

# The Bergen Bonsai Society

March 2009 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Sunday, March 29th

Time: 9:45AM

Place: Closter Nature Center



## MAIN PROGRAM

### Temperate Tree Workshop

#### **The Bergen Bonsai Society**

Incorporated

P.O. Box 822

Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

Website: [BergenBonsai.com](http://BergenBonsai.com)



## Year 2009 Programs

### Mark Your Calendar

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT AND/OR GUEST ARTIST</u>	<u>AM MTG</u>	<u>AFT MTG</u>	<u>EVE MTG</u>	<u>AWAY MTG</u>
	January 18	<u>GUEST SPEAKER</u> – Richard Buckley – Rutgers Univ. Plant Pathologist	<u>X</u>			
	February 22	<u>GUEST SPEAKER</u> – Sean Smith – Bonsai Stands & Displays	<u>X</u>			
	March 29	<u>TEMPERATE (MATERIAL SUPPLIED) WORKSHOP</u> – G. LeBolt	<u>X</u>			
	April 17, 18, 19	<u>MIDATLANTIC CONVENTION</u> @ Hudson Valley Resort, NY				<u>X</u>
	April 26	<u>MIDATLANTIC GUEST ARTIST</u> David Easterbrook	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
	May 24	<u>TROP. TREES</u> AM Lect/Demo, Raintree W/S, + Aftn W/S – G. LeBolt	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
	June 28	<u>ANNUAL PICNIC &amp; AUCTION</u> @ Lakeside (12 noon – 3pm)		<u>X</u>		
	July 19	<u>GUEST ARTIST</u> – Chase Rosade – AM L/D & Aftn BYOB W/S	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
	August 16	<u>STYLING OPEN WORKSHOP (BYOB)</u> – G. LeBolt	<u>X</u>			
	September 13	<u>GUEST ARTIST</u> – Roy Nagatoshi – AM L/D & Afternoon BYOB W/S	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
	October 18	<u>ANNUAL SHOW &amp; CRITIQUE</u> – G. LeBolt	<u>X</u>			
	November 15	<u>WINTERING REVIEW &amp; BONSAI VIDEO</u>	<u>X</u>			
	December 6	<u>ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY</u> @ Peking Duck Restr. (12 noon– 3pm)				<u>X</u>

\* Indicates a change in date or event, since previous Newsletter

#### NOTES

1. All meetings @ Closter Nature Center are on Sundays
2. All morning meetings @ Closter Nature Center start 9:45 AM to APROX. 1:30 PM
3. All afternoon meetings @ Closter Nature Center start APX. 2 PM to APROX. 5 PM

## **BBS 2009 WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

1. **March 29th**      **Temperate Tree W/S (Trees supplied, Dwf. elm or juniper) with George LeBolt**  
Morning Workshop— Regular Meeting Time. No Potting—Styling Only
2. **April 26th**      **BYOB W/S with Guest Artist—David Easterbrook**  
Afternoon Workshop— (after morning Lecture/Demo)
3. **May 24th**      **Brazilian Raintree W/S (Trees supplied, sizes vary) with George LeBolt**  
Morning Workshop— (after morning Lecture/Demo)
4. **May 24th**      **Tropical Tree W/S (Assorted varieties & sizes, supplied) with George LeBolt**  
Afternoon Workshop— (following morning workshop)
5. **July 19th**      **BYOB W/S with Guest Artist—Chase Rosade**  
Afternoon Workshop— (after morning Lecture/Demo)
6. **Aug 16th**      **BYOB Open Styling W/S—with George LeBolt**  
Morning Workshop—Regular Meeting Time. Open to all Members
7. **Sept 13th**      **BYOB W/S with Guest Artist— Roy Nagatoshi**  
Afternoon Workshop—(after morning Lecture/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.	Mar 29	Temperate Tree (supplied)	George LeBolt	\$35	George	_____	
2.	Apr 26	BYOB	David Easterbrook	\$40	BBS	_____	
3.	May 24	Brazilian Raintree (supplied)	George LeBolt	Varies	George	_____	
4.	May 24	Tropical Trees (supplied)	George LeBolt	Varies	George	_____	
5.	Jul 19	BYOB	Chase Rosade	\$40	BBS		
6.	Aug 16	BYOB	George LeBolt	\$10	BBS		
7.	Sep 13	BYOB	Roy Nagatoshi	\$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 Ave. , 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:** Sign-Ups began at our February Meeting. Workshops '1, '2, '3, & '4 are now **FULLY SUBSCRIBED.** Workshops '5, '6 & '7 still have **Some** openings. Don't miss out, don't delay, get your reservation (with payment) to George **ASAP.**

## **LAST MONTH - Feb 22nd . - GUEST SPEAKER - SEAN SMITH**

The meeting started nearly on-time and in spite of the enormous quantity of items on the agenda, the business portion was brief, and quickly to the point, so that our guest speaker could begin his program by 11:00 AM. Success. We finished 3 minutes early and Sean Smith set-up multiple tables of items, along with a power point slide unit to aid in his presentation.

