



JOURNAL



October 2009

www.torontobonsai.org

Schedule of Events

Meetings are held in the *Toronto Botanical Gardens* in the Auditorium (west side of building) unless otherwise noted.

Beginners Session- Floral Hall, 6:30 – 7:20 p.m.

A short talk about over-wintering your trees, then again as in September a critique of trees owned by members new to bonsai. John Biel will be again the expert senior member. Please be prepared to talk a little bit about your tree.

Furthermore, we are looking for volunteers to take notes at the Beginners Sessions, and then write a short article about this session for the TBS Journal.

October 5: TBS Meeting, Floral Hall, 7:30 p.m. Eastern white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), critique, presentation, demo, clinic. Bring in your cedar or other tree for display, critique and discussion in a group, and receive a free raffle ticket. Raffle item: cedar bonsai.

October 10: Nursery Crawl 10:00 a.m. Meet your favourite editor, Greg Quinn, at Sheridan Nurseries Unionville and pick up some pre-bonsai trees to work on at the show. Contact Greg for details (email on back cover).

October 11, 12: TBS Fall Show Floral Hall, 8:00 a.m. Arrive early to help set up, and bring in your bonsai for display. Have your sales items at the desk before 9 a.m., with the form filled out! We need more volunteers to help at the desk- talk to Otmar. **The Social** will be at 7 p.m. Sunday night, with spectacular food and drinks.

November 9: TBS Meeting 7:30 p.m. Presentation on growing **indoor (tropical) bonsai** in apartments by Greg Quinn. Bring in your own tropical bonsai. Contact Robert Dubuc(on back cover) for details. Auction: bonsai stand.

December 14: TBS Meeting 7:30 p.m. Bonsai pots. Guest Speaker Bill Valavanis. Bonsai Pots presentation: selecting containers for bonsai. Slide show: **Bonsai Trip to Taiwan**. And a Christmas party too, so bring in some goodies! Raffle item: bonsai pots.

Outside World :

BCI Group Tour to China Sep. 30 – Oct. 12. Contact Joan Greenway for details: joan.greenway@gmail.com

The Joshua Roth New Talent Competition The Toronto Bonsai Society encourages any “novice” member to enter and participate in this fun competition, conducted by the American Bonsai Society, and sponsored by Joshua Roth brand of bonsai tools. Visit the website or speak to Mike McCallion for further details and help with entering. The Toronto Bonsai Society will contribute \$200.00 towards the general costs incurred by a member who is selected to participate in this event.

<http://www.absbonsai.org/newtalent.html>

ABS Questionnaire 09 The American Bonsai Society wants to hear from Bonsai people all over North America. Would you please complete the following survey <http://www.absbonsai.org/questionnaire09.html> online. The ABS will draw one of the surveys and award a bonsai pot to the lucky person (just a little incentive). Thanks a bunch!! Pauline Muth, President, ABS

Bonsai Theft Warning There have been four different incidents of bonsai theft this summer in different areas of Quebec. Please be careful when buying trees from non-members. Check the site www.interre.net/bonsai for pictures of stolen trees to ensure that you are not acquiring stolen property. You can send an email to jpm@bonsaiquebec.com to report any signs of these stolen trees.

**On the cover: Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) bonsai, owned by Reiner Goebel since 1992. In the twin trunk, mother and daughter, style, it is estimated at over 235 years old.
Photo by Reiner Goebel.**

President's Message: Eastern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

If Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus thunbergii*) is widely considered the "King of Bonsai" in Japan, and Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*) the Queen, which native species reigns supreme here in south-central Ontario?

Leafing through Nick Lenz's book, ***Bonsai from the Wild***, a definitive guide on species in the northeast, one quickly discovers his preferences. Instead of organizing the list of species alphabetically, the species are listed in his order of preference (actually, he states that the "length of text" indicates his preference, but I have found little difference between length and order). The book starts off with **Tamarack** (*Larix laricina*), followed by **Eastern White Cedar** (*Thuja occidentalis*). If those are the top 2, which is the King and which is the Queen? You can decide for yourself (maybe you would vote for other species) but personally, I would vote Larix as the Queen and Thuja as the King. I choose Larix as Queen for the feminine grace of its deciduous needles, delicate branching and overall light and gentle character. I then choose Thuja as the King for its coarse foliage, masculine and rugged nature. In terms of its cultivation (other than its difficult foliage) Thuja has very desirable characteristics. It is extremely long-lived (>1000 years), shallow-rooted (easy collecting), and troubled by few pests, with the capability of having the most fantastic deadwood of any of our native species.

