

# Bonsai Times

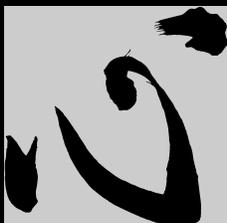
Bonsai Society of the Lehigh Valley

B S L V

September, 2004

*“They are beautiful in their peace, they are wise in their silence. They will stand after we are dust. They teach us and we tend them.*

*Galeain ip Altiem MacDunelmor on Trees*



## Top Ten Reasons to Attend MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival

10. To eat good food...both at the luncheon and during the infamous late night sushi runs.
9. For the fabulous photo-ops!
8. BSLV benefits monetarily from your registration.
7. To bond with your traveling companions.
6. To shop for a wide variety of bonsai items.
5. To compare your trees with others that you see.
4. To learn a boatload of ways to improve your bonsai collection
3. To marvel at the pros in action!
2. To experience what it feels like to be in a roomful of people who love bonsai as much as you do.

And the **Number One** reason why you should attend the MABS Spring Festival.....



**.....YOU JUST MIGHT WIN ONE OF THE DEMO TREES!!!!**

*Your lucky newsletter editor, Linda Kondikoff, with Kenji Miyata and the juniper he styled /she won.*



## Message from the President

Lately in publications I've come across eulogies of John Naka. Those of you who were along on the Washington trip should be familiar with his work. However, there was another side to Mr. Naka, according to his eulogist. It is apparent he had the ability to be an instant friend. Besides being honest and displaying the highest standards of unselfish giving and sharing, Naka displayed humble grace when receiving awards and accolades. Mr. Naka was able to exhibit the same balance in his personality that he did in his art. Makes you wonder what comes first—personality or art.

Here's wishing you a sense of wabi and *sabi*.

Roger

## *More on MidAtlantic....*

Three BSLV members had the honor of showing their exemplary trees in the display at the MidAtlantic Festival, April 16-18. Clockwise, **Dave Tettemer's** Japanese Larch, **Roger Krauss's** San Jose Juniper and **Dave Weaver's** Wartbark Japanese White Pine.

Next year's MABS is scheduled for April 14-16, 2005. You owe it to yourself to attend!



## Caring for Your Tools

“WD 40 is your best friend as far as tools are concerned.” proclaimed **Dennis Donald** at our BSLV meeting on February 26. He keeps a fake chamois sprayed with the lubricant in a freezer bag near his tools. Dennis walked us through various methods of sharpening pruners, scissors and mandible cutters and also gave us the low-down on gunk dissolvers and mineral deposit removers. He suggested some commercial products that work well and also shared his own favorite solution (3-in-1 oil and isopropyl alcohol) which “gets off the goo.” Dennis was kind enough to work his magic on some dull tools brought in by members.

## A Successful Bus Trip

On May 2, 32 BSLV members and guests made a trek to the National Arboretum in Washington, DC to view 3 bonsai collections, suiseki, the museum and gardens. We were overwhelmed by the sublime beauty of each and every tree. It was an unforgettable experience. Kudos to **Jim Gillespie** and **Stan Harwick** for organizing this worry-free, delightful excursion. And whoever was in charge of the weather...well, we sure appreciated the blue skies.

Anybody up for a “bonsai nursery crawl” through New England in the spring?



*Many members found something they just had to have at the vendor area.*

BSLV has a new treasurer! **Joe Sauer**, we all appreciate your willingness to serve our club in this capacity. In his reading, Joe came across a great article on shimpaku and recommends this site for anyone interested in this species:

[www.bonsai-wbff.org/shimpaku/main.shtml](http://www.bonsai-wbff.org/shimpaku/main.shtml)

## Craig Coussins Lecture/Demo at April Meeting

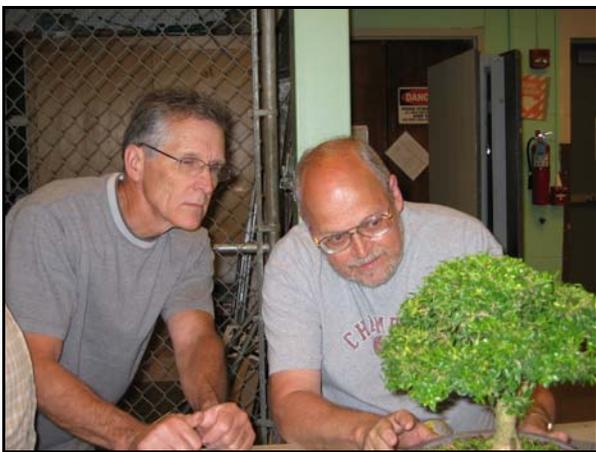


*Dave Tettemar and Roger Krauss helped wire as Craig Coussins fielded questions.*

