

Journal of The Ottawa Bonsai Society

Journal de la Société de bonsaï d'Ottawa



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Notes from your Steering Group Le mot de votre conseil directeur

At the January Meeting, Myron Mech reminded Members of the Ottawa Bonsai Society that the OBS was founded in mid-January 1984, 25 years ago. Myron recalled that there were about 55 persons at that first meeting.

Before beginning his presentation for the evening program, Vianney Leduc announced that dates for the beginners' workshop and intermediate course would be posted in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Vianney's keen interest in our native Eastern White Cedar provided OBS Members with an in-depth insight into the potential of this species as exceptional bonsai. Fortunately for us, White Cedar is readily available in Eastern Canada and USA, is easily collected, and sometimes has spectacular natural deadwood that could make Master Kimura envious.

White Cedar has many desirable and few undesirable attributes for bonsai enthusiast. The species is winter hardy, generally disease and pest resistant, long lived, fast growing, easily workable, with attractive bark. Compared with other species White Cedar is more challenging to create precise foliage pads, and the bark will not heal over pruning scars, so unwanted branches in the front should be jinned rather than cut at the trunk.

All species have their idiosyncrasies. For example, unlike pine, roots of the White Cedar must be kept a bit moist and never dry out; white cedar needs full sun.

Using his own White Cedar compositions that he brought to the Meeting and images of others, Vianney illustrated the dramatic results possible. One composition, a White Cedar that Vianney is restyling (to focus on its most attractive feature) provided a smooth transition to the second part of the evening program.

Duart Crabtree brought a Mugo Pine bonsai owned by the Rahim family and Vianney brought a Shimpaku Juniper owned by Robert Smith to the Meeting and Myron led a discussion on the best features of each tree and whether risks of restyling someone else's tree would be justified. Well, you can imagine that opinions varied widely and discussions were lively. Myron did a nice job of narrowing the options for each tree and it looks like Duart and Vianney are closer to final decisions. Stay tuned!

Next meeting

Monday, February 16 at 7:00pm

We will divide the evening in two activities. In the first part, Duart Crabtree will present a slide show of the Montreal 30th anniversary exposition. You will see the winning trees and a transformation done by Davis Easterbrook on a collected cedar. In the second part, Vianney Leduc will present the Ficus as a bonsai and show the design consideration as well as the technical steps done so far on a ficus.

Schedule of upcoming meetings in 2009

March 16

April 20

May 25

June 15

No meeting in July

No meeting in August

Courses / Workshops

Bonsai Development Workshop, Saturday, May 9, 2009 in Building #72, Central Experimental Farm, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This is a workshop aimed specifically at those who have taken the Beginners' Bonsai Courses given last November 8 or who have taken a beginners' course in the past. Participants will receive assistance from experienced OBS members to begin developing their own bonsai using nursery grown garden junipers. The plant material, a suitable pot and the necessary supplies will be provided. The team of instructors will make their own bonsai tools available for sharing among those participants who may not have their own. Participants and instructors should bring their lunch; the room is equipped with a fridge and microwave oven. The cost of this workshop is \$80 per person.

Fourteen places are available for this workshop. To register you need to provide a non-refundable deposit of \$25. For additional information, please contact Yvon Bernier: 819-684-0586 ycbernier@videotron.ca

Atelier sur la formation d'un bonsaï, le samedi 9 mai 2009, édifice #72, Ferme expérimentale centrale, de 9h30 à 15h00.

Cet atelier s'adresse principalement à ceux et celles qui ont suivi le cours pour débutants du 8 novembre dernier ou un autre cours pour débutants dans le passé. Durant cette session, les participants, avec l'aide de membres chevronnés de la SBO, procéderont à la formation de leur propre bonsaï à partir d'un plant de genévrier. Ce plant, un pot approprié de même que le terreau et le fil pour ligaturage seront fournis. Les instructeurs mettront leurs propres outils de bonsaï à la disposition des participants qui n'auraient pas les leurs. Autant les participants que les instructeurs devraient apporter leur lunch – l'endroit dispose d'un frigo et d'un four à micro-ondes. Le coût de cet atelier est de 80 \$ par personne.

Quatorze places sont disponibles pour cet atelier. Pour vous inscrire, vous devez fournir un dépôt non remboursable de \$25. Pour tout complément d'information, veuillez contacter Yvon Bernier : 819-684-0586 ycbernier@videotron.ca

**Bonsai Design Level 2, Saturday, April 18, 2009 in Building #72,
Central Experimental Farm, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

This new intermediate design course is intended for members with at least a few years of experience who want to explore more principles of esthetic, advanced wiring technique and another way to design trees. The course is optimized for coniferous trees. There will be a theoretical portion with exercise in the morning and a design workshop in the afternoon. Multiple trees will be provided for the design discussion but participants can bring their own tree for design analysis. The cost of this workshop is \$25 per person.