Now, if you have not spent much time exploring the wild and rugged areas of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes, your vision of our Thuja might be one of neatly kept hedges, tall and thin trees flanking tombstones (var. 'Pyramidalis'), round globes (var. 'Globosa') in people's gardens or the typical shape of the original growing in an ideal environment (medium-sized tree, narrowly cone-shaped with a tight, compact crown). Maybe your only recognition of Thuja comes in the form of forest products like cedar decks, barn-board wall coverings or the seemingly everlasting cedar rail fences one sees in the countryside. Well, this will all change in our next meeting when you will have an opportunity to see some of the best Thuja bonsai the club has to offer. Prepare to be dazzled by the gleaming white deadwood and fantastic shapes that only nature can sculpt!

I have always been impressed by the resilience of Thuja. They seem to be able to grow anywhere! I have seen them growing out of cracks in rock that I could barely fit my finger into, or growing in swamps where little else can survive. Back home we have Thuja that have been shaved almost to the ground by decades of repeated cutting in a hay field, existing as little mame trees. In Singing Sands Provincial Park I have seen them living in depressions in solid rock and in the Warsaw Caves Conservation Area, growing over rock with no soil in sight. The most dramatic trees I have seen were on the shoreline and other exposed places, windswept bare of life except for a tiny live vein and sparse foliage on the leeward site. Thuja is truly an amazing survivor!

In the old days, there were fewer restrictions on where one could collect these trees (more crown land and fewer conservation areas) and the club members had access to some incredible collecting locations. I am so jealous! One of the most fabled places where members used to collect Thuja in the wild was the Bruce Peninsula. Nowadays, these places are protected by law with stiff penalties. But if you are just looking for inspiration, here are some great places to see nature's handiwork on Thuja:

- The cliffs of **Bruce Peninsula National Park** (Halfway Point and the Grotto areas are a great place to start)
- **Singing Sands Provincial Park** (specifically the Alvar Panel)
- The fens in **Oliphant and Petrel Point**, near Red Bay, Ontario
- All along the Lake Huron side of the Peninsula

Other great places I know of to see old Thuja (clinging to cliffs and growing over rock) are:

- **Niagara Escarpment** (if you aren't good at rock climbing and rappelling, read the book: ***The Last Stand: A Journey Through the Ancient Cliff-Face Forest of the Niagara Escarpment***, by Peter Kelley and Douglas Larson)
- **Elora Gorge**, near Guelph, Ontario
- **Mattawa River**, near North Bay, Ontario
- **French and Pickerel Rivers**, which empty into Georgian Bay, Ontario
- **Warsaw Caves**, near Peterborough, Ontario

Note that these places are also protected; but don't be disheartened because one can still find beautiful Thuja to collect on the shore of lakes and rivers, in swamps and one of my favourites: poor quality (often swampy) farmers' fields that have been subject to grazing by cattle and/or deer for decades. Make sure you always ask permission to dig in any of these places though.*

So, "long live the King", I say. *Thuja occidentalis*, the "**King of Bonsai**" in south-central Ontario!

By Mike Roussel

*The TBS does not condone stealing or trespassing and if you do so, caught or not, don't tell us as this could be viewed as grounds for suspending your membership!

Please welcome with me our new members Shama Huda, Linda Stoetes, Darren Mahussier, Kim Johns, Kevin Yates, Vicki Bondy. Let's all chip in and get them started with bonsai!

Review: Rochester Symposium 2009 – Jack Wikle - ‘Growing Shohin Bonsai Under Lights’

As always, the trees were good, the speakers were good and company was good. So who couldn't enjoy themselves and learn some things while doing so? I am not going to do a summary of the whole meeting, but just want to mention one speaker who stood out. He was the most entertaining lecturer, but what he had to say might be of special interest to all those who don't have a garden or whose garden space is small or even a balcony!

