

Inland Empire Bonsai Society

2008 Program

The Inland Empire Bonsai Society holds a monthly meeting on the third Sunday of each month. The meeting starts at noon at the Manito Park Meeting Room, which is just east of the Conservatory in Manito Park on Spokane's South Hill. The meeting is composed of three parts:

- ◆ 15 – 30 minute business meeting
- ◆ 30 – 60 minute program as listed below
- ◆ A general hands-on workshop after the program portion of each meeting.

Members are encouraged to bring a tree or two to each meeting to discuss, work on, ask for advice, etc.; either relating to the program of the day, or on any other subject. We have the meeting room until 3:30 pm.

January 20th

- ◆ **Soil Composition and a Guide to Making Your Own Mixture** - Hal Allert will lead a discussion of the different soil types in Bonsai with an emphasis on the soil mixes that are used in the Inland Empire. Examples of the different soil types will be available.
- ◆ **Calendar of Yearly Tasks** - Marty Weiser will present a checklist of yearly tasks that has been customized for the Spokane area. He will also discuss appropriate adjustments for your growing conditions and year-to-year variations.
- ◆ **Collecting Potential Bonsai Material** - Roger Snipes will discuss proper timing and methods used to collect potential bonsai material, both from urban environments and from the wild.
- ◆ **Building Wooden Training Boxes** - Cass Johnson, Gary Gemar, and Marty Weiser will conduct a workshop on building wooden training boxes in February. After a short discussion of the process and the materials that will be needed, they will take orders for the materials – payment can be made through the first week of February. They will pre-cut the wood but you will have to pay for the materials.

February 17th

- ◆ **Wooden Training Boxes Workshop** - Cass Johnson, Gary Gemar, and Marty Weiser will conduct a workshop on building wooden training boxes. These boxes are excellent for developing your bonsai's roots and branches before re-potting it into a good pot.

March 16th

- ◆ **Root Grafting Workshop** - Marty Weiser will lead a hands-on re-potting workshop and discuss the proper procedures for making a root graft. Root grafts are sometimes necessary if your bonsai tree could benefit from nebari (exposed roots) where there aren't any roots. Bring in a tree that can be re-potted at the beginning of the season like a maple or larch along with the bonsai soil, pot, and appropriate clothes for the job.
- ◆ **Thread Grafting** - Roger Snipes will discuss the proper way to complete a thread graft, and will also demonstrate the technique. Thread grafts are sometimes necessary if your bonsai tree is in need of a branch on the trunk where there is no branch. This workshop is more of the magic of Bonsai.

April 20th

- ◆ **Wiring and Styling Techniques** - Roger Snipes will discuss proper wiring and styling techniques for young bonsai trees.
- ◆ **Bending Large Diameter Branches** - Roger will also demonstrate how to bend a large diameter branch or trunk.

May 18th

- ◆ **Approach Grafts and Free Grafts** - A demonstration of approach grafts and free grafts on bonsai trees. A presenter is needed to volunteer for this demonstration.
- ◆ **Candle-pinching Techniques on Pines** - Roger Snipes will discuss proper candle-pinching techniques on pines. He will discuss the different techniques that must be used on five needle pines, two needle pines, and Ponderosa pines.

June 15th

- ◆ **Propagation** - A demonstration of propagation techniques including cuttings and air layering.

July 20th

- ◆ **Annual Show** - a display of the best bonsai trees in the Inland Empire.
- ◆ **Annual Bonsai Sale** - Trees, soil mixes, books, tools, and pots will be on sale by members of the club.

August 17th

- ◆ **Annual Picnic** - This potluck picnic is usually held at a member's home and is an opportunity to talk with club members about all things Bonsai.

September 18th – 21st

- ◆ The Inland Empire Bonsai Society will host the Pacific Northwest Bonsai Convention XIX in Spokane instead of its regular monthly meeting. However, there will be more than enough bonsai activity at the convention to make up for the canceled meeting. Please check the website Convention page (<http://www.inlandbonsai.com/convention>) for further details and registration information.

October 19th

- ◆ **Winter Storage** - As we approach the winter season, there will be a group discussion on Winter Storage of your bonsai trees. There will be time for questions and answers.
- ◆ **Pot Selection** - This is the time to be thinking of what pots your trees will need in the Spring when it is time to re-pot them. A discussion on Pot Selection will look at the best size, shape, and color of pots for your trees. Bring trees that will need a new pot and get free advice.

November 16th

- ◆ **Planning Next Year's Tree Development** - A detailed look at the progression of events that will enable your trees to grow healthy and lively.

December 21st

- ◆ **Annual Christmas Potluck Party**