



Bonsai Society of Greater Hartford

All regular scheduled meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month from 7:00PM - 9:30pm at the William J. Pitkin Community Center (Wethersfield Community Center), 30 Greenfield Street, Wethersfield, Ct (860) 721-2950

Dec 20th Meeting - Annual Holiday Party and Auction

Meeting at Wethersfield Community Center at 6:00PM - Fireside Room

We will be meeting in the Fireside Room at 6:00pm. The room will actually be open at 5:30pm to set-up and warm up foods.

This meeting is our annual Holiday party and auction, including the annual election of officers. We have some new recommendations for next years Board of Directors. Adding on to the great programs that we had this past year, we are looking forward to another exciting year in 2011.

Party Food!!!

Please bring an appetizer, main dish or dessert Thank you all.

Holiday Auction Items Needed!!!

The other major part of the Holiday party is the auction. If you have any pots or tools or books or trees that you don't use or don't have time to work, please bring them for the auction. This is a great opportunity for you all to pick up these types of items at a fraction of what you might pay at a nursery or bookstore. So bring your auction items and your cash, and let's make this a very successful auction for the club.

Meeting Cancellation Notices

In case of inclement weather check WSFB, Channel 3 for cancellation of regular scheduled meeting. We will also try and get out an email notice to all those on the GHBS mailing list

Calender of Events - 2010

- June 5 - Club Picnic and Auction
- June 6 - All Day workshop @ Nick's Place 10:00am - 5:00pm
- June 7 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- June 21 - Regular Meeting 7:00pm Ted Matson at Wethersfield Community Center
 • Afternoon Workshop 1:00pm -5:00pm
- July 5 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- July 10-11 GHBS Annual Show
- July 19 - Regular Meeting 7:00pm New Member Workshop at Wethersfield Community Center
- August - No Club events scheduled
- Sept 7 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- Sept 20 - Regular Meeting 7:00pm Rodney Clemens
- Oct 5 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- Oct 18 - Regular Meeting 7:00pm Bring Your Own Tree Workshop at Wethersfield Community Center
- Nov 2 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- Nov 15 - Regular Meeting 7:00pm Brian Kelly - Sketching Your Tree at Wethersfield Community Center
- Dec 7 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- Dec 20 - Annual Holiday Party at the Wethersfield Community Center

Calender of Events - 2011

- January 5 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- January 10 - Regular Meeting 7:00pm Aspects of Bonsai design
- February 1 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- February - 28 Regular Meeting 7:00pm
- March 8 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- March 21 - Regular Meeting 7:00pm
- April 13 -16 MidAtlantic Bonsai Exhibition in Grantville, PA

SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS

September 2010			
October 2010			
November 2010			

New Talent Prize 2010

Written by Geof Holmes

This spring I was lucky to have won the Joshua Roth Best New Talent competition and the Peoples choice award at the Mid Atlantic Bonsai Festival. I arrived early to make sure I was all set to compete and I was allowed to look at the material we were to be given. To my surprise it was Procumbens “Nana” Juniper. I could see a tree in all of them, but hoped I did not get tree number two in the lottery. It had lumps on every branch. I waited then drew my number. Of course the Bonsai Gods, who must be jokers, set this up and I got tree number two. I set to work figuring I had no chance and just did the best I could to find the least lumpy line of the tree. As I was working people would come by to see what I was doing to my tree. Some of them would smile and a woman from Canada asked if she could take my picture for the club newsletter. I figured maybe I have a chance at this! After lunch I looked around at what my fellow competitors were doing and I thought maybe I really do have a shot at this! I finished up at around 4:00 pm and asked if I could leave. I was tired! Brian Kelly summed it up best he said “ I feel like I just went thru a final exam”. The next day people kept telling me my tree was great, but I did not want to get my hopes up. I knew it was going to be close. That night at the banquet they announced the winner and I had won! The prize was studying with an American bonsai artist. I talked to my friend Mike Pollock and he suggested Ryan Neil. Ryan had just returned to the US from studying with Masahiko Kimura for 6 years. I asked someone I knew of if he had a contact for Ryan and he did. I called Ryan to ask him if he would be willing to teach me and he said “Yes”! Then I had to figure out how I was going to get to Portland, Oregon where Ryan lives. Luckily I found out he was coming East to Bill Valavanis’s Bonsai Symposium. So I went to Rochester to pick Ryan up. It was great to talk to someone who knew real Japanese bonsai without a translator! We talked almost the whole way home. The next day we set to work on some of my trees. Ryan wanted my input on my trees and I told him you are the master so I will do what you want. He said “no you have to be happy with the end result”. So we worked together to come up with a design. He would give me tips as I was wiring and I got better right away. One was to forget wiring at a 45 degree angle to the branch. Stretch it out to 50 or 55 degrees the wire will hold better. Also when I wire I get some spaces between the wire and the branch. Ryan said bring the branch to the wire and it eliminates that. I did and it worked great. This was the first real wiring instruction I had been given other than reading about it in books. Ryan also uses less wire to make the tree look neater and it has the same result as wiring the whole tree. You just have to know what to wire and where to put it. He told me to style as I go rather than wire the whole tree then style it. If you can make the basic fan shape branch formation you can use that on any tree. We styled one tree in about ½ a day. This was progress to me after spending 3 days on one tree in a workshop before! You can see the results in my before and after photos. The next day we finished up a tree I thought I had seen a literati tree in, but Ryan tipped it over to make it a cascade. It came out fantastic as well! All in all we worked 6 trees. Ryan and I got along great and have made plans to work together again. I am hoping to go to Portland and work on some of his collected material next year. I really believe Ryan will be the best bonsai artist in America in a very short time! He will have his website up soon so check out his work at www.bonsaimirai.com

