

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

On February 16, Vianney Leduc reminded Members of the Level 2 Design Workshop on April 18th and the Development Workshop on May 9th. A shopping excursion to Gros-Bec may be possible on May 24th.

Duart Crabtree opened the evening program with a slideshow using images he took at the Société de Bonsai et Penjing de Montréal (SBPM) 30th Anniversary Show last September. Duart focused on three areas of interest; the first being the prize-winning compositions of SBPM Members at four levels (from beginner to advanced) in various categories (bonsai, landscapes, root-over-rock plantings, and forests or group plantings). As we have come to expect from SBPM, the quality of the compositions was superb and attention to all aspects of presentation was impressive.

An evening demonstration by David Easterbrook was the second area of interest. In 2 ½ hours, David restyled a cascade-style Eastern White Cedar into a slanting-style composition. Properties of the White Cedar allowed David to repot and conceal a major defect (reverse taper at the base of the trunk) below the soil level and feature the Cedar's natural dead wood and dramatic trunk movement. There was no question that David transformed a good bonsai with potential into an extraordinary bonsai.

On the following day David gave visitors a guided tour of the Montreal Botanical Garden's bonsai collection where Duart took his third group of images that included bonsai masterpieces created by artists such as John Naka, Susumu Nakamura, Nick Lenz, and David Easterbrook. Placed amongst the masterpieces were bonsai of delightful simplicity from ordinary Canadian plants; alder, weeping willow, white birch, Virginia creeper, and even buckthorn, illustrating that almost any plant can become a bonsai.

The hospitality of SBPM Members to out-of-town visitors is well known to OBS Members. For a bonsai enthusiast SBPM's Show was a feast and their warm hospitality was icing on the cake; for ideas to improve OBS's 2009 Show, it was a gold mine.

In the second portion of the evening program, Vianney gave a timely presentation on Ficus, based partly on Jerry Meislik's acclaimed book, *FICUS, The Exotic Bonsai*. From the Forward we see that the emphasis is solely on fig species that thrive indoors in bonsai culture and the book is specifically directed to the indoor grower. The book is a basic primer on how to grow and train figs with material included for more advanced

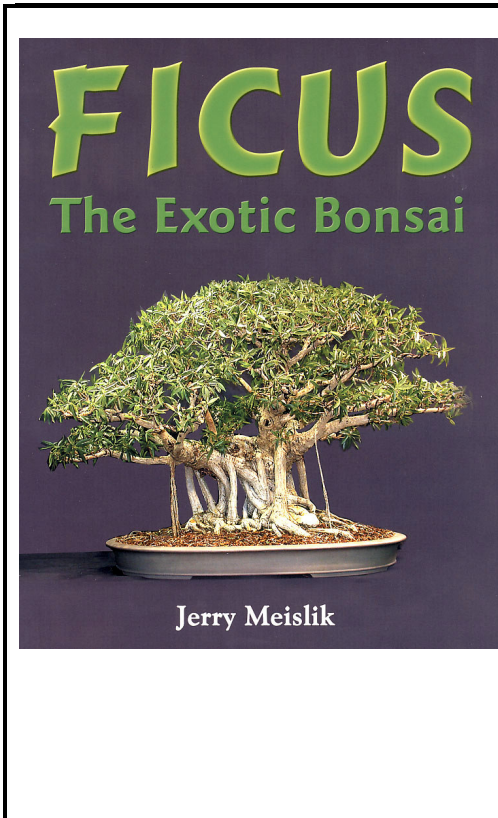


fig growers. Does that not sound like a book for Ottawa's climate and OBS's Membership?

Ficus is an excellent tree for beginners as most species are fast growing, tolerate a range of soil conditions, and are remarkably forgiving if improperly watered. Vianney mentioned the species (mostly those with small leaves) that are preferred for bonsai and pointed out that vigorous growth indoors at our latitude requires additional lighting (metal halide was recommended) and large training pots. In these optimal conditions Vianney found that the trunk of a rooted cutting can grow from 1/4" to 1" diameter in one year.

