



Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley

Bonsai Times

P.O. Box 1684, Bethlehem, PA 18016

February, 2023

Message From the President

-Sloane Crosley

Our brains are like bonsai trees, growing around our private versions of reality.

Hello from My Messy Desk;

Well, this is winter...or so I have been told. There has definitely been a lack of snow but not of rain. My monthly rain total is 4.51 inches and more is expected as I write this. That brings me to the watering of trees during winter. If the ground is frozen, you don't need to water. I overwinter my trees in an unheated garage and, since the trees don't always freeze or stay frozen, I check the soil regularly to see how moist it is. Water when necessary. If you have a greenhouse or a cold frame, water according to climatic conditions. When the trees are dormant, be careful not to expose them to an extended period of high temperatures as this might bring them out of dormancy. Once a tree starts to grow it is very vulnerable to freezing temperatures. Buds can die, which significantly impacts the health of your bonsai. To keep trees dormant throughout the winter, open up greenhouses when the area within warms up during sunny winter days. Once a tree is no longer dormant, protect it from any late frosts that might occur. Check out this article on Bonsai Empire: <https://www.bonsaiempire.com/basics/bonsai-care/overwintering>.

Before putting your trees into their winter spaces, check for species-specific information concerning pruning and wiring. Re-potting probably isn't recommended. I had a tree blow off a stand just prior to my bringing it into winter shelter. The pot broke. The root ball and most of the soil was intact so I glued the pot together and put the tree back in the pot till Spring! So far so good.

Stay warm and safe this winter. See y'all soon.

Bob Ruhe



BSLV President, Bob Ruhe

BSLV Board

President: Bob Ruhe

Vice President: vacancy

Secretary/ Treasurer: Jack Kane

Program/Education: Jim Gillespie

Newsletter: Linda Kondikoff

Director: vacancy

Director: Jim Heacock

Past President: Greg Krause

We are looking for members to step up and join the board. We have openings. The club can always use new ideas.



BSLV Spring Semester 2023

Currently our club has been meeting at the Lehigh Valley Active Life Center, 1633 West Elm Street, Allentown, PA. BSLV board members felt this location was centrally located to our membership, offers close parking and has rental fees comparable to our past meeting places.



February 16 (Thursday) 7pm: Lecture/Demo/PowerPoint presentation by Jim Doyle, Nature's Way Nursery, topic: "Deciduous Decisions." Demo tree will be raffled. Please see bio below. Continued MidAtlantic registration raffle with drawing at conclusion of meeting.



Jim Doyle's Bio

In 1973, with a B.S. degree in horticulture from Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture now Delaware Valley University, Jim started Nature's Way Nursery and developed an early interest in Asian culture and plants. By 1980, through the influence of Chase Rosade, bonsai passed from being a hobby to a business/life-style. Jim attends many symposia, teaches year round to both adults and children at his studio and travels extensively.

After a brief visit to Japan, Jim started a quest for new information. He was involved in founding the Susquehanna Bonsai Club, boasting membership of over 100, and co-chaired the 1992 ABS Convention in Hershey and many more that followed. He has written articles for national publication and consulted regionally in Japanese garden design.

Today, along with his teaching, Jim continues to import bonsai, pots, tools and related garden items. Other interests include conifers, Japanese maples, writing haiku, fishing, bike riding, nature walks, and spending time with his dog, Adia, and children, Nell and Max (not to be confused with his other hobbies). Jim's favorite tree is, of course, the one he is working on.

As time goes by, Jim continues to enjoy the benefits of knowledge through bonsai. He has discovered a caring and understanding friendship with plants and with people.

BSLV Spring Semester 2023 *(continued)*

February 22 (Snow date February 23): BSLV Annual Banquet.

March 23rd (Thursday) 7pm: BYO (Bring Your Own Tree) Get direction and tips from the club's more experienced members. Bring any necessary equipment (tools, wire, soil, etc.) This meeting time can also be used to prepare trees intended for the upcoming MidAtlantic Spring Festival. Reminder: **Dues are due by March 31st please.**

MARCH 31—APRIL 2

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies' Annual Spring Festival. Please see page 5

April 20th (Thursday) 7pm: Lecture/Demo by our own Jim Gillespie! Anyone who knows Jim knows that he is a superb teacher and a fountain of bonsai knowledge! Topic to be announced.

Jim Gillespie's Bio

Jim's fascination with bonsai began in 1975 when he heard John Naka, then a visiting artist at Moravian College, speak at a BSLV meeting. Jim's first official bonsai lesson was with Chase Rosade of Rosade Bonsai Studio. Jim continued his education with Chase for 12 years and was encouraged by his mentor to enter the world of professional bonsai. To that end, Jim started a business called Sho-Fu-En Bonsai in 1982. His passionate interest in the art led to studies and workshops with numerous artists along the East Coast of the US as well as visits to Belgium and Japan. Jim has also done lecture/demos for many clubs and organizations and was also an artist-in-residence in the Bethlehem Area School District.

Heavily involved in the bonsai community, Jim is currently a member of 2 national societies, 5 local clubs and 2 study groups! He organized the PBS 25th Anniversary Celebration in 1988 and, in recognition of his dedication, was awarded Life Membership to this organization in 2013. He was Exhibit Chair for the 1996 ABS Convention in Harrisburg and Chair of the Professional Invitational Exhibit from 2011 to 2013 for MABS.

