



JOURNAL



March 2010

www.torontobonsai.org

Schedule of events

Meetings are held in the **Toronto Botanical Gardens, at 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, in the Auditorium** (west side of building) unless otherwise noted.

Beginners session: 6:30 – 7:20 p.m.

The **Beginners session** starts at 6:30 pm and is in Studio #2 upstairs. All beginners should read Bob Wilcox's excellent introductory articles, [Information for Beginners](#), and, [Frequently Asked Questions](#), on the [TBS web site](#).

March: Acquiring trees. April: Transplanting. May: Styling, wiring. June: Leaf pruning.

General meetings: 7:30 – 10:00 p.m.

March 7: Workshop: - CANCELLED - Make your own bonsai stand, with Sean Smith.

March 8: TBS meeting: Repotting bonsai: discussion & demo, with Reiner Goebel.

March 13: Slab Collection, with follow up slab planting workshop. Contact Greg Quinn for details.

April, May: Collecting trips, nursery crawls in Ontario and Quebec. Contact Greg Quinn about times, locations, car pooling.

April 12: TBS meeting: Larch (*Larix*), with Bob Wilcox. Bring in your larch to show, discuss and work on. **Workshop: Japanese larch (*Larix Kaempferi*).** Cost: \$40 (includes tree, wire, pot, soil and instructor). They are pre-bonsai material that have received some styling. The trunks are fairly rigid now and they are suitable for medium size bonsai. There are two formal upright, one literati and four informal upright. Bring your own tools. **Workshop: transplanting club trees.** The club has trees for future workshops that need transplanting. Help out the club and get some practice at the same time! Contact Cheryl and Linda (on back cover) to sign up for the workshops.

May 10: TBS meeting: Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum*). Bring in your Japanese maples to show, discuss and work on. **Reiner Goebel** will be styling a Japanese maple for the raffle. **Workshop: Cork-bark Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum* 'Arakawa').** Cost: \$50 (includes tree, wire and instructor). Contact Cheryl and Linda to sign up for the workshop. Bring your own tools. **Workshop: Bring your own tree workshop.** Bring in a maple (or other species) to work on. **Prepare your trees for the spring show!**

May 23, 24: TBS show. Bring in your bonsai, shitakusa, suiseki, and scrolls for display! Volunteers needed- contact Mike McCallion.

June 14: TBS Meeting: Martin Schmalenberg.

June, July, August: Backyard workshops and garden visits. Contact Greg Quinn to have the club over!

Errata: our journal columnist, Nubbin, of the 'From the potting shed' series, although identified in the February, 2010, TBS journal, had wished to remain anonymous, or to be known only by that name. All readers are requested to honour this wish by forgetting his other name.

- Editor

On the cover: Les Mandeville's Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*), in training since 1989.

Picture taken at the TBS 2008 spring show, by **Reiner Goebel**, while still in the possession of **Grace Wicht**. See articles concerning this bonsai inside.

Outside world events:

The Joshua Roth New Talent Competition: The Toronto Bonsai Society encourages any new 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 [New Talent section](#) at the [ABS web site](#), or speak to Mike McCallion (info. on back cover) for further details. The Toronto Bonsai Society will contribute \$200.00 towards the general costs incurred by the member who is selected to participate in this event.

Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival: April 16, Kerhonkson, N.Y. See the [MABS web site](#) (<http://midatlanticbonsai.freeservers.com/>) for details.

U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition June 12, 13, 9 – 5, Monroe county hospital, Rochester, N.Y. See the [National Bonsai Exhibition](#) section at the [International Bonsai web site](#) (<http://www.internationalbonsai.com/>) for details.

BCI group tour of China: Sept.29 - Oct.12, 2010. The programs are specially designed for bonsai and suiseki lovers to explore the beautiful collections from Guangzhou, Nanjing, Yangzhou, Xijing, Beijing, Tianjin. Please visit the BCI website (<http://www.bci2010chinatour.com/>) for details.

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 web 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.

ABS stolen bonsai To check for stolen bonsai in the USA, check the [Stolen Bonsai Registry](#) at the ABS web site.

President's message: getting with the program

by Mike Roussel

What does it take to put on a program for the Toronto Bonsai Society? While for those who attend each week, it may seem like magic, I assure you that it is nothing of the sort. It takes an entire group of dedicated people (your executive) to put on the show that you enjoy each month. I thought that this month I would share with you a behind the scenes view into how the club functions.

