

Journal of The Ottawa Bonsai Society

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Ottawa, Ontario
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Notes from your Steering Group

Le mot de votre conseil directeur

After opening announcements (a possible trip to Gros Bec; stay tuned!), Barney Shum opened the evening program of the February Meeting with a BCI slide presentation "Bonsai by American Teachers". So many gorgeous trees by great artists, including the big names and, of course, Barney kept the discussion very interactive.

There were a few surprises where Masters broke rules (and got away with it!). And on a couple slides, even Barney who usually finds merit when it is not apparent to the rest of us, was left scratching his head. So we just blamed the photographer. It was a lively and informative start to the evening.

Vianney Leduc followed with quite a cerebral presentation on a computer assisted redesign of one of his own trees that illustrated how Paint Shop Pro software may be used to complement conventional styling approaches.

Vianney's tree is an eastern white cedar collected at Kamouraska, originally styled "by the book" as an informal upright. Vianney now feels the trunk was a bit thin for the original design and his objective is to restyle the tree to adjust proportions and to give an older look.

Most of us do not have the skill of a David Easterbrook, to dash off a sketch of a tree with key bonsai design features all in proper proportion, but more of us are now using digital cameras. Vianney took a digital photo of his cedar, made an 8½" x 11", black and white print, and then traced the trunk and branches to give a very accurate, large-scale picture. That tip alone was worth the price of admission, but there was more.

Using Paint Shop Pro, Vianney compared a number of design alternatives with branches removed, branch angles changed, foliage pads developed or lightened, etc. With a few clicks of the mouse he was able to demonstrate to us the changes that he was looking for. Paint Shop Pro is a powerful tool for the dedicated enthusiast

The preferred design was transferred by hand to the larger scale tracing. The original first two branches are to be jinned, leaving the first branch of the new design higher than one third of the final height (bending this rule works because the trunk line is so feminine). Lighter foliage pads will be distributed for dynamic balance and branch angles will be increased for a sense of age. We all look forward to seeing the restyled cedar.

NEXT MEETING

7:00 p.m., Monday, March 20th, 2006

Soon the trees will start waking up and we get into the busiest time of the year for bonsai. It may be too soon for most of us to start working on our trees but we can visualize and think about what we could do about selecting the appropriate design. In the first part of this month's meeting Barney will lead a discussion on alternative designs for a tree and discuss the approach to get to that design.

In the second part of the meeting, Vianney will look at design alternatives for one of his junipers. He has taken this juniper out of his cold storage early so that he could use it to demonstrate and do actual design work on it. In particular he will do work on creating deadwood and provide instruction on how to do it yourself. Don't miss out on this great opportunity and watch the wood chips fly!

Upcoming Related Events

OHARA IKEBANA EXHIBITION "TRANSITIONS"

March 25-26, 2006

Embassy of Japan, 255 Sussex Drive, auditorium - Admission FREE

Quick Notes on Jin and Shari

Jin is defined as deadwood at the apex or tips of branches. If the entire branch is deadwood it is considered Jin. Shari is defined as deadwood on the branches or trunk.

Jin and Shari should look as natural as possible. Jin at the apex should be clearly dominant or secondary. Look in detail at many examples of Jin and Shari before attempting your own.

All Jin and Shari should conform to the branch and trunk design principles e.g. thicker jin lower in the tree, consistent line and angle, not pointing in towards the trunk, etc.

All Jin and Shari should reflect the design in the overall composition e.g. if the tree has a gnarled twisted feel, the Jin and Shari should have the same feel.

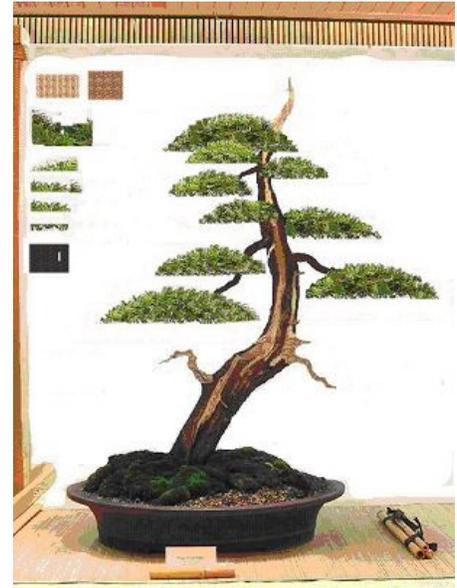
Jin and Shari is a repeated design element. It would be unusual to have just one instance in a design.

Typically, Jin or Shari that are in close proximity and aligned approximately along natural sap lines should be connected.

Photos



Vianney's Eastern White Cedar



After editing with Photo Shop Pro



Vianney's hand tracing and drawn adjustments

Ottawa Bonsai Society
2005 / 2006 Executive
Société de bonsaï d'Ottawa
Exécutif 2005 / 2006

Meeting Location / Lieu des rencontres

Treasurer / Trésorier

Yvon Bernier
 208, avenue des
 Explorateurs
 Gatineau, QC J9J 1M9
 (819) 684-0586

Librarian / Bibliothécaire

Mike O'Connor

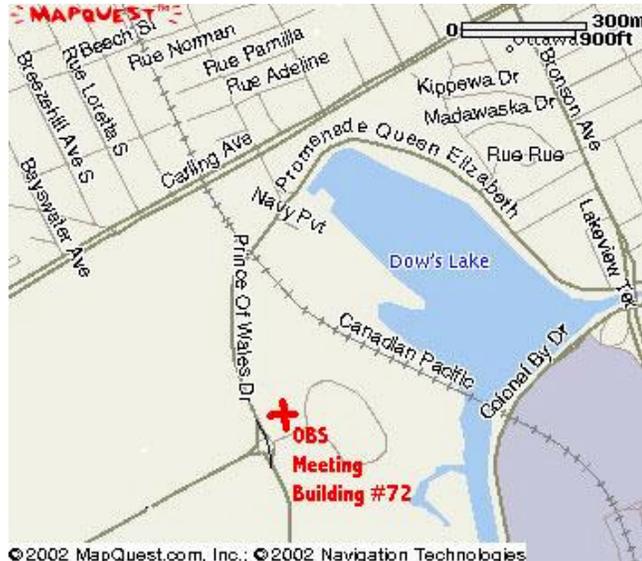
Secretary and Director of Public Relations/ Secrétaire et directeur des relations publiques

Duart Crabtree

Steering Group/ Conseil directeur

Yvon Bernier
 Duart Crabtree
 Vianney Leduc
 Barney Shum
 Gordon Williams
 Matt Yakabuski

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 «Friends of the Farm» . 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".