

Journal of The Ottawa Bonsai Society



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2003

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October meeting! Rencontre d'octobre!

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It was great to see such a large attendance at our first monthly meeting for 2003/2004 despite the miserable weather prevailing outside. The presence of so many new members added excitement and curiosity throughout the evening.

Following welcoming remarks by Vianney Leduc, Yvon Bernier and Mike O'Connor discussed plans for trees which they are developing. Yvon brought two trees in the literati style, a balsam fir he collected two years ago on a skidoo trail and a Jack pine he collected three years ago on long-time-member Marcel Labelle's property in Vankleek Hill. Mike brought an American larch that he plans to repot in the spring and a Japanese larch that he air layered at our summer workshop. He described how he plans to use the Japanese larch to make a forest with the top part and a single tree with the base.

Mike also created much interest by showing members a detailed sketch of an Eastern white cedar with a 4" trunk he collected in Kamouraska in May 2001, which he had intended to bring but was unable to fit in his vehicle (the tree is 32" high). The tree has only two live branches and Mike has the option of cutting one or the other. The sketch was passed around for ideas but, as expected, no consensus was obtained. The good news is that Mike **will** find a way to bring the tree in for the November meeting, at which time it will be easier (maybe!) for one and all to express their preference for its future design.

Following these two presentations, Vianney explained the general requirements for wintering semi-hardy and hardy species in the Ottawa region. This led to a topical and lively discussion on the wintering of bonsai. It was pleasing to see the interest shown by new members in all three presentations, as witness the flurry of judicious questions, most notably by our two young recruits Tom and Niko.

Ottawa Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 4254
Station "E"
Ottawa, Ontario
K1S 5B3

Notes from your steering group.

The Steering Group held an Executive Meeting on October 27 to further discuss and plan the club's activities over the 2003/2004 season. In view of the large number of new members, a special effort will be made this year to provide technical information for beginners.

An introductory beginners course will be given this fall but, in addition, a period of 30 minutes or so of every club meeting will be dedicated to a specific, narrow topic, primarily aimed at beginners but still of interest to all. A detailed syllabus for bonsai courses, available on Internet, will form the basis for those ongoing short lectures.

Our more experienced members will not be forgotten. Intermediate level demonstrations are being planned, as well as workshops and at least one collecting trip in the spring, in addition to a shopping trip to one of the main bonsai suppliers.

We will also be exploring the idea of bringing in a high profile bonsai artist from one of the larger bonsai clubs in Canada for a demo/workshop session towards the end of the season. In all probability, next year's Annual Show will again be held in the fall. This year's experience with the Japanese Embassy location was most positive and will hopefully be repeated. All in all we are looking forward to a very exciting and fruitful season!



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Ottawa Bonsai Society Events Calendar



The next meeting will be on November 17 at 7:30.

We will divide the evenings into four topics:

- 1- The first part of the meeting will deal with bonsai tools for beginners and advanced members.
- 2- In the second part, we will talk about tropical trees focusing on species that are relatively easy to maintain for those who would like to keep "indoor" bonsai.
- 3- In the third part, we will discuss the famous cedar of Mike O'Connor. You have seen the sketch of Mike's cedar at the last meeting, now you will see the real tree and participate in a design discussion. There are only two branches on the tree and Mike would like to cut one off!!
- 4- In the fourth part, we will discuss the detail design of the slanted tree (Japanese dwarf juniper) that we have seen at the last meeting. This tree will be styled and worked on at the January meeting!

Upcoming Bonsai Courses!!

In response to member requests, the Ottawa Bonsai Society will be conducting two bonsai courses. The first will be in classroom lecture format, providing the fundamentals of Bonsai Design and Technique; the second will provide a practical, hands-on session to develop your own bonsai, using provided material. These courses will incur extra expenses to be recovered by a reasonable fee.

Bonsai Fundamentals

Content: This seminar will follow the Bonsai Design – Level 1 course as developed by Barney Shum and Lyne Edmonds, and covers topics such as: Bonsai as an Art Form; Classic Bonsai Criteria; Bonsai Styles; Suitable Plant Material, Tools, Supplies and Growing Medium; The Bonsai Development Process; and General Care and Maintenance. On completion of this one day (5-6 hour) seminar you will have the essential knowledge required to begin to develop bonsai appropriate for our climate zone. Lecture notes will be provided.

Date: Saturday November 29 from 9:30 to 3:30 in Building #72 at the Central Experimental Farm.

