

# The Bergen Bonsai Society

## AUG 2011 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Sunday, Aug. 21st

Time: 9:45 AM –5 PM

Place: Closter Nature Center

154 Ruchman Rd. Closter, NJ



**GUEST ARTIST**  
**JOHN ROMANO**

**The Bergen Bonsai Society**  
Incorporated  
P.O. Box 822  
Teaneck, New Jersey 07666  
Website: [BergenBonsai.com](http://BergenBonsai.com)



## Year 2011 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 16	<u>GUEST ARTIST— Dick Rauh — Drawing Bonsai</u> (presentation/demo)	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
	February 20	<u>ELECTION OF BBS BOARD — POT SALE</u>	<u>X</u>			
	March 20	<u>PRESENTATION BONSAI SOIL POTTING/ RE-POTTING WORKSHOP — TEMPERATE TREE WORKSHOP</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
*	April	<u>NO MEETING</u>				
	April 15,16,17	<u>MID-ATLANTIC SPRING FESTIVAL</u>				<u>X</u>
	May 15	<u>BERGEN SHOW — Environmental Center Wyckoff, NJ ( 1pm-5pm)</u>		<u>X</u>		<u>X</u>
*	June 12	<u>ANNUAL PICNIC &amp; AUCTION @ Lakeside (12 noon – 3pm)</u>		<u>X</u>		
	July 17	<u>OPEN WORKSHOP — BYOB / MATERIAL SUPPLIED</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
	August 21	<u>GUEST ARTIST — John Romano—AM L/D &amp; PM workshop</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
	September 17	<u>EVENING POT-LUCK DINNER WITH A DEMO BY Eric Auger</u>			<u>X</u>	
	September 18	<u>GUEST ARTIST — Eric Auger — CONSTRUCTIVE CRITIQUE</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
	October 16	<u>GUEST ARTIST —David Easterbrook —AM L/D &amp; PM workshop</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
	November 20	<u>WINTERING REVIEW AND ANNUAL SHOW AND CRITIQUE</u>	<u>X</u>			
	December 11	<u>HOLIDAY PARTY</u>		<u>X</u>		<u>X</u>

\* Indicates a change in date, event or time, 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

## LAST MONTH'S MEETING —JULY 17TH—OPEN WORKSHOP — BYOB — MATERIAL SUPPLIED

General Meeting - July 17, 2001

July was a holiday month so we had a small turnout with only 18 members attending the meeting. Those who did come were not disappointed, because **Mike Humphrey** prepared a most informative lecture on bonsai soil. Some of the main points that Mike stressed was that a **good soil mix** must have **good drainage, aeration, anchorage and structural integrity**,



Mike also emphasized that the soil could include some organic food for the species of the particular tree. Many points were covered such as: and moisture retention, compaction being a major killer of plants, use of inert substances like perlite, akadama, oxygen for roots, good aeration, particle sizes varying from 1/8" - 3/8", using the same particle size throughout the pot (but top dressing with finer particles is okay) and the desirability of irregular particle shapes. He also stressed that though smaller particles are good for feeder roots we should screen our soils for smaller particles of organic materials. We also learned that large air pockets can be fatal to our trees and how to avoid them during re-potting.

Mike went into much detail about the many possible components that are used in soil. Some of the many points covered were what holds and retains water well such as pumice, how akadama breaks down quickly, and the use of chicken grit and aquarium gravel and sand. We also learned that Chicken grit is good for acid loving plants and volcanic stone has low PH while charcoal has high PH which "sweetens the soil. A recommended ready mix is Hoffman's Bonsai.

Mike felt that re-potting is often done too much in the west and that older trees may not need re-potting but every 5-7 years. He also warned us that when we root prune we should treat the tree like a cutting and protect it for a few weeks from direct sun and wind.

