



# BONSAI SOCIETY OF GREATER HARTFORD

Volume 2007 Issue 5

May 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.

## April 16 Meeting

### Robert Stevens Visit

"You want to create the best view and an illusion of depth," Steven says. Any bonsai will have "an expected view, a favorite view."

"Look at a tree. Find its character, its personality, the main line," he says. "Image a canvas. What kind of outline would it have? What kind of silhouette?"

Some quotes from Roberts afternoon session.

What can be added. There were so many raves about the great opportunity we had to have Robert visit us. While we expecting an evening demo we were treated to a great lecture on Robert's thoughts and visions and insights to the art of Bonsai. He emphasized how we should never change the character of the tree and how the point of attention shows a positive response to the creator, He mention how import the lines, symmetry and balance are so important.

Balance is determined by the root style, placement and size of canopy and wrong pot or placement in the pot.

I hope everyone had an opportunity to see the article in the Hartford Courant who had sent a reporter and photographer to the afternoon session. Robert did get around to styling a juniper at the end of his lecture and was win in the raffle by Dave G.



## 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. The evening demo/lecture will be in the lower level in the building behind Todd's House. Please bring a folding chair.

## May 12th Winterberry Gardens 9:30am—4:00pm

Winterberry Gardens has extend an invitation for us to host a club open house where we can gather to work on trees etc. We will have two areas set up, one will be for us to get together and work on trees, socialize and talk bonsai 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. I am not sure about seating so it might be a good idea to bring your own chair.

We will also be doing a Lecture/Demo on an intro into the art of Bonsai for beginners for the general public. 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.

In case of inclement weather they will set us up in there greenhouse or under a tent.

Winterberry gardens (<http://www.winterberrygarden.com>) is located at 2070 West St, Southington, Ct. Directions: Take I-84 west. Take Exit 31 and turn right at end of ramp. Go 2.2 miles and Winterberry is located on the left. Across the street from ESPN

## May 21st Regular Meeting

This will be our regular monthly meeting and Bring Your Own Tree workshop. Members are encouraged to bring in there trees to work on and ask questions and work with some of the more experienced members together more knowledge. This is also the last meeting before our annual show on May 26 & 27th so it his a great opportunity to bring in the trees you are going to be exhibiting and put the final touches on them for the show, cleaning all debris, enhancing the soil, adding mosses, last minute shaping

## Annual Picnic - June 9th

Michale Persiano will be joining us this year. Michael will be doing a morning BYOT workshop starting at 9:00am till 12:30pm. If you have not signed up for this contact Geof @ [gdholmes86@msn.com](mailto:gdholmes86@msn.com)

The picnic will start at 12:00pm with a social hour followed by lunch at 1:00pm and an afternoon Kingsville Boxwooddemo by Michael at 2:00pm.

Following the demo we will have our annual fundraising auction, This requires two things to be successful, donated items and will buyers. So we are looking for donations being, pots, soils, trees tools, etc to be successful. These funds are very important to the club as it makes it possible to bring in some very good teachers to help us all as well as being able to pick up items for bonsai that we all can use.

The club will provide the food and drinks but we all need to bring our own chairs and appetites.

The picnic will again be at Todd's house and we thank Todd for the invitation. Anyone needing directions can contact me by email and I will forward them out to you.

## Calendar of Club Events for 2007

- 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 9:30am — 4:00pm**
- May 21 — Club Meeting at Pond House, 7— 9:30  
**Bring Your Own Tree** and wire & tools—Prep for show
- May 26 & 27 - Greater Hartford Annual Bonsai Exhibition & Show
- June 5 - Board Meeting 7:00PM Dave & Vreni's
- **June 9 — Annual Club Picnic Food, Demo, Raffles and Auction — Todd's House**  
**9:30am—12:30pm Morning workshop with Michael Persiano—Kingsville Boxwood or BYOT**  
**12:00pm-1:00pm — Social Hour**  
**1:00pm — 2:00pm Lunch**  
**2:00pm — Demo Followed by auction**
- July — No Board Meeting
- July 14 — Club trip to NE Bonsai & Bonsai West More info to follow
- 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 May everyone.

And an amazing month it is. Repotting is the deal and now is the time. As Lily and I repotted this Spring, the easy stuff was transplanting pot to pot. The roots had already been well worked and it was a quick process.

Repotting from nursery containers was a bit slower, but a great time to expose and evaluate the roots and really decide what the tree would be. Styling without knowing the roots can lead a tree in a very different direction. What do the roots, a large part of the tree lend to the design? Would knowing what's under there change your mind about the trees future posture or even the ultimate style? Would they influence whether you choose a rugged pot, a rock or slab, or a fine Japanese container? This is the occasional opportunity to see the whole tree and truly imagine where it could go.

Don't overlook the opportunity to style your roots. They can be split, moved, grafted on, turned into deadwood or even regrown if all is useless.

Check out the Blue Rug on the rock that has grown upright in a pot for years. It was recovering from over watering and root rot. Notice that the roots were half rotted but extremely solid on one side turning them from round to ribbon. Suddenly this tree changed direction due to a viewing of the root structure. It's obviously not styled. It should settle and accept the rock for one full season. I can't wait until Spring '08. There's so much to work with.

Regarding the rock, it was found in that deep gorge on the Farmington River in Tarrifville in '03. I'd put a little Chinese Elm on it. Dave B. came to a board meeting at my house and said, " Nice rock. Why don't you put a good tree on it? "

Well Dave, I heard the Boom. A gauntlet responded to.

I dropped in a couple other photos of stuff we've been working.