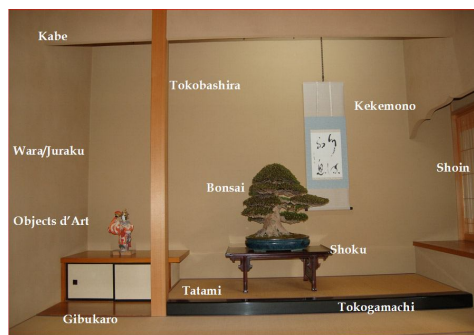
Sean's lecture was divided into several parts. The first part focused on preparing a tokonoma display using concepts and artistry based upon the Japanese style of bonsai. One must realize that such a presentation involves the tree, the pot, the stand, and the surroundings. All must tell a story including the time of year. All must blend and be harmonious. Thus a delicate bonsai requires a delicate pot and stand, & a heavy masculine tree requires the opposite.

The tokonoma in Japan is normally viewed from a kneeling position so small trees need a taller stand and large trees need a shorter stand. Older trees should also have older pots and stands to remain in harmony. The tokonoma should be viewed as the artist presents it. Therefore we should only view it from the front and try to find the true beauty that is being presented to us. It is easy to criticize and lose site of the positives of the scene. Sean brought multiple examples of stands and pots to help his demonstration. Some had a historical background while others were ones that he designed and constructed himself.

The second part of his presentation centered around tanuki, or dry, aged wood. Sean showed us pictures of an old apple orchard where dead apple tree roots were exposed and aged above ground for many years. They were contorted, hard pieces that could be incorporated into the design of a bonsai trunk. Techniques for doing this were presented by applying the apple tree roots onto the real trunk of a non tapering, uninteresting juniper, giving the "tree" the illusion of having a magnificent large trunk. Permanency was achieved by screwing the live tree to the dead wood. In some cases, car body repair goop was used to further seal the real tree to the dead wood, followed by sanding and painting. Thus the original uninteresting bonsai was converted into an important bonsai with an ancient trunk.

Lastly, Sean described the background of how some of the display trees shown in Japanese exhibits are handled. Many of these famous and old bonsai trees have heritages, just as race horses and dogs trained for shows are owned by one person, kenneled and groomed by another, trained by another, and shown by yet another. So too, the owners of these famous trees use famous artists to maintain, care, train, and show their trees. The more famous the artists, the more value the tree has for the owner, who often times sees his tree very seldom. This part of the Sean's presentation gave us an interesting insight into the world of bonsai showmanship in Japan.

Mitch Becker



The components of a Tokonoma



Sean Smith during his presentation



Beautiful antique stand

## **THIS MONTH - MARCH 29th - TEMPERATE TREE WORKSHOP - GEORGE LEBOLT**

At our last meeting this workshop was fully subscribed with 10 participants. Most elected to order the dwarf elms, & a few wanted small shimpaku junipers.

The dwarf elms are in 4" square pots, range in age from 6 to 8 years, are all well branched & all partially shaped & trained. The junipers are untrained in one gallon nursery containers. All will be used to create Shohin Bonsai.

The cost for the workshop (**including** the tree) is \$35, payable March 29th. If you unexpectedly can't attend the workshop, the tree will be held for you, but you must be responsible for paying for it.

Since this morning workshop is our program of the day, all Members **not** in the workshop are encouraged to attend as "silent" observers, at **no cost**.

## **NEXT MONTH - APRIL 26TH - GUEST ARTIST - DAVID EASTERBROOK**

David Easterbrook needs no introduction. His fame as Curator of Bonsai at the Montreal Botanic Garden precedes him. We look forward with great anticipation to his return to Bergen Bonsai.

He will do a Lect/Demo in the morning & conduct a BYOB workshop in the afternoon (already fully subscribed).

You can still reserve a spot as a "silent observer".

**WORKSHOP PAYMENTS** - Please note: **ALL** payments for workshop #1 (Temperate trees) & workshop #2 (Easterbrook BYOB) must be made by, or at our March 29th meeting.

### **Also**

for workshop #3 (Raintree) & #4 (Tropical tree), a \$50 deposit must be made by, or at our March 29th meeting.