Jack Wikle has been “Growing Shohin Bonsai Under Lights” for 30 years and his trees are really very spectacular. He started his lecture by listing all the things books say you should do to grow bonsai indoors and then said, “I don't do any of those things. I don't mist, I don't humidify, I don't grow on gravel, I don't have a fan, and I don't add incandescent bulbs. What I do use is **'16 hours of cool white light'** every day.” That was his one rule! He started out by propping his tubes on upside down black nursery pots on tables. Plants should be within 12 inches of the two tubes and he changes his tubes once a year. He does use a timer. Keep it simple! That was his message. There were those in the audience who challenged his method, but the audience soon joined him in his response, **'16 hours of cool white light'**. It was fun. But you couldn't doubt him when you saw his little trees. Also you couldn't say he was doing anything wrong. All his trees were healthy looking with deep green leaves and often moss growing nicely underneath. His trees were all the more stunning and remarkable because of their very small size.



He started most of his trees from cuttings though a few were from air layers. His soil mixture for growing all his trees is 4 parts surface, 1 part chicken grit and 1 part sphagnum peat (ground fine). He sieves all his soil and uses only the finest sized particles (not the dust, of course). His rooting mixture is ½ sphagnum and ½ vermiculite. As a mini greenhouse for rooting, he uses 3 litre jugs with the top sides cut out leaving the corners about a half inch wide on each side, so they act as posts to support a clear plastic bag drawn over the top. He opens his small greenhouses daily to ventilate and check on his cuttings.

Watering is a daily task, but he only waters each plant if it needs it. He uses a weak liquid fertilizer in his daily watering, 1 teaspoon to 5 gallons of water. His rule is do not let plants sit in water, do not water if soil is still very moist and don't let plants dry out.

Insecticide is only used when needed. His plan of attack is to mix up his insecticide in a pail. Instead of spraying, he dons rubber gloves and dunks his plants upside down into the mixture. This way, he confines the odor and the poison to a very limited area and it goes where it is needed.

He had two more neat tricks. One was to use rayon string from a mop head to draw water out of a plant that had gotten too wet. He pushes string into drainage hole and then lets it hang over edge of table and water will drain down string into a cup. Another was to control the flow from a standard watering can by gluing a shirt button into the pouring spout to reduce the flow, so it wouldn't erode the bonsai soil.

His plants were spectacular! I may have said that earlier. He passed some them around which I thought was really a remarkable and trusting thing to do. I know it is hard to believe from pictures, but none of these plants including pot were over 6 inches and some were only 2 inches high. Looking at them in colour on the web will help you appreciate them better. Enjoy and plan for growing bonsai year round. The pictures were shot at very close range with my little Nikon pocket camera. Unfortunately, I have never used this camera for macro photography, so the pictures are not that great but they certainly will give you an idea of how great his trees were. One of the pictures is of his trees in the exhibition. He did give us the names of the trees, but by the time they reached me, I had no idea which one was which. Sorry about that!

By Jean Charing



Great Bonsai And a Cure For Scurvy Too!

In 1535 Jacques Cartier voyaged up the St. Lawrence River, his crew dying of scurvy. The Indians told them to boil the bark and foliage of a particular tree and drink the 'tea'. Unbeknownst to anyone at the time, the vitamin C in the tea saved their lives. The tree was given the name 'arborvitae', which means 'Tree of Life'.

Known by the Latin name of *Thuja occidentalis*, it is one of the six species in the genus *Thuja* which can be found in North America. East of the Rocky Mountains, arborvitae are believed to be the oldest known living trees in the Americas. (The title west of the Rockies is held by the Bristlecone pine.) In many locations arborvitae are sometimes referred to as Eastern white cedar. However, this name is incorrect since all true cedars are native to the continents of Africa and Asia.

Arborvitae can grow to 23 meters (75') with branches spreading up to 4.5 meters (15'). The foliage is dense and contained within a conical shape. It's outline has a somewhat pruned appearance.

