



Founded January 1964

JOURNAL



November 2016

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.

Oct 17: no class this month, but a film on bonsai will be shown

General meetings: 7:45 - 10:00 Floral hall

Nov 14: group discussion and critique of members' trees

Small groups will discuss the merits and how to improve each tree.

Please bring along a tree and by the end of the evening you will have a clear vision of your next steps for the tree's future.

Dec 12: social (Christmas treats) + slide show

Jan 9: tropical bonsai - design & grow

Feb 13: silent auction & social

Mar 13: bonsai soil mixes, fertilizers; Japanese maple demo.

Apr 10: Angelo Dumitriu - slide show of collected trees

Spring show: Saturday, May 15 – Sunday, May 16

TBG Floral hall 8 am: bring in your bonsai, bonsai stands, shitakusa, suiseki, and scrolls for display. Volunteers are needed for set up, take down. Open to public 11 am - 5 pm.

Social/Critique: Saturday evening.

Sales area: also be in the floral hall. Trees, bonsai soil, tools, wire, books, and other materials are available for purchase. If you are selling items, you must volunteer to help, and fill out some [forms](#) (click on link).

Outside our club:

On the cover: a Japanese maple bonsai from the fall show. Photo by Mike Pochwat.

Presidents message: the advantages of lava & pumice in bonsai soil

by Carlos Bras

Last meeting we had a very interesting conversation about lava rock and pumice and how they are used as a component of bonsai soil. Both lava rock and pumice are formed during a volcanic eruption. For those who don't remember their lessons from science class here is a reminder. Volcanic eruptions occur when molten rock breaks through where ever there is a weak spot in the earth's crust. Gas bubbles out of the erupting molten rock leaving a spongy mass and that spongy mass is of course, lava. Pumice is formed somewhat differently than molten rock and differs a bit from place to place and in some cases is less spongy or more solid. Here the ejected material partially solidifies before the dissolved gas can bubble out. The net result of these two processes is that lava is relatively hard and looks a lot like a sponge with relatively large pores. Pumice is somewhat softer, and when looked at with a hand lens has relatively small pores.

Okay, class is over, but what does all this have to do with bonsai soil? Adding these two materials to our bonsai soil mix has two obvious advantages, because both these materials are much cheaper than akadama. Secondly, both of these products are relatively light in weight and if you own large bonsai trees it should lighten the weight significantly. The horticultural advantages of lava and pumice is that the relatively hard and rough surface of the lava helps prevent the soil from becoming compacted due to erosion of the akadama and, to a lesser extent, the pumice. The pumice should absorb a little water which should help to keep the soil moist.

Japanese garden club show and sale

It was my honour to represent our club at the 64th annual show and sale last October 30th. Our club has always always been invited to display our bonsai at this show and this year was no different. I would like to thank David Johnson and Jeff Short for helping organize the volunteers, assisting in the set up, and displaying their bonsai and suiseki (viewing stones). As many of know our club and Toronto Japanese Garden Club have close ties and 52 years ago some members of the Japanese Canadian Garden Club who wanted to focus more on bonsai formed the Toronto Bonsai Society.

Our next meeting is on Nov.14th. There will be no bonsai 101 class, but if I can get the projector working properly, we will have a short movie on bonsai.

Please bring along a tree or two as we will be having our now annual break away session where we discuss members trees. This is opportunity for you to receive some feedback on improving your trees.

The TBS fall show, social, & critique

by Greg Quinn

photos by Mike Pochwat, Carla Quinn

Once again, the TBS brought off an excellent display of bonsai at the Toronto botanical gardens last October 15 and 16.



The highlight of the show was the social & critique on Saturday night. Snacks were eaten, beer & wine were served, and a great deal of detailed advice was given and received. I personally witnessed a senior member taking a novice aside for individual advice (on his tree).



Thanks to all who helped and otherwise participated, and special thanks to John Biel, who acted as show chair, Kevin Yates for leading the critique, and Mike Pochwat for taking such excellent photos!



More of the fall show photos can be seen under 'Galleries' on the TBS website: <http://torontobonsai.org/galleries/tbs-shows/2016-fall/>.

Japanese garden club show

photos by Kem Shaw

Once again, the TBS was well-represented at the Japanese garden club show, displaying their bonsai and suiseki alongside ikebana and other Japanese gardening culture practices.





David Johnson, TBS past-president and long-time JCGC member, demonstrated bonsai techniques during the show, and a raffle was held in which a lucky recipient received a tree that was well on its way to becoming a bonsai.

October meeting

photos by Otmar Sauer

Senior members teamed up with beginners to help them get started with bonsai creation at the October meeting, working on Shimpaku junipers.



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** (see back cover), or check in at the membership desk at 7p.m.

Membership

Please submit payment for membership at the November meeting, which is the cut off date. 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

The TBS library will be open this meeting – books, instructional DVDs available for loan.

Announcements (cont.)

Bonsai tools?

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

How to grow a bonsai

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P52yiXliWvQ>

Levitating bonsai

<http://www.techly.com.au/2016/01/29/can-now-levitating-bonsai/>

TBS website

Angelo has loaded the pictures from our recent fall show: <http://torontobonsai.org/galleries/tbs-shows/2016-fall/>

Wanted: vice-president

We are actively looking for a vice-president, to help Carlos, learn the ropes, and take over from him in 2 years. Please contact Carlos (on back cover).

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 on link and like us today.)

Bonsai Penjing Canada

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

Publishing deadline

The publishing deadline for the December Journal is November 30. Please forward all photos, articles, notifications and materials to gquinn@hotmail.com before then.

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

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- vacant

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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

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