## Dave Weaver on Selecting Nursery Stock

A self-described addict who “gets the shakes” when he sees a good potential bonsai specimen, **Dave Weaver** shared with us how to scour nurseries for bonsai material. He said we should not ignore the “hic” nurseries and that we should be sure to poke around the unweeded, out-of-sight places when we get there. He believes that you first must know bonsai style (he cites John Naka’s 1st book and Mark Noelanders’ book as prime sources for this) in order to know what to look for and what to choose.

**Craig Coussins** illustrated on the board for us exactly what he planned to do with the Western Red Cedar that sat on the turntable then proceeded, step by step, to make the tree look just like his drawing! His lecture was laced with asides on design principles and practical knowledge (when wiring thugas, stop at the brown...green reacts to metal) and, of course the whole talk was made even more entertaining by his sense of humor and his wonderful Scottish accent! **Linda Brant** won this great tree in the raffle!



*Steve Ripper listens as Jim Brant makes suggestions*

## May BYOT

Ever stare at one of your trees for days, maybe even years, and still not know how to approach it? Bring it to one of our BYOT clinics and get not just one but SEVERAL opinions by club experts. I went home with a wealth of advice and information from caring “pros.” Besides styling tips, you can also find out about pests, repotting and many other aspects of bonsai. It’s beneficial to float around from group to group to overhear and observe. Thanks to our teachers who devoted their time to us.

# Annual Picnic/Auction

**Susan Amoy** of Brooklyn was our guest speaker at the annual picnic held at the Kondikoff farm in June. She lifted a veil from our eyes by revealing the potential that succulents have as bonsai material. She showed numerous slides that featured particular succulents first in their natural habitat, then as styled bonsai in pots or dish gardens. It seems that many succulents may be trained by wiring, do well in bonsai soil, and can attain a massive girth in their “trunks.” The best part is that their need for fertilizer, repotting and watering is minimal! Susan heartily recommended “Fat Plants Bonsai” on the internet, a site devoted to lovers of *caudiciform* plants. There you can see photos of a wide array of succulents from the stately to the freakish! You can discuss these plants with others as there is a chat room. Susan was an excellent educator! Now and then its good to have your cage rattled and be forced to consider new possibilities!!!!



*Before and after pictures of **Susan Amoy** styling a succulent. **Robin Pogue** won this one and **Ed Bauer** won a jade donated by **Jim Gillespie**.*



*A fine day for a picnic ...sure beats LAST year, eh? **Susan Amoy's** demo kept the gang's attention.*



***Bob Sparrow**, owner of **Country Gardens** (610-759-6691) was kind enough to bring a host of exotic succulents from his nursery. He is also an expert on the subject and welcomes visitors to his nursery where he has many specimens for sale.*

*See more on picnic, page 6*

## BSLV Graver Arboretum Tour - Saturday, 7/17/04

It was a sultry July morning when nine intrepid BSLV members assembled in the parking lot of the Graver Arboretum of Muhlenberg College, awaiting their tour guides. In a short time, a golf cart carrying caretakers **Ken and Marjorie Lauer** (also BSLV members) bounced into view in the distance.

After exchanging pleasantries, bug spray, and sun block, we set off walking the "Blue Trail" through the peaceful retreat in Bushkill Township, once the woodland home of **Dr. Lee and Virginia Graver**. Dr. Graver, a retired professor at Kutztown University, graduated from Muhlenberg, and so gifted the college with his over 50 year/50 acre homestead to be used as an outdoor laboratory for students and an oasis for visitors.

We wandered through natural areas, meadows, and wetlands, listening to expert comments by our guides. We observed over 3000 rhodies and azaleas and an unusual mix of rare conifers (many used for bonsai) - all planted by Dr. Graver himself.

Although developments are encroaching on this serene property, it will be preserved for the future, which the group was glad to hear as we emerged from our 2 hour/ 1 1/2 mile cool and shady walk back into the sunny, hot reality of the parking lot.