Twelve places are available for this workshop. To register you need to provide a non-refundable deposit of \$10. For additional information, please contact Yvon Bernier: 819-684-0586 ycbernier@videotron.ca

**Atelier pour intermédiaire sur la conception d'un bonsaï, le samedi 18 avril 2009,
édifice #72, Ferme expérimentale centrale, de 9h30 à 16h00.**

Ce nouveau cours intermédiaire sur la formation de bonsaï s'adresse aux membres qui ont au moins quelques années d'expérience et qui désirent explorer plus à fond des principes d'esthétiques, une technique de ligaturage plus avancée et une autre alternative pour la conception d'un arbre. Le cours est optimisé pour les conifères. Il y aura une partie théorique avec des exercices et un atelier de conception dans l'après midi. Des arbres seront fournis pour l'atelier de conception mais les participants peuvent apporter leurs arbres pour une analyse. Le coût sera de \$25 par personne.

Douze places sont disponibles pour cet atelier. Pour vous inscrire, vous devez fournir un dépôt non remboursable de \$10. Pour tout complément d'information, veuillez contacter Yvon Bernier : 819-684-0586 ycbernier@videotron.ca

***Vision of my Soul* by Robert Steven**

I have been keen to read Robert Steven's book *Vision of my Soul* since I visited China in 2007. Robert Steven's artistry in bonsai and penjing is praised widely in the western world and also in China where such praise is rare for non-Chinese artists.

A copy of the recently published second edition of *Vision of my Soul* has been acquired for the OBS library and I was the fortunate person that got to sign it out first.

In my opinion, this book is a 'must read' for bonsai and penjing enthusiasts. In 2007, Robert Steven was quoted..."I never care if my creation is more Chinese or (more) Japanese, I just try to do my best to optimize the presentation of material available." It really shows! The emphasis in this book is on the aesthetic elements of many challenging compositions.

Enthusiasts at all levels will delight in Steven's artistry accompanied by excellent illustrations and clear explanations. Beginner and intermediate levels will find it educational, even inspirational, advanced and Master levels will find it a 'how to' and reference book in the sense of 'How to Break the Rules and Create a Masterpiece'.

I found it a pleasure to read, cover to cover.

by Duart Crabtree

Pictures of cedar presented at the January meeting

Previous design



Revised design



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In the beautiful Lanaudière region, north of Montreal, we invite you to visit our greenhouses and our collection of bonsai and penjing from China, Korea, Japan and Canada.

A 10% discount will be given to members of the Ottawa Bonsai Society on pots, tools, wires and soil. We are open Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Please call for an appointment to visit us. We regret that we are unable to accept payment by credit or debit cards. Guided visits are available at \$5 per person.

We look forward to share our passion with you all!

Suzanne Piché and Robert Smith

Ottawa Bonsai Society
2008 / 2009 Executive
Société de bonsaï d'Ottawa
Exécutif 2008 / 2009

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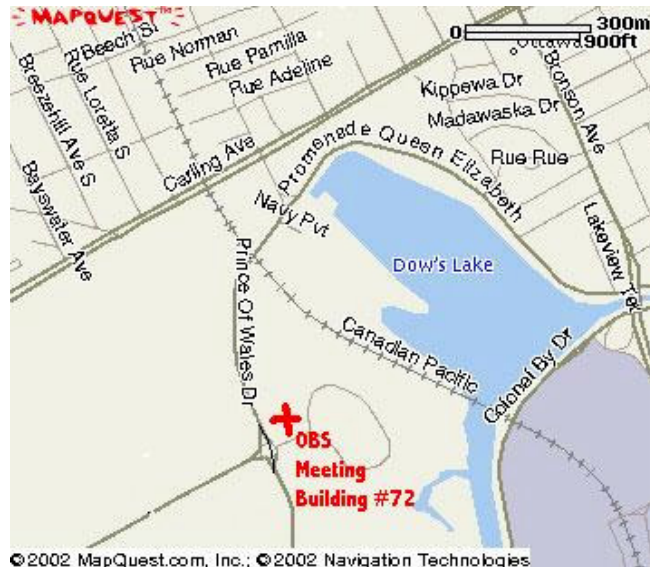
Duart Crabtree

Steering Group Conseil directeur

Yvon Bernier
 Duart Crabtree
 Vianney Leduc
 Barney Shum
 Gordon Williams
 Matt Yakabuski
 Mike O'Connor
 Eric Langlois
 Paul Lauzon

Meeting Location / Lieu des rencontres

Nos rencontres se tiennent à l'édifice #72 de la Ferme expérimentale centrale. Pour vous y rendre, prenez la direction sud sur la promenade Prince of Wales jusqu'au rond-point à l'intersection National Capital Driveway et Prince of Wales (qui est aussi l'entrée principale de la Ferme expérimentale et de l'Arboretum), où vous prendrez la direction Est menant à l'Arboretum. Une courte distance plus loin, à la première fourche, Prenez la route de gauche qui mène directement à l'édifice #72 (vous verrez une affiche juste en face de l'édifice, de l'autre côté du chemin, qui dit «les amis de la ferme» . Le stationnement est situé de part et d'autre de l'édifice.



Our meetings are held at Building #72 at the Central Experimental Farm. Heading south on Prince of Wales, at the traffic circle at the intersection of the N.C.C. Scenic Drive and Prince of Wales, the major entrance to the Experimental Farm and the Arboretum, exit east into the Arboretum. After a very short distance, where the road divides, turn left to Building #72 which will be down a short distance on your left. There is parking just before or just after the building. The entrance is on the street side (east side) and there is a sign reading "Friends of the Farm".