



Founded January 1964

# JOURNAL



March 2015  
[www.torontobonsai.org](http://www.torontobonsai.org)

# Schedule of events

Meetings are held at the TBG ([Toronto Botanical Garden](#)), located at 777 Lawrence Avenue East (at Leslie St.), Toronto, in the studio rooms upstairs. The first meeting is free for non-members.

## Bonsai 101: 6:45 – 7:20

Bonsai 101 is held in Studio #2 upstairs at the TBG. Beginners should read '[INTRODUCTION TO BONSAI](#)' (click on link), posted on the [TBS web site](#).

March 9: bonsai repotting demonstration

## General meetings: 7:30 – 10:00

### March 9: tropical (indoor) bonsai

Presentation by Lilly Tsurulnikov on indoor bonsai, followed by a bonsai styling demonstration by Mike Roussel on *Ficus retusa*, owned by Dierk Neugebauer. (See '[Root-Over-Rock Salvage Operation](#)' article on the TBS website.)



### April 13: boxwood bonsai

Bonsai styling on boxwood, purchased last year at Connon Nurseries. Workshop on boxwood bonsai to follow demo: to register for the workshop, contact Carlos Bras.

### May 11: larch bonsai

There will be a bonsai forest demonstration; the forest will be raffled off at the end of the night.

### June 9: TBS elections

To volunteer on the club executive, please approach one of the nomination committee.

## TBS spring show: Saturday, May 16 – Sunday, May 17

**Floral hall 8 am:** bring in your bonsai, bonsai stands, shitakusa, suiseki, and scrolls for display. Volunteers needed for set up, take down - contact John Hoffman Keith Oliver.

**Sales area:** trees, bonsai soil, tools, wire, books, and other materials - contact Gim Retsinas to help in this area.

## Outside our club:

### Beginner bonsai course at the JCCC (Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre)

**Start date:** March, 2015. **10 classes.** **Fee:** \$60

**Instructor:** Mike Roussel, past-president of the TBS

**Material:** history, theory and practice of bonsai

**Method:** lectures, multimedia presentations, demonstrations, hands-on training.

**Topics:** artistic principles of styling bonsai, sourcing/selecting raw material, pruning, wiring, watering, transplanting. **Register at:** <http://www.jccc.on.ca/en/programs/cultural/bonsai.php>

### April 17-19: MABS (Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Society) spring festival

Fairbridge Inn, East Hanover, New Jersey. Register at: [www.midatlanticbonsai.org](http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org)

**On the cover:** dwarf pomegranate (*Punica granatum*, 'Nana') bonsai, from the 2015 TBS fall show. Photo by greg quinn.

# President's message

by Carlos Bras

I hope everyone had an enjoyable time at our annual silent auction last month because I know I did. There was some heated bidding on items, and I am sure that some people were bidding me up on purpose! It was a great success, with the club raising over \$1000.00. I would like to thank those who donated items to the auction, and our members for opening up their wallets.

March is a frustrating time for me as I cannot wait until the snow melts so that I can see how my buried trees are doing. I now have a better appreciation of why people have tropical (indoor) bonsai: because it keeps them busy and satisfies any bonsai addiction, while temperate trees take their much-needed rest.

But not all bonsai artists keep tropical trees just as an addiction fix for the winter months. Instead, it's a true love for the different varieties that come from tropical climates. There are also many who now live in condos or apartment buildings and whose only option is to have indoor tree varieties. This by no means lessens the quality of their bonsai. Our shows have been graced with Brazilian Rain trees, dwarf Jade trees (*Portulacaria afra*), bougainvillea, Ficus retusa, olive trees, and so on - all make very good quality bonsai. Of course, tropical and sub tropical trees need special care for indoor conditions here in Toronto, and in some case they require different bonsai techniques as well.

The program for our next meeting on March 9th will be a discussion of indoor bonsai exclusively, starting with the Bonsai 101 class (beginners session), where we will repot a tropical tree. During the main meeting, we will have a short presentation by Lilly Tsurulnikov, and then Mike Roussel will take centre stage with a bonsai demo on a ficus that had a major set back, during the ice storm of December, 2013.

---

## Announcements

### Executive positions: some taken, some still available

We would like to welcome **Angelo Dumitru** and **Kelvin Lo** to the executive team. Angelo will become the new webmaster and Kelvin will help improve [The Journal](#). We are still looking for a new club president, vice-president, secretary, and coffee maker, so please consider applying for these essential positions.

### Silent auction results

26 members purchased auction items, for a **total of \$1,080.00**

18 members made 43 donations of items to the auction

3 nurseries and businesses made 14 donations of items to the auction

The TBS made 9 donations of items to the auction, including 6 bundles of **Bonsai Today** magazine

Thanks to our commercial supporters [Kim's Nature](#), [Valleyview Gardens](#), and [Lee Valley Tools](#) for their donations – visit them online, or in person with your TBS membership card and ask for the club discount.

