

# The Bergen Bonsai Society

July 2015 Newsletter

Meeting: Sun 07/19 — 9:45AM

Place: Closter Nature Center .

154 Ruckman Road, Closter, NJ 07624



An educational  
non-profit organization

**OPEN WORKSHOP**  
**Closter Nature Center**

## **The Bergen Bonsai Society**

Incorporated

P.O. Box 822

Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

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



## Year 2015 Programs

Mark Your Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT AND/OR GUEST ARTIST</u>	<u>AM MTG</u>	<u>AFT MTG</u>	<u>EVE MT G</u>	<u>AWAY MTG</u>
January 11	<u>POT SALE /SWAP MEET — POWER POINT PRESENTATION</u>	<u>X</u>			
February 22	<u>GUEST ARTIST —DAVID KNITTLE-TREATMENT DEAD WOOD</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
March 22	<u>GUEST ARTIST — DAVID EASTERBROOK— REPOTTING selection of MABS trees</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
* March <b>Mon</b> 23	<u>GUEST ARTIST — DAVID EASTERBROOK —REPOTTING</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
April 17 -19	<u>MID-ATLANTIC SPRING FESTIVAL</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		<u>X</u>
May 3	<u>GUEST ARTIST —MAURO STEMBERGER —AM-LECTURE 3 TREES; PM-CRITIQUE</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
* May <b>Mon</b> 4	<u>GUEST ARTIST—MAURO STEMBERGER—<b>Cerbo Greenhouse</b></u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		<u>X</u>
May 31	<u>OPEN WORKSHOP—CLOSTER NATURE CENTER</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
* June 14	<u>OPEN WORKSHOP— <b>TEANECK GREENHOUSE</b></u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		<u>X</u>
July 19	<u>OPEN WORKSHOP—TROPICAL</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
August 16	<u>PICNIC</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
September 13	<u>GUEST ARTIST— OWEN REICH— BYOB WORKSHOP</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
October 18	<u>GUEST ARTIST — DAVID EASTERBROOK — WORKSHOP</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
November 15	<u>CLUB SHOW; PM— OPEN WORKSHOP</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>		
December 6	<u>HOLIDAY LUNCHEON</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

**LAST MEETING —MAY 31st—OPEN WORKSHOP at CLOSTER NATURE CENTER**  
**JUNE 14th. — OPEN WORKSHOP at TEANECK GREENHOUSE**



Open workshop meetings are a marvelous opportunity to learn about bonsai. There can be new ideas taught about species care, design, shaping, wiring, branch bending, grafting, repotting, or anything else that we have wondered about and would like to have a firsthand answer from someone who has been there and done that. We are a club of all kinds of backgrounds and skills regarding bonsai. If one member does not have the answer to your question, another might, or a third will. This is where we can learn, experiment, and enriches our bonsai experiences. So why do we have such poor attendance at these meetings? Pleased let us know what your thoughts are.

At the meeting we also discussed possible ways to make our club more inclusive, broaden the base, attract new members, and raise more money for the club to afford more visiting artists. One suggestion that everyone was excited about was to produce inexpensive beginner bonsai trees that could be put in some of the small pots that the club owns. They could then be sold along with simple care instructions at flower club plant sales and perhaps even some nurseries (while giving them a cut). Len thought that the Teaneck Garden Club would welcome such a stand for us at their annual flower sale. I am sure that they would be of better quality than what we see being sold at the malls.

Those members who brought plants to the workshop meeting received advice from other members and there is no doubt that some learning was accomplished. Let's fill up the rest of the open workshop meetings this year with plants for you to work on. Bring them on!! - Mitch

Coming just two weeks after our May 31 open workshop, I was not surprised that only six of us showed up on June 14 for another open workshop. But having the meeting at the greenhouse of the Teaneck Garden Club made the experience different. This was our first time using this Teaneck facility and although it is considerably smaller than the nature center in Closter, it is more available, more central and it's FREE.

To be honest, nobody worked on any trees, but we did spend a couple of hours discussing our club and how to strengthen it and we proved that we can make use of this site in the future for small workshops with ten participants or less. -- Len.



## **THIS MEETING —JULY 19th— OPEN WORKSHOP –TROPICAL**

Having set a record for low attendance at the June 14 meeting (perhaps because the meeting was held only two weeks after the one on May 31 and was in Teaneck, a new location) we are NOW looking forward to setting record high meeting attendances for the rest of the year. The remaining program is :

July 19 - bring your own, open workshop with emphasis on tropicals @ Closter

Aug 16 - Annual picnic

Sept 13 - Owen Reich lecture/demo morning, bring your own afternoon workshop, \$50.

