



Founded January 1964

# JOURNAL



June 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](#) prior to attending class.

### June 9: bonsai critique

John Biel will hold the traditional annual tree critique for newer members.

## General meetings: 7:30 – 10:00

### June 8: TBS elections

To volunteer on the club executive, or nominate any member for candidacy, please approach the nomination committee.

Bring your own tree workshop – club wire will be provided.

### Sept 14: TBA

## TBS fall show: Saturday, Oct. 3 – Sunday, Oct. 4

**TBG Floral hall 8 am:** bring in your bonsai, bonsai stands, shitakusa, suiseki, and scrolls for display. Volunteers are needed for set up and take down.

**Sales area:** trees, bonsai soil, tools, wire, books, and other materials.

## Outside our club:

### June 11-14: Capital Collections & Collecting in the 21st Century - ABS Learning Seminars

For more information: <http://www.absbonsai.org/2015-abs-learning-symposium>

**July 12: Introduction to bonsai gardening, at the TBG:** This course is ideal for students who have had no experience in this fascinating horticultural art form. **Toronto Bonsai Society** president **Carlos Brás** will explain the fundamentals of classical bonsai art with an emphasis on the history, theory and techniques of bonsai design along with slide presentations, living examples of bonsai and a demonstration of designing a nursery tree into a bonsai. The demonstration tree will be raffled away at the end of the course to one lucky student!

<http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/events/introduction-to-bonsai-gardening/>

On the cover: Yew (*Taxus sp.*) bonsai from the spring show. Photo by Kelvin Lo.

# President's message

by Carlos Bras

This next Monday, June 8, will be our AGM (annual general meeting), the last meeting for the season, and the last meeting I will host as the TBS president. Our AGM is held every two years to elect a new executive and offer other members an opportunity to get more involved with the running of the club, and contribute new ideas and energy.

The club still has activities planned for the summer, however. The executive is organizing garden socials for Wednesday nights and backyard workshops for Saturdays during the summer. These socials give us an opportunity to visit with our colleagues, talk bonsai over a drink, and work on our trees over the summer.

The following positions are up for grabs:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Recording Secretary
- Supply Coordinator
- Membership Secretary

We will open the floor for nominations during the meeting to the above positions. If you would like to be considered as a candidate, please approach any of the executives before the meeting and let us know your interest. Remember that involvement on the club executive allows you to influence what happens in the club.

This has been a good year for the club, and recently we had another successful show and sale. We are in the black again, and the club finances are very healthy. Our spring show had 108 visitors, with 20 complimentary admissions on Saturday, May 23, and 138 visitors, with 48 complimentary admissions on Sunday, May 24. Our admissions came in at \$1230.00, and donations were at \$51.75, for a total of \$1281.75. In the sales area the club took in just over \$900.00.

The success of the show was because of the dedication of our members, who came in early to help with the show and sale set up – thanks to all. A very special thanks to Kem Shaw for coordinating the volunteers, and to Reiner Goebel for acting as show chair and placing the trees.

Finally, a very special thanks to all of you for making my tenure as president smooth, and made to look easy!!

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## May meeting notes: bonsai 101 wiring demo, preparing trees for the spring show

by Kelvin Lo

During the Bonsai 101 session at the May TBS meeting, Kem Shaw and John Hoffman gave a presentation on techniques for wiring bonsai. It was an excellent opportunity for new members to learn about wiring, and to discuss wiring techniques.

We wire trees to change the direction of branches, which ultimately adds to the illusion of an older tree. Juvenile trees tend to have branches pointing up, while older trees tend to have branches pointing down; so, by wiring branches down, the trees look older. Wiring is also used to secure trees into their pots. Insecure trees have a more difficult time developing roots as new root tips will easily be damaged when the tree is moved, or sways with the wind. Wiring can also use to heal broken branches by supporting the branch while joining the cambium layers (the live portion).

When selecting the correct grade of wire to use, hold one inch of wire and try to bend the branch to be wrapped, if the branch bends, then the wire is strong enough to hold the branch in place. The material of the wire is also important, as copper wire is harder than aluminum wire. Also, copper wire tends to be more expensive as well.

