



Founded January 1964

# JOURNAL



February 2016  
[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: 7:00

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. This class was created for beginners to bonsai; experienced members are welcome but asked not to disrupt the proceedings.

**Feb. 8:** no class this month, but it will be back for March 14.

## General meetings: 7:45

**Feb. 8:** Silent auction – please bring in items to help the fund-raising effort for the club. Arrive early to fill out bidding forms, and help set up. Wine and beer will be served...

**Mar. 14:** Presentation: repotting Trident maple, with a follow-up discussion of soil mixes.

**Apr. 11:** Presentation: creating a larch forest.

**May 9:** t.b.a.

**June 13:** Martin Schmalenberg pays us a visit. Demos, workshops...

## Outside our club:

### **April 15-17: Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Spring Festival**

Crown Plaza Cromwell, 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416. Featuring Kunio Kobayashi, Walter Pall, Bjorn Bjorholm, Jim Doyle, and Frank Mihalic. For details visit: <http://www.midatlanticbonsai.org/>

### **May 12: Joshua Roth New Talent competition**

Being held at **The Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan**, during the ***Bonsai in the Garden Learning Seminar***, this competition is an annual event to recognize and promote new bonsai talent in North America. First prize is \$1,000 toward an exclusive course of instruction with an approved bonsai teacher. The first stage of the competition is a judging of photographs of previously designed trees by the entrant. The second stage will be the production of a bonsai from raw material. Visit the ABS website to pre-register: [Joshua Roth New Talent Competition](#)

**On the cover:** bonsai ensemble from the 2015 fall show: John Biel's Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*) bonsai, with accompanying viewing stone. Photo by Mike Pochwat.

# President's message: donate, bid, enjoy

by Carlos Bras

I want to thank all the people who came out to our January meeting, especially John Hoffman, who led January's meeting in my stead, and our tropical tree presenters Lily Tsirulnikov and Greg Quinn. A special thank you to our impromptu tech-team Gim Retsinas and Mike Roussel, who helped Greg get the club projector working. An extra thanks to Lily, and others who brought in their climate sensitive trees in for display. I also heard that the power went out before the grewia workshop was complete – our apologies for that, and we will continue the workshop at the February meeting.

I'm sure most of you gathered from these presentations that one main difference between our temperate and tropical bonsai is that the latter need year-round care, coming inside from September to May. Like our temperate trees, they need light, food, water, disease and pest control, so you must also check them for these things every day. Because of this, tropical trees are in many ways more challenging than temperate trees. The TBS recognizes that we need to focus more on tropical trees, since many of you live in apartments these days, and cannot grow temperate (outdoor) trees.

Next meeting is our annual "Silent Auction". Members donate and bid on bonsai related items to help with our club fund-raising effort. Please come in early to help set up. There will be food and drinks also available – please drink responsibly, and check your blood alcohol level before heading out on the roads afterwards.

Next Monday is also Chinese New Year – the year of the fire monkey! Apparently the lucky flower for this year is from the crepe myrtle – although they are typical bonsai trees, why not try one? Happy Chinese New Year! Have fun bidding, and out-bidding, during the silent auction.

During the March 14 general meeting we will show the ins and outs of repotting. Gim Retsinas will talk to us about bonsai soil components and mixes. We will also be asking you about ordering a big sack of haydite, which is expanded shale, clay, or slate, and ideal for most bonsai soil mixes.

Martin Schmalenberg visits June 11-13, and he is excited to be heading back to Toronto after several years. Two classes are being organized for Saturday and Sunday 12:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. with 10 participants per class but if there is enough interest, we will have a third class on Monday as well. If you are interested in some one-on-one time with a bonsai expert then make sure you enroll. The classes are \$60 per person and we will be taking names and a deposit of \$30 at the March meeting, on a first-come first-served basis at the membership desk during coffee break. Please note we will only reserve your spot with the \$30 deposit.

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## Lily bonsai



Lily Tsirulnikov gave a great presentation on growing tender trees at our January meeting: informative and detailed. Using her own trees as a guide, she talked about all aspects of growing olive bonsai.



# Omachi, gambatte!

On March 11, 2011, a powerful earthquake rocked Japan, and caused a tsunami that washed away people and, in the case of Isao Omachi, bonsai.

Now, however, he is back, with 4 trees in the prestigious Kokofu exhibition. Read all about it:

<http://bonsaibark.com/2015/04/27/back-on-his-feet-isao-omachi-four-years-later/>

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## Announcements

### Arthur

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Arthur Skolnik: bonsai artist, suiseki authority and garden designer. Originally from Montreal, where he had a bonsai store, he moved to Toronto many years ago and began putting his artistic and creative talents to work designing unusual gardens. He died of heart failure while scuba diving in Antigua, Wednesday, January 27, 2016, during a holiday with his wife Barbara. Arthur had an infectious smile and always kept us laughing with his puns at bonsai events. He was an avid bonsai and suiseki collector and was a featured speaker at many bonsai events. He continued to maintain his bonsai and suiseki collection. Together with a few friends Arthur was one of the organizers for the International Viewing Stone Appreciation Conventions held in Pennsylvania. He will be missed, but never forgotten.

A service will be held for Arthur at [Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel](#), at 11:30 a.m., on Sunday, February 07.

### Membership

If you still have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible. For those of you who have already renewed, thank you.

### Workshops

Register for our club workshops. We hold workshops during Monday night meetings and in backyards on Saturdays during the 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 need bonsai tools; we sell tools. Contact **Gim Retsinas** (see back cover) for special items or a full set. He is currently putting together an order with J-bonsai (<http://www.j-bonsai.com/>).

### Dick Morton Bonsai Award of Excellence

The TBS executive has decided to give out medals along with this award – stay tuned.

### TBS website

**Angelo** has been working very hard updating our club website ([www.torontobonsai.org](http://www.torontobonsai.org)) – take a look.

### Forms

The membership form, introduction to bonsai, 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

Did you know that our TBS library has instructional DVDs for club members' use? Borrow them to develop your skill in bonsai. Please return all library materials at the next meeting, before start up, and during the coffee break.

### Bonsai Penjing Canada

At the December meeting, Joan Greenway announced that a new bonsai initiative has been created, to feature and promote all Canadian bonsai clubs. Visit and like [Bonsai Penjing Canada](#) on [Facebook](#).

### March publishing deadline

**The publishing deadline for the March Journal is February 29.** Please forward all photos, articles, notifications and materials to [gquinn@hotmail.com](mailto:gquinn@hotmail.com) before then.

## 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 7:45 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 7:00 p.m. by the the Bonsai 101 beginner sessions.

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 'Tools & Supplies' executive member in advance of the meeting for specific tools and supplies.

## TBS executive

### President

Carlos Bras  
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### Vice-President

- please talk to Carlos

### Treasurer

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### Bonsai 101 coordinator

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### Librarian

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### Member 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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