Thanks also to Karen Brankley, Jean Charing for handling the money, and everyone who helped and donated to the club.

### TBS t-shirt sales

Thanks to Dan Monroe for managing the club t-shirt order. If you didn't manage to get your order in, there are still some t-shirts available, in popular styles and sizes.



### TBS election year

This is an election year for the club – please submit your nominations and/or candidacy to the nomination committee.

### Digging at Dierk's

Last year, Dierk Neugebauer offered his [American hornbeams](#) (*Carpinus caroliniana*), also known as blue beech or musclewood, to the club for bonsai development. The trunks, from 10 cms to 15 cms, were chopped on these trees last year, and the dig will take place this spring. It is estimated that the conversion to bonsai will take from 10 to 15 years, which is a fair amount of time. Dierk has invited the club to watch and learn from the dig, so please indicate your interest to Carlos. As with everything in bonsai, and most other things, careful planning and execution are critical to success.



## Announcements (cont.)

### Workshops

The easiest way for beginners to gain trees, knowledge, and experience in bonsai is to register for our club workshops. We hold workshops during meetings and at backyard Saturdays during summer. Contact the executive to indicate your interest.

### Spring collecting trip

Another way to gain trees and experience in bonsai. Please forward ideas and locations, preferably pasture land with varied terrain, to the executive as soon as possible. When a location is decided upon, the date, which is weather-dependent, will also be announced.

### Nursery crawl

Another easy way to gain trees to work on. Please indicate your interest and willingness to participate to the executive.

### Bonsai tools?

In order to work on your new bonsai-training, you will need bonsai tools: our club sells tools -see Gim Retsinas for a set.

### Past Journals

Did you know that you can read the past Journals online? Visit [this link](#), to view the edifice.

### TBS on Facebook

Did you know that the TBS is on [Facebook](#)? (Click on link, and like us today!)

### Membership renewal

We are still looking for membership renewals - please see Karen, Kem or Gim at the members' table with fees. Please pay with cheque, cash, or credit card.

### Library

Please bring all your library returns to Nathalie, our club librarian, before the meeting and during the coffee break.

### April publishing deadline

The publishing deadline for the **April Journal** is March 27. Please forward all photos, articles, notifications and materials before then.

### Summer workshops

Socials are still going to be held on Wednesday evenings, but backyard workshops, and possibly workshops at the TBG, will be held on Saturdays.

### Beginners to bonsai' class at the TBG

The TBG is offering a class this July, to be announced on their website, and our brave, soon to be ex-president, Carlos Bras, will do the demo for the class.

---

## Links to local bonsai 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>

Societe de bonsai et de penjing de Montreal: <http://bonsaimontreal.com/#&panel1-5>

Bonsai Society of Upstate New York: <http://www.bonsaisocietyofupstateny.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 studio rooms upstairs 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 6:45 p.m. by the the Bonsai 101 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 during the next meeting, and **especially** before the summer break.

## 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  
[carlos@offthebench.ca](mailto:carlos@offthebench.ca)

### Vice-President

please see Carlos

### Webmasters

Daniel Monroe  
[webmaster@torontobonsai.org](mailto:webmaster@torontobonsai.org)

Angelo Dumitru  
[adumitru46@yahoo.com](mailto:adumitru46@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

Jean Charing  
[bonsaitoronto@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaitoronto@gmail.com)

### Journal

Greg Quinn  
[gquinn@hotmail.com](mailto:gquinn@hotmail.com)

Kelvin Lo  
[kelvin.mba@gmail.com](mailto:kelvin.mba@gmail.com)

### Membership Secretary

### Tools & Supplies

Gim Retsinas  
[gretsinas@sympatico.ca](mailto:gretsinas@sympatico.ca)

### New Member Hosts

Kem Shaw  
[kemshaw@rogers.com](mailto:kemshaw@rogers.com)

Karen Brankley  
[kayeb29@hotmail.com](mailto:kayeb29@hotmail.com)

### Recording Secretary

Sylvia Le Roy  
[sylvialeroy@sympatico.ca](mailto:sylvialeroy@sympatico.ca)

### Past-President

Keith Oliver  
[keitholiver1@hotmail.com](mailto:keitholiver1@hotmail.com)


### Librarian

Nathalie Vacaresse  
[n.vacaresse@rogers.com](mailto:n.vacaresse@rogers.com)

### Members at Large

Otmar Sauer  
[cosauer@sympatico.ca](mailto:cosauer@sympatico.ca)

John Hoffman  
[hoffman.john@sympatico.ca](mailto:hoffman.john@sympatico.ca)



The JOURNAL  
OF THE TORONTO BONSAI

The Journal was founded in January 1964, is published monthly, and exists to further the study, practice, promulgation, and fellowship of bonsai.

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

Toronto Bonsai Society  
c/o Kem Shaw  
67 Empringham Cres.  
Markham, ON.  
L3R 3E9