



Founded January 1964

# JOURNAL



**September 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: 7:00-7:30

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.

**Sept 12:** John Biel will review the basics of pine bonsai care.

## General meeting: 7:45-10:00 Floral hall

**Sept 12:** Opening remarks, announcements

Pine bonsai discussion, with question and answer, hosted by John Biel

Coffee break

**Workshop: \$25.00 fee;** four spots available for participation; a senior member will assist. Please contact **Kem Shaw** (see back page) to register.

**Oct 10:** t.b.a.

## Fall show: Saturday, October 15 – Sunday, October 16

**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 - contact **John Hoffman**.  
Open to public 11 am - 6 pm.

**Social/Critique:** Saturday evening.

**Sales area:** will also be in the floral hall. Trees, bonsai soil, tools, wire, books, and other materials are available for purchase.

## Outside our club:

**On the cover:** Otmar Sauer's Jack pine bonsai (*Pinus banksiana*) from the 2015 fall show.

# Presidents Message

by Carlos Bras

Welcome to another Toronto Bonsai Society season!!!

We had a wonderful summer and had several club social get together. Some of our members opened up their backyards to the club and I would to thanks each one of them for being so gracious with homes.

This season we are planning to have as many workshops as possible and with that in mind we will have a pine workshop on September 12 after the coffee break. For the new members: if you don't have a pine in your collection please consider taking the work shop purchasing one.

Pines are considered by many bonsai artist to be at the top of the bonsai species. It is true that they are slow growers, but once established as bonsai they are easier to maintain in peak condition. Pines require less maintenance during the summer months than many plants, such as juniper species. They are, however, more labour intensive in spring, when candle selection and reduction is executed, and require intricate needle plucking in fall.

Another reason why some people prefer pines is that the needles tend not disfigure or burn during summer like deciduous trees, and thus can be exhibited in good foliage in late summer. Not all pine needle colours are the same, as some species such as Scots have a blue tinge, or yellowish green tones, such as Eastern White Pines, and some Japanese white pines have a dark green hue with a fine silvery green strip through the centre of the needle.

Please bring in your pine bonsai for critique, display, and work during the September meeting.

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## Mike Roussel's summer backyard social

by Kelvin Lo

It was my first time visiting Mike's backyard. His collection of trees ranges widely from a huge honeysuckle, to a massive larch first planting, to pine seedlings that he started from seeds.

The seedling discussions were of particular interest to me, as I've been growing some black and white pines from seeds myself. I also got a few pointers as to where to acquire dependable seeds.

I really enjoyed seeing the huge honeysuckle and the larch forest, which had a moose in the middle.

My kids enjoyed the garden visit very much as well!



# This is Norman Haddrick

by Sylvia Le Roy

Club member since 1968, Norman had transferred from England in 1965 to work as a drafts man in Toronto. As it happened, he worked close to the new JCCC (Japanese Canadian Cultural Center), and was enticed by a large sign advertising the JCCC spring show. Mamoru Nishi, then president of the JCCC, introduced himself and toured Norman through the displays of things Japanese: origami, dolls, calligraphy, ink paintings, flower arrangements, etc.

In the final room he viewed a roomful of miniature, perfectly manicured, artistically styled trees. He was hooked! Over the next few hours, Mr. Nishi described the elements of bonsai and its relevance to Japanese culture. Norman purchased his first TBS (Toronto Bonsai Society) membership fee that day in 1968.

Norman's advice to TBS club members is to get involved!

And get involved is what Norman did, then and now. The 1970's and 80's were a time of dynamic growth for the TBS and Norman served on the TBS executive for many years, as vice president, president (2 terms), and of course, editor of The Journal. He delivered lectures, demos here and with BCI (Bonsai Clubs International) and ABS (American Bonsai Society). He shared his knowledge with the 300+ TBS members who by this time had moved from the Japanese Cultural Center to Edwards Gardens.

