



BONSAI SOCIETY OF GREATER HARTFORD

Volume 2006 Issue 6

June 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

May — Graham Potter Demo & Workshop

"There is so much for us to learn about our creation of beautiful bonsai and so many aspects that crave our attention, but more importantly, there is a great deal that bonsai and the tree can teach us. Be a student of nature" Graham Potter - <http://www.kaizenbonsai.com>

Graham's "all consuming passion in life" was evident in the day he spent with us at the afternoon workshop and the evening demo at the club meeting. His outlook on deadwood both jin and shari to use trees in nature as his palette. Explaining how deadwood can allow for use of less than ideal material as well as the part that deadwood plays in the integral part of life. He demonstrated this with his collection of pictures of actual trees in nature with their gnarls, broken and sheared off branches, hollowed trunks and roots.

The pictures on the right are the before and after of a yew that Graham worked on at the demo. Carving, burning, twisting the jin jin to simulate a tree that was exposed to some very severe weather conditions and adding age to a relatively young tree. Lime sulphur or teak oil for jin and shari treatment would be applied to simulate effect on low land trees or high mountain trees.

The lesson learned was to really observe trees in nature for inspiration.



Elizabeth Park Rose Weekend — June 24-25th

<http://www.elizabethpark.org>

This is a great weekend at the park to see it in its flowering glory. There will be quite a few activities going, storytelling, poetry, rose show, big band concert along horticultural displays under the tent. The Greater Hartford Bonsai will again this year will set up a display. Diane and Jan are will be manning this display and will also have a table setup to do some demo's while working on their personal trees as well as answering questions. If you get a chance stop by and say hello and maybe give Diane and Jan some support. Last years event was very well attended and our bonsai display attracted quite an interest

Greater Hartford Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition

Annual Show, July 15 and 16, 2006.

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. July 15, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Sun. July 16, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The place. 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.

The 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 June picnic 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 Chairman, who happens to be me this time, will have to ask those who brought lots of trees to take some out of the exhibit.

The labels for the trees. Please bring along information on the trees to be displayed including the Common (American) name for the plant, the latin name, the age and years in training. If you send this information in advance to Diana, she will be shocked.

The 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.

The 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)

The 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 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.

The Raffle Tree Reminder. The following people have agreed to provide a raffle tree, Doug, Bob, Josie, Diana, Todd. Please let me know if you can't do this.

The Advertising. Ben has got us listed in number of media. Posters and bookmarks will be available at the picnic. Please put them up in Garden Centers, Gas Stations, Grocery Stores, any place frequented by humans.

The 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.

Greater Hartford Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition – Cont

The Demonstrators. There will be six demonstrations at the show. I will be setting up the schedule for three different demonstrators each day.

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. 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. We thank Todd for providing storage these past several years, but we will now return his home to him. 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 basic, brief cookout after the stuff is put away. A volunteer for the grill will be appreciated.

The Day After is the club's July meeting where we will be offering basic bonsai instruction to new comers. If space is available, other club members are welcome to work on plants too. Please save some energy so that you will be able to help with this event.

Thanks for the help. Bob

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. Members will be asked to round out menu with other dishes and deserts

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

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

Club is also looking forward to auction items pots, plants , tools etc

Workshop with John in the morning is currently filled. Silent Observers Welcome

Future Fall events

Geof as been working hard on a fall schedule for events. He is looking for two open house bonsai workshops, one in August and another in September.

John Cattagio, from NY will be joining us on Sept 18 for a Sakei workshop and demo. John will bring have material for sale to create a sakei.

More of spending the day with Nick — as a side note I noticed that Stone Lantern Publishers is advertising Nick new book (2nd edition) to be coming out soon.

More info on these events and more to follow.

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

- 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
Graham Potter— Afternoon workshop, Evening Demo
- May 20 — Bonsai open House and workday at Bob N. 10:00am-5:00pm
- June 6 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- June 11 — Club Picnic with John Romano
- June 24 & 25 — Rose Garden Weekend at Elizabeth Park
Club will have bonsai exhibit under the tent
- June 27 — July Board Meeting moved up one week Location TBD
- 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
- August — Bonsai Open House and workday Date & Location TBD
- Sept 5 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- Sept 18 — Club Meeting at the Pond House , 7— 9:30
John Cattagio—Afternoon workshop & Evening Demo
- Sept — Bonsai Open House and workday Date & Location TBD

Other Bonsai Happenings — 2006

- June 15-18 — American Bonsai Society Learning Seminars, Saratoga Springs, NY
- June 24 — **China Trade Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition 9:00am-5:00pm**
Cummings Arts Center at Connecticut College, New London, CT
Demonstrations, Lectures, Vendor Area, Great Food

Ramblins from Todd

Happy June everyone- I know it's June, but if I had to guess based on weather, I guess I wouldn't be sure. This has been a most unusual Spring.

I hope you all enjoyed Graham Potter. I think the takeaway with Graham is understanding deadwood on both conifers and deciduous, that deadwood goes in and out, and don't look at bonsai for inspiration, look at trees in nature. I was surprised that he viewed my collection mostly with indifference. Sure a few things interested, but..... I wasn't offended, I was amazed! So I asked. I discovered that Graham works on trees that are so seriously notched up from the typical material we have that he was merely underwhelmed. He expressed that in Europe there are still excellent, no, amazing collecting opportunities and the material is old and large. They can also import from China and Japan easily, providing more great material. He was however very impressed with our abundance of backyard yamadori, especially the Yews. He just couldn't get over the Yews and wondered why we didn't grow more Yew bonsai.

My hat's off to Graham for working so diligently at his teaching. As an artist his talents are amazing and his interest in sharing knowledge was genuine. He's the type of guest that raises the bar. He certainly has left me thinking.

Looking forward to the picnic, please be reminded that our guest artist is John Romano, a shohin expert. The workshop is full but SILENT observers are still welcome. The workshop is from 9-Noon.

Lunch will be served from Noon - 1:00. The club will provide Burgers, Dogs, condiments and soft drinks. The rest is up to you folks. Please think back to the Christmas party and the ridiculous amount of food we had. Remembering that, temper your enthusiasm. If the dish you bring feeds 5-7 people and 40 of us show up with something, we will have 200-280 servings of whatever.

After lunch John Romano will enlighten us about Shohin Bonsai, very small trees. John is an award winning artist with a real thirst for anything Bonsai. Congratulations to John, his Larch was chosen as one of the 65 International Winners in the 2005 World Bonsai Competition. John has apprenticed in Japan and is associated with our friends at New England Bonsai. John teaches regularly at NEB and at area club events.

After the demo, it's the auction. Please remember to bring an auction donation. Bonsai stuff is cool, but anything someone might want is great also.

Please also bring lawn chairs for yourselves. I have lots of tables, not that many chairs.

Also, please bring a tree to show off. I'll have an area set-up to display your trees. Perhaps you can get an impromptu critique on your tree from John.

We will picnic rain or shine. If it's rain, come to the building behind my house and go downstairs. We'll grill at the garage door. Plenty of space, tables and good lighting.

If it's shine, we win.

Sorry for the short edition Ramblin's, but I've got Picnic planning to do. See you there. As of 6/7 the forecast is still sun and 75.
T

Refreshment Volunteers for 2006		
Date	1st Person	2nd Person
June 20	Club Picnic	
July 17	Jeff C	Lyn W