

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

The April meeting of the OBS began with brief announcements of the two upcoming beginner and intermediate workshops (April 21st and May 5th) and a shopping excursion to Gros-Bec nursery (May 19th).

Gord Williams led the first half of the evening program with an MS Powerpoint presentation entitled *Repotting Bonsai – a brief introduction*.

Gord quickly covered the basics of why we repot, when is best time to repot, optimal conditions for repotting operations, frequency of repotting, and advance preparation before getting into the repotting procedures. As much of the preparation such as soil and pot selection could easily be topics for a full presentation.

For the repotting procedures, Gord borrowed from the report of a Seminar on Repotting Junipers given by David Easterbrook in May 2005 that was summarized at the June 2005 OBS Meeting. Members were advised to consult www.bonsai-bci.com and other sources for specific information on repotting other species. Members appreciated this timely refresher as their bonsai are emerging from dormancy and newer members were better prepared to repot their trees at the beginner workshop.

Your Steering Group agreed to make the comprehensive presentation available from the OBS website as an MS Word file along with the earlier Report on Repotting Junipers so that it can be readily downloaded for reference in future years. Since Gord manages the OBS website, we hope this added chore will be seen as the compliment on Gord's presentation intended.

During the 'break', furniture was rearranged tarps were spread for the second half of the evening program. Members had brought soil and trees that needed to be repotted and all those who wanted to get their hands dirty were able to do so. The OBS 2007 growing season has liftoff!

Next meeting

Monday, May 14 at 7:00pm

The next meeting will be divided in three different activities running in parallel. We will have our annual swap sale where everybody can bring Bonsai items that they want to sell. These items could be trees, books, tools, pots, etc.

Members who would like to perform wiring on their trees can bring them in and they will get help from the senior members.

The participants of the intermediate workshop will be able to report their trees if they wish to do so.

It should be a fun meeting for everybody!

NOTE: a wire cutter was left behind at the last meeting. Please contact Vianney at the next meeting to get it back.

Shopping trip!!

Arrangements have been made to visit Bonsai Grosbec, a large scale specialized bonsai nursery, on Saturday May 19! The plan is to leave Ottawa at 8:30 a.m. and stopping for lunch along the way, arrive there around 1:00 p.m. We would stay until 3:30 p.m. and then return to Ottawa. You can visit their website at www.bonsaigrosbec.com. Please call or email **Vianney Leduc (819-827-3384 or vianney.leduc@lac-bac.gc.ca)** for additional details, to register for the trip and to make arrangements for car-pooling

Beginners workshop

The beginner workshop produced delightful results from excellent Procumbens Nana starting material. Perhaps even more noteworthy, there were five keen females participating - a most welcome addition to the OBS indeed! Pictures will be shown in the next newsletter.

Tree repotted by participants at the April meeting!



OBS Intermediate Workshop with David Easterbrook

The Intermediate Workshop under the direction of David Easterbrook was held in building 72 of the Experimental Farm on May 5th. Vianney Leduc and Yvon Bernier were on hand to assist David. All 10 places in the workshop were taken and several members attended to monitor this activity. David brought a selection of junipers with 1½" trunks from a Montreal area nursery that he had personally selected as having interesting bonsai potential.

As we were waiting for the workshop to begin, David treated us to a demonstration of branch pruning on an Austrian black pine that had been styled in the OBS 2002 workshop.

In his opening remarks David indicated that the workshop would focus on styling the trees and he quickly reviewed the timing and approach he recommended that participants take to repot the trees after the workshop. Then, one on one, David reviewed each participant's ideas on styling his/her tree, sometimes suggesting alternatives that had not been considered.

Branches redundant to the preferred composition were quickly removed and David personally supervised wiring of the primary branches leaving the rigorous wiring of secondary branches to participants. This part of the workshop demonstrated a general need for improved wiring techniques in the OBS membership. This workshop ran two hours over the time we allotted, mostly because David refused to leave until all our trees were wired properly.

The images that follow are typical of the outstanding results of our dedicated efforts under David's guidance. Clearly we have 10 new compositions that have "show" potential in 3 to 5 years.

We appreciate very much the wealth of information imparted and David's generous input of time for the benefit of OBS Members. It was a most pleasant, informative, and productive workshop!

Workshop pictures!



Workshop pictures!



BONSAI 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 just received magnificent juniperus chinensis 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
2006 / 2007 Executive
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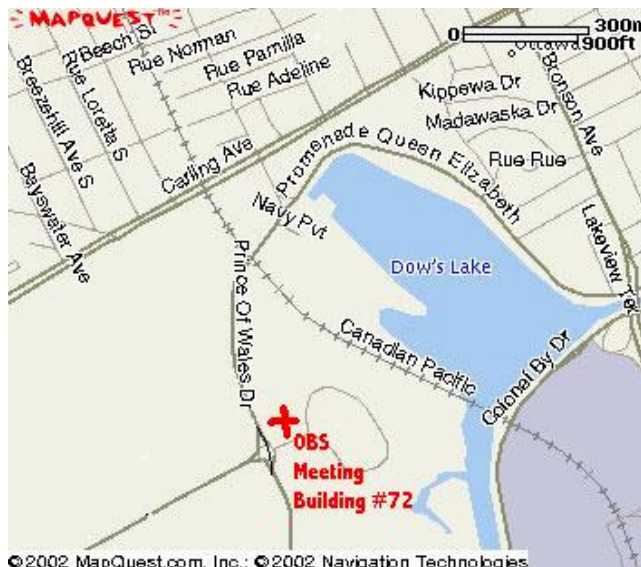
Duart Crabtree

Steering Group Conseil directeur

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 Mike O'Connor
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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 «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".