When preparing a program there are, thankfully, elements that are the same each month and don't typically need to be changed. We meet at 7:30 at the Toronto Botanical Garden every second Monday of the month except for July and August. There are two shows per year; one in the fall and one in the spring. After that, there are the unwritten rules, say natural rules, which we follow in preparing a program. Since bonsai is an activity, heavily influenced by the seasons, there are activities that are best done at a certain time of year. For example, spring is the time to transplant, prune and style and summer a time to refine and encourage growth. There are specific activities to do on pines in the fall and of course there is overwintering.

So, from this, there is a general framework for our program. Where does one go from there? Here's what we did:

Pre-planning

- Solicited input from a select group of club members: good and bad points of past programs.
- Prepared themes to go with the seasons and built activities around those themes.
- President and vice-president prepared a proposal for the executive.
- Sent to the executive for review, modification and ratification.
- Late summer meeting to finalize the program.

Planning

- Contacting and scheduling guest speakers.
- Booking rooms.
- Purchasing workshop materials.

Execution

- Actually delivering the program.
- Dealing with the issues that arise at the time.

Executive meetings

- Monday following the general meeting the executive meets.
- President prepares an agenda.
- Post-meeting review (what worked, what didn't work, how to improve).

- Review the plan for the next meeting.
- Make adjustments to the short and long term plans.
- Meeting notes – recording decisions made, designating action items.
- Publish the revised program in the journal and web site.

That is the process; but what about the actual subject matter of the meetings? Therein lays all the challenges!

Coming up with a program that satisfies the needs of the entire membership is almost impossible. Each member is at a different stage of development and has different interests and needs. The new members need basic, starting information, with lots of hands-on activities. We tried to satisfy this by introducing the beginners sessions and having more workshops. The intermediates need to work on more refined trees, which are expensive and frankly, difficult to find, and need more advanced information. The senior members, who have seen and done it all, need the program to be fresh and interesting, avoiding repetition if possible – one of the biggest challenges of all. Our senior members are dedicated to the club, generous with their time, knowledge and skill. All they ask for is respect, and adherence to their instructions. But for the individual intermediate member, who aspires to the heights of bonsai achievement, it can be a challenge to get over the intimidation factor, and yet they must if they are to become future instructors.

Logistics is another bucket of challenges. Booking rooms, speakers/instructors and equipment require a lot of effort. Sticking to the program from a scheduling standpoint is also an issue. A couple major setbacks that we encountered recently are the cancellation of the reservation for our spring show in 2011, since the Toronto Botanical Garden booked the floral hall for the May 24th weekend then. We don't know if this will be permanent, so we may have to find another venue indefinitely. This month, our guest speaker for the March meeting, Sean Smith, cancelled his visit with us at the last moment, so we have been scrambling to come up with an alternate program.

Cost management is a challenge that ensures we remain financially viable for the future. Being frugal with club purchases and fees, ensuring that we cover our costs in workshops, shows, and social functions, and fund raising, all contribute to our club balance sheet. There is also the effort of getting members to step up and contribute to club activities by being presenters, workshop instructors, etc.

There are other challenges that present themselves at times but I don't want to give you the wrong impression here; coming up with a program that really engages the membership is very satisfying in the end. When the executive meets to discuss how the program went the previous Monday, there is much elation when it takes place smoothly and there is positive feedback from the membership. We are particularly encouraged when we see that the program has inspired the membership to take their bonsai to new heights and get even more involved in club business, hopefully leading to joining the executive and participating in the planning and delivery of future programs!

Austrian pine

(reprinted from the *Toronto Bonsai Society Journal*, Feb. 1998)
by Grace Wicht

The tree pictured on the cover is an Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*), purchased from a local nursery in 1988 for \$35. The tree is approx. 24" tall, with the trunk measuring 3" at its base. The pot is Tokoname ware.

Immediately upon purchasing the tree 1988, it was planted in a large wooden box. Its roots were trimmed and the branches were rough pruned. When Keith and Shawn Woods, former members of the Toronto bonsai society, sold off the the majority of their collection, Keith gave this tree to me. In 1992, I potted it up in a large, deep, unglazed, rectangular pot. I took the tree to Reiner Goebel's summer workshop in 1993. John Biel took pity on me (or was it the tree?) Little did John know what he was getting himself into, because from 1993 to 2003, John worked very hard to get the tree to where it is today. In 1996, John felt that it had achieved a point where it was ready for serious styling. The tree was pruned and every branch was wired. A new pot was ordered from Japan. In 1997 it was repotted into its new home. Wow—what a difference a new pot makes.



