



BONSAI SOCIETY OF GREATER HARTFORD

Volume 2006 Issue 4

April 2006 Newsletter

All regular business 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 20th Program — Arthur Skolnik



Arthur joined us on Monday, March 20. He started out his day with an afternoon workshop at Todd's with six members and three observers to a very interesting and informative workshop. As shown on the picture there were quite a variety of trees being worked on and critique. All attendees were very pleased with the comments, suggestion and help offered by Arthur, as well as the jokes

After dinner at Todd's we all moved over to The Pond House for the club meeting and critique. Wow, what a turnout. Arthur sure had his work cut out for him as members brought in about 25 trees from pre-bonsai to "finished" bonsai as well as Dave's collection of viewing stones. Arthur did a fine job of evaluating and critique and I am sure a lot of members left with a lot more info on refining their trees and stones. This was followed with a great raffle of about 15 items that members graciously contributed to make it a very successful raffle. A special thanks to Arthur for a great time



April Monthly Meeting—April 17th @ 7PM Mini– Mugho pine workshop.

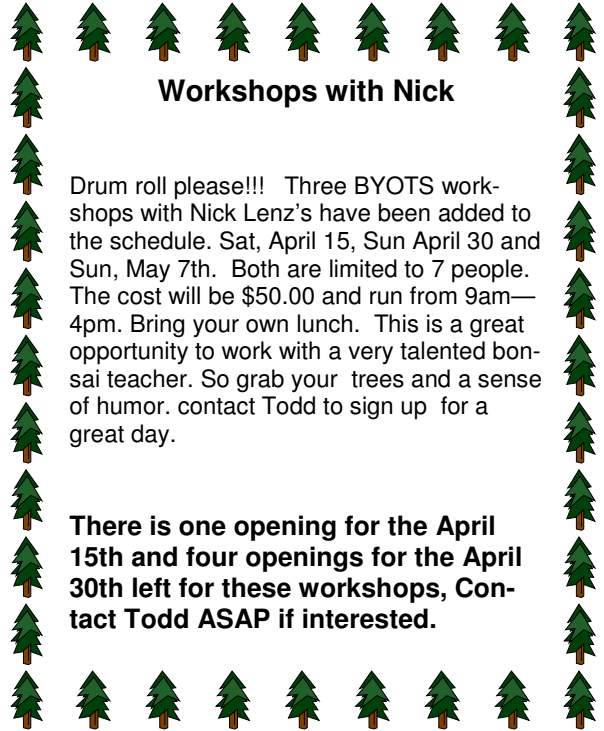
Todd will be bringing in some mini-mugho pines that he picked up down South. The plan will be to discuss the trees as is then break up into small groups with each group design a tree into a pre-bonsai. This will be followed by a reviewing all the trees before and after and have a little competition to see which group came up with the best design. As always members are also encouraged to bring in there own trees if they wish to work or or get some excellent critiques by the other members

It's Elizabeth Park Garden clean-up time!

On Saturday, April 29th, from 8:30a.m. till 12:30p.m. we're scheduled to clean up the Japanese Garden site at Elizabeth Park. As you all know, our volunteer hours contribute to reducing the fees for use of the Pond House. It's important that we have a good turn-out for this work day.

We are very fortunate to have a club member who has graciously agreed to help with the design, but we're looking for everyone's ideas and suggestions. David Silver of Bantam Bonsai is a professional landscaper who is currently involved with the UConn Master Gardener Program. He has studied with many Bonsai Masters and his business specializes in Japanese, perennial, rock and water gardens. He is willing to help with drawing out the design, advising us on plant choices and placement. It looks like we'll finally be getting a start on turning our site into an alternate destination in the park, and your input is welcome and invited. Let's see if we can rival the Rose Garden as a draw in the Park!

I'd like to get started as close to 8:30 as possible. We'll have a short break around 10 for refreshments, and then finish up around 12:30 for lunch on the club. Hope to see you there!



Workshops with Nick

Drum roll please!!! Three BYOTS workshops with Nick Lenz's have been added to the schedule. Sat, April 15, Sun April 30 and Sun, May 7th. Both are limited to 7 people. The cost will be \$50.00 and run from 9am—4pm. Bring your own lunch. This is a great opportunity to work with a very talented bonsai teacher. So grab your trees and a sense of humor. contact Todd to sign up for a great day.

There is one opening for the April 15th and four openings for the April 30th left for these workshops, Contact Todd ASAP if interested.

Annual Club Picnic

Annual picnic — June 11 at Todd's Place.

9:30am-12:00pm Workshop with John Romano

Limited to 6 people BYOT

Noon– 1:30pm Lunch Time Club will provide burgers, dogs, and soft drinks. Memebers will be asked to round out menu with other dishes and deserts

1:30pm-3:00pm Shohin Lecture/Demo by John

3:00pm unti finish— Auction, Please bring in items for auction.

