



# JOURNAL



April 2010

[www.torontobonsai.org](http://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 introductory articles, [Information for Beginners](#), and, [Frequently Asked Questions](#), on the [TBS web site \(www.torontobonsai.org\)](http://www.torontobonsai.org).

**April: Larch:** where to find, how to collect, what styles are suitable for them, personal experiences and different styles experimented with, small collected larches vs. larger collected larches, time frame for developing larches into bonsai. Bring in your new larches for a clinic. **Guest presenter: Bob Wilcox.**

**May: Styling trees for bonsai. June: Leaf pruning bonsai.**

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### General meetings: 7:30 – 10:00 p.m.

**April, May: Collecting trips, nursery crawls in Ontario and Quebec.** Contact **Greg Quinn** (on back cover) about times, locations, car pooling.

**April 12: TBS meeting: Larch (*Larix*) banzai!** Bring in your larches to show, discuss and work on.  
**Repotting workshop:** repot your bonsai; the club will provide soil components at cost per volume -- **bring a bucket for the bonsai soil you will be mixing, and your own tools!** **Workshop: Japanese larch (*Larix Kaempferi*).** **Cost:** \$40 (includes tree, wire, pot, soil and instructor). The trees 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.  
**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 **Mike Roussel** (on back cover) to sign up.

**May 10: TBS meeting: Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum*).** Bring in your Japanese maples to show, discuss and work on. **Reiner Goebel** will be talking about Japanese maple bonsai, using the club-purchased one from the March meeting, which will then be raffled. **John Biel** will do a little talk on pines. **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,** 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** (on back cover).

**June 14: TBS meeting: Martin Schmalenberg.**

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

**Errata:** the tree depicted on the cover of the March 2010 TBS Journal was not the tree Les Mandeville bought, but another of Grace's Austrian pines, a dwarf, named 'Fat Albert'. The TBS Journal staff regret this error.

**On the cover: Bob Wilcox's collected larch (*Larix laricina*). See inside for story.**

## Outside club events:

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

**Marco at the RBG: May 30, Burlington, On.** Marco Invernizzi will be conducting workshops during the day and an evening demonstration and lecture at 7pm. Contact Mike McCallion [mwm@aplix.ca](mailto:mwm@aplix.ca), for more information.

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

**Brant Bonsai Society Meeting: June 28, 7 – 9 pm. Tranquility Place, 436 Powerline Rd, Brantford, ON.** Stone carving, by Robert Dubuc. Carve a cinder feather weight stone either as a pot, mountain landscape or as a slate. \$5 for non-members. Contact Robert (on back cover) for more details.

**Mid-America Bonsai Alliance (MABA) 2010 Convention: June 25 – 27, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan.** See MABA web site for more information: <http://www.mababonsai.org/pages/convention.html>

**Bonsai Clubs International (BCI) group tour of China: Sept. 30 - 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 past year in different areas of Quebec. Please be careful when buying trees from non-members. Check the web site [www.interre.net/bonsai](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.abs.org/stolen-bonsai-registry) at the ABS web site.

## TBS announcements

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### Fundraiser: donated bonsai stand for sale

Approx. 87" high, 50" wide, 20" deep. Light brown oak finish, with lights installed. For your donation offer, the TBS will help with delivery. Contact Otmar Sauer (on back cover) for details.

### Bonsai soil recipes

Send your soil recipes for publication to Greg Quinn (on back cover).

### Backyard bonsai workshops

Please let us know if you would be willing to host a backyard workshop this spring and summer. Contact Greg Quinn (on back cover).

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](mailto:shibui@rogers.com).



# President's Message: is it time for a backyard intervention?

by Mike Roussel

Early spring is such a joyous time for me. The days are getting longer, the weather warmer, the birds are back and that signals that I can start taking my trees out of storage and enjoy them again.

The thing that I just don't quite understand is how each year I need more and bigger benches! Wait a minute .... yes I do. Last year, I grew about six types of trees from seed, I collected a couple trees (one that takes up half a bench!), I bought close to a hundred seedlings (mostly to plant but some are still in pots) as well as a few nursery trees throughout the year, I started a flat of cuttings and my trees got bigger, necessitating transplanting to bigger pots. Now, I know how this happened; silly me.

