



Founded January, 1964



JOURNAL

October 2013

www.torontobonsai.org

Schedule of events

Meetings are held at the TBG (Toronto Botanical Gardens), at 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, in the Garden Hall, (lower auditorium on the west side of building), unless otherwise noted. The first meeting is free for non-members.

Beginner sessions: 6:30 – 7:20

The beginner sessions are held in Studio #2 upstairs, at the TBG. Beginners should read the articles in the **BEGINNERS** section, under **ARCHIVES**, at the [TBS web site](#).

This month we will deal with fall and winter care for trees. Up for discussion is fall branch pruning, fertilizing, pointers on over-wintering bonsai and other related topics.

General meetings: 7:30 – 10:00

- opening comments by Carlos Bras
- preparing bonsai for fall show
- cotoneaster workshop
- please bring in your bonsai for display

Events:

Fall show: Saturday, October 19, 12 p.m.-5 p.m., Garden Hall & Studios 1, 2 & 3
Sunday, October 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Garden Hall & Studios 1, 2 & 3

Set up for the show is at 9 a.m. Saturday - please come early and help set up, and bring in your bonsai, shitakusa, suiseki, and scrolls for display. Volunteers are also needed during the show– please contact John Hoffman at the set up, or any member of the TBS executive team (listed on the back page of this journal). For anyone wishing to sell items at the show, those items should be at the sales area by 9 a.m. on both days.

Cotoneaster workshop

This month we will have a cotoneaster workshop. These trees are fairly mature, with many branch options. All participants will be assigned a senior instructor to help them along with the design of the trees. The registration fee is \$30.00, but only two spots are still available. If you are interested please contact Otmar Sauer (email address on back cover), or see him before the general meeting.

For those who miss out on the workshop, please sit in and watch the fantastic transformation of these nursery stock bushes into pre-bonsai in mere hours.



TBS history: <http://www.torontobonsai.org/Journal/Journal.2003/jun.2003/history.tbs.1.htm>

On the cover: Mike Roussel's Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*) bonsai: never able to determine which cultivar (probably from seed); purchased in 2004 for \$25.00; originally styled with Bob Wilcox, and later refined with Martin Schmalenberg and Marco Invernezzi; Japanese tokoname pot purchased from Reiner Goebel; leafs out late in spring, with a red-purple color, and later moves through bronze to green with red edges. The favourite tree of his collection.

President's message

by Carlos Bras

October is busy time of the year for the bonsai hobbyist. Even though most trees are going into dormancy, there is still a lot of important work to be done. Before I go into that, I would like to thank John Hoffman for stepping in and doing a wonderful job running last month's meeting. Thanks also to Reiner Goebel for sharing his experiences with pine bonsai and his (as always) very educational and entertaining slide presentations.

October brings colder temperatures, shorter daylight hours and trees start showing the effect of these climate changes. Our deciduous species, like maples, burning bush, etc., turn wonderful autumn colours, while conifers such as pines need special attention, like needle-plucking and old needle cleaning to promote new buds for next spring. Cedars too, should be cleaned of dead foliage with a little plucking done in late August. If you have been keeping tropicals outdoors for the summer you need to keep your eye out for frosty nights and bring your trees indoors.

Due to Thanksgiving Monday taking place on October 14th, our TBS meeting will be held one week earlier on October 7th, which is the first Monday of the month for a change. At the meeting, we will be discussing how to prepare your trees for our TBS Fall Bonsai Show and will be holding a cotoneaster workshop after the meeting. For those of you who participated in the June Blauwii juniper workshop, please bring those trees into the meeting so that we may see how they progressed and have a short discussion on what to do next.

The Fall Bonsai Show is on the weekend of October 19th, and as usual we will need everyone's help in setting up the show, so please come early on Saturday morning (between 8 – 9 a.m.) to help set up. See John Hoffman, our show chair, about helping with the set-up. Bring in your best bonsai with stands, viewing stones and accent plants prior to set up.

Sales will be upstairs in Studios 1, 2 and 3, with Grace Wicht kindly taking charge of this duty again. Please bring in your bonsai-related items at 9 a.m. on either or both days, follow her instructions, and fill out the sales forms with all the details.

If you have any comments or questions please don't hesitate to ask me at the next meeting or by email.

Reiner's presentation

by Dan Smith, photos by Dan Monroe

At our September meeting, Reiner Goebel gave a presentation showing his very extensive knowledge and expertise in all areas of pine bonsai. The presentation included a slide show showing the progression of his own trees over time, and how certain design decisions progressed and developed. This was particularly useful for newer members who are developing their bonsai design sensibilities and are learning how to visualize what their trees will look like in the future if they make certain design decisions now. The before and after shots showed these aspects very clearly.