For those who missed this opportunity, the Arboretum is open for self-guided tours (maps available on the premises) from dawn to dusk every day. Directions were included in the Picnic/Auction Newsletter.

Jim Gillespie



*Exposed root trident maple from the National Arboretum collection*

## Auction/Picnic (continued from page 5)

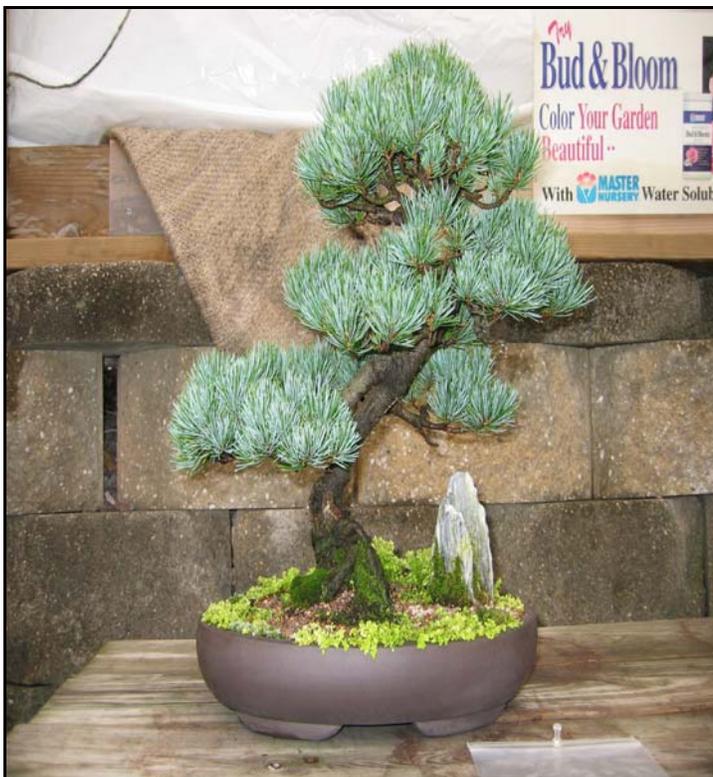
Thank you to **Mike Fulmer** for cooking up delicious vittles and thanks to all who brought desserts to share. **Jim Gillespie** auctioned off 90 items while **Jim Brant** and **Dave Tetteimer** did the "running." **Alice Gillespie** agreed to partner up with **Linda Brant** to do the day's record-keeping. Thank you to ALL who pitched in to make the day enjoyable. The club made a profit of \$303.00 from the auction and we had a lot of fun doing it!

## BSLV Board of Directors

Roger Krauss– President  
David Weaver– Vice President  
Dave Tetteimer--Past President  
Jim Gillespie– Educationa/Programs  
Linda Kondikoff– Newsletter  
Joe Sauer– Secretary/Treasurer  
Bill Castellon  
Ed Bauer

# Members' Exhibit at Tilley's Nursery

The BSLV was once again invited to display trees at Tilley's Annual Water Garden Festival. 15 of our members showed 26 bonsai trees and several members spent part, and in some cases ALL of their weekend "sitting" the trees and answering questions posed by interested visitors. Thank you to those members and thank you to **Alice Gillespie** for printing out the professional looking labels! **Jim Gillespie** did the lion's share of the work setting up and trucking others' trees back and forth. He and **Prez Krauss** did the pre-show visit and made measurements for the display. **David Weaver** also helped schedule sitters and organize the event. The results of The People's Choice Awards are as follows:



*1st Place: Japanese White Pine (above), informal upright by Roger Krauss—\$50 gift certificate at SFE Bonsai*

*2nd Place: Japanese Maple Forest by Jim Brant—\$35 gift certificate at SFE Bonsai....sorry, no picture here, it was a beauty!*

*Honorable Mention: Ezo Spruce Forest/Landscape (right) by David Weaver*



*Honorable Mention: Strangler Fig, informal upright by Roger Krauss*



# BSLV Fall Semester

**September 21 (Tuesday)** Design by Committee- 4-6 groups, each working on similar provided material to design and style the best bonsai. Material will be raffled.