Directions to follow

Contact Geof or Todd ASAP to sign up for the morning workshop

American Bonsai Society Learning Seminar June 15-18, 2006

This years weekend long bonsai educational experience will be held at the Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY. There will be 32 bonsai learning classes. Each registrant will attend 4 classes, two classes each day with exceptional bonsai instructors.

Check it out at www.absbonsai.org

Calendar of Club Events for 2006

- March 7 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- March 18-19 — West Hartford's 4th Annual Orchid Show
- March 20 — Club meeting at Pond House Arthur Skolnic (subject TBD)
Filled — Monday BYOT workshop at Todd's 1:00PM-5:00PM
- April 4 — Board Meeting 7:00PM. Location TBD
- April 15 — BYOT Workshop with Nick Lenz 9am-4pm Fee \$50.00
Limit 6 people. Location—Nicks Place
- April 17 — Club Meeting at the Pond House , 7— 9:30
Juniper Chop shop or BYOT
- April 21-23 — Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Festival — East Hanover, NJ
- **April 29 — Elizabeth Park Clean-up 8:30am—12:30pm**
- **April 29 — New Haven Public Library 1:30pm-3:0pm**
Todd H. Bonsai Lecture
- April 30 — BYOT Workshop with Nick Lenz 9am-4pm Fee \$50.00
Limit 6 people. Location—Nicks Place
- May 2 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- May 7 — BYOT Workshop with Nick Lenz 9am-4pm Fee \$50.00
Filled— Limit 6 people. Location—Nicks Place
- May 15 — Club Meeting at the Pond House , 7— 9:30
BYOT Workshop
- June 6 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- June 11 — Club Picnic with John Romano
Contact Todd to sign up for John morning Workshop
- June 17 & 18 — Rose Garden Weekend at Elizabeth Park
Club will have bonsai exhibit under the tent
- July 4 — Board Meeting ?????
- July 15 & 16 — 25th Annual GHBS Exhibition at the Pond House
- July 17 — Club Meeting at the Pond House — Beginners BYOT
- August — No Board Meeting or regular club meeting

Other Bonsai Happenings — 2006

- June 15-18 — American Bonsai Society Learning Seminars, Saratoga Springs, NY
- June 24 — China Trade Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition
Demonstrations, Lectures, Vendor Area, Great Food

Ramblings from Todd

Happy April folks-

What a great month! I've been repotting like a madman. If I'm not at work, I'm doing bonsai and gardening, hopeful to make major strides on the garden this season. Once again this year, a lot of things are coming out of the nursery and the good work done over the past couple of seasons is starting to show.

With the fencing and gates complete last week, I'll finally be able to display my trees out in the garden instead of huddled against the house for security sake. Finally some monkey poles and some permanent benches.

The unusual weather these past couple months has required some extra work, but it seems to have paid off. To combat the warm days and early leafing, I was opening windows at night and closing the cold in during the day. I didn't use light control tactics as I read in Bonsai Europe Magazine that denying light when the temperature is above 40 degrees is just that, only denying light. The trees are still awake and evergreens transpiring. Now, if the deciduous trees are leafing, the leaves will simply reach and grow overly large and leggy. To that end, I put all my hardy conifers outside and moved all the deciduous trees into the brighter cold greenhouse. It seems to be working. I'm not suffering the "reaching" encountered other years.

The repotting regime is also paying off. Knowing that I tend to over water, I adjusted my soil mix starting last season and went with a well screened, coarse mix that drains very freely. I repotted a few of those trees to find amazing root development in just one season. I'm also avoiding the use of make-shift training containers and making sure that any container used is sturdy and that there are ample drainage holes. All the trees are being tied in place to eliminate any movement that may break off newly forming roots. Also, any training containers that I've collected over the years have been scrutinized for stability. I've found that lightweight and thin walled containers shift and move when handled. It doesn't matter whether the tree moves or the soil shifts, it's all bad! So, the lightweight containers are gone. I'm also avoiding pushing trees into ceramic containers before they are ready for showing. Cooler roots and less temperature swings in the soil makes better, healthier bonsai. By staying on top of the repotting efforts and doing the deed at the perfect time, more aggressive root pruning is possible. I wouldn't want to "hammer" on the roots of a tree starting to leaf, but with the buds just swelling, have the confidence to chop hard and get those structural roots out of there. I'm pleased to report that I now actually have a few collected trees that have a "loin mane" of fine drinking roots like you see in the magazines.

The best part about the repotting season is having the whole tree available for viewing. I've often felt restyling a tree without seeing what's below the surface of the soil is like drawing with your eyes closed. Consider documenting the roots with a quick snapshot, to be more aware of what to expect at the next repotting. This allows for planning and therefore better, faster development of the prebonsai materials.