After Mike was finished John Passante circulated a questionnaire for members to fill out so they could express their thoughts on club improvement. The results will be considered by the board and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next Bob demonstrated on his laptop how easy it is to access the Bergen Bonsai Website where a wealth of bonsai information is available. He showed how we can search our library's index for bonsai related subjects so that we can order a magazine containing the specific information we are looking for to be brought to the next meeting.

After the meeting approximately 8 members worked on their trees in an open workshop. These informal workshops have been very encouraging to the members, with the more experienced members assisting in a very relaxed environment.



## **THIS MEETING — AUG 21 st —GUEST ARTIST — JOHN ROMANO — AM L/D & PM WORKSHOP**

### **Who is John Romano**



**BIO”** I have studied bonsai for close to 30 years. I have been working at New England Bonsai Gardens for the past 10 years teaching and styling trees. Run the Kaikou School of Bonsai at New England Bonsai Gardens.

I’ve studied for a short time at Taisho en in Shizuoka Japan with Mr. Urushibata, worked with artists in residence at NEBG: Kenji Miyata, Hiromi Tsukada, Mitsuo Matsuda. “

“ My first experience with plants was at 4 years old- helping my Italian Grandfather plant seeds and later pruning apple, pear and fig trees in the garden. This was my first 'crossing path' with trees. In 1975 I started to 'play' with bonsai. It was

more like creating a morgue for trees! After this first foray in futility, I stumbled upon some good books and finally found New England Bonsai Gardens (then in South Natick) and my passion was rooted. I've had many teachers over the years - in single courses and workshops - as well as more extensive learning relationships with Kenji Miyata at New England Bonsai Gardens and a short study period at Taisho en in Shizuoka, Japan with shohin bonsai master, Nobuichi Urushibata. I have been teaching bonsai classes and private students at New England Bonsai Gardens since 2000. “

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## **NEXT MEETING — SEPT 17TH AND 18TH — GUEST ARTIST — ERIC AUGER**

**Eric Auger,** You may not know the name, but never the less he is now the curator of the **Montreal Botanical Garden**. We are very fortunited to have him to our club.

This time we will be doing something different . We will have a **Pot Luck Dinner and Demo** at the **Closter Nature Center on Sept 17th. Saturday** starting 6pm.. Everyone is ask to bring in their favorite dish. Can be drink, salad, pasta, main course, desert..... We will have a fun evening meeting dinner along with a lecture demo by Eric Auger.

Next day our regular meeting , Eric will be giving **CONSTRUCTIVE CRITIQUE** If you want to excel in your bonsai technique this is the time to learn from the expert. Bring in your tree (bonsai) let the expert give you his best view points.

Please let us know what type of dish you are bring, so we will not have too much the same kind. Also, how many of you will bring in your bonsai for Eric to critique?

## GOOD AND WELFARE

As you know Mitch had undergone open heart surgery on 6/22. Heard from Andrea (Mitch's wife) who keep us posting on Mitch's progress. The latest updates was he is feeling much better, he is now driving, has more energy, and even did some food shopping. **Keep it up Mitch, thanks to Andrea. We want to see you back to our club.**

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## BBS WBSITE

Go to [www.bergenbonsai.com](http://www.bergenbonsai.com) & you can view our Newsletters, pictures from our last Meetings, the MidAtlantic Convention, our EXTENSIVE LIBRARY & much more. Continuing thanks to Bob Pruski.

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## LIBRARY

As usual, the **complete** Library inventory is posted on our website (**BergenBonsai.com**). See what you want, contact our Librarians (For Videos — David; Hard Cover Books — Rose; Bonsai Today/ Focus —Diane and Int'l Bonsai, BCL Misc — John), and they will bring it to the next Meeting. This is a tremendous facility and one of the best ways to learn more about Bonsai in general. The library is a treasure of information just waiting to answer all of your questions and some that you haven't even thought about yet. Use these winter months to answer the questions that you have about your trees and get answers in time for the growing season.

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Library (Int'l Bonsai, BCL misc.)	Diann Pinkowski
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