



Journal of The Ottawa Bonsai Society

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2002

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Notes from Your Steering Group

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It seems there was a slight “hiccup” in the usually smooth operations of the society which caused a delay in the production of the October newsletter to the point where it was no longer practical to send it out. Instead, we will try to catch up by summarizing what has been going on in the last two months.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the September demonstration by Ken McDougall was postponed to November with **Vianney Leduc** and **Barney Shum** filling the void with an animated discussion on design alternatives for several trees which they brought in. This was an excellent way to start the new programme year by honing our visualization skills and design skills; an excellent session for the intermediate to advanced bonsai enthusiast. Unfortunately, attendance was low.

The October meeting started with a brief administrative session on the running of the society. We’ll get to that a little later. What followed was an excellent, detailed presentation by **Vianney Leduc** with ample visual aids and trees to demonstrate the benefits of planning your design i.e. starting with younger stock and preparing a longer term design process. Topics included trunk and branch development, horticultural techniques for development, design considerations when training younger stock material, etc. This was an excellent session for intermediate to advanced members. Unfortunately, attendance was low.

Now back to those pesky administrative details. Firstly, Art Phelan has completed his term as president of the society and given that he has moved out of town it was impractical to force him to continue in that capacity. We certainly wish Art all the best and we have every indication he will continue to be an active, contributing member.

Secondly, at the October meeting, no one came forward to claim the positions of president and vice-president. This left the society in something of a dilemma but in this “moment of darkness” the

true spirit of the society shone through. Everyone at the meeting agreed to be part of a “Steering Group” with each member shouldering part of the responsibility for running the society. It was truly a great moment in the history of the society. We have come full circle... back to the grassroots movement, back-to-the-basics, “from the bottom up”. This was reminiscent of how the society was originally formed.

The Steering Group will deal with the essential services of the society first i.e. the newsletter, the programme, the library and the annual show. These are the services that the bulk of your membership dollars are put towards. As time and energy permits, the Group will look at other issues such as collecting trips, workshops, the website, guest speakers, etc. If you have any suggestions, comments or ideas which you would like to participate in pursuing, please let someone on the Steering Group know.

And now the brave and courageous members of the OBS Steering Group:
Yvon Bernier (also Treasurer), Duart Crabtree, Al Fournier, Vianney Leduc, Mike O’Connor (also Librarian), Arne Ojaste (also Director), André Pedneault (also Editor), Art Phelan (also Past President), Barney Shum, Gordon Williams, Murray Wilson, and Matt Yakabuski.

That was the good news. Now the bad news. Meeting attendance has been very low and the programme sessions have been first-rate, in-depth, perfect for the majority of the members. So, what is the problem? It obviously isn’t the quality of the programme. Is it due to the switch in location? Did we lose everyone? Is it because the newsletter isn’t timely enough? We just don’t know. Let us know why you’re not attending. Please call anyone on the Steering Group and let them know.

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Barney Shum
Gordon Williams
Murray Wilson
Matt Yakabuski

The Ottawa Bonsai Society Meeting

Next meeting/ Prochaine rencontre: **Monday November 18th, 2002**
Time/ Heure: **7:30 pm**
Location/ Endroit: **Building # 72**
Central Experimental Farm

At this month meeting/ À la rencontre de ce mois-ci:

Topic will be Pheonix Graft demonstration by Ken McDougall. A Pheonix graft is the grafting of a live 'whip' long slim tree, usually juniper, to a groove in a piece of dead wood. As the whip grows it will take on the form of a vein of living wood in a piece of dead wood. The more character the dead wood has the better! The best species are juniper and cedar for longevity.

If Ken can find suitable 'whips' at the local nurseries, he will lead a workshop for members who bring in a piece of driftwood to graft to.

**** Bring in your trees for discussion or guidance ****

**** DOOR PRIZE ****

All you have to do is show up at the November meeting to be eligible to win this great door prize. The door prize is a beautiful blue glazed, rectangular/oval, (footed,) Korean bonsai pot. It measures xx long, xx wide, xx high. It is valued at \$xx.00.

YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING ARE EXCELLENT!

The Steering Group members have graciously excluded themselves from the draw. This means that anyone who went to the October meeting won't be eligible for a door prize!

THE CHANCES OF YOU WINNING ARE EXCELLENT!

- People who would be interested to receive the Journal through e-mail instead of mail are welcome to ask and send a note to me at Aylmer58@videotron.ca
- Les personnes intéressées à recevoir le bulletin sous forme de e-mail sont bienvenues de le demander et de m'envoyer votre demande à Aylmer58@videotron.ca
- Suggestions on topics and subjects that you would like to see appearing and discussed in the Journal will also be welcome and well appreciated.
- Les suggestions sur des points précis et sujets que vous aimeriez voir traités et discutés à l'intérieur du journal sont encore une fois bienvenues et seront bien appréciés.

The General Meeting of the Ottawa Bonsai Society

On Monday October 21st, we held a meeting at Building 72, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa to discuss the current situation of the Ottawa Bonsai Society and possibly elect people to the OBS executive open positions. The open positions were:

- President,
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Director

The positions that are currently filled are the following:

- Treasurer: Yvon Bernier
- Editor: André Pedneault
- Librarian: Mike O'Connor
- Director: Arne Ojaste

A total of 12 members attended the meeting. A low level of participation when looking at the importance of the topic...

People still had the opportunity to give their opinion and to talk about the different issues we feel we have. Since nobody stepped up to accept one of the open position, the group decided to form a steering committee for the time being and work together for the benefit of the OBS. Read the first page for more insights.

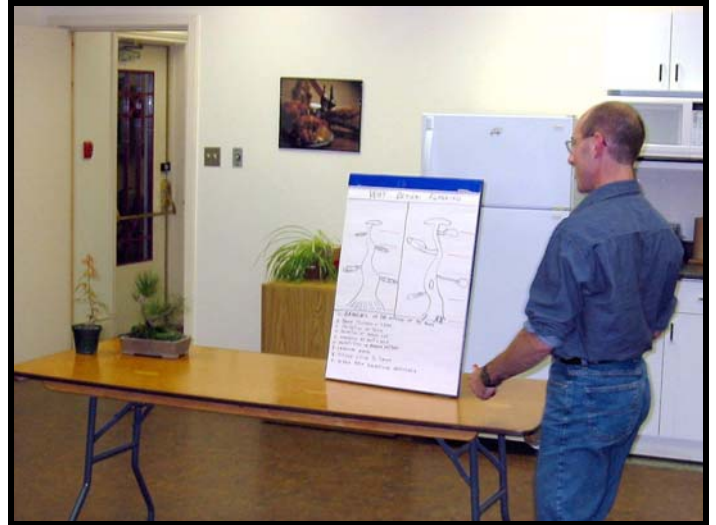
OBS Steering Committee Members information

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Planning your Bonsai design...

Pictures by Gordon Williams

Here are a few pictures of the presentation made by **Vianney Leduc** about demonstrating the benefits of planning your design when starting with younger stock and preparing a longer term design process. Vianney covered trunk and branch development, horticultural techniques for development, design considerations when training younger stock material, etc. This was an excellent session for intermediate to advanced members.



Vianney explained the relationship of the trunk compared to the height of the tree, branches positioning to give the best perspective and movement.



With many trees in development from his own collection, he explained the audience how he got to such results in a few years, what were to best species and much more...

