



Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley

Bonsai Times

P.O. Box 1684, Bethlehem, PA 18016

January, 2022

Message From the President

Dear BSLV Members,

Welcome to 2022! Tuesday the 11 was the coldest day in a loong time and there will be more to come. Not much has changed since 2021...my desk is still disheveled but at least functional. What DID change was that our club finally got to meet for the first time in 22 months. We met in November at the Lehigh Valley Active Life Center in Allentown. Five members attended the workshop and 13 members were at the evening meeting during which Todd Schlafer did a lecture-demo. Naomi won the raffle for the demo tree. We hope to see more people at future meetings.

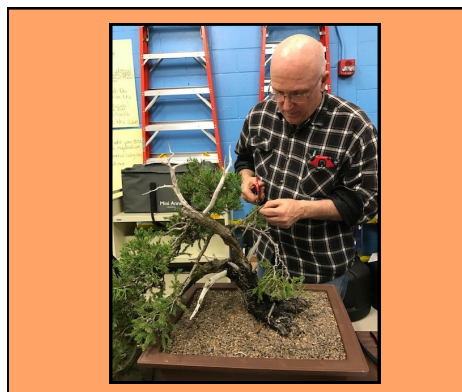
Your trees are, hopefully, put away for the winter and many of you are planning which supplies you will need for spring. One way you can obtain supplies is by attending the MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival. Application forms are available on the MABS web site: www.midatlanticbonsai.org Remember that we receive profit sharing from this event which helps fund the club so be sure to write BSLV in the club affiliation section.

Also, we will be collecting dues this year starting in March.

Note: Special Discount for First Time Members! (page 6)

Over-wintering Bullet Points

- Tropical trees are moved inside when the night temperatures are consistently 50-55 degrees.
- Hardy trees are left unprotected until temperatures are consistently in the upper 20's (no lower than 15 degrees) then put in cold storage to continue their dormancy.
- Clean remaining dead leaves off of the trees.
- Remove all of the dead, diseased and deformed needles from your bonsai tree and soil surface.
- Spray with a 3-in-1 product to deter pests and fungus growth.



BSLV President, Bob Ruhe

BSLV Board

President: Bob Ruhe
Vice President: vacancy
Secretary/ Treasurer: Jack Kane
Program/Education: Jim Gillespie
Newsletter: Linda Kondikoff
Director: Rodney Conn
Director: Jim Heacock
Past President: Greg Krause

Ornamental plants are beautiful, but I get tired of them because there is no sense of season. Bonsai is a traditional art that has continued for several hundred years and it should remain in our lives. I think young people, in their own modern way, are rediscovering Japan's bonsai culture of enjoying the microcosm.



Kenji Kobayashi

QUOTEHD.COM

(continued, next page)

Bonsai: The art of taking a simple plant or tree and turning it into a reminder of nature's beauty within a confined space.

(...Message from the President, continued)

Further details.....

Once the leaves have fallen off your deciduous trees and temps have fallen to the upper 20's and lower 30's, remove dead leaves from the soil surface. Now you need to find a place to store your bonsai for winter before it gets too cold. When your trees have experienced several nights of temperatures in the teens and twenties, it's probably time to start thinking about moving your trees in for winter. Here are some options:

If you are going to store your bonsai outside for the winter you will want to find a place that gets little sun and wind. Some people wrap the pot in burlap and bury the pot in the ground and cover with mulch up to the first branch and then cover the rest with snow. In my neck of the city, we are not able to rely on enough snow early enough.

I have seen cold frames where you dig up an area 5 or 6 inches or deeper and as long as you need. Place insulation board around the inside of your hole as walls. Brace the inside of your walls so they don't fall in and crush your bonsai. Build up a layer of gravel, mulch, leaves or whatever else you would like to act as insulation for your box on the outside. Put a top/lid on it using insulation board and make it so you can open and close the lid.

Some people just store their bonsai in the garage or outdoor shed whether it's attached or unattached. If you are storing your bonsai on the cement floor of your garage put something under them. You will need to protect them from flash freezes or long exposures of cold when you open the garage door! Don't leave the garage door open!

Keep these dormant trees moist. Don't water them if it is going to freeze that night. Don't water if root ball is already frozen or wet. Water if dry and not frozen. Some people "water" them by gently piling some snow on the soil and letting it melt naturally as the temperature rises.

Any updates on your club status or contact information would be appreciated and can be sent to or Secretary/Treasurer Jack Kane. jackjanuz@verizon.net

Have a healthy and safe winter.

Regards,
Bob Ruhe

November Workshop with Todd Schlafer



This workshop was a "Bring Your Own" in which everyone brought a tree or two along in order to get advice and commentary on styling, wiring, etc.



November Workshop, *continued*

After the daytime workshop there was a break for dinner. In the evening, Todd Schlafer gave a very informative lecture on pines and styled one for us, explaining various strategies and techniques. His demo material, an Eastern White Pine, was raffled off and Naomi Daniel was the lucky winner. She will no doubt choose the perfect pot for this tree in the spring. Congratulations, Naomi!



Bonsai Art



Just wanted to share my latest creations...clay bonsai trees. Each one is individually sculpted in clay, kiln-fired, hand-painted with acrylic paint and sprayed with a gloss sealant. Gotta keep busy during these gray winter months and since I can't work on my real trees, this is the next best thing! If anyone else is working on bonsai-themed stained glass, painting, woodworking, fabric, etc., we would love to see what you are doing. Please send me pictures so I can include them in the next newsletter. Thanks, Linda

BSLV Spring Semester 2022

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, no steps to climb and has rental fees comparable to our past meeting places. The entrance we would use would be the one closest to S. West Street. There is no Covid protocol regarding mask-wearing at this site however the room we are using is huge so members may safely space themselves as necessary and, of course, wear masks as desired.



January: No planned club activities

February: BSLV Annual Club Banquet is postponed until next year.

March 24 (Thursday) 7:00pm, BYO (Bring Your Own Bonsai Tree) to our meeting for advice from our more experienced members. Bring tools and other materials. Trees for MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival may be prepped at this meeting also.

April 8-10, 2022 MidAtlantic Bonsai Spring Festival. *See next page for details*

April: Either a lecture/demo by Kathy Shaner or a Design by Committee workshop. More details to come.

May 26 (Thursday) Members' Show. Each member is invited to bring one bonsai in a bonsai pot with stand and an accent if you have one. Trees will be displayed and commented upon by our experts as well as admired by the club!

June: We hope to have our annual picnic/auction at an outdoor venue depending on the current Covid19 situation and which venues will be available at the time.

Don't Miss It!

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival
April 8-10, 2022

Hampton Inn, 1 Hilton Court,
Parsippany, NJ 07054



Featured Artists– Bjorn L. Bjorholm, Kathy Shaner & Suthin Sukosolvisit

Lectures
Demos
Workshops (Friday)
Masterpiece Bonsai Exhibit
Bonsai Critiques (Sat. afternoon)
Vendor Area
Raffles of Demo material (Sat.-Sun.)
Silent Auction (Sat.)
Banquet (Sat.)

Please remember to mark club affiliation BSLV on the registration form.

Visit the MABS website for more info: <http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org>

Online registration ends March 31. Mail-in registration must be postmarked by March 31

Please Keep in Mind

We will continue to hold **silent auctions** during all club meetings as an on-going fund-raiser 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"

Jim Gillespie
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BSLV DUES

\$40.00/ individual
\$45.00/ family
(still a bargain!)



Benefits include:

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

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP COST FOR
FIRST-TIME MEMBERS IS ONLY
\$25.00!