Don't get me wrong, I love my collection and I know that it is steadily improving with the passing years. I even have trees that I can exhibit on a moment's notice, but it is becoming a lot of work, given that I have a full time job, a new house and wife to attend to. I seem to be able to get through the transplanting (although I needed help last year) and the watering but it is the time needed to style that is lacking. As a result, my trees are not progressing as fast as they could and the backyard is starting to look more like a nursery than a finely crafted collection of bonsai specimens. My wife Michele, who is on a crusade to rid our lives of clutter, gently points this out to me often. I do sell or give away some of my trees each year but the outflow is much smaller than the inflow and my horticultural skills are at the point now that it is a rare event that anything dies on me.

So, what am I to do? I admit that I am a remorseless collector (the first step); I enjoy having a large variety of species in my collection and I like to take on new challenges. I also have many "children" that I am so close to now that I can't bear to part with them even if they are ugly ducklings and will never be fine bonsai. And I know that I am not the only one! One member told me last year that his wife refuses to go in the backyard. Another hasn't transplanted some of his trees for a decade. Yet another has a veritable farm in his backyard and last year, purchased (as I did, by the way) over a hundred bulk seedlings. Maybe it really is time for some tough love. It is time for a backyard intervention!!!!

I had to laugh when I looked up the word intervention on Wikipedia. I found this: "[Intervention \(counseling\)](#)", an attempt to compel a subject to "get help" for an addiction or other problem". Am I addicted to bonsai? I sure am and happily so. I just need an objective third party to help me to figure out what trees I should keep and which ones I should let go. So, what strategies could be used?

- **Duplicates:** if I am to keep many varieties of trees, maybe I should just have one or two of each type. But which ones? Maybe I can consolidate those seedlings into a forest or group planting, however the pots needed take up a lot of room themselves!
- **Quality:** maybe it is time to wean some of those ugly ducklings and either sell them to someone who has an idea on how to make them into a swan or maybe I should just release them and plant them back home in the fields or around the house. Maybe I should rank my trees and start eliminating the ones at the bottom of the list.
- **Size:** I could downsize my collection and start growing smaller-sized bonsai instead of the Goliaths that I have been collecting lately. Maybe some of those trees would be better in a smaller size.
- **Pruning:** if I convert half my collection to Literati style bonsai, I could put them closer on the benches! Just kidding!
- **Stop:** simply stop adding to the collection and be satisfied with what I have. Maybe I should adopt the idea of replacing trees. When I bring one home, I have to get rid of one. This would be the hardest thing to do, I think. Maybe I need to stop building benches and adopt the strategy I have with my wine collection: the cellar holds a finite number of bottles; once the cellar is full, I can add no more. I have to start drinking!

Well, in the end, the first step is admitting that there is a problem. The next step is doing something about it and sometimes one needs help. Maybe with the help of my wife and those who visit my garden this summer I can consolidate my collection to something that is more manageable, less cluttered, and more beautiful. She is right after all. Before we moved last year, she "forced" me to get rid of all kinds of stuff and in the end I really don't miss it. In fact, I can't remember what I got rid of anymore!

For those just starting out on their bonsai journey, this may seem a little foreign to you but trust me, it happens to everyone who develops a real passion for this art form. Be fore-warned! On the other hand, if you have less than 20 trees, don't worry about this yet! For those who are well on the way to reducing the bonsai fat, you can do it! You can give up some of your trees and greatly improve your collection at the same time. Schedule a backyard intervention this season!

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## April TBS library news

**Keith Oliver**, our club librarian, has bound copies of **Bonsai Today #1** through the transition to **Bonsai Focus #115**, and **International Bonsai** magazines, starting with the first edition and ending in the year 2009, for our club library. They are well worth the withdrawal! The library has also obtained subscriptions to **Bonsai Focus**, as well as **International Bonsai**, and will be binding more issues as they accumulate.