The foliage on this conifer is yellowish green in colour with flat scale like foliage. The frond-like overlapping branch-lets are similar to Hinoki cypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*) and have an aromatic odor when crushed. Each tree produces male and female flowers and cones grow to 1.5 cm (0.5'). The bark on young trees is smooth and thin, but on older trees it is furrowed, with long, thin, flat, fibrous strips.

Arborvitae range from Nova Scotia to Maine, west to Manitoba and Wisconsin. They grow as far north as James Bay and as far south as the Alleghenies of Virginia and Tennessee. They can often be found in springy sphagnum bogs where the swampy soil is not too acidic, but where the underlying rock is limestone. Here, arborvitae grow co-mingled with Eastern white pine, yellow birch, Eastern hemlock, silver maple, black ash and white elm. They also grow in very dry, shallow soil that covers flat, rocky limestone shorelines and cliffs buffeted by constant wind. In conditions such as these, they grow alongside Black spruce and larch (Tamarack).

In normal conditions, arborvitae may only grow to be 75 to 100 years old and then suffer from their own success. Because the wood is light and weak and the tree is shallow-rooted, they often blow over. However, in the marginal environments along cliff faces and along shorelines, arborvitae can be found growing which are stunted and twisted. The conditions under which they survive are incredibly harsh and make them among the slowest growing plants in the world. Trees with 17 cm (7") diameters may be 350 years old. Trees as old as 850 years old can commonly be found growing along the faces of cliffs.

Because their root systems are shallow and wide, arborvitae adapt particularly well to life in a bonsai pot. Arborvitae exhibit one special characteristic which makes them different from most species of plants. Different groups of roots in the arborvitae are dedicated to specific sections of the trunk. This particular growth characteristic is known as "**sectional hydraulic pathways**".

For an arborvitae trying to grow in the shallow pocket of a rock on a cliff face, such an arrangement has its advantages. If a rock breaks away taking a section of the root with it, only that portion of the tree which was connected to that specific section will die. The case for most other types of trees is just the opposite. They are like upside down funnels with water and nutrients all flowing together through the trunk. If a typical root system was damaged, the whole tree suffers. Arborvitae have adapted the ability to isolate such damage. Often when arborvitae are collected for bonsai, their trunks are twisted with lots of shari and jinned branches already in place.

Collecting worthwhile specimens of arborvitae for bonsai is generally easier than first imagined. The shallow pockets of rock in which good candidates can be found growing prevents roots from going too deep. In addition, the plant's natural characteristic is to produce an abundance of compact fibrous roots. The majority of "tap" roots which anchor such trees in their rocky homes is seldom thicker than a finger or two and can be removed easily.

Scouting for good arborvitae bonsai candidates can be done at any time of the year (depth of snow drifts permitting). The actual prime time for collecting is quite wide as well. As long as the ground has thawed out for several weeks, collecting can begin in early April and continue until mid or late May.

Once a likely candidate (or potential masterpiece) has been located, it is necessary to perform the "wobble test" to determine if the tree will be collectable. This test requires that the collector gently grab hold of the trunk about half to three quarters of the way up and "wobble" the tree gently from side to side. If the root mass at the point where the trunk meets the soil seems to heave to and fro in sync with the wobble, the chances are very good that the tree is diggable.

If neither the trunk nor the root ball move at all and the impression created is one of an iron rod embedded in concrete (Excalibur),



Massive use of deadwood on the trunk has given this arborvitae bonsai a striking appearance. Owned by George and Gisela Reichert, it is estimated to be over 190 years old. Photo by Reiner Goebel.

then the tree is probably so well imbedded into the rock that it is not collectable. In such a case it is simply best to photograph the tree for posterity and to put one's effort into finding another potential masterpiece. It takes a little practice to perfect the wobble test, but the neophyte quickly learns mother nature doesn't always give away her treasures.

When a diggable arborvitae has been found, its top can be reduced, long branches shortened and very low branches cut back to pre-jin stubs. The root ball, once removed from the ground, should be pruned to resemble the shape of a bowl. Thankfully it need not be as large a ball as might be required for other species of trees. This is due to the arborvitae's tendency to produce masses of fine feeder roots close to the trunk base. The root ball once freed from the ground should be wrapped in plastic or burlap and tightly secured with rope to ensure that no chunks of root tear away from the ball while in transit.



