



BONSAI SOCIETY OF GREATER HARTFORD

Volume 2008 Issue 10

October 2008 Newsletter

All regular meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month from 6:30PM -9:30PM.

MEETING INFO

Meeting date— Sept 15, Regular time 6:30pm

Meeting place — William J. Pitkin Community Center (Wethersfield Community Center) 30 Greenfield Street, Wethersfield, CT (860) 721-2950. See below for directions

Jack Hoover

Jack Hoover stop by for a discussion on pot selection and pot making. Jack brought a variety of pots and discussed the selection process he uses to fit the tree with the pot. He also brought several of his very interesting trees to help explain the relationship of the pot to the tree. One of the trees had won an award at Tower Hill Bonsai show the previous week-end. Looking at glazed vs. unglazed, criteria for the depth, length and width vs. tree style and size. Jack is also in the process of a spending a lot more time with making pots and improving his talents. Happy retirement Jack. Jack explain how and where to purchase the clay material to get the base colors for his pots. He brought some clay, molds, templates and proceeded to make up two pots, an oval and a rectangle., which actually is a there step process, the base, attaching the sides and then removing from the template turning them over and the making and attaching of the legs. Jack then explain the process of firing the pots and glazing process. Jack also signed and dated the pots for GHBS and will be donating the finished pots to the club and will included in the auction that we will have at our annual holiday party in December. We really want to thank Jack for joining us and a very informative discussion on the importance of pot selection.



Upcoming Events

Thursday - Oct 16th Meeting — Featuring Julian Adams—Scots Pine

NOTE THIS IS A DIFFERENT MEETING DAY THAN NORMAL

Julian has been active in bonsai since receiving his first bonsai as a gift in 1971 (which I believe he still has). His primary interest is to make bonsai plants and supplies available to all bonsai enthusiasts. He started Adams Bonsai in 1984. Julian has written in a variety of bonsai publications and is the editor of the Central Bonsai Society newsletter.

There will be an afternoon workshop at the Wethersfield Community Center from 1:00pm-5:00pm. There are four openings left, Contact Geof if you wish to attend.

The evening meeting will begin at 6:30pm when Julian will give a presentation of everything you wanted to know about Scots pine and bonsai.

Openings Left for Full Day Workshop with Nick Lenz

There are 3 openings left for Saturday Sunday Oct 19th for full day workshop at Nick place to work on trees with a really great artist. It is a good idea to contact Geof and sign up early as these workshops fill up rather quickly. These usually run from 9AM—4PM, You need to bring your own lunch. Nicks is located in North Leverett, Ma which is an hour and a half north of Hartford.

Contact Geof at ggholmes86@msn.com or 413-229-8874 to reserve a spot.

This and That

The board of directors met last Tuesday at the Butterfly Chinese Restaurant in West Hartford, Ct to check out the facility and the food menu. We are planning on holding our annual holiday party in December at this restaurant. I think we were all satisfied with the food and the different selections as well as the facility. More details will be coming next month

It is getting near that time of the year where we need to think about officers for the upcoming year, I have been selected the dubious honor of heading the nominating committee. The elected officers are the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, If anyone has any interest to serve at one of these positions or becoming a member of the Board of Directors contact me. We are in need for a secretary. This job is to take the minutes of the BOD directors meeting

Geof is working on an interesting topic for the November meeting that should be very interesting to all who appreciate nature and Bonsai

2008 Schedule

- Aug 2 - Road trip to New York Botanical Garden
- **Aug 23 — Open House at Todd.s Sanctuary Bonsai, East Hartford**
- Sept 2 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location Geof's House
- Sept 15 — Club Meeting 7:00pm Jack Hoover - Choosing Pots and BYOT Workshop
Location Wethersfield Community Center
- Sept 27 — **Open House at Dianna's, Meriden**
- **Oct 4 — Full Day BYOTs workshop with Nick Lenz @ Nick's house**
- Oct 7 — Board Meeting 6:30 PM **Butterfly Chinese Restaurant**, 831 Farmington Ave. West Hartford, CT
- Oct 16 — Julian Adams Pine Lecture Afternoon Workshop 1:00pm—5:00pm
- **Oct 19 — Full Day BYOTs workshop with Nick Lenz @ Nick's house**
- Nov 4 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- Nov 17 — Club Meeting Program TBD
- Dec 2 — Board Meeting 7:00PM Location TBD
- Dec 15 — Annual Holiday Party @ Butterfly Chinese Restaurant, 931 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, Ct