Bear in mind, George has already paid for these trees. If you are in one of these workshops & cannot attend the March meeting, you must call George (201-768-7455) & arrange payment by mail to him.

**09 DUES** - As per previous announcements, if you haven't renewed '09 membership & paid your dues, we must drop you from our mailing list & you will be unable to take part in any BBS activities.

If you wish to rejoin, please call Mitch Becker immediately @ 201-836-3983 & let him know.

**MIDATLANTIC CONVENTION, APRIL 17, 18, 19** - At each meeting, we stress the many advantages of attending the MABS Convention. As an added incentive for '09, **1st time** full registrants can attend & only pay **HALF PRICE**, - what a bargain! — all of our eligible Members Should take advantage of this one time opportunity.

**Important:** We **again** remind our Members that we are still seeking Club display trees for the MidAtlantic Exhibition next month. If you have a worthy tree and wish to show it, contact George **ASAP**.

**STUDY GROUP SESSIONS** - See info and reservation form elsewhere in this newsletter. Please note that the 06/17 session is already **FILLED**. Other sessions still have some openings. Don't delay, get in your reservations ASAP.

**LIBRARY** - This is still a very under-utilized facility, - we encourage **ALL** of our Members to make use of the excellent Books, Magazines & Tapes available to them. An excellent way to augment Bonsai learning.

**GOOD & WELFARE** - We are happy to report that our Treasurer, Mitch Becker, is recovering rapidly from his recent angioplasty.

Also, as many of you know, George LeBolts scheduled arthroscopic shoulder surgery became open shoulder surgery, after the camera disclosed the further extent of damage. He had a muscle tear repair, a bone spur removal & some work done on the A/C , plus a few other goodies. His right arm will be in a sling for a month. This definitely impedes his Bonsai repotting ability, & equally important, his golf swing.

Get better soon George.

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES** - **Please help your Club.** If you are getting this Newsletter via snail mail & you have access to an E-mail address, please give us the address & make life easier for Rose Chan, our Editor, & less expensive for B.B.S. — Thank you.

**BONSAI SOIL** - as reviewed February at our Meeting, we may have the opportunity to place a Club order for good Bonsai Soil at a discounted, quantity price, -- \$25 (retail price, \$38).

This soil is used and recommended by David Easterbrook. It is supplied in 5 gallons quantity (apx. 40 lbs), in two mixes, -- standard (1/4" to 1/16") and shohin (1/8" to 1/16"). The demand at the meeting was apx. 35 bags. If you were **NOT** at the meeting, and want to order soil, please call George **immediately** at 201-768-7455, to get on board.

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## **OFFICERS & STAFF**

<b><u>OFFICERS</u></b>	
President	George LeBolt
Vice President	Virginia Shen
Treasurer	Mitch Becker
<b><u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</u></b>	
Mitch Becker	Teresa & Victor Plummer
Marlene Cuniberti	Bob Pruski
Rose Chan	Ralf Schumann
George LeBolt	Virginia Shen

<b><u>COMMITTEES</u></b>	
Library (Videos)	Irina Forsythe
Library (Hard Cover Books)	John Ricco
Library (Bonsai Today/Focus)	Diann Pinkowski
Library (Int'l Bonsai, BCL misc.)	Diann Pinkowski
Hospitality	Judy LeBolt Teresa Plummer
Refreshments	Elsbeth Christern Ralf Schumann
Tokonoma	Jane Boutis
Good & Welfare	Virginia Shen
Executive Board Meetings	Jim Killian
Demo. Tree Follow – up	Marlene Cuniberti
MidAtlantic Representatives	George LeBolt Len Schwartz
Programs	George LeBolt
Newsletter Production	Rose Chan
Photographer	Bob Pruski
Newsletter Reporter	Mitch Becker
Website	Bob Pruski

## 2009 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 sessions, \$100 for series of 3. Priority is given to earliest registrants.

1 st Series	2 nd Series	3 rd Series
SAT April 11 <input type="checkbox"/>	SUN June 7 <input type="checkbox"/>	TBD <input type="checkbox"/>
SAT May 9 <input type="checkbox"/>	TBD <input type="checkbox"/>	TBD <input type="checkbox"/>
SUN May 17 <input checked="" 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 Ave. Closter, NJ 07624 ( Phone Reservations accepted. Call 201-768-7455)

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### SPECIAL NOTES:

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

For the 4 months (starting March) there will be only FOUR sessions available.

In addition to styling trees, here is some important TIMING information regarding potting & repotting.

April is a good time to pot or repot most Temperate Trees.

June, July and Aug are all 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.