



Founded January 1964

# JOURNAL



February 2014

[www.torontobonsai.org](http://www.torontobonsai.org)

## Schedule of events

Meetings are held at the **TBG** (Toronto Botanical Gardens), at 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, in the studio rooms upstairs. The first meeting is free for non-members.

### Bonsai 101: 6:30 – 7:20

Bonsai 101 is held in Studio #2 upstairs, at the TBG. Beginners should read '[Information For Beginners](#)', written by Bob Wilcox, posted on the [TBS web site](#).

- there will be no class for February his month, due to silent auction

### General meetings: 7:30 – 10:00

#### February 10: annual silent auction

Donate material to the club, acquire material you need, have fun bidding, and catch up with fellow Toronto bonsai enthusiasts. Unfortunately, beer and wine will not be served, since the TBG will not allow it.

#### March 10: ficus re-styling demo. and workshop

Due to the power failure in Dierk's greenhouse during December's ice storm, the ficus demo and workshop has been tentatively rescheduled (dependent on the recovery of trees). In March there will a bonsai styling demonstration on small leaf ficus (*Ficus retusa*), followed by a workshop using *Ficus benjamina* trees, already potted (see right).

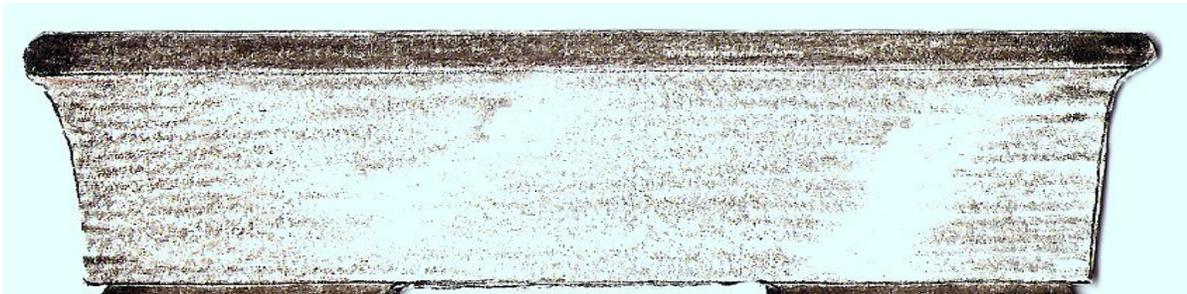
These are indoor (tropical) trees, with small leaves. There are five spots available for the workshop – contact Otmar Sauer (back cover) to register.



### Outside the club: [Valavanis Bonsai Blog: Welcome To My Bonsai World!](#)

On the cover: Norman Haddrick's rendering of a real – life bonsai, growing in the rocky face of the Niagara Escarpment on the Bruce Peninsula, July, 2013. In order to learn bonsai, you must first observe old trees growing in Nature.

This drawing of a compatible bonsai pot accompanies this drawing. If you have the requisite software, try cutting and pasting it onto the cover picture, to adjust the potting angle:



Other of Norman's instructive drawings can be found on the TBS web site, under his name in the 'Gallery' section: [http://torontobonsai.org/?page\\_id=1549](http://torontobonsai.org/?page_id=1549)

# President's message

by Carlos Bras

I want to thank Jeff Shortt for stepping up, preparing, and presenting on suiseki to the club last month at such short notice - that's what we need more of in this club! Remember that even though we plant our bonsai in bonsai soil in pots, appropriate stones add a lot to the presentation. Under the soil are stones, and some of the best bonsai specimens are growing in rock. Thanks to Arthur Skolnik and everybody who brought in so many fine viewing stone examples for display at the meeting.

Dierk gave an interesting and extensive slide presentation, covering his trip to the Colorado plateau, and the interesting stones and weather-tortured trees growing there – well done.

Finally, Mike Roussel's informative presentation, seconded by Arthur, on tropical bonsai piqued our interest, and we learned a fair amount on technique in a short space of time – good effort!

This month we will have fun competing for prizes at the annual silent auction. Bring in anything you think people would consider useful, especially bonsai-related material. Unfortunately, the TBG will not allow the sale of liquor on its premises, so that is a disappointment.