| Snacks & Refreshments | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| October 16, 2008 | Ann & Bob Raymond | Brian Emerick |
| November 17, 2008 | Linn Ward | Dave Glazewski |
| December 15, 2008 | Annual Holiday Party | |
| Jan 2009 | Frank Brooks | Dave B. |
| February 2009 | Yulia | Jose Warden |
| March 2009 | Con C | Jose Amat |
| | | |

Meeting Cancellation Notices

In case of inclement weather check WFSB, Channel 3 for cancellation of a regular schedule meeting. Dianna will also send out e-mail to all those on GHBS e-mail list.

Ramblins from Todd

Happy October folks.

It's getting cold at night, still warm days, but Fall is in the air and it's color starts to permeate our trees both big and small. This is one of my favorite times of the year.

Now is a great time to plan for the winter storage of your trees. There are many ways to over winter Bonsai and many work very effectively. At this point your tropical trees should be inside safe from temperatures below 50 degrees. Find as much sunlight and warmth as you can provide and augment meaning raise humidity if possible. A humidifier helps. If that's not practical, a humidity tray will also help. For my temperate trees, I will start the preparation process now, by first freeing all the pots of weeds and debris. Then comes spraying for pests over the next 15 days. A broad spectrum spray is good mixed with some horticultural oil as a sufficient. Now is also a good time to remove the top 1/4" or so of the soil to remove any pests or pest eggs hidden there. Don't reuse this soil, discard it. Replace it with fresh soil. Check under foliage and on pine needles for egg clusters. I know this sounds laborious, but this effort is well worth the time. There is nothing worse than fighting any infestation all Winter. Due to space constraints, anything not in ceramic and with lots of soil will stay out. Larches will stay out as they need to freeze solid. As the humidity decreases and the nights get cooler training trees and nursery stock will be placed low on the ground on boards out of the wind. The boards help with drainage and provide some insulation from the soon to freeze ground. Only after 3 frosts will they be mulched in. Waiting 3 frosts helps insure that the mice find another place to over winter that they don't live of your trees girdling them for food. Mulch with straw, hay or bark mulch, but avoid treated bark, which is treated with pesticides. You don't want that leaching into your trees all winter. In the past I have even mulched my trees with leaves raked from the yard. It works!

You can also bury your trees in the ground in a nursery or flower bed somewhere. I have too many for this tactic. If you remove the root balls from the pots, and bury, mulch well and still follow the 3 frosts rule.

My other trees go into an unheated garage and greenhouse on the North side of my house. An unheated greenhouse with a south facing should be covered to protect from the warming sun. Regardless of your over wintering strategy, remember the magic numbers are 32 and 40. Below 32 degrees root balls freeze solid. This is to be avoided. Above 40 degrees your conifers will wake up and transpire fluids. When it's warm check water. Do not water frozen trees!!!! If things are frozen and you suspect they are dry put ice cubes or snow in the pots. When it warms, the water will be there at just the right time.



Remember, trees that are asleep don't need any sunlight as they are not transpiring. Hope this helps. Over wintering can be confusing. Let 32 and 40 and decimating, dry Winter winds guide your decisions.

Good luck. If I can help with any information, feel free to contact me. I've attached a couple Fall foliage shots for your enjoyment.

I will miss Julian Adams due to scheduling conflicts but I recommend you don't. Julian is a friend of mine, a very nice person, and very knowledgeable about many facets of Bonsai. Don't miss this next meeting and I'm truly sorry I will.

Also, please know I will suffer an email address change next week. I will send an alert when I know the new address.