My part in the overall plan for this tree was watering, misting, fertilizing, candle pinching, needle plucking, and watching for anything that could harm it. The watering, misting, fertilizing and bug removal I could handle, but for the candle pinching and needle plucking I needed direction (from guess who). The tree is watered daily, and misted a couple of times a day, during the very hot summer months. During the early Spring and late Fall, or rainy periods, it is watered accordingly. It is fertilized weekly with 30-10-10 or Mir-Acid, from early spring until fall. The candles are pinched in the Spring, and the needles are pulled in the Fall. When the candle and needle pulling is done properly, it makes such a difference.

The tree is grown in full sun, on a pedestal, where it receives lots of air movement. I use a very porous soil for my pines, thereby ensuring good drainage. The recipe is 75% Sandit/Turface/Haydite, 10% coarse sand, and 15% black loam (sifted). Make sure that the pot you plant pine trees in does not have gullies in the bottom where water can stay. They do not like wet feet. A good idea is to tilt the pot.



Botanical name: *Pinus nigra* **Common name:** Austrian pine **Height:** 59 cm (23.5") **Width:** 60 cm (24") **Trunk diameter:** 11 cm (4.5") **Pot:** Tokoname-ware **Source:** Nursery stock. In training since 1989. Picture & description from [rjbonsai](#), courtesy of Reiner Goebel.

The harm comes in the form of very small worms, in the early spring, that can eat the needles. They can clean the needles off a tree in hours. My remedy for dealing with these worms is to use tweezers to remove them, and to squash them on a board. This procedure is most rewarding. I know they are dead and I get a great satisfaction in killing them. I must have a sadistic streak. These worms return every year in the spring. Spraying the tree does not seem to deter them from arriving, and once they are here, I follow the plan noted above. There are many other pests that attack pines, but this one is my worst enemy.



The current plan for the tree is to reduce the amount of water and fertilizer, thereby further shortening the needles. The pads of foliage will be increased. The width of the tree will be reduced. It will remain in its present pot – for a long time according to Rudi. He still hasn't recovered from the shock of learning how much this pot cost. On the plus side, he doesn't have to buy me a birthday present for several years.

Thanks go to Keith for giving me the tree, and to John, who because of his hard work, and expertise in pines, has made this tree what it is today. "Fantastic". I am proud to say that it's mine.

Why does one buy a bonsai?

by Les Mandeville

What motivates a person to see and desire the beauty in a living art form? When I first saw Grace's Austrian pine at the spring show in 2009 I wanted it. There was something about it that struck a note with me. I also thought it should stay in the club. As Grace put it, "Les, it wants you to buy it."

I had never owned a pine and I knew there was only one person I wanted to ask about it. As John and I talked more about it that weekend I learned that he had been the major contributor to its design and creation. I was pleased when he agreed to continue working on the tree with me. I spoke to my wife and her answer was the same as most of our bonsai wives..."why do you need another tree?"

For the next summer I thought about only the Austrian. During my usual nursery crawls that summer and fall it was the only tree on my mind. So when the fall show came around I bought it. It spent the rest of the fall on a rock in my garden with full sun where I could view it each morning from my breakfast table. Now as I write this it sleeps peacefully buried in a blanket of snow and earth in my vegetable garden.

What will the future hold for it...? Plucking, candle pruning, needle reduction and a plan that will be formed over a beer in John's back yard this spring. He says I am going to have a lot of fun and hard work with this tree. But I will always try to preserve the history that Grace and John have put into the tree by preserving the original design.

And, when time catches up with me and I am unable to carry it from place to place? As my son reminds me constantly.... "I will look after our trees Daddy when you are too old to do it."

Arthur Skolnik, of Shibui Bonsai, is offering a 3 session course for bonsai beginners.

If you are interested in registering, please contact him by email at:

shibui@rogers.com.



Afterthoughts on the TBS silent auction

By Jenine Ling

Unlike ordinary shopping, it's always impossible to know what you're gonna get (or **not get**) when you go to an auction. Our club's silent auction this February was no exception.

With much anticipation, I looked at my indoor trees (not quite bonsai yet) that are growing on my window sill in the tiny pots that I won from last year's auction. I recalled my competing moments from last year. Then I rushed to the silent auction last night! As always, we all have the tendency of wanting to repeat the happy hours we experienced the last time we participated in this fun-loving activity. I immediately joined the small and dispersed viewing crowd to see if my "objects of desire" were there waiting for me, not even knowing what those objects might be!