The oval pot and soft movement of the foliage give this arborvitae a very feminine appearance. It was collected by Reiner Goebel in 1989, in training since 1992. Photo by Reiner Goebel.

Once home the tree should be potted without delay into a large training container or directly into the ground. This is done to allow the plant time to recover. Care must be taken to fill any holes within the root mass with fresh soil. Using a vitamin B-1 complex such as Superthrive will help the plant to overcome the initial shock of being root pruned and transplanted. A mild application of 10-52-10 fertilizer will also help the tree put out new roots. This fertilizer combination may be given every two or three waterings for the first few weeks.

After potting (or planting) the usual care which would be given to any new bonsai should be applied. This includes frequent misting of the foliage, trunk, and branches, watering thoroughly when dry, morning sunlight only and no pruning! One of the keys to insuring a high success rate with collected material is to resist the temptation to work on the tree for at least a year after it is collected.

The following year, preliminary styling such as the thinning of branches and pinching of new growth may begin. The arborvitae is a heavy feeder. Therefore, a high nitrogen fertilizer (30-10-10) should be used full strength every one or two weeks from spring to mid-August. From then until the beginning of October, a high potassium, low nitrogen fertilizer should be used. This will help the tree store nutrients for the winter. The root system should be well watered before the frost sets hard.

In autumn up to 15 or 20 percent of the foliage can die and become orange-brown or rust colored. This can be a frightening development, but is actually the plant's normal shedding (slough-off) process which occurs with most evergreens each year.

In the spring of the third year, heavy pruning and wiring may begin in earnest. Arborvitae branches bend quite easily. They bud back readily on young twigs, but not so readily on older branches. Another tip for increasing the survival rate is to collect some of the humus the tree was growing in when it was found. This (or black loam) should become one third of a well draining soil mix which also contains equal parts of coarse turface or haydite and sand or crushed granite.

Arborvitae foliage can be somewhat unruly at first, but can be refined in one of two ways, depending upon what feeling the tree imparts. If, for example, an informal upright arborvitae has been styled with a strong shari and many jins, the foliage can be scissor pruned to keep it loose, open, and more typical of how it would look in

nature. If a formal upright has been styled to look stately and elegant, the foliage pads can be pinched like Hinoki and juniper to encourage density.

As one would expect from plant material which can survive in such harsh conditions, arborvitae are very winter hardy. Trees in shallow containers should be heeled into the ground or protected in a winter storage facility such as a cold frame or garage. Medium and larger specimens can be placed right on the ground, out of the sun and wind or also given winter protection.

Although the wood of arborvitae is weak as a beam or plank, it is very resistant to decay. Shingles, posts, poles and canoe frames are some of the most common uses of this wood. Arborvitae was the first North American tree to be introduced into cultivation in Europe (Paris, around 1550). Freedom from insects and fungi, tolerance to temperature extremes and excellent adaptability to bonsai culture make Thuja occidentalis a fine candidate for introduction to bonsai collections.

*Reprinted from **Bonsai Magazine**, March/April 1997, with permission of author.*

By Arthur Skolnik

Your club needs some Executive positions filled: Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Show Chairperson. This editor could also use some help stuffing, addressing, stamping, and mailing this Journal, too!

We also need someone with a pickup truck to help move bonsai stands and screens for the Fall show. Contact Mike McCallion (on back cover).

École de Bonsai Master Michele Andolfo au Québec

Our Toronto Bonsai Society Workshop Coordinator, Robert Dubuc, attends a bonsai school in northern Quebec. Being who I am, these are the questions I asked him during an online communiqué.

What is the name of the bonsai school you attend Quebec and how many times a year?

The name of the school is Master Michele Andolfo Bonsai School. I attend a three days and two nights of superior bonsai studies twice a year- about sixty hours a year.

How about something on the bonsai classes in Quebec?

The bonsai classes in Quebec are at a beginner and intermediate level and follow a curriculum similar to the Bonsai Beginner Sessions at the Toronto Bonsai Society. However, the classmates, the notes, the instructions are all in French. Most everyone in the class speaks two or more languages. The people who attend bonsai school are all associated with bonsai societies in Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario. Most of them are on the executive committee of their societies. At this school, you tend to meet people like Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Workshop Coordinators... of other Canadian bonsai societies.

