

# The Bergen Bonsai Society

January 2009 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 18th

Time: 9:45AM

Place: Closter Nature Center

154 Ruckman Rd., Closter, NJ 07624



**MAIN PROGRAM**  
**RICHARD BUCKLEY**  
**RUTGERS UNIV. PLANT PATHOLOGIST**

**The Bergen Bonsai Society**  
 Incorporated  
 P.O. Box 822  
 Teaneck, New Jersey 07666



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

#### NOTES

1. All meetings @ Closter Nature Center are on Sundays
2. All morning meetings @ Closter Nature Center start 9:45 AM to APROX. 1:30PM
3. All afternoon meetings @ Closter Nature Center start APX. 2PM to APROX. 5:00PM

## OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> MEETING – David Easterbrook

We were privileged to have David Easterbrook for both Saturday & Sunday. The Saturday Workshop was primarily a follow-up for the collected Larches he provided two years ago. Most were forests, plus some other trees brought by a few Members whose Larches didn't survive, due to the abnormal weather conditions the previous winter.

It was a very informative afternoon. David explained everything that had to be done to each forest and tree. He then skillfully started pruning and trimming, while explaining why, what he did, and the importance of doing so. The owners then had to rewire the forests and trees to prepare them for branch adjustment and final styling. David then went to each one to give them their proper shape and in some cases he helped with the wiring too, where it became necessary. It was a marvelous learning experience for everybody present.

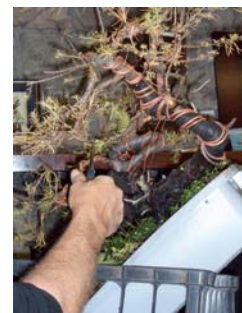
On Sunday morning he did a lecture demonstration on a winter damaged Larch owned by George LeBolt. Some Members had hoped that this tree would be raffled off, but that was a wrong assumption. George had donated another beautiful little tree (Dwarf Fukien Tea) for the raffle. The Larch was to be completely restyled, so David started his magic and Len gave him a helping hand with some wiring. A lot of cutting and trimming was done. And then came some serious taping in various areas, where parts of the tree were to be bent into almost impossible positions. David used a lot of very heavy copper wire to do the job.

The bending was not so easy to do. It took a lot of groaning by David and the tree, but he got it done after all. The tree turned out to be beautiful in its new form. All George will have to do in the spring is to repot it a radically new position. We all witnessed another valuable lesson in how to drastically restyle a tree.

In the afternoon we had another workshop for members who brought their own trees for improvement. We all saw transformations in shape and style.

It was another fabulous weekend, - Thank you George and David.

Ralf Schumann



## NOVEMBER 16th MEETING – WINTERING + ANNUAL SHOW & CRITIQUE

Our short business meeting was followed by a very complete review of Bonsai wintering techniques by George.

Included were basements, garages, sheds, cold frames, burying, mulching, watering & most important, protection from wind, sun & fluctuating root ball temperatures.

A separate review was given for Tropical trees, where the 3 most important aspects are light, temperature & humidity.

All of this was followed by a lively question, suggestion & answer session.

Approx 15 trees were displayed for our Annual Show. Many of them showed the improvement of our Members' skills & esthetic improvement. Others showed more work was needed.

But the absolute **HI-LITE** of the Meeting was the Critique! George reviewed each & every tree, including those created by relative novices, to our most experienced Members.

As an example, - lets review the 3 significant suggestions George gave to Len Schwartz (one of our most advanced members) relative to his very impressive semi-cascade Ficus.

1. Change the front by about 30 degrees,--  
Presents better nebari, main line & branch positions.
2. Lower the left rear branch, --  
This creates a necessary negative space & redefines 2 branches.
3. Compress all right top branches,--  
They then no longer oppose the motion of the tree, which is gracefully flowing to the left.

Len advised that he agreed with all suggestions & would made the adjustments.

And so, each tree was “gently” critiqued for improvement, & most of the time, its owner said the adjustments would be implemented.

It was a great learning experience for all, -- Thank you George.



## **DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> - ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**

It was called a “Holiday Party” and PARTY it was. After a great time of socializing, we all joined together and in our Holiday manner, began the “eating” part of the afternoon. The question was which was the best, the shrimp, the orange coated pork, or maybe the dumplings, or maybe the spare ribs, or maybe the slices of cold duck. I ate all of them, but let’s not forget the cheese cake and the fortune cookies, along with the fresh pineapple. I didn’t miss out on any of that either.