Ah, magazines! More magazines... Still more magazines?! So I flipped through them. And flipped through some more...words, words, and pictures of bonsai! Finally: a pot! Contrary to my restless wanting-to-know-what-is-there, I calmly wound my way through the aisles. There is somebody I can talk to across the table; there is my new/old friend I say hello to; there is a friendly smile... Ah, another book I can flip through. And finally, there are some more pots I can certainly use! Oh! Nobody's bidding on them yet? Hmm: maybe I should wait...a moment of cunning!

The second round. Hey, those magazines are already getting pricey! My books at home (bonsai-related or not) are already weighty enough, so I'd better not to touch the magazines... Funny how people stand by their "objects of desire" so faithfully! Now my aims are set, I might as well put down on my bidding to show my good faith.

Still early, I drift off to sign up for coming workshops. Those ladies at the membership desk are warm and kind -- they put my name on the waiting list of one workshop that is already full. "More hands-on activities to come", I assure myself. I check on my bidding items. Still safe. I recheck them. Well, others want them too. Just to be on the safe side, I put down my name again. Now my main contender is coming into view -- it's that TBS journal editor with a camera!

Oh no, our president is warning us... He's going to call a halt at any moment now! I methodically run to all the spots that I had bid at, just to make sure... Just as I finish putting a new price down... Stop! I rush back to the spots where I was competing with the editor -- Hey, I won them all!

I am such a kid! I collect all my trophies and pay with delight. Wow: eight pots and three books for \$54.00; that's not bad at all! I guiltily look in the editor's direction... a little relieved.

Driving home, I find myself laughing aloud, alone in the car, and the radio has nothing to do with it! Oh, I am worse than a kid -- a little crazy, crazy over my new possessions. Ah, what a fool! But clearly, bonsai has everything to do with it.

p.s. Once I looked over my new pots and flipped through the old books that are now mine, I realized that I had forgotten something... I left the wood-and-pot piece on the table where I paid them. So, not only was I a little shopping crazy, I was also a little drunk!!!

p.p.s. For all that craziness and happy shopping-drunkenness, I owe my thanks to all the people who have donated items for the auction. Most of my new pots are from Ken Warner, who I learned had retired from this rather labour-intensive activity called bonsai. I am grateful for his donation. And of course, if I wasn't at our editor's mercy, I would not have gotten these pots either. So, thank you, editor!

p.p.p.s. Perhaps, this is also worthy of thinking: what would I do if I had no desire for any of the items in the auction? Something that goes beyond the ownership of bonsai and its accessories, and ties us all together here at the TBS?

Bonsai hardware: tools

by Robert Dubuc

Developing awesome bonsai is more of an art than a science, and you need the proper tools to create your bonsai if you intend to make it resemble what you had initially projected. Many different tools have been developed over the years specifically for bonsai. The tools can be purchased either on the internet, nurseries, hardware stores, friends, or from bonsai nurseries and local societies. Whether it makes sense to buy bonsai tools at the hardware store depends on your taste, and demand for quality implements. Bonsai is not about how much money you can save, and why not buy from someone who knows something about bonsai?

Purchasing bonsai tools can be expensive depending on the quality of the tools you buy and where you buy them. However, lower priced tools will end up costing you more in the long run, since you will have to replace them more frequently. I still have most of my original tools from day one. I selected tools at mid-range cost, but that, again, depends on your comfort level and your budget. Keep in mind that, although you can interchange particular tools, there is a specific tool for each specific job.

Is there a set rule as to what you should have as a bonsai beginner in a tool set? **No**. But my first three choices would be a **concave cutter, knob cutter and a root shear**. I consider these to be absolutely essential. In my case, it was only once I knew that I had a

strong interest in developing bonsai that I started buying tools. And I did not buy them all at once. I bought one or two pieces at a time and until I completed my tool kit. Today, I would probably purchase all my tools in a complete bonsai tool kit. I would not wait to think about purchasing a **large trunk & branch splitter**.



Concave cutter: designed to cut branches and trunk, leaving a small indentation in the wood, and thus less noticeable scars. Essential.



Knob cutter: designed for removing branch stubs from trunks and branches, and also removing large roots. Do not use in soil and branch areas simultaneously. Essential.



Root shear: versatile, combines most of the strength of a regular shear with much better control, for small to medium cuts. Functions as extra heavy duty shears and as root shear pruners. Essential.



Twig shear: long narrow body, great for trimming buds and reaching deep without disturbing foliage. Not for general pruning as the blades will become dull sooner. Not essential.