Why should people take bonsai classes?

A person who is interested and very involved in bonsai or who thinks that he or she knows a lot about bonsai but is confused as to where they stand with their bonsai knowledge or who needs a direct path to the knowledge of bonsai will study bonsai in a bonsai school.

Is there any benefit to taking bonsai classes outside Ontario?

Unless you go to Japan or China to learn bonsai from the masters, there are no benefits in leaving Ontario to learn bonsai. The only reason I go outside Ontario to Quebec is to meet with a bonsai master at his school. Even he, Master Michele, comes to Canada for two weeks twice a year. What I like about bonsai school is that it is organized, it has a four year term, you attend different studies every time you come, and you live in a bonsai community. You are there as a group to work, learn, and live for 3 or 4 days and nights only about bonsai. Everything you do is bonsai related.

What did you learn about Quebec bonsai?

I learnt that there are no differences between Quebec bonsai and Ontario bonsai. I learnt that it is the artist who produces bonsai with background knowledge on bonsai.

How is bonsai different in Quebec?

Studying bonsai in Quebec is a little different. The French versus the English language is difficult to grasp, I find the Japanese and Latin version is easier to learn compared to that of the French terminology.

What did you think of the teacher?

I find Master Michele knowledgeable in what he teaches. I am learning his method of developing a plant into bonsai. He has written one book, and provides us with term notes. His style of teaching helps me to understand and learn more about bonsai. Master Michele also trains the trainer.

How was the whole program?

When I have learnt the lesson he has taught me, I know I can repeat it on my own, either in theory or practically. In the final half of my fourth year I grew past first level and find myself very well one quarter of the way into my second.

How do people sign up if they want to go to Quebec?

If you are interested in signing up, just let me know. If the interest is great, I am sure I could convince my master to spend some time in beautiful Ontario.

What did you learn about bonsai?

Come learn, and take a class. I could be hours telling you about my last encounter with my teacher.

Interview by Greg Quinn

October Workshop: Bring In Your Own Tree

This is a chance for all members to present their trees and obtain valuable information from Instructors and friends. We would like everyone to bring in a tree this October meeting. Cedar bonsai is the theme, but bring in what you have and you will be randomly assigned a group number and receive a free raffle ticket! Group members will critique each others' trees in a round robin format. Instructors will be assigned to each group to guide the clinic with you.

If you wish to bring in a tree to work on for the show, that's fine, but you must bring one in to participate in the clinic. This way, you will be taking as well as giving the flack, so you have to be brave!

For example, on the right is a complex Amur maple. It has been in and out of the ground for a good four plus years. It has a double trunk, but in a bad place. Should I get rid of it completely, or work on ramification? Please forward your ideas to me.

Thank you John & Reiner for presenting on pine bonsai, and all the volunteer instructors who helped members style their pines in the last meeting!

By Robert Dubuc



Beginners Session – September 2009

In the spring of this year Mike and Otmar taught four comprehensive beginner sessions which provided a wealth of information for new TBS club members. The presentations and demos covered a wide range of bonsai design principles, horticultural issues, and practical tips. Great handouts too!

The beginner sessions re-started with a bang at the September meeting. First Otmar spent a few minutes reminding us of the following important fall care issues:

- Now is the time to take pictures of the front and back views of our bonsai to give a complete record of their progress (but wait for fall colour on maples).
- Fertilizer should be switched to low nitrogen.
- Needles should be plucked on pines and excess berries removed from fruiting bonsai.
- Weeds should be removed and lichens and moss scrubbed from trunks with a toothbrush.
- Most Canadian native trees need to be sheltered by October.

The bulk of the meeting was comprised of critiques of members' bonsai by John Biel. John was great – he was very gentle and encouraging in his critiques and provided an amazing amount of information in such a short time. In looking at each tree, he talked about basic bonsai design and how it related to the particular bonsai he was critiquing. He also discussed the horticultural requirements and particular needs of the individual trees. In each case he gave an opinion as to how the bonsai could be improved or the next step to be taken, including what type of pot would be most appropriate. There was a great deal of information to be taken home and pondered. As a recipient of a critique of the Grewia that I brought home from last December's club workshop, I was very thankful for the tips.