George livened up the afternoon with his role of Master of Ceremonies. Everyone asked about Judy. He gave us an update of her trials and tribulations. Everyone expressed their best wishes for a speedy recovery. **(I hope you were listening Judy.)**

George expressed thanks to each of our many Members who donated their time & energy to the Club, without which there would be no Club. Then we all gave a big round of applause to Mr. Bonsai himself, George, for all of his hard work during the year.

He reviewed the exciting events planned for the coming year, after which about 10 door prizes were awarded by random numbers. The prizes were interesting and bonsai useful and were selected and wrapped by the LeBolts.

George then rewarded each attendee with a young, healthy plant to convert into a bonsai. There was an interesting plant assortment, and each was given out by Members picking a number.

For me, the afternoon ended with a Calendar, a Brochure for next years MidAtlantic Convention, a pocket knife won by my wife, her Fukien Tea, my variegated Ficus, -and-, a too full, but satisfied stomach.

Mitch Becker

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## **NEXT MONTH JAN 18<sup>TH</sup> GUEST SPEAKER –Richard Buckley**

Mr. Buckley is the Senior Plant Pathologist @ Rutgers University & he will present a program on all things that attack trees,- how to recognize them, prevent them, & hopefully, cure them. All of this pertains to all of your trees, as well as your Bonsai.

Mr. Buckley gave us a very informative presentation about 7 years ago & we look forward to his return.

**NEWSLETTER NOTES** – As most of you know, after several years of exemplary service to BBS, Shep Haight had to step down from the job of publishing our Newsletter.

We are most fortunate that Rose Chan has graciously volunteered to take over the job.

Due to the fact that George LeBolt has been completely occupied with his wife’s several hospitalizations over the past 3 months, George was himself unable to write up & put together the information for Rose until now.

So this Newsletter edition has write-ups (and some pictures) from our last 3 events, plus the complete schedule for ’09.

If anyone does **NOT** get this Newsletter (either by E-mail or snail mail) please let us know **ASAP**. In any event, it is always available on-line @ [www.bergenbonsai.com](http://www.bergenbonsai.com)

**WORKSHOPS** – Schedule & sign-up forms will be in the next Newsletter.

**STUDY GROUPS** - Schedule & sign-up forms will be in the next Newsletter.

## **GOOD & WELFARE** -

We are happy to report that Judy LeBolt (who spent almost the last 3 months in & out of hospitals) is now at home & on the mend. We all hope to see her at the January Meeting.

**LIBRARY** – Winter months are the best time to utilize this excellent collection of over 400 Bonsai Books, Magazines & Tapes, all posted on our website. Contact Diane, Irena & John to bring specific Library items to our next Meeting for you.

**WEBSITE** – Many thanks to Bob Pruski for continuing to update our website & posting pictures. Don't forget, you can always view the current newsletter by going on-line @ [www.bergenbonsai.com](http://www.bergenbonsai.com).

**'09 DUES** – Were due by 01/01/09- They remain @ \$35 (single) & \$45 (family). If you haven't yet rejoined, please bring payment to the January Meeting or, if you can't attend the meeting, fill out the dues form & mail it in.

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**Dues Payment and Information Form for 2009**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Single \$35       Family \$45

Please mail with your check (payable to **Bergen Bonsai**) and this form to:

**Mitchell Becker, Treasurer**  
**778 Downing Street**  
**Teaneck, NJ 07666**

Please complete the following **ONLY** if any information has **CHANGED**. This will permit us to update our mailing records. Please print using all capital letters.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

→ If you are not receiving your Newsletter via email, & you have an email address, PLEASE PROVIDE IT! ←

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Vice President	Virginia Shen
Treasurer	Mitch Becker
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Mitch Becker	Teresa & Victor Plummer
Marlene Cuniberti	Bob Pruski
Rose Chan	Ralf Schumann
George LeBolt	Virginia Shen

<b>COMMITTEES</b>	
Library (Videos)	Irina Forsythe
Library (Hard Cover Books)	John Ricco
Library (Bonsai Today/Focus)	Diann Pinkowski
Library (Int'l Bonsai, BCLmisc.)	Diann Pinkowski
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Refreshments	Elsbeth Christern Mildred Rooney
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