Jim was awarded Best in Show at the International Suiseki Appreciation Symposium, 2006 and the Rosade Bonsai Studio Excellence in Design Award in 1996. In 2008 he was awarded Finest Creative Western Formal Display at the 1st US National Bonsai Exhibit in Rochester, New York.

BSLV Spring Semester 2023 *(continued)*

May 18th (Thursday) 7pm: Design by Committee. Participate in a group-styling of a bonsai tree from “raw” material. Learn by exchanging ideas on tree aesthetics as the leader shares information and demonstrates various techniques. Trees will then be raffled off.

June 24 (Saturday) 10am: BSLV Annual Picnic/Auction at the Kondikoff Farm. Our annual gathering during which we eat great food and buy/sell bonsai things! Bring any bonsai-related items (trees, pots, tools, books, art, companion plants, etc.) that you would like to sell. You will get 75% of the auction price and our club gets 25%. Clear off those shelves! Drag out and purge those storage boxes of bonsai paraphernalia you are not using....so you can make room for MORE! *No landscape plants, please.*



Other Bonsai-Related Events

Philadelphia Flower Show March 4-12 PA Convention Center, Philadelphia

Lehigh Valley Flower Show March 10-12 Ag Hall, Allentown, PA

Superfly Bonsai Open House March 18 Harrisburg, PA with Suthin Sukosolvisit

Marty Schmalenberg Bonsai Collection Sale March 24-26, Stillwater, NJ

Potomac Bonsai Association (PBA) Fest May 5-7, National Arboretum, Washington, DC

Nature's Way Nursery Open House May 13, Harrisburg, PA

MABS

The MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies (MABS) invite you to a weekend of total bonsai immersion!

March 31-April 2, 2023
Parsippany Hilton/Hampton Inn
One Hilton Court
Parsippany, NJ

*For complete details and registration form:
midatlanticbonsai.org*

- Lecture/Demos by Will Baddeley, Todd Schlafer and Hugo Zamora Luna
- Workshops
- Critiques
- Auctions, silent and live
- Banquet
- Vendors
- Exhibits

Be sure to mark "BSLV" on your registration form so our club gets participation credit!

*Early bird specials good until February 28, 2023
Prices will be increased on March 1, 2023*

To make overnight room reservations at the Hampton, call 973-267-7373 and mention the MidAtlantic Spring Bonsai Festival to get the rate stated on the registration form.

We urge you to take advantage of this special opportunity by attending as many events as possible during the weekend!

Recent BSLV Event-Members' Show at Glenmar Nursery.

Held in conjunction with the Northampton County Open Gate Farm Tour, Glenmar Nursery in Bath hosted the BSLV Members' Show on October 1, 2022. Besides a collection of impressive trees, our club also displayed suiseki (viewing stones) and unique/unusual bonsais. We offered educational materials and answered questions from visitors and otherwise promoted the art of bonsai. In addition, we gathered votes for The People's Choice Awards which were distributed thusly:

First Place - Dave Tettemer
Second Place - Dave Tettemer
Third Place - Linda Kondikoff
Honorable Mentions - Steve Olex, Jim Heacock

Some images from the show:



The 10 Best Reasons You Should Have a Bonsai Tree at Home

by Renzo del Castillo <https://www.bonsaitreegardener.net>

1. A bonsai tree can be a life-long best friend. *It is a silent companion that you and generations to come can enjoy.*
2. A bonsai tree can wake up the artist inside of you. *You are working creatively with shape, proportion, texture, color and line.*
3. A bonsai tree can add beauty to any space. *Its loveliness can spread joy, is a great topic of conversation and can reflect one's philosophy of life.*
4. A bonsai tree can help you train your mind. *Working on them can help you focus and be in the moment.*
5. A bonsai tree can help you establish healthy habits. *It's a patience-building activity for sure!*
6. A bonsai tree can become more beautiful when wounded. *Similarly, our own tiny flaws make us unique and authentic.*
7. A bonsai tree will make you challenge yourself and grow. *Successes and failures can both strengthen your character.*
8. A bonsai tree can be grown from over 400 species. *You can harvest small trees and saplings from your own back yard and train them to be bonsai.*
9. A bonsai tree gives you plenty of room to experiment. *You will discover multiple ways of achieving your goals.*
10. A bonsai tree represents human growth in miniature. *Bonsai teaches us that through love and nurturing, we can all thrive and develop into our best selves.*

And, if I may add another...

11. A bonsai tree can draw you into a group of like-minded people who will support you in your efforts to learn and excel in a unique form of art. *BSLV has a ready-to-share warehouse of tribal knowledge based on our individual and group learning experiences!*

Please Keep in Mind

We will continue to hold **silent auctions** during all club meetings as an on-going fundraiser for club activities. Please consider offering up some of your bonsai trees, materials, tools, books or art for these monthly auctions. You keep 75% of the final price, the club gets 25%.

Please check the BSLV website for links to upcoming Bonsai-Related Events (to be posted shortly) <http://www.bonsaisocietylehighvalley.org>

Also, be sure to check out Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley on Facebook.



"Experience Art in Nature"

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BSLV DUES



\$40./ Individual
\$45./ Family

Benefits include:

- Educational Programs & Workshops
- International Speakers
- Newsletters
- BSLV Website
- 10% Discount on Sho Fu En Merchandise
- Auction/Picnic
- Annual Banquet

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR FIRST-TIME
MEMBERS ARE ONLY \$25.00!