**And**, with the help of Dierk Neugebauer, he retrieved our club library cart!

**Way to go, Keith!**

# A collected larch: before and after

by Bob Wilcox

The tree was collected in central Ontario about 8 years ago. The day after collecting, it was placed in this wooden box, potted at the same angle as it was growing when found. Since there were few useful roots, and the fine roots were very fragile, to protect them, the original soil was left undisturbed except for removing large rocks and cutting off the ends of a few long, large roots that would not fit into the box. A combination of topsoil and sand, was added where additional soil was needed. The tree was secured in the box with wire attached to nails at the edge of the box (rather than using wire in the soil securing the tree through holes in the bottom of the box), in order to protect the roots.

When collected, the tree was much taller, with the top section of the trunk continuing in a straight line. This part of the trunk was removed. The intention was to create a new top for the tree using the large top branch that remained. This branch can be seen in the photo, extending horizontally to the left of the trunk. As well, a large branch, located on the right and half-way up the trunk, was removed because it was not in a good location for the design.



This photo (2) was taken a few years ago. The foliage has become more dense, so the pot now looks too small. The top branch has been wired up to continue the line of the trunk in an S-shape. I wire every branch, large and small, in the spring, and remove the wire the following spring, replacing the wire on branches that move away from the position where I want them to be. Most of the main branches are now holding their new shape and position. Because I leave the wire on the tree for a year, occasionally the wire cuts a little bit into the bark, but larches heal very quickly. I have tried to create shari on some of my larches, and find they grow so vigorously the shari has sometimes healed over by the following spring.

In the early summer, as the buds extend and become thin branches, I let the best-positioned branches remain, since at this stage of development I need a more dense branch structure. This new growth looks unruly for the remainder of the summer, but in the following spring they are wired and become part of the design.

My development of the new apex has been slow, since there were few branches growing there. Fortunately, there were a few buds that have developed into dense branches over the years. This year there are finally a lot of branches to work with, and the top of the tree will be much more refined. This photo shows the top leaning to the left and down, which was not my intention for the final design and will be modified this year.

Soon I will have all the main branches holding their position without wire, and I will have all the new, thin, branches I need. At that stage, not much wiring will be required and I will be able to keep the shape of the tree with pruning.

Editor's note: see larch care sheet at the end of this newsletter.

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## The oldest trees on the planet

Maybe you've seen these old trees before, but they're worth seeing again:

<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2010/03/old-tree-gallery/all/1>

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# The March beginners session on acquiring trees

by Barbara Pope

Otmar came to this beginners session armed with Ontario maps and pamphlets that he and Dierk used to provide very practical information about where to go to collect specific tree species. Otmar recommended the Peterson Guide to Eastern Trees as a tool for identifying their growing habits and locations. Dierk also reminded us that he has selected a number of articles written by TBS members on collecting and has posted them in the March 2010 journal section of the website ([www.torontobonsai.org](http://www.torontobonsai.org)) – great idea Dierk.

Otmar and Dierk described larches as the first trees to emerge in clearances and swampy areas. Trees found on the eastern shores of lakes tend to have the most interesting shapes. Apple and hawthorn are found together in areas such as Halton Hills, Beaver Valley, and Oak Ridges Moraine Trail – abandoned farms are good bets. Cedar, apple, and juniper are found on moraines. Jack pines are the “first trees” in the North Sudbury and North Bay regions. Eastern redbud is also a species that can be collected. Places to look are old farms or properties for sale (ask for permission first), road allowances along public roads (particularly in trimmed ditches), swamps, mining roads, old railway tracks (locate on Google), and abandoned roads.

We were then given detailed instructions for selecting, trimming, and digging up trees. One of the most important things is to first dig down carefully to find the roots. If you are seasoned collector (like Bob Wilcox for example) the tree is re-covered with soil and left in the ground if the nebari does not meet exacting standards!

After-care was also discussed – no fertilizer or wiring in the first year or two, keep in a shady protected spot, and check for pests. Be patient!

To me, one of the most interesting things was to get to know Otmar a bit better. He described with enthusiasm his Blue Mountain bike exploration trips into the wilderness areas. After he told us that a tree can weigh up to 70 pounds, my imagination went wild visualizing all the tools and trees strapped to various parts of his bicycle and backpack. Dierk, on the other hand, likes to be close to a road and have a wheelbarrow to carry the trees and tools - makes good sense to me. As someone who likes to stroll leisurely on well maintained trails (preferably on a sunny day), I think I'll stick to nursery material. If I were 30 or 40 years younger, I would definitely be tempted!

