



CHINA TRADE BONSAI SOCIETY

<http://www.chinatradebonsaisociety.org/>

Monthly Meetings: 1st Wednesday of each month, March-November 6-8pm at the Connecticut College Arboretum, New London Hall. Visitors Welcome! For further information contact Tom Lee (President) at twcl@comcast.net

December 2004

China Trade Bonsai Society

Officers:

President – Tom Lee
Vice-President – Steve Tomicheck
Secretary – Joe Purtill
Treasurer – Alice Kuo

Points of Contact:

Programs – Tom Lee
Publicity – Platt Arnold
Operations – Steve Tomicheck
Webmaster – Evan Kent
Photography and Newsletter – Robert Sant / Joe McGinnis
Hospitality – Carol Gazso
Connecticut College Liaison – Jeff Smith

HOLIDAY PARTY!!!!

Member's are reminded that our annual Member's Holiday Party is this coming Wednesday, December 1, 2004!

This is our last get-together this year, and we'd love to see everyone, bright and festive.

The dinner is potluck, (use your finest culinary skills) with a Chinese/Yankee Swap afterward. If you wish to participate in the swap, bring a \$10 wrapped gift.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!



Winter Care

Two questions people ask when starting bonsai... "How do I keep it alive", and "How do I get mine to look like yours?"

For November's meeting, Tom Lee presented a brief lecture followed by group discussion addressing part of the first, keeping bonsai alive and healthy throughout a New England Winter.

The majority of Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts fall into the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Hardiness Zones 4 and 5. This means expected low temperatures between -10 and -30 F, or just plain downright cold.

Tom broke down the major concerns into eight categories and discussed each briefly. The categories of concern are 1) Temperature, 2) Light, 3) Water, 4) Humidity, 5) Pests, 6) Fertilizer 7) Repotting and 8) Pruning.



Tom Lee discusses the fundamentals of bonsai winter care

Temperature: The health of the tree is always the first concern, and protecting the roots is most important. Roots need to be insulated from freezing temperatures that can kill. The table on the following page is an abstract of some numbers published in the Fall 2004 ABS Journal regarding root-killing temperatures for various species common to bonsai. Most deciduous bonsai and conifers require a dormant period with temperatures less than 40°F for around three months, whereas tropical bonsai need to be maintained above 50°F. Hardy bonsai can be maintained outdoors provided the roots are protected. It is also recommended to protect them from drying winds. A cold frame or unheated garage works well in both aspects.

Light: Dormant trees require little or no light as their growth has all but stopped during the winter season. Tropical bonsai however, need as much light as possible, which can sometimes be a problem. Avoid placing them near heaters or drafty windows.

Water: In general, water less frequently, and never water a frozen bonsai. If wintering your hardy bonsai outdoors, nature should take care of most watering needs. If placed in an unheated garage or cold frame, do not allow the roots to dry out. Water tropical bonsai as required gauging by soil dampness.

Humidity: This is of primary concern for tropical bonsai, as the winter months tend to have much lower humidity. One way to help is to place a humidity tray beneath the pot, using a thin layer of gravel and water, ensuring roots are not in standing water. For outdoor bonsai, protect from wind to prevent desiccation.

Winter Care (cont. from pg. 1)

Pests: Inspect both tropical and hardy bonsai for pests when preparing for winter storage. Watch for scale and mealy bugs on indoor trees, since they are frequently placed in much closer proximity than outdoors, allowing these pests to spread.

Fertilizer: None for dormant trees. Prior to winter storage (months of August through October) feed with low Nitrogen, high Phosphorous / Potassium. For indoor bonsai, reduce fertilization to less than half normal levels.

Repotting: For hardy bonsai, repotting should only be done during the winter when it is an issue of survival. If repotting must be done, repot in a larger pot without pruning any roots. When preparing for winter, consider removing (without pruning roots) from glazed pots (transplant into ground or larger pot) to protect the pot. Most non-glazed pots can be buried to protect roots from freezing temperatures since they are porous.

Pruning: Some pruning and wiring may be done, remember that branches are more brittle this time of year and do not bend very well.

Good luck, and here's hoping for a healthy, quiet winter followed by a burgeoning spring!

Species	Killing Temperatures	
	Young	Mature
Trident Maple	25	20
Japanese Maple	23	18
Chinese Elm	19	10
Japanese Apricot	26	21
Flowering Cherry	16	10
Shimpaku	19	12
Japanese White Pine	19	0
Japanese Black Pine	22	10
Scotts Pine	16	0
Satsuki Azalea	20	8
Bald Cypress	24	10

Tree Care for the Month of December

December begins true New England Winter as the days get shorter and the snow falls. Area average nighttime temperatures will fall to the low 20's by months end, with zero or even negative numbers not extremely uncommon.

- The majority of this month's care is described in our feature article.
- Late December begins the preferred period for grafting conifers (December-February). During this time there is minimum pitch to isolate the scion from the understock.

2005 CTBS Officers Elected

November 3, 2004, members of the China Trade Bonsai Society elected officers for the year 2005 in accordance with the bylaws of our organization.

Elected Officers consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The results of the election are as follows:

President:	Tom Lee
Vice-President:	Steve Tomichek
Secretary:	Joseph Purtil
Treasurer:	Alice Kuo

From The President

1. We need more trees (photo's anyway) for our gallery. We know you are proud of your creations. Send some photos to Evan (evankent@cox.net) and show your stuff!
2. We still have CTBS logo shirts, and they make great Christmas Presents – Contact Steve Tomichek (ctomichek@myeastern.com)
3. 5th World Bonsai Convention, Washington D. C., May 28-31, 2005. Schedule, Programs, and Registration are online at <http://www.bonsai-wbff.org/wbc5/main.htm>.

Following the election, President Tom Lee appointed the following persons to the respective positions / committees:

Programs	Tom Lee
Operations	Steve Tomichek
Website	Evan Kent
Newsletter	Robert Sant
Photographers	Robert Sant
	Joe McGinnis
Publicity	Platt Arnold
Hospitality	Carol Gazso
Connecticut College Rep	Jeff Smith

First Annual China Trade Bonsai Society Bonsai and Arts Festival

We are still negotiating all the details, but we have a tentative date for June 18, 2005 at the Cummings Art Center with joint sponsorship by Connecticut College Arboretum. Volunteers are needed. Contact Tom Lee (twcl@comcast.net) for more details.