Gotta go pot a tree. T





## **Greater Hartford Bonsai Society Annual Show, May 26 and 27, 2007**

Please mark those calendars to make sure that you can attend the Annual Show of the Bonsai Society of Greater Hartford. This is a great opportunity to learn more about bonsai, to teach the public about bonsai, and to recruit some new members.

The dates. Sat. May 26, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Sun. May 27, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Location. The Pond House at Elizabeth Park.

Set up begins at 7 AM. Please be there as close to 7 AM as possible since we open the doors just four hours later. PLEASE TRY TO LEAVE YOUR TREES IN YOUR CAR UNTIL THE TABLES ARE SET UP. This avoids chaos and damage. Your trees should arrive by 10 AM at the latest. Later arrivals are welcome but cause chaos since the show is usually well along in layout by that time.

Trees. Remember, we like to have everyone put a tree in the show. It is a great way to participate in the show and to learn more about bonsai. If you want some more input on your trees, feel free to bring them to the May meeting, just days before the show, and some of the more experienced members can provide you with some suggestions.

Lots of trees. Sometimes we get too many trees. If you are an experienced member with lots of bonsai, please bring a good number of trees without getting carried away. We have sometimes had too many trees show up for display. If that happens this time, the Show Co-Chair persons, namely Bob Neems and Geof Holmes, will have to ask those who brought lots of trees to take some out of the exhibit.

PLANT LABELS. You need to provide information about your tree, including the latin and American names for the plant, the (presumed) age of the plant, and the time spent in training. It is BEST if this information is e mailed to Diana (majchrzak@cox.net) ahead of the show. It is SECOND BEST to bring a list of your tree information to the show when you arrive. It is THIRD BEST (not so good) to bring the trees and then try to remember all the information.

Learning. If you are a newer member, the show is a great place to spend a lot of time in order to learn more about bonsai. Ask for suggestions about your trees. Look for advice on horticulture and design. Expect to get some contradictory advice. This is an art, not a science, and people are bound to have different ideas. This is also a great time for more experienced members to get reactions and suggestions about their bonsai from other club members.

## Show Info — Continued

Bugs. Plants with bugs and diseases are best left at home. It is a good idea to spray all plants about a week before the show to get rid of any lurking pests. Please don't do this in the last couple of days before the show or we will be exhibiting with "Odor du Malathion." (pesticide stench)

Grooming. The show looks best when plants, pots and the soil surface have been cleaned up, preferably before you bring the tree to the show. Most unglazed pots look better if rubbed with mineral oil. Pluck out those weeds. Replace damaged moss. Putting the tree against a clear background helps you to see it more clearly.

Raffle Tree Reminder. The following people have agreed to provide a raffle tree, Bob N, Geof Holmes x 2, Josie, and Diana. Please let me know if you can't do this.

Advertising. Doug T. did a great job with the poster design. Diana has done a great job mailing and e mailing information to many sources. Geof did a fine job getting the Hartford Courant to do a story about our visit from Robert Steven. If you still have some posters and bookmarks available, please put them at Garden Centers or someplace else where people will see them.

Sales Area. The club, as a nonprofit organization, is allowed to sell materials free of sales tax on a few occasions during the year. Club members will be able to sell some plants through the club. Put a tag, stick, or piece of tape on the pot listing your initials and the price of the plant. REMEMBER, 10% of the listed price goes to Sully to handle labor and 10% of the price goes to the club's coffers. So, if you write \$20 on a price tag, Sully and the club will each get \$2 and you will get \$16. More complex math will be handled on an as needed basis.

Workers. Ah yes, we do have to staff this event. A sign up sheet will be available at the club meetings on May 8 and May 25 where you can sign up for Working At The Door (taking admission, selling raffle tickets) and for Plant Sitting. The role of the plant sitter is not so obvious and perhaps should be renamed. You are asked not to actually sit on any plant you do not own. What we need are people walking around to answer questions, to remind people not to touch the plants, and to make sure that cute little bonsai, rocks, etc do not disappear. We have had a very limited problem with theft in the past, so this is an important role.

Demonstrators. There will be six demonstrations at the show. I will be setting up the schedule for three different demonstrators each day. PLEASE LET ME (Bob Neems) KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO A DEMONSTRATION.

Work area. There will still be a work area in the back of the room near the windows that will be available for club members to work on trees.

Workshop lessons. This is something new. We will offer the public an initial lesson. They can bring or buy a tree at our sales area and we will help them do an initial styling with no charge for the lesson. We have planned this for Sat at 1 PM and Sunday at 11 AM but since we didn't do advance publicity on this, we may have to be flexible.

THE TAKE DOWN. Take down starts promptly at 4 PM on Sunday. Please be ready to put your plants in your cars so that we can quickly take down the set up. Please do not start the take down until the show chairpersons announce that the show is actually over. There is usually a wedding after our event, so be prepared to help the bride not panic when she sees our tools and trees. PLEASE be careful of the possessions of others if you are moving things that do not belong to you.

Storage and Hot Dogs. The current plan is that the club's show materials will go in Bob's attic in West Hartford. This is a short distance from the park. For those of you who have not had this particular experience in the past, putting the things in Bob's attic requires 5-6 people to help pass the stuff up into the attic with the added challenge of the attic fan pulling a wind storm past you.

All Club Members are welcome to join for a simple cookout after the show to enjoy the day and share stories of daring pruning etc. I believe that David C has volunteered to man the grill. It would be a good idea if a few people brought along some lawn chairs.

Thanks for the help.

Bob Neems Robert Neems (rhneems@sbcglobal.net) and Geof Holmes (gdholmes86@msn.com)

### Refreshment Volunteers for 2006/2007

Date	1st Person	2nd Person	3rd Person
May 21	Con Connolly	Vreni Caudle	Laura Shaw
June	Annual Club Picnic		