Registration: Those who want to attend the course should register with Yvon Bernier by phone (819) 684-0586, by fax 684-7365 or by E-mail at ycbarnier@infonet.ca no later than Friday, November 28.

Cost: **\$15.00**, to be paid at the start of the course.

Bonsai Development Workshop

Content: Using the knowledge gained in the first session we will begin to develop our own bonsai using suitable nursery-grown stock. All plant materials, pots and supplies will be provided. Club members with some experience will provide assistance and tools as required.

Date: This seminar will take place on a Saturday in early spring to ensure the availability of suitable plant material as well as the well being of the bonsai being developed.

Cost: \$55.00 Attendance will be limited to 12 participants.

Registration: To be determined following the lecture session.

New reseller of bonsai products and tools!

Bonsaicommunity.com is an online reseller of bonsai products and tools, located in the Ottawa area, and operated by Anthony Hooper, a member of the Ottawa Bonsai Society. Special orders may be placed at any of the club's monthly meetings.

Bonsaicommunity.com was inspired by a group of online bonsai enthusiasts who realized that there was a lack of decent computer software for managing one's collection of bonsai trees. With this in mind, I built a new web community designed around a piece of software called BonsaiTracker. BonsaiTracker is an online tool that enables the management of bonsai trees, as well as the tracking of the growth of individual trees.

The management of a collection of trees is done through an online scheduler. It is used to schedule events in a calendar that will give the user daily reminders of what each tree requires. Tracking a tree's growth is done in two ways. The first is the creation of a chronological photographic history of the tree. The second is through a series of growth records containing numerical information such as the tree's height over a given period of time.

Over-time statistics, such as watering and fertilizing intervals, are gathered and used to create profiles of care requirements for various types of trees. These profiles form the basis of future online help for bonsai enthusiasts who may be concerned that they are, for example, watering too frequently or too infrequently; or for people who are curious about how to care for a particular tree with which they are not familiar. These users can learn from the experiences of other users simply by looking up the average statistics for any given tree.

Bonsaicommunity.com also has an online forum in which bonsai enthusiasts are welcome to discuss various bonsai subjects. This also provides forum members the opportunity to meet other enthusiasts from around the world. The web forum is open to everyone and is another valuable resource for people with questions to benefit from the insight and experience of others.

One of the other advantages to Bonsaicommunity.com is that it is a place to buy bonsai tools, and will soon be fully equipped with an online store, which is currently unavailable to the public. The estimated launch time of this feature is late November 2003. Bonsaicommunity.com is a reseller of Joshua Roth bonsai tools, with future plans to sell bonsai pots, and perhaps bonsai trees.

Bonsaicomunity.com can special order any tool that is available through Joshua Roth, and has a small stock of various wires and tools that are currently available for purchase. Bonsaicomunity.com is pleased to welcome the members of the Ottawa Bonsai Society, and would like to offer some opening specials available only to Ottawa Bonsai Society members. This sale will run until January 1st, 2004:

Product #	Description	Regular Price	Sale Price*
1163	Ashinaga Shear 8" Intermediate	\$35.99	\$28.95
1164	Satsuki Shear 7 3/4" Intermediate	\$35.99	\$28.95
1165	Wire Cutter 8" Intermediate	\$69.99	\$59.95
1167	Knob Cutter 8" Intermediate	\$75.99	\$62.95
1168	Jin & Wire Pliers 8" Intermediate	\$42.99	\$38.95
1169	Concave Cutters 8" Intermediate	\$62.99	\$55.95
9902B	9 Piece Bonsai Novice Tool Kit	\$149.99	\$125.95
9904	7 Piece Bonsai Intermediate Tool Kit	\$229.99	\$199.95
9905	8 Piece Bonsai Advanced Tool Kit	\$349.99	\$289.99
9906	9 Piece Bonsai Master Tool Kit	\$599.99	\$489.99

Any item from the Joshua Roth catalog can be specially ordered. The complete Joshua Roth catalog is available at <http://www.joshuaroth.com/catalog.cfm>. To make an order, either email admin@bonsaicomunity.com or speak to Tony Hooper at any of the Ottawa Bonsai Society meetings. Any orders placed during the month of November should be received before Christmas.

* Prices are subject to availability and could change at any time without notice.

SIX TROPICALS FOR BEGINNERS

Beginners often experience the frustration of selecting lovely tropical trees that eventually develop problems, become infested with fungus and insects, or do not grow satisfactorily. This is a common occurrence since the quality of light and the length of the growing season in our latitude do not compare with those that characterize the tropics.