For new members, these sessions are an invaluable source of information and insights into bonsai design and care. John did a wonderful job and the opinions and knowledge of experienced members in the audience also enriched the process. As a novice myself, I highly recommend that newcomers to the club attend. Do come along and bring one of your trees. You will be glad that you did!

By Barbara Pope

TBS Membership Renewal

Please take a moment to fill out the Membership Renewal Form, and mail it to: **Toronto Bonsai Society, P.O. Box 155, Don Mills, Ontario, M3C 2S2**, with your payment cheque. ***If you need a new form***, go to our club website, www.torontobonsai.org and download/print one to mail in.

Tips For Selling Items At The Show

No Huge Items. We do not have room. Anything bonsai related, such as trees, pots, stands, tools, fertilizer, etc. All items for sale should be there no later than 9:00 a.m.. All items must be checked in with one of the sales people. When the show is over, all items not sold must be picked up and checked out with one of the sales people. We are not responsible for items not picked up. Items will not be accepted during the day or at the Social on Sunday evening. Items will be accepted on Monday morning, but they must be there by 9:00 a.m.

Code your items. If your name is John Jones, you would put: JJ #1. If you have room on the tag, you could identify the item. Please check with Gim, Bob or me as to the code you will be using, so you don't use the same code as someone else. On the sales sheet you would also use the code JJ #1 and some information on the item, i.e., type of tree, age, years in training, as well as the sale price. If you are willing to give a discount, note it on the sale sheet. Please price and code each item that you are selling. Do not bring in a group of items, all costing \$1.00, and give them one code number. Price each item individually. Price of items should be in even dollars.

If you are **having trouble pricing an item**, please speak to one of the sales people and we will help you.

Proceeds from the sale may not be ready at the end of the show. If not, they will be given out at the November meeting. **5% of all sales go to the club.**

Members **who participate in the setup of the show** will have the first opportunity to purchase items before the show opens.

By Grace Wicht

A Literati Jack Pine

(From the **September 2009 TBS Journal** cover picture)

This tree was purchased from Jerry Vlcek on April 22, 2004. Jerry dug the healthy tree out of the ground and I immediately planted it into Boon Manakitivipart's bonsai soil with a little pine bark at home. (Members can find out about Boon's soil recipe from an earlier TBS Journal article written by Gim Restinas.)

By June of that year it was growing well and I pruned back about 30% of the foliage in order to chase the growth back and eliminate unnecessary branches.

Over the next years I continued to needle pluck, prune, apply and remove wire and repotted the tree into more of Boon's soil (without any pine bark) in April 2006.

When Mr. Susumu Nakamura came to Toronto in Sept. 2007, I took the tree to the workshop where Mr. Nakamura suggested I choose a front with less deadwood. Mr. Nakamura also drew a sketch of the future look of the tree.

I removed the wire at the workshop in preparation of the design change next spring. On April 22, 2008, four years from the day I purchased the tree, I wired it according to Mr. Nakamura's suggestion.

On April 21, 2009, I repotted the tree committing a beginner's sin of try to fit the tree into a smaller container ignoring the problem of long irregular roots common to collected trees. Instead of cutting back gradually and with greater care, I cut a root that was attached to more roots than I first thought. I thought I had killed the tree.