One should plan ahead before wiring a branch. Only branches that need to be bent should have wires wrapped around them. When making the bend, plan ahead to avoid bending the branch back and forth. Bending a branch from one side to the next unnecessarily damages the cambium layer. The direction of the wire coiling around the branch also matters. If you're looking to rotate the branch, the wire should always be wrapped at the direction of the rotation. This is such that rotating the branch will tighten the wire, thus holding the branch in place.

Also, the wires should never cross each other, and the coils should be made at approximately 45 degrees. The wires should always be anchored either to another branch, to the pot, or to the root of the tree.

With branches that are prone to breakage (as is the case with boxwoods for example), raffia should be wrapped on the branch before wiring to provide extra protection. Alternatively, a single piece of wire placed along the outer curve of the bend can also help in avoiding branch breakage. When bending branches downwards, the crotch where the branch meets

the trunk is the most likely place for breakage. A good practice is to wrap one round of wire at the crotch to protect it when wiring. The branch should be bent where the wire is located - surrounding the outer bend of the branch. The wire at the outer bend will protect the expanding outer bend of the branch from cracking.

Thanks again for Kem and John for sharing their knowledge.

## Preparing trees for the spring show with Mike McCallion

During the main meeting, Mike McCallion gave a talk on how to prepare our trees for the show. He started the talk from the bottom up. The bonsai stand should be clean. Use some lemon oil to rub the stand, but not too much, or else it'll get too slippery. If your tree is in a glazed pot, rub it with some CLR (a product to remove calcium, lime, and rust – widely available), to clean off any calcium deposits. When using an unglazed pot, rub it with some mineral oil (baby oil, horticultural oil) to give it a shine. Pick off old existing moss, and replace it with either stone or some new moss. It's good to mix up the color of the moss, and also to leave some soil exposed. It is acceptable to leave some wires on the tree, but try to use the thinnest wire possible. Alternatively, fishing line can be substituted for a guy wire, which will be virtually undetectable. Finally, prune the tree to perfection. These tips will ensure our trees are at their tip-top shape for the show.

## Spring show 2015



*Volunteers set up the tables...*



*The set up...*



*Trees lined up...*



*Wisteria - show stopper...*



*Shohin stand, with boxwood bonsai aboard.*



*Another show stopper...*



## Announcements

### Spring show thank you from Kem

I would like to personally thank all the people who showed up and helped with the set up , tear down, and running of this past spring show. Brainstorming amongst the set up crew helped solve minor glitches, resulting in a great display area. Help in the sales area, manning, and womaning, the door, fielding questions & show tear down was greatly appreciated. Thanks to all that pitched in.

### Dick Morton

While June and Dick were on holiday in Norway, Dick had a massive heart attack and died in the hospital. I saw him a couple of weeks ago as we live very close to each other and I was taking care of his trees while they were away – John Walton. *(Editor's note: it is especially shocking that he is gone, considering that Dick had been to the club most recently, in good humour, watching and advising participants at the recent boxwood workshop.)*

## **TBS election year**

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

## **Workshops**

Register for our club workshops. We hold workshops during Monday night meetings and at backyard Saturdays during summer. Contact any member of our club executive to indicate your interest, or check in at the **members' desk** before the meeting.

## **Bonsai tools?**

You will need bonsai tools - our club sells tools – talk to Gim Retsinas for special items or a set.

## **Forms**

The membership form, the bonsai record form, and the sales sheet form, are located under '**Documents**' at the top right of the screen, on the TBS website: <http://torontobonsai.org/documents/>

## **TBS on Facebook**

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

## **Library**

Please bring all your library returns to Nathalie, our club librarian, before the meeting and during the coffee break. All items should be returned this month, before the summer break.

## **September publishing deadline**

The publishing deadline for the September **Journal** is August 30. 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. Contact Kem Shaw to indicate your willingness to hold one or the other.

## **Beginners to bonsai class at the TBG**

The TBG is offering an 'Introduction to bonsai gardening' class this July, listed on their web site:

<http://torontobotanicalgarden.ca/events/introduction-to-bonsai-gardening/>

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## **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; a tree, wire and an 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 talk to Carlos Bras

### Webmaster

Angelo Dumitru  
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### Membership Secretary

#### Tools & Supplies

Gim Retsinas  
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### New Member Hosts

Kem Shaw  
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Karen Brankley  
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### Recording Secretary

Sylvia Le Roy  
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### Past-President

Keith Oliver  
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### Librarian

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### Members at large

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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)

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