Nevertheless, there are some plants that do not require a high intensity of light and that can thrive in the environment that we are able to offer them, without going out of our way. Here is a list and description of six species that require minimal care and that beginners have a better chance to fully enjoy.

Ming Aralia (*Polyscias fruticosa*)

is a bright green woody plant, with delicately dented leaves resembling those of the carrot. Being double compound, these are treated as secondary branches in shaping the specimen. The foliage grows vigorously and should be pruned back severely in late Winter. The plant requires a bright window year-round, but does best if it is stood in a shady spot outdoors in the Summer. Water moderately (like a house plant) in the Summer, and sparingly in the Winter. Spraying the foliage is beneficial. A good bonsai mix with an addition of 15-20% organic matter

SIX ARBRES TROPICAUX POUR DÉBUTANTS

Les débutants sont souvent déçus de voir des arbres tropicaux ravissants qu'ils ont choisis devenir infestés après un certain temps, ou s'étioler et ne pas se développer de façon satisfaisante. Cela se produit fréquemment, puisque la qualité de la lumière et la période de croissance sous notre latitude ne se comparent aucunement aux conditions qui ont cours dans les régions tropicales.

Toutefois, certaines plantes n'exigent pas un éclairage intense et peuvent très bien croître dans un environnement ordinaire. Voici une liste descriptive d'essences qui n'exigent que des soins minimaux et que les débutants ont de meilleures chances de réussir et d'apprécier.

L'aralie Ming (*Polyscias fruticosa*)

possède un beau feuillage vert-clair, délicatement découpé comme celui de la carotte. Les feuilles étant doublement composées, elles deviennent les branches secondaires de la composition. La croissance est vigoureuse; il faut émonder fortement les nouvelles pousses en fin d'hiver. Une fenêtre bien éclairée convient l'année durant, mais on obtient de meilleurs résultats si on installe le sujet à l'extérieur, dans un lieu ombragé, en été. Arrosez-le modérément en été et moins en hiver. Vaporisez le feuillage de temps à autre. Un bon

is a suitable substrate.

Weeping Fig (Ficus benjamina)

is very commonly grown as an indoor landscaping tree. The species has bright green, pointed, oval leaves, but there are variegated cultivars with cream blotches. A bright window year-round will do, but the species grows better if it is stood in a shady spot in the garden through the Summer. Prune back frequently as it is a vigorous grower. Water moderately (like a house plant) and sparingly in the Winter. Fertilize lightly because the species tends to grow long internodes. A standard bonsai mix with 15% organic matter added is an ideal substrate. The plant is resistant to most pests.

Creeping Fig (Ficus pumilia)

is another easy-to-grow fig tree. It is a vine-like plant with small, yellowish, heart-shaped leaves. The trunk thickens slowly, so it lends itself to a small composition. With a little patience, one can develop an attractive little bonsai that shows character. Prune back three or four times a year and keep the soil moist (not soggy). Stand in a bright window year-round, or place in a semi-shaded spot outdoors in the Summer. A suitable substrate is a standard bonsai mix with the addition of 25% organic matter. This species is easy to reproduce

from cuttings. White flies can be a problem, but if you are watchful, they can easily be eliminated with Safer's soap.

Jacaranda Fern (Jacaranda mimosifolia)

is a fernlike tree from Brazil. It grows very actively in the Summer and becomes really showy. Severe pruning is recommended in the Spring and the tree should be placed in a semi-shaded spot in the garden. Water well in the Summer, but sparingly in wintertime. Spray the leaves occasionally. In the Winter, it needs a bright window, but it nevertheless becomes somewhat shaggy and unattractive, as it drops most of its leaves. But a new lush foliage grows back quickly in the Spring after pruning. This species is easily propagated by cuttings. Leaves are double compound and should be treated as secondary or tertiary branches in shaping the tree. A standard bonsai mix with the addition of 20% organic matter is a suitable substrate. White flies can occasionally appear, but can be dealt with effectively with Safer's soap. Fertilize well during the growing season.

Barbados Cherry (Malpighia coccigera)

is a shrubby tree with small, dark green, shiny, holly leaves. It grows very actively in the Summer and produces small, inconspicuous flowers. During the growing season, place the tree in a semi-shaded spot in the garden. Water well in the Summer, but more moderately in wintertime (keep the soil moist nevertheless). Spray the leaves occasionally. In Winter, the tree needs a bright window, but grows very slowly. Good

terreau à bonsaï, additionné de 15 à 20 p.c. de matière organique, est tout indiqué.