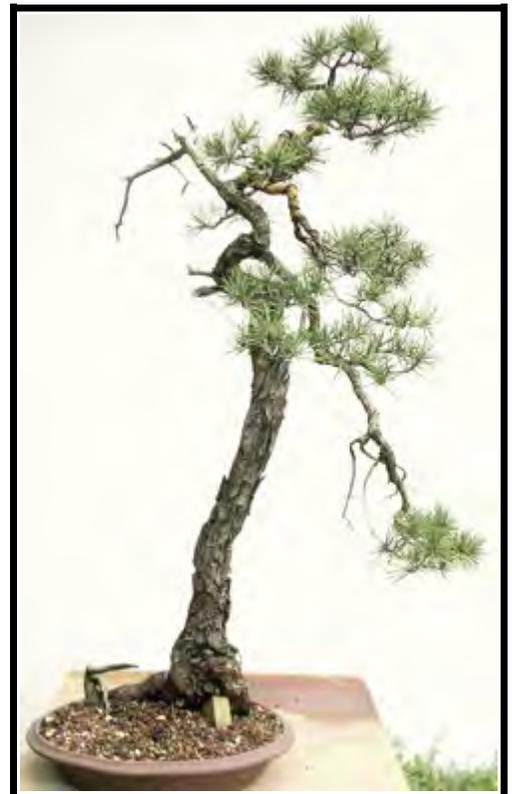
I continued to pot the tree in coarse Boon soil and did not cutback on the foliage with the hope that that foliage would create the sugars and starches necessary to build more roots. I put the tree in my "hospital" under shade cloth and misted the tree as often as possible. This year we had a cool spring that lasted into summer which I think took some of the stress off the tree.

I also applied about five soil drenchings of a product I purchased at a hydroponics shop for stressed plants throughout the summer called "Revive". The buds did not move for a long time and some died off. Other buds eventually opened up with short needles and a good dark green color. Later, buds set for next year. These developments told me that the tree might just make it. The next hurdle will be getting it through winter.

I feel a number of factors intervened to pull my tree through in spite of my earlier repotting carelessness. These factors are: Boon's soil mix, the cool spring and summer, the "hospital", constant misting and "Revive".

If the tree continues to recover and strengthen, it will need more shaping with wire, more ramification and perhaps a graft on the lower hanging branch. It could also use a smaller pot. Hmm?

by David Johnson



REGULAR TBS MEETINGS

Meetings take place on the second Monday of every month, except July and August, at the Toronto Botanical Gardens, located at 777 Lawrence Avenue East, at Leslie Street, in the auditorium (west side of the building) at 7:00 p.m. The general meetings frequently include: **DEMONSTRATIONS** of bonsai techniques, **CRITIQUES** of bonsai trees, and **WORKSHOPS**, in which each participant styles a tree with the help of an experienced member.

A small fee is charged for workshops, and a tree and wire are provided. To participate in workshops, it is necessary to register in advance of the meeting so that materials can be provided.

Members are encouraged to bring in bonsai to show and work on during the meetings. Wire is provided at no charge. Non-members may attend a meeting at no charge to see if the club is of interest to them.

Library Hours and Policy

The library is open to members at the beginning of our regular meetings. Members may borrow books free of charge for one month. Late returns cost \$1 per month with a minimum charge of \$2.

Membership Desk

The membership desk will be open at all meetings. The opening time may be extended for the first fall meeting to assist with renewals. You may also register for workshops there.

TBS EXECUTIVE:

<p>President:</p> <p>Mike Roussel mike.roussel@sympatico.ca</p> <p>Vice-President/Membership:</p> <p>Otmar Sauer otmar.sauer@sympatico.ca</p> <p>Web-Master:</p> <p>Dierk Neugerbauer dierkn@sympatico.ca</p> <p>Treasurer:</p> <p>Jean Charing jeancharing@rogers.com</p> <p>Editor/Publisher:</p> <p>Greg Quinn gquinn@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Workshop Coordinator:</p> <p>Rob Dubuc robubuc@bellnet.ca</p> <p>New Member Host:</p> <p>Karen Brankley kayeb29@hotmail.com</p> <p>Librarian:</p> <p>Keith Oliver keitholiver1@hotmail.com</p> <p>Past-President:</p> <p>Mike McCallion mwm@aplixcanada.com</p>	<p>Members At Large:</p> <p>Bob Cole bcole@metroland.com</p> <div data-bbox="1122 1171 1520 1808" style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 10px;"><p><i>The JOURNAL was founded in January, 1964, is published monthly, except July & August, and exists to further the study, practice, promulgation, and fellowship of bonsai.</i></p><p>Visit the Toronto Bonsai Society's website at: www.torontobonsai.org</p><p>Toronto Bonsai Society P.O. Box 155 Don Mills, Ontario M3C 2S2</p></div>
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