. If you didn't get enough, go to [www.bonsainorthshore.com](http://www.bonsainorthshore.com) to see more. Check out the "Twister" and the Bald Cypress that resides at the National Arboretum. And remember, Guy is a guest speaker at Midatlantic! I guarantee whatever they give him, it will be amazing when it's done. You can see him in action. You can hear his bent on Bonsai!

See you next meeting, T



Ramblins from Todd — Continued



Spring "Tips" for the Bonsai Artist

Most of the information below can be found in the 2007 No.1 issue of International Bonsai Magazine. The article is "The Discerning Eye" by Fusazo Takeyama.

1. *Weeds*: pull weeds as and when you find them in the container. Water one direction and pull weeds as you return. Some people leave a weed as a water gauge, leading to weeds everywhere as they go to seed.
2. *Bud Break*: Give extra water to the tree with no or fewer buds, providing that drainage in the container is good.
3. *Suckers*: If suckers begin to grow, prune them early. The definition of a sucker is a bud or branch growing where you don't want one.
4. *Insect Damage*: Spray insecticide or remove insects with tweezers. Insect droppings (tiny dots) on the soil surface, leaf curling, or sticky leaves are all a good indication of insect damage. Inspect the cracks on the bark for hidden insects.
5. *Weak lower branches*: Mist the weaker branches that you are trying to thicken. Make sure that these branches are getting GOOD light by rotating or tipping the pot. Placing the growing pot inside another on an angle is a good trick.
6. *Wind*: Even on a cloudy, windy day the soil will dry out. Water early.
7. *Soggy soil*: if the soil stays wet after watering, check the soil. Poorly draining soil will rot the plant roots. Do not fertilize.
8. *Poor Foliage Color* can indicate low fertilizer or insect problems. Check your fertilizer schedule. Bring the tree into the club for help.
9. *Containers that are always dry*: check the condition of the tree. If necessary repot with a different mix or water more often.
10. *Fruiting and Flowering Trees*: do not water the flowers. Bonsai in flower or fruit require extra careful watering
11. *Even on hot days* when it is lightly raining, you must water bushy bonsai. The foliage acts like an umbrella!

Thanks Dianna

**2007 Dues**

2007 dues are now due. Please contact Dave as soon as possible if you owe your dues and make Dave's job a lot easier. Dave will happily accept your dues at the meetings. If you are not planning on renewing your membership we would like to hear from you. Are we as a club doing something and is there something we can change to make it better. Please forward me an email and let us know. Thanks

**Refreshment Volunteers for 2006/2007**

Date	1st Person	2nd Person	3rd Person
April 16		Lyn Ward	Butch Gudat
May 21	Con Connolly	Vreni Caudle	Laura Shaw
June	Annual Club Picnic		

**Winter Meeting Cancellation Notice**

In case of inclement weather, Channel 3, WFSB will be announcing any cancellations of meetings. I will also try and get emails out in time for everyone to change plans