Le figuier pleureur (Ficus benjamina)

sert souvent au paysagisme d'intérieur. Les feuilles ovales et pointues sont d'un beau vert brillant, mais il existe des cultivars tachetés de crème. La plante peut se contenter, toute l'année, d'une fenêtre bien éclairée, mais elle pousse mieux si on l'installe dans le jardin, en été, dans un lieu ombragé. Émondez fréquemment les nouvelles pousses pour maîtriser la croissance. Arrosez modérément (comme une plante d'appartement) et réduisez l'arrosage en hiver. Ménagez la fertilisation, car l'essence forme des noeuds espacés. Un terreau à bonsaï normal, auquel on ajoute 15 p.c. de matière organique, convient très bien. Cet arbre résiste à la plupart des ravageurs

Le figuier rampant (Ficus pumila)

est facile à cultiver. Cette plante est une sorte de vigne possédant de petites feuilles jaunâtres, en forme de coeur. Le tronc s'épaissit lentement et, en conséquence, les compositions de petite taille sont indiquées. Avec un peu de patience, on peut obtenir un petit bonsaï charmant qui possède pourtant un certain caractère. On l'émonde trois ou quatre fois par année et on garde le sol humide (mais non détrempé). Placez le sujet, toute l'année, dans une fenêtre bien éclairée ou installez-le dans le jardin, dans un lieu ombragé, en été. Le sol qui convient le mieux est un terreau à bonsaï additionné de 25 p.c. de matière organique. L'essence se multiplie facilement par boutures. Les aleurodes (mouches blanches) peuvent se manifester mais, si l'on est vigilant, on peut facilement les éliminer avec du savon insecticide.

Le jacaranda à feuilles de mimosa (Jacaranda mimosifolia)

ressemble à une fougère. Il pousse vigoureusement en été et est très spectaculaire. Il faut émonder l'arbre radicalement au printemps et l'installer au jardin, dans un lieu semi-ombragé. On l'arrose généreusement en été, mais plus modérément en hiver. Vaporisez le feuillage de temps à autre. Une fenêtre bien éclairée convient en hiver mais, en cette saison, l'arbre perd ses feuilles. Cependant, un nouveau feuillage luxuriant apparaît au printemps suite à l'émondage. Le jacaranda se multiplie facilement par bouturages. Les feuilles étant doublement composées, on en fait des branches secondaires ou tertiaires. Un terreau à bonsaï normal, additionné de 20 p.c. de matière organique, convient très bien. Les aleurodes (mouches blanches) sont parfois présentes, mais on les élimine facilement avec un savon insecticide. Fertilisez bien durant la saison de croissance.

Le malpighia coccigère (Malpighia coccigera)

est un bel arbuste dont les petites feuilles vert-foncé et brillantes rappellent celles du houx. Il pousse vigoureusement en été et produit de petites fleurs discrètes. Pendant la saison de croissance, placez l'arbre au jardin, dans un lieu semi-ombragé. Arrosez généreusement en été, mais modérément en hiver (tout en conservant le sol humide). Vaporisez le feuillage de temps à autre. En hiver, on installe le sujet dans une fenêtre bien

fertilization is required through the growing season. A good bonsai mix with the addition of 20% organic matter constitutes a suitable substrate. This species rarely develops any kind of infestation.

The Azalea (*Azalea indica*)

is the common azalea bought as a “keepsake” in supermarkets. It has dark green, shiny foliage and gorgeous blooms in all shades of pink, and also in white and red, that last for at least three weeks. It grows actively through the Summer months, developing its flower buds, which open in late Fall or at Christmas time. Prune the plant severely after blooming and grow it wild through the Winter. Prune the new growth severely in June and let the tree grow its new flower buds. Keep in a bright, cool window through the Winter and stand in a shady spot in the garden, in the Summer. Water well (daily) in the Summer and more moderately in the Winter. In the first seasons of development as a bonsai, forget about the blooms and concentrate on structure. This is achieved by frequent, severe pruning of new growth throughout the growing season. Fertilize well in Summer, but stop all fertilization when the tree is brought indoors in October. Resume moderate fertilization after blooming. These plants are grown in acid soil. Plant them in peat moss mixed with 40% coarse sand or grit. Pests are not likely to attack azaleas. Spider mites and white flies may appear, but this is not probable; if they do, they can be controlled with Safer’s soap. Fungi may cause black spots on the foliage, especially in Winter. If this occurs, spray the tree with Funginex 6.5 or some other house plant fungicide.