Here's a tip for recently collected trees or nursery stock. These trees tend to have many heavy structural roots that need ultimately to be removed. But what do you do when all the drinking root is out at the end of that 8" long, heavy root? Simply cutting it off may seem to dangerous. Don't eliminate it this year, simply make some cuts with a knife into the root close to the base of the tree and repot it into a generous container. Next time you repot, new drinking roots will have emerged from those areas and you'll then be able to lop off that heavy root. Treat all the heavy roots in this fashion and in one season you'll be able to remove them all.

Ramblins from Todd—Continued

More trees have been tucked in and around the garden. Small Tridents, Korean Hornbeam, and Japanese Beech have been rootpruned and bundled into future clumps and multi-trunk trees. Several items were uprooted and tied to rocks for future root-over-rock plantings. Others that were started a couple years ago were dug and evaluated, resecured and pulled up. It's really fun to see that progress. Other trees that just haven't prospered well in training pots have been returned to Mother Nature for a year or two to gain vigor.

That's exactly the course this Coral Bark Maple took. It spent two years in a training pot and whole sections died back. It then spent 2 years in the ground and look at this great prebonsai material once again on the move. The base has doubled in size in two years. The calluses around the dead areas are interesting and unusual as is the dead root. From wimpy to wonderful potential. Hollowed out trunk style anyone?



The man who gave me my first Bonsai lesson reminded me recently that, "You've got to kill a few to grow many." Just remember to take the lesson forward with you. If you kill a tree, don't just pitch it, evaluate it. Try to discover what went wrong so you don't make the same mistake again. I lost a very expensive Elm "stump" last year. After a quick fade away, I took the tree out of the pot and really looked it over. Sure enough, right at the soil line I found the entrance holes of borers. This in turn forced a serious look at my stock and especially the trees nearby the deceased Elm. I did find more borers and was able to treat some of those trees successfully.

Shifting gears, Midatlantic Bonsai Societies convention is this month. I hope to see many Hartford Club members there. We have many responsibilities and need folks who are willing to help. It's not too late to sign up and I know there are club members that are attending for just one day. You might be able to hitch a ride.

That Bayer product mentioned last month does help. After treatment the scale was knocked back hard, not eliminated, but seriously knocked back. I suspect I've under treated, but will continue to experiment and report.

See you at the meeting .. T

Refreshment Volunteers for 2006		
Date	1st Person	2nd Person
April 17	Al G	Geoffrey H
May 16	Jan W	Victoria & Yuliya
June 20	Club Picnic	
July 17	Jeff C	Lyn W

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies 2006 Spring Festival

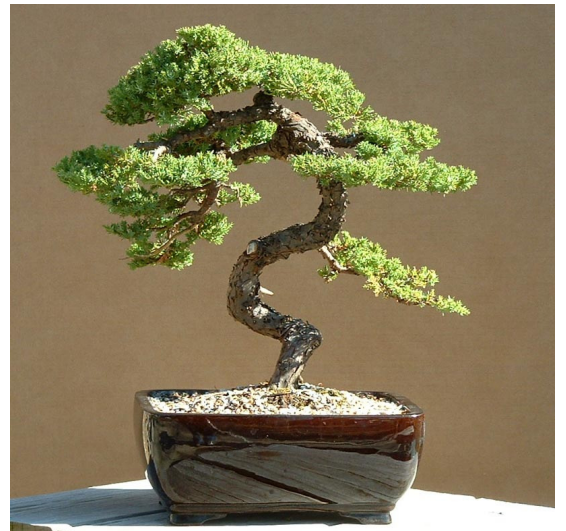
This years Spring Festival will mark the Twenty-Third Anniversary. The festivities will commence Friday evening, April 21, 2006 and will continue through Sunday afternoon, April 23, 2006 at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in East Hanover, NJ. Bonsai artists featured: Shinji Suzuki (Japan), Marco Invernizzi (Italy), Francois Jeker (France), and Pauline Muth(USA), Each artist will be presenting lecture/demonstrations, critiques, and workshops over the weekend. Great demo material should yield excellent bonsai, all of which will be raffled.

It is not to late to put this on your calendar either for the weekend or a trip down for the day on Saturday. Not only will you get to see some wonderful trees in the exhibit , it is also a great place to shop for a anything you might need in the way of bonsai essential. There will be a very large vendor area that will have many trees both pre-bonsai, finished trees, wire, soils, stones, etc. So Come on down and talk bonsai for the weekend or for the day . Currently there are about nine members attending and we hope to see more of you join us. Also, our club benefits more with the more members we have in attendance

Pictured below are the entries that our club will be exhibiting at the Mid-Atlantic exhibition. Look for next month's newsletter for critiques by the masters of these trees.



American larch
Larix Laricina
Collected from peat Bog 1988
Doug T.



Procumbens Nana
Japanese Garden Juniper
Geof H



Trident Maple
Jack H