Collected trees are so very beautiful!

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## Reiner's slide show: repotting nursery stock and established bonsai

by Greg Quinn

Here are some of the issues that came up during Reiner's slide show at the March meeting:

### Why you are repotting

For every activity, including bonsai, you should ask yourself why. Why are you doing this? Or even better, why are you doing this now? Why are you root pruning in fall? Why are you collecting trees in summer? Why are you needle plucking pines in winter?\*

In bonsai, and, I would venture, everything else, you must learn from yourself, and your own activities. But make sure you keep track of what was done and when. Trial and error doesn't exactly work if there's no record!

When spring comes along, ask yourself why you are repotting your trees. Don't just repot for the sake of repotting, and because you've been storing this bonsai soil forever!

### Necessity

Take the tree out of the pot and examine its roots. And ask yourself these questions: Is the tree pot-bound? Is it a young tree, that grows more quickly? Is it a fast-growing species? Is it a deciduous species, that tend to grow more quickly than the evergreens? Are the roots no where to be seen, with the soil wet and sodden? Checking the roots will answer all of these questions, indicate to you the necessity of repotting. The health of the tree is your main concern at all times, since a dead tree is mostly useless in bonsai.

### Reiner's slide show

Reiner had a lot of slides- obviously he keeps photo records aplenty! They come in handy when the club needs an instant presentation.

He made extra efforts to contrast the potting of the mature Trident maple bonsai with the nursery stock tree (pyracantha?). In the case of the nursery stock tree, the roots were cut back by half around the root ball perimeter and underneath, since it was a young, vigorous, and healthy tree, in need of development. The Trident maple had root pruning by only about one third, since, although it is a vigorous tree, it was older. In neither case was any soil washed away, but a fair amount of time (and sweat!) was spent pruning the bottoms of the trees - they were quite dirty!

## The timing – pay attention to your trees in spring

When the buds are swelling and about to open is the optimum time for repotting your tree, Reiner said. But even this was qualified by reference to the species, such the larch shown, with the buds just starting to show. And he stressed paying attention to your trees in spring, watching for signs of growth. Repot after the leaves have fully opened at your peril, since you will be cutting off this year's newly grown roots or otherwise disturbing them when you root prune!

## The pot

Great care was given choosing a pot for the Trident maple, but not so much for the pyracantha, since it is in training. Any roots that had wire on them were protected with unsightly, but necessary, plastic mesh. This could be removed in several months' time, when the the roots had grown. Remember: health first!

## The branches

The branch pruning was more extreme with the nursery stock as well, for the reasons given. It should be said that Reiner is not afraid to cut off all the branches for necessity sake. For guidance on what was good branching, he suggested we study the photos in the books of the library, and to look at trees in the landscape before they have their leaves on (not while driving!)

## The leaf pruning

Leaf pruning is carried out on deciduous species, such as Japanese maples, to reduce the leaf size. Reiner said that leaf size reduction was also a result of general bonsai culture. With one Japanese maple, he had leaf pruned twice in one year, but with another, he had only leaf pruned twice in a 12-year period. Laziness was the only reason given, but I suspect the bonsai police had paid him a visit, or he simply felt restless for something else to do. Bonsai is an engrossing hobby!

## The bonsai soil

For the bonsai soil, Reiner applied a drainage layer of fine gravel, and suggested his own mixture of Haydite, sand, and black earth, the latter in different proportions, depending on the species. For example, more black earth was used for deciduous species, such as Japanese maples, less for junipers, and even less for pines. He said that adds fertilizer to the soil, preferring that to on-surface and soluble fertilizers applied afterward. He was very careful with the water given during the first season, as too much would produce too much vigour, and therefore longer inter-nodes between the branches, leaves, and buds, which is undesirable in bonsai culture.

Reiner showed how to poke and gently wiggle the bonsai soil with a chop stick in between the roots to eliminate air pockets, explaining that he usually taps the side of the pot to settle the soil for the first several trees.

Thanks for your efforts, Reiner, and for stepping up to the plate (or laptop) at the last minute!