This article written by Norman Boudreau first appeared in the September 1993 Newsletter

éclairée, mais il pousse alors très lentement. Fertilisez bien votre arbre pendant la saison de croissance. Un bon terreau à bonsaï, additionné de 20 p.c. de matière organique, convient tout à fait. Cette essence est rarement infestée d’insectes

L’azalée commune (*Azalea indica*)

s’achète au supermarché. Elle a un feuillage vert-foncé, lustré, et porte des fleurs superbes roses, blanches ou rouges, qui ornent l’arbre pendant au moins trois semaines. Elle pousse vigoureusement en été et élabore ses boutons floraux, qui s’ouvrent à la fin de l’automne ou à Noël. Émondez radicalement l’azalée après la floraison et laissez-la pousser en friche durant l’hiver. Émondez profondément les nouvelles pousses en juin et laissez ensuite l’arbre pousser librement pour former ses boutons floraux. Placez-le dans une fenêtre bien éclairée, mais fraîche, pour l’hiver et installez-le dans un coin ombragé du jardin en été. Arrosez généreusement le sujet pendant la période de croissance et la floraison, et plus modérément en hiver. Au cours des premières saisons de formation du bonsaï, faites abstraction des fleurs et concentrez-vous sur la structure. À cette fin, émondez profondément les nouvelles pousses tout au long de la saison de croissance. Fertilisez bien le sujet en été, mais cessez toute fertilisation dès que vous transportez l’arbre à l’intérieur en octobre. Fertilisez-le de nouveau modérément après la floraison. L’arbre pousse en sol acide et un terreau composé de sphaigne moulue additionnée de 40 p.c. de gravier grossier lui convient tout à fait. Les ravageurs s’attaquent rarement à l’azalée. Toutefois, les tétranyques (araignées jaunes) ou les aleurodes (mouches blanches) peuvent apparaître; si vous en décelez, vous les éliminez avec du savon insecticide. Les champignons microscopiques peuvent faire noircir les feuilles, particulièrement en hiver. Si cela se produit, vaporisez l’arbre avec du Funginex 6.5 ou tout autre fongicide pour plantes d’appartements.

Cet article de Norman Boudreau est reproduit du bulletin de septembre 1993.

NEW MEMBERS / NOUVEAUX MEMBRES

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

Don and /et Isobel Jones

**Ottawa Bonsai Society
2001/2002 Executive**
President

Vacant

Vice President

Vacant

Treasurer

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

Editor

Vacant

Secretary

Vacant

Directors

Arne Ojaste

Past president

Art Phelan

Librarian

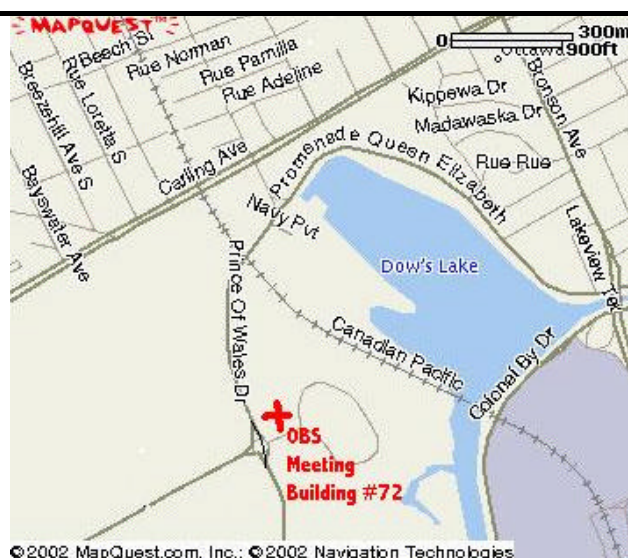
Mike O'Connor

**Steering Group
2003/2004**

 Yvon Bernier
Duart Crabtree
Al Fournier
Vianney Leduc
Arne Ojaste
André Pedneault
Art Phelan
Barney Shum
Gordon Williams
Murray Wilson
Matt Yakabuski

Meeting Location / Lieu de rencontre

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".

Aux résidents de la nouvelle ville de Gatineau: Depuis juillet, nombre de rues ont changé de nom dans la nouvelle ville de Gatineau et les noms Aylmer, Hull, Buckingham et Masson-Angers sont disparus des adresses postales. Si votre adresse est différente de celle apparaissant sur l'enveloppe de ce bulletin, veuillez m'en faire part:

Yvon Bernier: 684-0586, télécopieur: 684-7365, ycbernier@infonet.ca .