Root cutter: built strong enough for even the largest and oldest roots, they are essential if you plan on transplanting larger and/or older bonsai. They can also be used as a knob cutter. Not essential.



Wire cutter: designed to cut training wire cleanly without damaging the bark. Not essential.



Angled pliers: used to crush branches strip bark and wood, creating dead wood (jin) and driftwood (shari). Not essential.



Straight pliers: helpful when wiring, removing branches, roots, and knobs from the trunk. Interchangeable with angled pliers. Not essential.



Rake with spatula: a three-pronged rake, good for loosening soil, combing roots, and cultivating compact soil surfaces for aeration and weeding. Spatula for tamping soil or moss. Not essential.



Spatula with tweezers: excellent for removing debris and delicate work. Tamp loose soil and moss with the spatula and use the other end as a single root pick. Not essential.



Husk broom: this brush is used to clean moss and soil surfaces. Not essential.



Cut paste: use cut paste when pruning branches, especially where there is a risk of sap bleeding. To soften the paste, roll it with your fingers. Not essential, but a good idea!

A survey of organic insecticides and fungicides

by Otmar Sauer

Due to the recent ban on the sale of synthetic fungicides and pesticides to the general public in Canada, one is more or less forced to look at alternate means to fight the ever menacing critters and organisms which consider your bonsai trees as a food source and breeding ground. The reason for the ban was that people were poisoning themselves and the immediate environment through incorrect usage.

One solution is to travel to a more permissive jurisdiction, (i.e. south of the border), and purchase the various potent insect control products there, taking your chances about getting caught at the border, bringing them back. The other solution is to turn to organic chemicals as a means to fight the enemy and at the same time be kind to yourself and the environment.

Some questions you should ask yourself concerning insect infestation and disease is this: why is this happening to you? Are you just unlucky, or are your trees unhealthy? You can't change your luck, but luck favours the well prepared and expert grower.

Fungicides are generally meant to be preventative by nature, whereas pesticides are meant to kill on contact or ingestion. This means that you must apply the fungicide **before** the possible fungal attack, to prevent its occurrence and proliferation, and **you must actually hit each insect** with the contact insecticide to kill them.

The following is a list of commonly available products and a description of their active ingredients. It is important to read the label – always! A lot of this information is available on our club web site and the internet – so do some researching!

Sulfur has been used for a long time to fight rust and powdery mildew. It prevents the fungal spores of these organisms from germinating. Sulfur is available as dust, wettable powder and liquid. It should not be used when an oil spray was applied within the month, because this will cause a phytotoxic reaction in deciduous trees. They will not like it. Leaves will turn yellow and drop. In addition, do not apply products containing sulfur in hot weather, as it will burn.

- Safer's "Defender" spray contains sulfur
- Green Earth "Garden Sulfur" comes in spray or dust
- Safer's "3 in 1" contains sulfur and potassium salts. It can be used against powdery mildew, black spot, rust, aphids, mealy bugs and mites.

Lime sulfur combined with horticultural oil is applied as a dormant spray. Horticultural oil is used to prevent insects. Essentially, the oil smothers over-wintering insects and/or their eggs. Lime sulfur is natural fungicide and it kills dormant fungus spores on the plant - rust, powdery mildew, black spot. If there is one spray you really should use, this is it! It has to be applied before the buds open, and is considered more effective than sulfur by itself.

Copper is known for its fungi and bacteria killing properties.

- Green Earth "Bordo" copper spray is a wettable powder and can be used against blights, leaf spots, mildew and mold

Pyrethrum is a widely used natural pesticide. The active ingredient, pyrethrin, is extracted from the seed cases of the perennial chrysanthemum (*Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium*). Most insects are highly susceptible to it in low concentrations. The compound works rapidly on insects attacking their nervous system. Since there is a possibility that the insect can recover after coming in contact with pyrethrin, it is mostly used with a synergist, which can be vegetable oil or diatomaceous earth or piperonyl butoxide. It is used against aphids, scale insects and spider mites. Be careful though, since it also will kill your garden friends - lady bugs, praying mantises, and aquatic insects. Products containing pyrethrin can cause skin and eye irritation, so you must cover your eyes, nose, mouth, and hands.

- CIL "Ant, Roach and Crawling Insects Spray" can be used against sow bugs and earwigs
- Safer's "Trounce" kills aphids, white fly and spider mites
- Green Earth "Bio-Mist" uses piperonyl butoxide as a synergist. This product should not be used in hot weather. It can be used against aphids.
- Wilson's "Bug-X" also contains pyrethrin.

