

# The Bergen Bonsai Society

March/April 2008 Newsletter



**Next Meeting:** Sunday, April 6<sup>TH</sup>  
**Time:** 9:45AM  
**Closter Nature Center**  
**154 Ruckman Rd., Closter NJ 07624**

## MAIN PROGRAM

### GUEST BONSAI ARTIST

**MIN HSUAN LO (TAIWAN)**

## The Bergen Bonsai Society

Incorporated  
P.O. Box 822  
Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

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## Year 2008 Programs

### Mark Your Calendar

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT AND/OR GUEST ARTIST</u>	<u>AM</u> <u>MTG</u>	<u>AFT</u> <u>MTG</u>	<u>EVE</u> <u>MTG</u>	<u>AWAY</u> <u>MTG</u>
	January 27	<b><u>GUEST SPEAKER – Dr. Ann Gould</u></b> – Disease Mgmt. for Woody Plants	<u>X</u>			
	February 17	<b><u>BONSAI VIDEO &amp; MINI-POT SALE</u></b>	<u>X</u>			
	March 9	<b><u>“SHIMPAKU” Juniper Workshop</u></b> (trees supplied) - G. LeBolt	<u>X</u>			
	April 6	<b><u>MABS Guest Artist – Min Hsuan Lo</u></b> - (Taiwan) <b><u>L/D &amp; BYOB W/S</u></b>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
	April 11-13	<b><u>MidAtlantic (MABS) Convention</u></b> @ Hudson Valley Resort, NY				<u>X</u>
	May 18	<b><u>Guest Artist – Pedro Morales</u></b> - (Puerto Rico) <b><u>L/D &amp; BYOB W/S</u></b>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
	June 22	<b><u>Tropical Trees Lect/Demo &amp; Workshop</u></b> (trees supplied) -- G. LeBolt	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
	July 20	<b><u>Annual Picnic &amp; Auction</u></b> @ Lakeside (12noon-3pm)		<u>X</u>		
	August 17	<b><u>Styling Open Workshop</u></b> (BYOB)--G. LeBolt	<u>X</u>			
	September 21	<b><u>POSSIBLE BUS TRIP</u></b>				<u>X</u>
	October 25	<b><u>Special Follow-Up Workshop – Larch</u></b> – David Easterbrook (Canada)	<u>X</u>			
	October 26	<b><u>Guest Artist – David Easterbrook</u></b> – (Canada) <b><u>L/D &amp; BYOB W/S</u></b>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
	November 16	<b><u>Bonsai Wintering Review + Annual Show &amp; Critique</u></b>	<u>X</u>			
	December 7	<b><u>Annual Holiday Party</u></b> @ Peking Duck Restaurant (12noon–3pm)				<u>X</u>

● Indicates a change since last newsletter in date or event

### NOTES

1. All meetings @ Closter Nature Center are on Sundays (except Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> - Saturday)
2. All morning meetings @ Closter Nature Center start 9:45 AM to APX. 1:30PM
3. All afternoon meetings @ Closter Nature Center start APX. 2PM to APX. 5:00PM

## **BBS 2008 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

1. **March 9<sup>th</sup>**            **Shimpaku Juniper Workshop (trees supplied) with George LeBolt**  
Morning Workshop – Regular Meeting Time   No Potting - Styling Only
  2. **April 6<sup>th</sup>**            **BYOB Workshop with Min Hsuan Lo**  
Afternoon Workshop (after AM Lect/Demo)
  3. **May 18<sup>th</sup>**            **BYOB Workshop with Pedro Morales**  
Afternoon Workshop (after AM Lect/Demo)
  4. **June 22<sup>nd</sup>**            **Tropical Tree Workshop (tree provided) with George LeBolt**  
Afternoon Workshop (after AM Lect/Demo)
  5. **August 17<sup>th</sup>**            **Styling Open Workshop (BYOB) with George LeBolt**  
Morning Workshop – Regular Meeting Time - Open to all members - Registration Required - Limitation: 1 Tree per Member
  6. **October 25<sup>th</sup>**            **Special Follow-Up Workshop – (Larch) - with David Easterbrook**  
Morning Workshop – Regular Meeting Time --- Note: Saturday
  7. **October 26<sup>th</sup>**            **BYOB Workshop with David Easterbrook**  
Afternoon Workshop (after AM Lect/Demo)
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### **Workshop Registration Form**

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date Reg. Sent \_\_\_\_\_ Total Fee Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To participate, check boxes below

<u><b>W/S#</b></u>	<u><b>Date</b></u>	<u><b>Material</b></u>	<u><b>Conducted By</b></u>	<u><b>Cost</b></u>	<u><b>Payable</b></u>	<u><b>Participant</b></u>	<u><b>Silent* Observer @ \$10 (BBS)</b></u>
1.	3/9	Shimpaku Juniper (supplied)	George LeBolt	\$40	<u>George</u>		
2.	4/6	BYOB	Min Hsuan Lo	\$40	BBS		
3.	5/18	BYOB	Pedro Morales	\$40	BBS		
4.	6/22	Tropical Trees (supplied)	George LeBolt	VARIES	George		
5.	8/17	BYOB	George LeBolt	\$10	BBS		
6.	10/25	LARCH - BYOB	David Easterbrook	\$40	BBS		
7.	10/26	BYOB	David Easterbrook	\$40	BBS		

\* This is an excellent opportunity to learn styling by watching many trees being styled. Registration open to all Members on a first come, first serve basis.