A well drained soil is essential to avoid root rot (Vianney recommends 50% organic content) and a watering frequency that avoids dry roots. Ficus owners must be prepared to deal with infestations of scale, spider mites and other insects. Vianney recommended introducing beetles, a natural predator of these pests or washing the leaves with a mild soap solution similar to Carl's Soap Solution.

Ficus in nature are known for their aerial roots. Vianney mentioned techniques to stimulate aerial roots in indoor bonsai that are growing in conditions of low relative humidity; trunk reduction, grafting, shaping large branches and defoliation; subjects that more advanced OBS Members will want to explore.

NOTE: Duart obtained a copy and will donate it to the OBS library.

Next meeting
Monday, March 16 at 7:00pm

Barney Shum will present the cascade style to members! He will show pictures of cascading bonsai while providing a critique and then explain the guidelines to styling a cascade tree. He will also bring a nursery tree that he will style into a cascade. This is a great opportunity to learn about this unique style!

Courses / Workshops

**Bonsai Development Workshop, Saturday, May 9, 2007 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 26 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 Japanese 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 pour débutants sur la formation d'un bonsaï, le samedi 9 mai 2007, 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 26 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 pant de genévrier nain du Japon. 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 esthetics, advanced wiring techniques 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. 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 15h00.

Ce nouveau cour 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

NOUVEAU MEMBRE / NEW MEMBER

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

Vincent Stoop

Access to tools and soil in Ottawa! / Accès aux outils et substrat à Ottawa!

Vianney has an arrangement with Bonsai Gros-Bec to keep an inventory of bonsai tools and soil at his place. This will make it easier for members to get access to the basic material. The inventory includes concave cutters, knob cutters, various scissor, wire pliers, wire cutters, wires of all size and soil. In order to get pricing information or place an order, please contact Vianney via email at vianney.leduc@xittel.ca or at the OBS meetings.

Vianney a obtenu un arrangement avec Bonsai Gros-Bec pour garder un inventaire d'outils et de substrat chez lui. Ceci devrait faciliter l'obtention de matériel de base pour les membres. L'inventaire inclus des pinces concaves, des coupes bosses, des ciseaux de différents types, des pinces à fils, pince à couper le fils, du fils de toutes les grosseurs et du substrat. Pour obtenir des prix ou faire des achats, veuillez contacter Vianney par courriel à l'adresse vianney.leduc@xittel.ca ou aux réunions mensuel.

Ficus Retusa



BONSAÏ GROS-BEC

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(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.

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

Treasurer / Trésorier

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Librarian / Bibliothécaire

Mike O'Connor

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

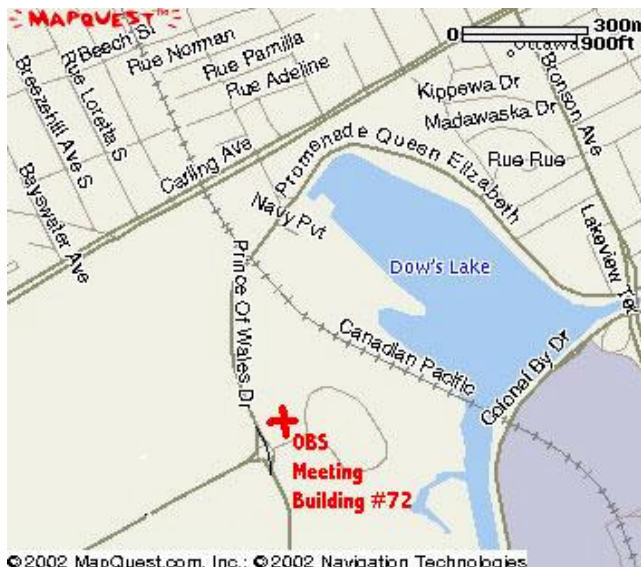
Duart Crabtree

Steering Group Conseil directeur

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