We will have a full program this spring, so get ready and stay tuned!

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## The upcoming annual silent auction

by Karen Brankley

The excitement is mounting as the annual silent auction on Monday, February 10th approaches! Once the tables have been set, and the forms filled out, it's game on! Don't let that other club member get ahead of you! But do you know how it works?

### What to bring

Please bring bonsai related items if you can. After all, this is something we know will be of interest to everyone present. Do you have new or used tools, pots, wire, watering cans, soil components, books or anything else, that you don't need or would consider parting with? Please consider donating these to the club next Monday. However, if not, we will set up a table or portion of a table for other types of donations.

It's also possible to solicit gifts from employers. Depending on the business that employs you, it can be classified as advertising or public relations expenses. It can be a business related item or a fruit basket with a business card enclosed.

Perhaps you can donate a service such as house cleaning, lawn work/snow shovelling or catering. Experienced club members could donate a gift of their time with a less experienced member. A gift certificate is another route to go. Be imaginative!

### The Form

Pick up a form. They will be placed at the end of each table. Fill one out and place it on the table with each item you are donating. The bidding sheet has three areas that you must be aware of. First is the description of the item. When you donate an item you need to fill this out along with your name. There should always be a minimum bid amount assigned to it by the person donating the item. If you are unsure about this value, just ask one of the executive members as they are organizing the tables. Pay attention bidders! Watch for this value if you want to win your treasure. Bids are placed by writing your name and the amount you are bidding beside it. Please place your bids in even dollars. This expedites the payment process and makes mistakes much less likely.

The silent auction is your greatest opportunity to purchase those items you've always wanted, and donate the extra or unused items cluttering up your work area, but you must be prepared to dig up those potential treasures and fund your purchases (cash or cheque).

Happy hunting!

# Lee Valley Tools bonsai seminar, Saturday, February 1, 2014

by Scotty Allen

The seminar was given by Mark Volman of [Tropical Expressions](#) in Hamilton, Ontario. We started off with a brief introduction to bonsai in general, and a little history of Mark and his business.

A demo was given at the beginning by Mark, using an approximately 5 - 7 year old juniper (*Juniperus procumbens* "Nana"). He took us through removal from nursery pot, rough trimming of unnecessary branches, pruning the root ball, wiring into bonsai pot, and filling with bonsai soil.

Various types of soil were discussed, stressing the importance of good drainage and when and when not to fertilize. I found it interesting at this point that Mark stated that these plants we were working with are Florida grown and can be maintained indoors for the Winter months, stressing especially that they must be kept from drying out.

After the intro. and demo., we all selected our trees and pots, and proceeded to get our hands dirty. We worked with small trees (18 months old) and 5" bonsai pots.

We had plastic tubs of premixed soil to do the work in, and empty tubs to deposit scrap soil, waste roots, etc., into. A nice touch was the latex gloves to wear if you did not want to get your hands dirty. All tools were supplied, but I'll take my own to the next one, as some of them were pretty rough.

Mark circulated through the class answering many questions, and giving advice and hints. It seemed the three hours flew by, and we had a dozen or so trees wired and ready for future training.

I'm curious to see how the two trees that I brought home will survive indoors, and if they will start to grow again when they move outside in the spring. It's nice to have these little bits of evergreen indoors to display on the dinner table.

The seminar was well done, although very basic. I would not hesitate to recommend the seminar to bonsai beginners and would do it again myself. I would say everyone was thoroughly satisfied, and it was money well spent for three snowy hours on a February morning.

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## Announcements

**Next Journal publishing deadline: Friday, February 28**

### Annual silent auction

Bring your donations, but forget about the booze – boo hoo!

### TBS library

As usual, the TBS library will be not be open for borrowing during the silent auction; however, you must return all your borrowed materials. The monthly fines will be applied to late materials.

### Bonsai 101

There will be no class this month, due to the silent auction.

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## 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/>

**Ottawa bonsai society:** <http://www.ottawabonsai.org>

## 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.

## TBS Executive

### President

Carlos Bras  
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### Vice-President

-looking for volunteers

### Web-Master

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Visit the Toronto Bonsai Society's web site, at:  
[www.torontobonsai.org](http://www.torontobonsai.org)

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