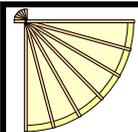
**October 19 (Tuesday)** Peter Adams (see bio below) Lecture/Demo with raffle Come learn from a world famous bonsai expert with over forty years of experience!

**November 16 (Tuesday)** Wintercare Roundtable– hardy and tropical species pre-wintering guide. Led by experienced panel with input by all

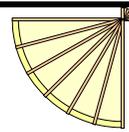
## Peter Adams Biography

Throughout his pursuit of the fine arts (he holds a post-graduate degree in painting from the Royal Academy Schools in London,) Peter Adams always maintained an interest in bonsai. He is the author of numerous books on bonsai as an art medium. His trees are in many private collections as well as in the National Collection in England. He won gold medals at the Chelsea Flower Show in London and was advisor on bonsai to the Royal Horticultural Society in London. Now residing in Washington state, Adams continues to lecture on his favorite subject. He is known for his work with Japanese maple, larch and juniper.

*All meetings held at the Bethlehem Area Vo-Tech School at 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted.*



## *Local Bonsai Suppliers*



*Arts of Asia*  
*Gift Gallery*  
Dave Tettemer  
518 Main St.  
Bethlehem, PA  
**(610) 882-5882**

*Sho Fu En*  
*Bonsai*  
Jim Gillespie  
3183 Pine Rd.  
Danielsville, PA  
**(610) 837-6688**



## Bonsai Related Events

- Sept. 10-12 International Bonsai Symposium 2004 Rochester, NY  
Lectures/demos/workshops/vendors/exhibits  
Registration required
- Sept. 11-19 Lancaster Bonsai Club  
Exhibit at National Arboretum, Washington DC
- Sept. 17-19 Pacific NW Bonsai Clubs Assoc. Convention  
Victoria, BC Registration required
- Sept. 18-19 PA Bonsai Society - exhibit at Japanese Tea House  
Fairmount Park, Philadelphia 10 am - 4 pm  
Vendor
- Sept. 24-Oct 1 BCI Taipei, Taiwan Exhibition and Tour  
Bonsai and suiseki  
Passport and reservations
- Sept. 30-Oct 3 International Stone Appreciation Symposium  
Grantville, PA (Harrisburg/Hershey)  
Lectures/demos/critiques/workshops/3 exhibits/  
vendors/banquet  
Registration required
- October Mumtober at National Arboretum Museum  
misc. displays
- Oct. 16-17 New Zealand National Convention 2004  
Hamilton, NZ  
Passport and registration required
- Oct. 23 Bergen Bonsai Society - Collecting trip  
Rye Marshlands Conservancy, NY  
Free
- Oct. 31 Bonsai Collection Auction , Garyu Bonsai Society member  
Location TBD - Barto area
- Oct. 31 World Bonsai Friendship Federation  
World Bonsai Contest - 2004  
Entry deadline for pictures - details on website
- Nov. 3-7 Golden State Bonsai Federation Convention 2004  
Santa Rosa, CA  
Lectures/demos/exhibits/workshops./trips/vendors  
Registration required
- Nov. 19-27 Bonsai Tour of Japan with Bill Valavanis and Kora Dalager  
Passport and Reservations

**BONSAI SOCIETY  
OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY**  
c/o Linda Kondikoff  
2135 E. Scenic Drive  
Bath, PA 18014



*Dorie Frohning's juniper procumbens on display at the National Arboretum, Washington, DC*

Bonsai Times

## **Bonsai Related Events**

*(continued from page 9)*

- Apr. 15-17,2005**      **MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival 2005**  
**Ramada Inn, East Hanover, NJ**  
**Featuring: Hatsuji Kato - Japan, David Prescott - England**  
**Cheryl Manning - Calif., Andy Smith - S. Dakota**  
**Lectures/demos/workshops/exhibit/banquet/critiques/vendors**  
**Registration required - Attendance benefits BSLV**
- May 28-31,2005**      5th World Bonsai Convention, Washington DC  
"The World's Fair of Bonsai"  
Quadrennial event hosted by; NABF, ABS, BCI, USNA,  
NBF, PBA  
23 speakers and workshop leaders from 6 continents;  
Banquet at National Arboretum; nearly 1 acre international  
vendors; exhibits of the best bonsai, suiseki, and bonsai containers

*For more info on any of the above, contact Jim Gillespie 610-837-6688*