## John Biel & Reiner Goebel critique and discuss initial re-styling on club's Japanese maple

by Greg Quinn

Since the intention was to completely re-style this club-purchased tree, major corrections were recommended. Because the branches on the lower two thirds of the tree were said to be growing wrong, and missing in some areas, Reiner suggested that they either be drastically reduced, or cut off entirely. He said they should alternate left to right, grow horizontally, and decrease proportionally in thickness going up the tree. He was not overly concerned about the top, since he had already decided to remove it.



## Recommendations:

1. Reduce the height, because of lack of taper in trunk, which is a sign of age in bonsai.
2. Correct the branching, by either cutting all the branches off (John), or cutting back severely (Reiner). A lot of immediate pruning was done at the top of the tree, all of the upward growing branches were pruned, and some of the downward growing ones.
3. Correct the rootage, another sign of age, by re-orienting the tree in pot.



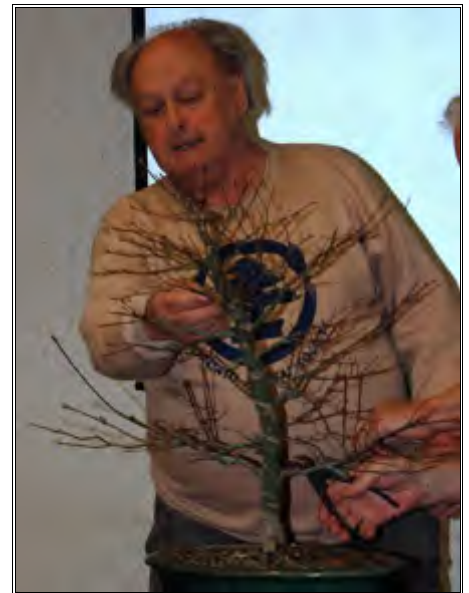
Correct pruning was demonstrated by John, indicating the cutting back to a 'V' or a 'Y'

The tree is destined to have a complete overhaul: the trunk cut short, to encourage taper: the branches would be cut off and re-grown, allowing us to choose the best candidates as the buds emerge.

The future owner will have to focus on timely pruning, to balance the growth and energy of the tree; excessive buds, and the most vigorous buds would be removed in this process. and wiring, to direct the extensions as they grow. Both John and Reiner cautioned that proper wiring is important, since the new branches harden quickly, after which time they are difficult to move into position.

We will see this tree again for another styling a possible leaf pruning, during the May meeting- this time with no branches.

This tree was one that the club bought last fall at our show, in preparation for this event. I hope I win this tree in the raffle!



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## Larch - *Larix sp.*

**General information:** Larix is an unusual genus, one of the handful of deciduous conifers. Larix bears bright green to bluish-green needle-like leaves that turn yellow in autumn. It has tiny cones which are purplish on most Larix species. Larches are pioneer trees and will not grow properly in the shade.

In areas with suitable temperatures, larch is quite popular as bonsai. It is recommended by its quickly thickening trunk, and its foliage, which is fresh, bright green in spring and lovely golden yellow in autumn. Unlike many conifers, Larix cones are small and seem in proportion to most sizes of bonsai.

**Family:** *Pinaceae*.

**Lighting:** Semi-shade in summer, full sun otherwise.

**Temperature:** Larches are cold-weather trees. Most varieties encounter difficulty in regions warmer than zone 6, and some are hardy in areas as cold as zone 2. The colder and drier the climate, the more compact the needle growth will be.

**Watering:** Larch can be very sensitive to watering - as I've learned the hard way. Nursery grown trees must not ever be allowed to dry out, or to stand in water. Some larches grow naturally in boggy areas, and these have no problem remaining in water for days. They can eventually be trained to survive with less water, which is a good idea, as larches kept a bit dry develop shorter needles.

**Feeding:** Every two weeks during growth, stopping for 6 weeks in midsummer, for developmental growth. Mature larch bonsai are fed very little, again with the hope of keeping needle length reduced.