**For all Workshops:** Participants to bring trees (if applicable), turntables, wire, tools, etc...(and potting materials, if applicable)

Detach & **mail** (or bring to next meeting) this Registration Form (with check for Workshop or Observer) to George LeBolt, 404 Homans Av., Closter, NJ 07624 **MAKE SURE CHECK IS MADE OUT TO PROPER PARTY!**

**DON'T FORGET:** If you register and then find out later that you can't come, please have the courtesy to call George.

**NOTE:** If you need a tree for any of the BYOB workshops, call George at (201)768-7455 ASAP. He may have some available, or based on your need, may be able to obtain what you want.

**WORKSHOP STATUS:** #1, #4 & #6 are already fully subscribed! All others have openings. Sign-up P.D.Q.

## **FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> – Bonsai Video & Mini-Pot Sale**

Due to last minute problems, Peter Sobel could not make his world renowned bonsai Power Point presentation, so the ever flexible Bergen Bonsai Society came up with a quick change of venue.

The first order of business was just that, business. It will be an exciting year with 5 Lect/Demos & 7 Workshops. Sign-ups for several of the various programs did take some time.

It was also decided by the members to start each meeting with a 50/50 optional raffle in order to help alleviate the high expenses of bringing in outside lecturers, even with our good fortune to have George conduct so many of our Lect/Demo & Workshops at no charge to the Club. This raffle will cost \$5/ticket and the winner will split the pot with the Club. Entry into the raffle is strictly voluntary.

Also, George introduced a raffle of a 17 piece, stainless steel Masakuni Bonsai tool set (worth between \$1500 to \$2000) for the benefit of MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies. Quite a few raffles were sold at \$5/ea. & more for a discount for quantity purchases. We will continue to sell these raffles at our next 2 Meetings. The winning ticket will be drawn @ the MidAtlantic Convention – winner need not be present.

While all this was going on, we each had an opportunity to select which of the excellent Bonsai tapes (that we have in our library) to watch, once our business was concluded. Chosen was a well presented program of everything that you wanted to know about Black Pine, from collecting, transporting, potting, designing, and most of all, the special care that these lovely trees require, since they are unique from all other pines. With a few additional beneficial comments from George, our Bonsai Master, the presentation was well received.

Finally, we had an opportunity to purchase the few remaining pots from our pot sale of the previous month. These will not be available in the near future and many were sold at ridiculously low prices.

Mitch Becker

## **MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> - “SHIMPAKU” Juniper Workshop - G. LeBolt**

When I walked into the Nature Center, there were 15 small Shimpaku juniper shrubs sitting on a table. I knew before the day was over, there would be 15 “Bonsai” trees going home. After assigning the trees to individuals, we all spent time exposing the first level of roots & cleaning up the obvious superfluous small branches & greenery. Our beginner Members were each assigned a more advanced Member as a tutor to help in the magical conversion of the tree from shrub to Bonsai.

One by one, individuals brought their shrubs to the designer table where the team (George & the owner) shared ideas as to where the Bonsai was within the shrub. Often there were many choices, but once the owner selected the best one of them, some major branch pruning was done to expose the main line & structure which was chosen. The owner then returned to a work station to do additional cutting, cleaning up, & then wiring the branches to achieve the desired style.

Then, after being wired, each tree was presented again to George, who positioned the line & branches, & “tweaked” the new tree.

In most cases, the shrub became a much smaller tree, and in each case, it had become much more interesting. Some ended up as conventional trees, while others had the potential to be very dramatic. It will be interesting to see what these trees look like several years from now.

Mitch Becker

## **TOKONOMA**

Marlene Cuniberti displayed a lovely Azalea & she told us of its history & care. Suggestions were made for its future development & improving its crown & balance.  
GOOD JOB Marlene!!



## WORKSHOP PICTURES



15 Trees to be Styled



FROM START-----TO-----FINISH



IN PROGRESS



BOB'S TREE



VICTOR & BRYCE

## THIS MONTH – APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> – MidAtlantic Guest Artist

We will be privileged to have Mr. Min Hsuan Lo (from Taiwan) with us. He is an outstanding international Bonsai artist whose trees have won many awards. He is known for his “Lo’s Style” of Bonsai, which combines the essence of old trees, the flowing lines of Chinese calligraphy, and the ancient Chinese philosophies.

As part of his morning Lecture/Demonstration, he will be styling a very formidable tropical tree (supplied by George) which will of course be raffled off.