In 1980, Norman was given the BCI outstanding writer, photographer, and artist award. Norman had international recognition in 1987, as the first Canadian to give demonstrations at an international bonsai conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He served as director of BCI for 2 terms, and director of ABS. He also demonstrated bonsai creation at BCI and ABS conventions for many years, as well as for many bonsai groups across Canada and the U.S. In 2002, Norman's trees were accepted into the World Bonsai Contest, sponsored by Japan Airlines, along with a group of artists from the TBS ...John Biel, Arthur Skolnik, Paul Chong, Kem Shaw, Bob Fisher, Reiner Goebel, and Bob Wilcox. The TBS has a very deep level of expertise in its members.

Norman pursued a level of expertise in bonsai that was truly outstanding. At one time he had 300+ trees surrounded by a landscaped garden, waterfall, and koi pond. He admits to a fondness for larch (*Larix* sp.) because of the contrast of the rough bark and the soft foliage.

Norman calls bonsai masters such as John Naka, Subaru Kato, and Susumu Nakamura among his friends and colleagues. On Norman's invitation, John Naka came to the TBS for a workshop. Norman wanted mentor ship from the best to further his artistic ability and his knowledge of botanical science. He thanks his innate curiosity for pushing his boundaries of botanical knowledge and his artistic sense.

Norman is an avid sketcher of bonsai trees. The advice to sketch bonsai, and all old trees, came from John Naka. Norman credits these sketches with honing his bonsai design skills. Each sketch comes with a round red ink stamp which was a gift from John. Norman has been very generous by donating his sketches to our club, and designing logos for other clubs.

Today, Norman has downsized. He has one remaining bonsai, a 45 year old *Ficus Retusa*, which goes with him everywhere he goes. Something else goes with him too....great memories, great friends, and a wonderful creative pass time that grew with him and gave him great satisfaction that he can still feel today.

Norman: thinking of your article, you may not know that when I joined the bonsai club, which became TBS, membership was less than 25, Jim Campbell was president, with no club journal, until Gordon Scott did a one page/one sided 'newsletter'. When I took it over, I added educational articles, then illustrated them, increasing its size as membership increased over the years to a more formal Journal, which we also sent to other clubs in Canada & U.S.A.. We had lots of fun in those days, literally teaching new members as we learned.

Seems like nothing changes!



***Norman, holding his precious *Ficus retusa*, the last of his collection.***

# Announcements

## Workshops

We hold workshops during our monthly Monday night meetings, on weekends, and in backyards on Saturdays during the summer. To register, contact **Kem Shaw** (back cover), or check in at the membership desk at 7 p.m.

## Membership

Please submit payment for membership this meeting. Here is a reminder of our fee structure: Individual Membership-\$50.00; Family Membership \$65.00; Senior/Student Membership-\$35.00; Senior Couple Membership-\$45.00

## Library

Unfortunately, the TBS library will be closed this meeting – open again in October.

## Bonsai tools?

You need bonsai tools; we sell bonsai tools, among other paraphernalia. Contact **Gim Retsinas** (see back cover) to order.

## TBS website

Check out our website for photos from shows, articles, and more: [www.torontobonsai.org](http://www.torontobonsai.org)

## 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

The TBS is on [Facebook](#). (Click and like us today.)

## Tree hugging

A new bonsai style: [tree hugging](#) (click on link).

## Bonsai Penjing Canada

[Bonsai Penjing Canada](#) promotes our club, and other Canadian clubs.

## Publishing deadline

The publishing deadline for the October Journal is **September 30**. Please forward all photos, articles, notifications and materials to [gquinn@hotmail.com](mailto:gquinn@hotmail.com) before then.

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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 7:45 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 before the summer break.

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

### Vice-President

- t.b.a.

### Treasurer

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### New Member secretary

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### Bonsai 101 coordinator

Karen Brankley  
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### Librarian

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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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