**Pruning and wiring:** Shorten the shoots during growth. The branches may also be pruned in autumn-winter, but always leave 2-3 buds on a branch. Wire from late spring-autumn. Another tip reinforced by experience - do not wire before bud burst as this tends to damage or kill larch cambium. During the growth season, larch responds extremely well to wiring, and it is easy to position a branch exactly where it is wanted. Larches are often seen as formal and informal uprights, and in forest plantings, although they are suitable for all sizes and styles except broom.



**Propagation:** From seed sown in April/May - they take a while to germinate. They can be gathered from the late-ripening cones in autumn/winter. The cones must be left in the sun to open, and then the seeds may be shaken out. Cuttings may be taken in late summer from new shoots, and require the use of rooting hormone and a lot of moisture. In northern areas of America and Canada, larch is often naturally stunted by its growing conditions, and collecting larch for bonsai is quite popular.

**Repotting:** Larch repotting depends much on circumstance. Young, unrestrained larches grow quickly, although the foliage grows at a greater rate than the root ball. The rate of larch growth can be slowed considerably through bonsai techniques, and by reducing feeding frequency. Tomlinson recommends repotting often, even annually, due to strong root growth. Other sources recommend repotting every 2-4 years, and gradual reduction of the root mass. Repotting should be done in early to mid-spring, or late summer. The books recommend transplanting before bud burst, but American larch may be best repotted after the buds have opened slightly, forming tiny "shaving brushes." Eliminate unwanted branches to encourage rooting. Use fast-draining soil mix.

**Pests and diseases:** Aphids, wooly aphids, bark beetles, caterpillars, rust, honey-fungus, canker, and the dreaded "mysterious wilting disease" which is always fatal to larch.

#### **Some species suitable for bonsai:**

- *Larix decidua*: European Larch - this European native can grow to 75 feet tall, and is hardy in zones 4-6. It is a high altitude tree, and can even be found at altitudes above 8200 ft. The flowers are tiny - yellow for male and red for female.
- *Larix decidua* 'Diane': contorted larch.
- *Larix x eurolepis* (*decidua* x *kaempferi*): Dunkeld larch - a hybrid between the European and Japanese species.
- *Larix kaempferi* (also called *L. leptolepis*): Japanese larch - the Japanese variety of larch is similar to the European larch in size. It is hardy in zones 5-6 and has bluish-green needles.
- *Larix laricina*: American larch, tamarack, hackmatack - smaller and hardier than the previous larches, the American larch grows to 60 feet, and can withstand zone 2 temperatures! It has finely flaking dull pink or pink-brown bark. This *Larix* has significant flowers, which are tiny, but bright red.
- *Larix sibirica*: Siberian larch

#### **Bibliography:**

Jahn (ed.) "The Simon and Schuster Guide to Bonsai"

Owen's "Bonsai Identifier"

Resnick's "Bonsai"

Samson's "Creative Art of Bonsai"

Tomlinson's "Complete Book of Bonsai"

No. 2 1996 issue of "International Bonsai" dedicated to Larch.

Species information is from Mitchell's "American Nature Guides: Trees," and Thomas (ed.) "The Hearst Garden Guide to Trees and Shrubs."

Compiled by Sabrina Caine

Edited by Thomas L. Zane

**Please also see the 'Journal' section, '2010', 'April', for these and a lot more articles on the TBS website:** <http://www.torontobonsai.org/Journal/Journal.2010/apr.2010/index.htm>

#### **Links to other clubs:**

**Matsuyama Bonsai Society:** <http://www.informdurham.com/record/OSH1103>

**Ottawa Bonsai Society:** <http://www.ottawabonsai.org/>

**Kitchener-Waterloo Bonsai Society:** <http://www.kwbonsai.com/Welcome.html>

**The Bonsai Society at RBG:** <http://www.bonsaisocietyatrbg.com/>

**Bonsai Gros-bec:** <http://www.bonsaigrosbec.com/>

**Societe de penjing et bonsai de Montreal:** <http://www.bonsaimontreal.com/>

**Buffalo Bonsai Society:** [http://www.buffalobonsaisociety.com/monthly\\_meetings.html](http://www.buffalobonsaisociety.com/monthly_meetings.html)

**Bonsai Society of Upstate New York:** <http://www.bonsaisocietyofupstateny.org/billboard.htm>

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## 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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