In the afternoon, he will conduct a BYOB Workshop. There are only a few spots left for the workshop, so either call George, send in your registration form with payment ASAP, or sign up at our March 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting. This is a rare opportunity – don’t miss it.

## **GOOD & WELFARE**

Irina Forsythe had coronary surgery on 3/21. As of 3/24, she was in ICU, but is expected to shift to a regular hospital room soon. A speed recovery to Irina!

## **CLIP-ON FANS**

Many of our Members who ordered these fans were not at our February Meeting to pick them up. Please make sure you attend our April 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting & that you pick up your fans.

## **STUDY GROUPS**

Dates for the first 4 sessions are now established, as listed in another section of this Newsletter. They are only being conducted less than once a month, and should fill quickly.

## **17 PIECE MASAKUNI TOOL SET RAFFLE**

We will continue this raffle @ our April 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting. This tool set is worth over \$1500; wouldn't you like to be the lucky winner? Last Chance!

## **BBS WEBSITE**

Our Website is continually growing & improving, thanks to the excellent work of Bob Pruski, our Webmaster.

You can go online at [www.bergenbonsai.com](http://www.bergenbonsai.com) & view our latest Newsletter, view the contents of our entire Library & browse our photo gallery for pictures of trips, Workshops & other activities.

## **LIBRARY**

We now have our complete Library inventory (of over 300 magazines, books & video tapes) posted on our website. Look it over & contact our Librarians, who will bring the items of your choice to the next Meeting. Good reading (& learning), especially during our Winter "off" season.

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## **MIDATLANTIC**

By now, we all know about our great, new location at the Hudson Valley Resort & Spa, in the Catskill Mountains. This is a complete Resort Hotel, so bring your non-Bonsai spouse (even your dog is OK). Make sure you're there Friday evening, so you can see our very own George LeBolt in action, as he presents his Lecture/Demonstration entitled "Everything you'd ever wanted to know about Brazilian Raintrees".

MidAtlantic has an outstanding array of Bonsai Artists for this '08 Convention. They will have 18 vendors & apx. 35 beautiful Bonsai displayed. It is very important that we maximize BBS registration at our new venue, so please set aside & reserve the dates of April 11, 12 & 13.

George will be doing a Workshop Sunday afternoon with Brazilian Raintrees that he has been training for up to 12 years. They have taper & movement & all the branches in the optimal locations, with almost no wiring required – a golden opportunity for a privileged few.

The Convention is only a few weeks from now (my, how time flies), and the Workshops & Critiques tend to fill up quickly. So it is very important to send in your Registration as EARLY AS POSSIBLE. We really would like every Member of BBS to attend.

## **2008 STUDY GROUP REGISTRATION FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Registration Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

### **General Information:**

Study Group sessions are hands-on workshops designed to improve your Bonsai knowledge, skills and artistic design abilities. Participants will not only be involved with their own trees, but with design considerations and enhancement techniques for ALL trees of ALL participants.

All day sessions are from 10AM to 4PM (sometimes later) and are limited to **6** participants. Sessions are conducted at 404 Homans Ave., Closter, NJ 07624, or at the Nature Center.

Bring 3 or 4 trees, lunch, tools, wire, pots, etc. (some plant material & supplies available). Cost: \$40 for single session, \$100 for series of 3. Priority is given to earliest registrants.

1 <sup>st</sup> Series	2 <sup>nd</sup> Series	3 <sup>rd</sup> Series
Sat 4/26 <input type="checkbox"/>	Sun 7/6 <input type="checkbox"/>	TBD <input type="checkbox"/>
Sun 5/4 <input type="checkbox"/>	TBD <input type="checkbox"/>	TBD <input type="checkbox"/>
Sun 6/1 <input type="checkbox"/>	TBD <input type="checkbox"/>	TBD <input type="checkbox"/>

F ■ = Filled

Please check appropriate boxes for reservations and mail with payment to George LeBolt, 404 Homans Av, Closter, NJ 07624. (Phone Reservations accepted. Call 201-768-7455)

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### **SPECIAL NOTES:**

Due to George LeBolts busy Bonsai schedule (both here & away), he will be unable to conduct the usual 12 to 15 Study Group Sessions this year.

For the 5 months (starting March) there will be only **FOUR** sessions available.

In addition to styling trees, here is some important **TIMING** info for potting & repotting.

The April 26<sup>th</sup> session is a good time to pot or repot most Pines & Junipers.

The June 1<sup>st</sup> & July 6<sup>th</sup> are both good times to pot or repot most Tropicals.

If you are not familiar with the best potting techniques, it is important that you do it under SUPERVISION.

Some of our Members have never participated in a Study Group session and literally don't know what they are missing. As demonstrated in past years, these sessions tend to fill up early!

We urge anyone how has not yet had the benefits of this experience to sign up for at least one of these sessions this year. **Don't miss this opportunity!**

If you need a tree (Indoor or Outdoor) for the Study Group, give George a call ASAP at 201-768-7455. He may have some available, or based on your need, may be able to obtain what you want.