

Four Seasons of Bonsai

Bonsai Society of Greater Springfield's Newsletter

January 2008

Happy New Year

It was a successful 2007 for our little Bonsai Society. We hosted two bonsai artist from over seas: Marco Invernizzi from Italy, and David Beneventi from Spain. We also had several workshops with local Bonsai artists; Two full day events with Nick Lenz and a full day event at Suthin Suckosolvisit's Royal Bonsai Garden, and lets not forget the free Bonsai get-togethers one hosted by Lee Berrouard, one at Sandy Saffer's, and one at my home.

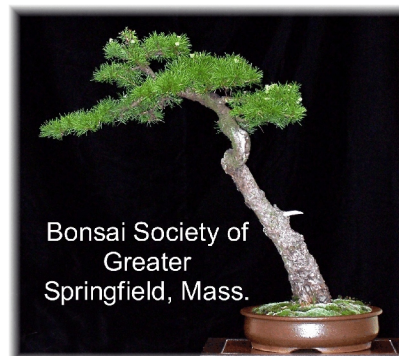
In the Spring we exhibited our Bonsai at the Southwick Fine Arts show. Our club Summer Picnic was kindly hosted by John Rough and his gracious wife at their home in Palmer although I was unable to attend I heard many good reviews. Our Annual show, though not a money maker this year, still had very good participation by our members and the Bonsai seem to be getting better every year. Many members also participated in the Tower Hill Bonsai Weekend in September. One of our members won First place (Todd Hansen's Blue Rug Cascade), and Second place (my Yew) in the judged exhibition.

Our Society got invited to join the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies and will participate in their regional Bonsai convention at the Hudson resort and Spa on April 11-13. We voted and passed the motion at our November meeting. So we are now one of the 10 member Societies. **YAH!!**

What a busy year and I am sure I forgot an event or two. I hope we continue to make your road to better bonsai a smooth and enjoyable journey. We can't do this without your participation and support. Many hands make light work for all.

Schedule of Events

- Dec. 18** **Holiday Party** at The Ginger Blossom 1203 Parker Street Springfield at 6:00 pm
We will be ordering from menu so cost is dependent on your order.
Please bring wrapped gift for Yankee gift swap (of no more than \$25.00 value)
- Jan. 3** **Board Meeting** at Doug Taylor's home please call if you will be attending. 733-2009
- Jan. 15** **Monthly Meeting** First in a series of Tree Species intensive meetings. We are inviting members to give a lecture covering a type of tree we use for bonsai completely. From horticulture to design, all with our N.E. growing conditions in mind. We invite members to bring in trees of the type that is being discussed. Sandy Saffer will be giving us his Soup to Nuts lecture on **Boxwood Bonsai** at this meeting.
- Feb. 7** **Board Meeting** Volunteer Host needed
- Feb. 19** **Monthly Meeting** Second in a series of Tree Species intensive meetings. We invite members to bring in trees of the type that is being discussed. Doug Taylor will be giving us his Soup to Nuts lecture on **Yew Bonsai** at this meeting.
- March 6** **Board Meeting** Volunteer Host needed
- March 18** **Monthly Meeting** Open to suggestions
- April 3** **Board Meeting** Volunteer Host needed
- April 11-13** **Special Event** Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Convention. Details can be found at www.MidAtlanticBonsai.Freeservers.com
- April 17** **Monthly Meeting** **THIRD THURSDAY (Date Changed to fit Artist's Schedule)**
Roy Nagatoshi Bonsai demonstration. Mr. Nagatoshi is the owner of California's Fuji en Bonsai nursery and has traveled the world teaching bonsai. He was one of the hardliners of the World Bonsai convention in Washington DC and he was credited for creating the bonsai trees used in the Karate Kid movies.
- April 17** **Workshop** 12:30 - 4:30 Bonsai Workshop with visiting artist Roy Nagatoshi. (Details to be announced)
- May 1** **Board Meeting** Volunteer Host needed
- May 20** **Monthly Meeting** Tentive Ted Matson Lecture & workshop
Details TBA
- June 5** **Board Meeting** Volunteer Host needed
- June 17** **Monthly Meeting** Second in a series of Tree Species intensive meetings. We invite members to bring in trees of the type that is being discussed. Gerry Garner on Ficus Bonsai



Internet web site visiting suggestions**Internetbonsaiclub.org**

check out the fantastic gallery and F.A.Q. sections

Bonsaitalk.com *Good active forums*

Evergreengardenworks.com

Don't miss Brent's articles

Royalbonsaigarden.com

Local nursery, don't miss Suthin's workshop link

NEBonsai.com *Local bonsai nursery's site*

Bonsaiwest.com *Local bonsai nursery's site*

Winter Bonsai Care Tips:

I have discovered over the last few winters that the tropical trees I care for indoors over the winter need more watering than they needed when they were outdoors. I guess it is the desert like low humidity that robs the plant and the soil of moisture. So check your trees frequently, their water needs may be more than you are used to. The most common reason for bonsai death is either over watering or under watering. Trees kept indoors also need to be monitored for pest frequently the less than ideal indoor environment is stressful for trees and a stressed tree is an invitation to pest predation. If you find you have a pest problem first I.D. the pest, try www.Ortho.com to I.D. it or visit your local library and check out a indoor plant pest I.D. book. Try the least toxic removal technique suggested by the book/web site first, usually this is just a strong blast of water or manually picking off the pest.

This year I also realized that caring for hardy bonsai trees dug into the ground for the Winter is the easiest solution, unless you pay someone else to care for them. I just check them once in a while for damage caused by rabbits or mice. Spray them with repellent or protect them with hardware cloth screening if I notice any rodent signs. That is all that needs doing, mother nature takes care of the watering most the time, here in New England it rarely gets dry enough during the Winter that you need to water. I do have to water the trees in the covered cold frame and the ones in the cellar bulkhead occasionally, and during the unusual warm Winter days (over 40 deg.) I have to open the covers so the stored trees get some sun and air circulation. Winters a breeze, now Spring that's another story.

Club E-mail address SpringfieldBonsai@Hotmail.com

Club web site: needs updating

Geocities.com/springfieldbonsai/

Meeting Location The B.S.G.S. meeting are held at Springfield Technical Community College in building #17 (the Putnam Building) in room 316 at 7:30 PM. Unless otherwise noted.

Board meetings are held at members homes at 6:30 (unless otherwise stated) and are open to all members, get involved in the running of your bonsai society, attend a board meeting.

Club dues Annual (Sept.-Sept.) of \$25.00 for individual membership or \$35.00 for family membership dues can be paid at any club meeting or mailed to Marilyn Monette, 72 Fuller Rd. Ludlow, MA 01056

Workshops: Take place at Randall's Farms & Greenhouse, 631 Center St., Ludlow, MA unless stated otherwise in workshop description. Directions Take Mass pike (Rt90) to Ludlow exit take right onto Center St. (towards Belchertown) Randall's is **about two miles down on left.**

Club Officers:**President**

Sandy Saffer 531-3358

Vice President

Douglas Taylor 733-2009

Treasurer

Marilyn Monette 583-4036

Recording Secretary & Past President

Gerry Garner 783-7273

Librarian

David Wolski 596-9478

Web Master**Hospitality Committee head**

Eve Thomas 739-1393

Membership/Publicity Committee

Robert Farnsworth 569-0267