

Journal of The Ottawa Bonsai Society

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Notes from your Steering Group Le mot de votre conseil directeur

Bonne et Heureuse Année à tous!

Before the November meeting started Yvon Bernier reminded Members of the Bonsai Fundamentals Course scheduled for November 24th. It was also announced that Ikebana National would auction 10 to 15 mame and shohin bonsai donated by Mitsugi Kikuchi, on November 30th at the Sandy Hill C.C.

Mitsugi Kikuchi also contributed to OBS eight healthy Ficus trees (3 varieties) that will be good starting material for bonsai plus some plant material suitable for accent plants or as foliage in a larger forest. There were too many volunteers to take too few Ficus trees home that evening so the trees will be used in future activities so that OBS Members will benefit equitably from Mr. Kikuchi's generosity.

To open the evening's program, Duart Crabtree gave a brief slideshow of images taken in August at the National Museum of Bonsai and Penjing located in the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington DC. Americans are indeed fortunate to have this museum that houses and provides professional care for hundreds of exquisite compositions, including the late John Naka's masterpiece, *Goshen*. The works are displayed outdoors during the growing season which is great for plants but summer heat and humidity in Washington can be very uncomfortable for the public. Duart visited the world famous Bonsai and Penjing garden in the Shanghai's Botanical Gardens under more favourable conditions in October and offered to give Members a more educational presentation on penjing in 2008.

Ian McRea gave a very comprehensive and practical presentation on developing azaleas amenable to our climate, for bonsai. It turned out that many OBS Members have been trying to develop azaleas and they quickly related to Ian's observations, advice, and helpful tips. Perhaps OBS Members should get together in late summer to prune their azaleas and discuss their experiences?

Apart from his own considerable experience, Ian drew from back issues of *Bonsai Today*, the *OBS Journal*, and a recent publication entitled *Niwaki – Pruning Training and Shaping Trees the Japanese Way* for his presentation. Ian recommended this latter book highly and some of us found the subject of shaping "garden trees" generally interesting as well as relevant to Ian's topic. Duart was pleased to find a copy of *Niwaki* in his Christmas stocking.

The Bonsai Fundamentals course given by Vianney Leduc on Saturday November 24th had more than 20 attendees. The 5-hour course followed the Barney Shum/Lyne Edmonds outline in a lively format and delivered all the information one needs to know to get started successfully with bonsai. Such interest bodes well for the OBS.

Next meeting

Monday January 21 at 7:00pm

We will explore the Phoenix graft in the first part of the evening. We will see the techniques and challenges associated with that type of bonsai and analyze the progress on a live example. We will get introduced to the Zokei bonsai in the second part of the meeting. We have all lost trees that were dear to us in the past. Zokei bonsai is the art form of making artificial bonsai using either a dead tree or making a complete tree from artificial material. There will be an example of such a bonsai on display and you will be surprised how natural it looks.

Example of Zokei bonsai



NOUVEAUX MEMBRES / NEW MEMBERS

Nous souhaitons la bienvenue à :
A warm welcome is extended to :

**Celia Brown
Wendy Bryant
Marie Cody
Celio & Edgar Hernandez
Larry MacDonald
Sandra Marshall
Sasha Saint-Aubin
Georges Thériault
Brian Ure**

BONSAÏ GROS-BEC**40 Imbeault****St-Alphonse-Rodriguez PQ****J0K 1W0****(450) 883-1196 info@bonsaigrosbec.com / www.bonsaigrosbec.com**

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.

We have a large choice of pre-bonsai as well as bonsai, pots, tools, wires and soil. We have available magnificent *Juniperus chinensis* 'sargentii' (Shimpaku), *Ulmus parvifolia*, *Serissa foetida* and *Ficus microcarpa* (of all sizes).

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
2007 / 2008 Executive
Société de bonsaï d'Ottawa
Exécutif 2007 / 2008

Meeting Location / Lieu des rencontres

Treasurer / Trésorier

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Duart Crabtree

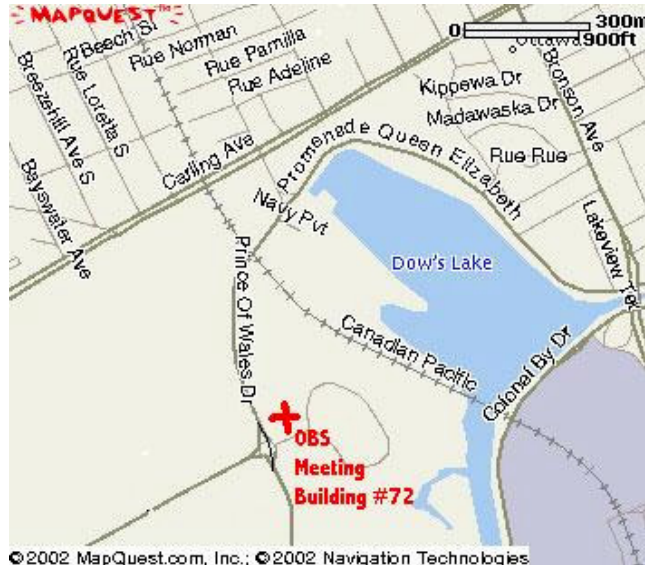
Editor / Éditeur

Vianney Leduc

**Steering Group
 Conseil directeur**

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

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".