The session was also packed full of useful information, ranging from design and styling tips, the optimal amount of pruning, to basic care, such as when to repot your pine bonsai and when to let your it relax and grow. The information was very well presented, engaging, and easy to understand, even for a newer member like myself.

Reiner's presentation was immediately followed by a Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) bonsai workshop, where members were able to try their hand at putting this knowledge into practice.

All in all, it was a fantastic evening - many thanks go to Reiner for sharing with us your photos. We hope you'll speak again soon and share more of your knowledge and expertise with the club.



Scots pine workshop: bonsai teachers, bonsai students

by Otmar Sauer, photos by Dan Monroe

We were lucky to have plant material with some bonsai potential for this workshop: not only the trees were good, but so were the instructors who lent their experience to work with less experienced members to produce some fine results. It was a rewarding workshop for both the participants and the observing members who stuck around to watch the process of turning nursery stock material into prospective future bonsai. We just hope that these trees will one day be displayed at our shows.



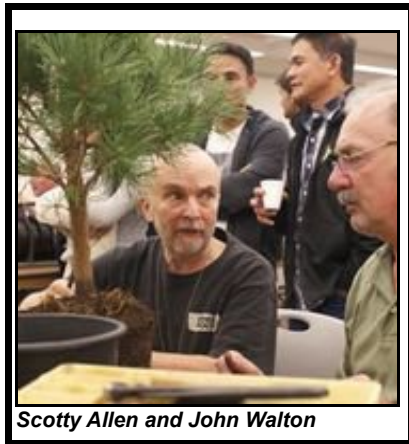
Scots pines...prior to workshop



John Hoffman and Jeeto Butalia



Mike Roussel and Nat Murphy



Scotty Allen and John Walton



Mike McCallion and Jonathan Weisinger



Angelo Dimitriu with Dan Monroe

September beginner session

by Otmar Sauer

As in the past few years, this year's beginners session was started with a tree critique by John Biel. John had the opportunity to critique not only trees at the start of their development, but also trees which had been worked on for a number of years.



It was refreshing and educating to listen to John's insightful observations and the advice he gave to different members about their trees - a really good session and one could easily glimpse the extensive experience and knowledge which John brought to this critique.



Announcements

Membership dos (and don'ts)

Do renew your membership for the 2013/14 year; don't forget to submit your cash/cheque. See Gim Retsinas.

TBS Fall Show October 19/20

As per usual the club will be offering complimentary show tickets to all TBS members in good standing, However, they will not be included in this journal, but instead will be handed out at the October 7th meeting. If you cannot be at the next meeting and need complimentary tickets please send me an email with the names of the people you have invited to the show and I will add the names to the guest list. -Carlos

Lava rock orders flowing...

Are there are lots of TBS members looking for lava? There is a guy from London (BonsaiGuy.ca a.k.a.Chris Hendry) has lots of lava rock (branded **Beam Clay** in 50 lb bags for \$30 each). It is excellent stuff: nice and clean and can be screened it into small, med, large. If enough TBS members commit to soil orders, he might come down with a UHaul to the TBS show/sale. He came to RBG last year. He also has inexpensive clay pots, bonsai stock, other soil types. Speak to Gim Retsinas at the tools and supplies table, or Carlos Bras, about placing an order.

Winter greenhouse space available

Some of you may be interested that Toronto Parks and Recreation has green house spaces available for rent at their Riverlea greenhouse, at 911 Scarlett Rd. If interested call 416 392-8188. - Jean Charing

Money, patience and ego!!

See Marco Invernizzi's latest interview on the [European Bonsai Forum](#) (click on link).

Bonsai riddle

What kind of tree can you carry in your hand?

Links to other clubs:

Bonsai society at the RBG: <http://www.BonsaiSocietyatRBG.com>

Matsuyama bonsai society: <http://www.informdurham.com/record/OSH1103>

Misseto bonsai club: <http://www.missetobonsai.org/>

Kitchener-Waterloo bonsai society: <http://www.kwbonsai.com>

Buffalo bonsai society: <http://www.buffalobonsaisociety.com/>

Regular TBS meetings

Meetings take place on the second Monday of every month, except July and August, at the TBG (Toronto Botanical Gardens), located at 777 Lawrence Avenue East, at Leslie Street, in the auditorium on the west side of the building at 7:30 pm. 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. These meetings are preceded at 6:30 pm. by the Beginner sessions, held upstairs.

A small fee is charged for workshops, and a tree, wire and instructor 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. Please return all materials the next month, and before summer.

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.

Tools & supplies

Tools and supplies are sold by the club at most meetings. It is a good idea to contact the executive member in advance of the meeting for specific tools and supplies.

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Vice-President

- Looking for volunteers..!

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Visit the Toronto Bonsai Society's web site, at:
www.torontobonsai.org

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