Horticultural oils are refined petroleum products which are distilled to remove impurities. They are used against aphids, white flies, mites and powdery mildew. Japanese maples are very sensitive to any oils and their application should only be regarded as a last resort. Do not use oils on junipers, cedars, spruce and any coniferous trees in general, and never apply oils in hot weather.

- Scott's "Eco Sense" contains canola oil and pyrethrin. It can be used against aphids, mites and white fly
- Green Earth "Horticultural Oil" is meant to be used when trees are dormant but can also be used in the growing season. It is applied for scale, mealy bugs and mites.

Neem oil, a natural oil from the seed of the neem tree, usually comes in a 70% concentration. It is used against powdery mildew, white flies and their eggs and the eggs of different species. Neem oil sprayed on leaves deters feeding by leaf-chewing beetles and caterpillars. It is also suggested that it affects the hormones many insects need to develop, killing them as they attempt to molt or emerge from eggs. There is disagreement how effective neem oil is against aphids and other sucking insects. Caution should be exercised when using neem oil, follow the cautions mentioned above about horticultural oils.

To make your own neem oil spray use 5 ml neem oil, 1-2 ml insecticidal soap or detergent and 1 liter of water. Mix water and soap, add oil slowly and mix well, keep agitating while spraying. One batch of neem oil spray is good for 8 hours before it breaks down in the mixture. Spray once a week.

- Safer's and other companies offer neem oil in a pre-mixed spray or concentrated liquid.

Bicarbonate of soda, which is baking soda, is another organic fungicide, but it has to be used in combination with either horticultural oil or neem oil to be effective. The soda makes the leaf surface alkaline and thus inhibits the germination of fungal spores. Be careful in overusing it though, since the sodium content (salt) can build up and can become toxic to plant cells. For this reason, the mixture should never be sprayed on the soil. It is used against black spot, powdery mildew and brown patch. Combine 4 Tbsp (tablespoons) of baking soda, 1 Tbsp of horticultural or neem oil, and 4 liters of water. Use within 8 hours, spray once a week.

Nicotine, contained in tobacco, is a natural insect repellent which can be used against aphids, white flies, leaf hoppers, thrips, and other sucking insects. Take 2-3 cigarettes and soak them for a week in 2 liters of water, strain and add 1 liter of water. Only water your trees with this mixture, and do not spray.

Diatomaceous earth can be applied against earwigs, slugs and sow bugs. It comes only in powder form and it is essential that it be kept dry. When applying it, wear a dust mask, as the granulated fossil remains that it consists of will irritate your breathing passages.

Black tea can also be used as an insect repellent. Make a strong tea, let it cool, pour it in a basin and swish your tree through it.

Coffee is a great slug and snail killer. Add ten parts water to one part espresso coffee. Do not use de-caffeinated or instant coffee. Spray the solution over the leaves and on the soil, where snails and slugs might crawl. The snails absorb the coffee through their skin and the caffeine kills them. Since this remedy is not residual, so it will have to be reapplied after heavy rain.

Insecticidal soap comes in either a ready spray or as a concentrate, diluted according to instructions on the label. It works very well on aphids, does not need to be washed off and can be applied in relatively short intervals (1 to 2 days). Insecticidal soaps usually contain alkanolamine salts or potassium salts.

- Safer's "End All II" contains potassium salts and can be used against aphids, white fly, scale, spider mites, mealy bugs and the eggs of various insects.

For a home made remedy to get rid of scale insects, combine 8 parts of rubbing alcohol, 2 parts detergent and 40 parts of water. Spray and leave on for 20 minutes, then hose off. For stubborn scales, use a Q-Tip saturated in rubbing alcohol to dab on the insects, and, after ten minutes, rinse off.

The above mentioned products are just a few which are available in nurseries and plant stores. Look for the desired active ingredients and always read the label.

Thanks to everyone who donated and purchased items at our silent auction!

For bonsai soil components, contact

Mike McCallion at:

mwm@aplixcanada.com

Need Bonsai Stuff?

'Gim & Mike's' Bonsai Soil Components
Haydite, Pumice, Lava Rock, or Akadama
(sold individually so you can create your own mixes)

Copper and Aluminum Wire
Mica Training Pots
Featuring - Meco Bonsai Workstands

Get in touch with me early so I can be sure to have what you need at the club meeting.

Price list available via email.

Deliveries in GTA are can be arranged.

Contact Mike at: 416-577-0725 or mwm@aplix.ca

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 \$2 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:

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