Register NOW with John Pinkowski @ [diann91@hotmail.com](mailto:diann91@hotmail.com)

Oct 18 - David Easterbrook - all day workshop , tree supplied, prices not set yet

Nov 15 - Bergen Bonsai show in the morning and afternoon workshop

Dec 6 Our holiday party

DETAILS July 19 : Mid July, with the summer going full blast, is the best time to re pot and do any other major work on tropical trees. Bring pots, tropical soil, wire and tools and finally get to do the work on the tropicals that you've been putting off, on this BYO open workshop. We will also be raffling another of Mauro's trees, which he made at the May 4 meeting.

In addition, at the July 19 meeting, we will be having a detailed discussion about a proposed plan to make our club more fiscally sound. We need a source of income to supplement dues and fees if we are to continue inviting world class , but expensive, visiting artists. The idea is for us to make bonsai for sale to the public and make use of the proceeds to run our programs. The following is a preliminary outline of the plan :

- 1) Bergen Bonsai would purchase basic bonsai components ( pots, growing medium, wire and starting plants)
- 2) This material would be distributed to our members at special workshops at which the plants would be potted, wired and initially styled. Hopefully most of us would participate and several hundred bonsai would get made.
- 3) These bonsai would still be owned by our club, but they would be taken home and cared for by our members as if they were there own. They would periodically be brought in during club workshops and improved if needed.
- 4) We will identify places to sell those bonsai which are good enough. One such place may be the annual plant sale in Teaneck, first week in May.
- 5) The economics of this idea need to be thought through better, but we need to be able to produce these bonsai cheaply enough so that they can be sold at a relatively low price and still make enough profit to justify the effort.
- 6) The types, availability, viability and cost of the initial plants are critical.
- 7) We should start doing this activity soon.

The benefits to the club may extend beyond simply making some money. We will all gain experience growing bonsai, we will have a common activity with a goal to help the club and we might attract new members.

THAT'S WHY WE ALL NEED TO BE AT THE JULY MEETING.

## **NEXT MEETING — AUGUST 16TH — ANNUAL PICNIC**

This is our yearly picnic and Auction. We need bonsai stuff that you no longer want, so be generous in your donations , loose with your money and hungry.

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## New Parking location at the Closter Nature Center

We have been asked by the head of the nature center to park in a different location when we have our meetings at Closter. The Closter Nature Center is owned and supported by the municipality of Closter primarily for the use of Closter residents who need to park at the building to use the grounds. This parking facility, off Ruckman, Road, gets filled by Bergen Bonsai members during our meetings and we are being asked to park at another lot which is further from the building. Access to this lot is from Piermont Road. Heading north on Piermont from Homans Ave, make the second left onto Irving Ave. and travel straight for about 1000 feet (the road is only semi paved towards the end) and park at a cottage. You will then walk around the section of lake, at which we hold our picnics, to the Nature Center building. Trees and tools may be dropped off first using the Ruckman parking lot if we then move our cars to the Irving Ave lot. We all recognized that this change will make using the Nature Center at Closter more difficult, but we MUST try.

## GOOD AND WELFARE

Bergen Bonsai News, anyone having anything that they like to share, please feel free to drop us an email. We will publish it if it is appropriate.  
 Email address : BergenBonsai@gmail.com Tel: 201-771-0343

## BBS WEBSITE

Go to [www.bergenbonsai.com](http://www.bergenbonsai.com) & you can view our newsletters, pictures from our latest meetings, the Mid-Atlantic Convention, our extensive library & much more. Continued thanks to Bob Pruski.

## LIBRARY

As usual, the complete library inventory is posted on our website ([BergenBonsai.com](http://BergenBonsai.com)). Find what you want, contact our librarians (for videos — David; hard cover books — Ralf; Bonsai Today/ Focus —Diann, and Int'l Bonsai, BCL Misc — John), and they will bring it to the next meeting. This is a tremendous asset and one of the best ways to learn more about bonsai in general. The library is a treasure trove 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 get answers to the questions that you have about your trees in time for the growing season.

## OFFICERS & STAFF

<u>OFFICES</u>	
President	Len Schwartz
Vice President	Ralf Schumann
Treasurer	Ralf Schumann
Secretary	Marlene Cuniberti
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Mitch Becker	Diann Pinkowski
Rose Chan	Ralf Schumann
Marlene Cuniberti	Len Schwartz
Hank Gross	Peter Sobel
Bryce Hugelmeyer	

<u>COMMITTEES</u>	
Library (Videos)	David Feitelson
Library (Hard Cover Books)	Ralf Schumann
Library (Bonsai Today/Focus)	Diann Pinkowski
Library (Int'l Bonsai, BCL misc.)	Diann Pinkowski
Hospitality	Marlene Cuniberti
Refreshments	Elsbeth Christern Mark Penchinar
Tokonoma	Michael Humphrey
Good & Welfare	Virginia Shen
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