



# CHINA TRADE BONSAI SOCIETY

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

Monthly Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:twcl@comcast.net)

July 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 Jackowitz  
Photography and Newsletter – Robert Sant  
Hospitality – Carol Gazso  
Connecticut College Liaison – Jeff Smith

## An Evening With Colin Lewis (part 1)

On Wednesday, June 2, 2004, the China Trade Bonsai Society had the honor of hosting Mr. Colin Lewis, international author, founder of the HoYoku Bonsai School, and consultant to the Lars Anderson Bonsai Collection, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.

This was my second opportunity to hear Mr. Lewis speak, and like his bonsai, which he strives for each to be an original, so was this lecture. In short, he critiqued seven very different trees, calling on the club to share insight and suggestions. Add to this his unique wisdom and philosophy, and it was an evening of enjoyment and education. In length, he gave me more than enough material and ideas to write about for the next year.

The first tree discussed, and topic of this month's article was a Trident Maple that I recently acquired from New England Bonsai. What initially attracted me to this tree was its massive twisted rootstock.

It reminded me of the elm discussed in Colin Lewis's "Art of Bonsai Design" that was grown from an old stump, which in turn was inspired from an elm in an old Japanese calendar.



But due to bad pruning and winterkill, my tree had been discounted for clearance when I bought it. Hence, lesson one from Colin... "THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A BARGAIN!"

Colin removed the majority of the dead branches to give a clearer picture of the usable material, and then opened the floor to discussion.



When working with a piece like this, he says, treat it as Yamadori or collected material. Look at it, and evaluate the following:

- 1) What can't be changed
- 2) What can be changed
- 3) What looks stable and harmonious
- 4) How to achieve the end result

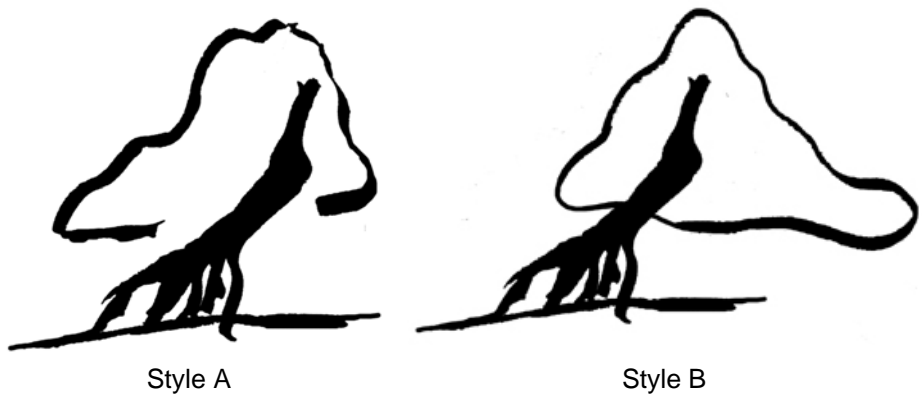
The tree hence became the discussion of "what to do". Since acquiring it about a month previous, I had done nothing other than move it from a training pot to its current container. To be honest, I did not have a vision for it yet. Its flaws included: many dead branches, bushy leaves, older branches that were neither shaped, nor bendable, no clear definition,

leader too high, no back branches, and it did not fit into any traditional style (the last not necessarily being a bad thing). Its strengths were primarily a large interesting nebari and a thick trunk.

One really nice characteristic of Trident Maples is that you, the artist, are in almost complete control of their styling. Colin proposed for discussion Style A and Style B. The first response was toward Style A, because it fits with our sense of symmetry and balance. But further discussion revealed that "something" caused the tree to slant at the existing angle, and therefore would also affect branch growth in a similar manner. And since this is a deciduous tree the branches should look like a deciduous tree, not a conifer. This means that branches should move downward in stages, not a smooth curve. Style B was chosen to look more natural.

Of course it will still take years to develop this tree to that point, but that's okay since bonsai is a living art that's never truly complete. The important thing is now there is a vision to work toward.

Next month I'll feature his discussion on Tom Lee's Japanese Red Pine.



## A Second Successful Outing a Holdriges

June 19, 2004, Tom Lee, Steve Tomichuk and Warren Stedman represented the China Trade Bonsai Society for a second time at Holdridges Nursery in Ledyard Connecticut. Tom demonstrated the creation of a bonsai from a Japanese Red Maple, and between the three of them, they created numerous bonsai for sale. Holdridges has graciously offered to sell our creations, with the profits returning to the club. To date, over a half-dozen have sold with the nursery requesting more. Additionally, a bonsai created on our last visit was raffled off.

## Club Calendar

**July 7** – Trees Within the Tree with Todd Hansen

**July 11 – (NEW DATE)** Potluck at Platts House (Bring the Family and swim suits)...Contact Platt at [ptarn@conncoll.edu](mailto:ptarn@conncoll.edu) for more information and see what she needs you to bring!

**August 4** – Black Pine Nite with our own Joe Purtill. Bring your trees for show and tell! Following the meeting, we will have our annual auction of pre-owned (and loved) materials...so bring anything you'd like to sell. Twenty percent (20%) of proceeds will go back to the club.

**September 1** – Penjing/Saikei Design with Tom Lee

**September 18, 2004** –New England Bonsai Gardens Annual Members Exhibition

**October 6** – Bonsai Workshop with Kenji Miyata  
-Nomination of Officers

**October TBD** – CTBS Fall Exhibition / Connecticut College Arboretum Annual Sale.

**November 3** – Winter Care with Tom Lee  
-Voting of Officers

**December TBD** –Christmas Party  
-New Officers take Office.

## From The President

### We need volunteers to coordinate the following CTBS events

1. CTBS Field Trip Coordinator 5<sup>th</sup> World Bonsai Convention, Washington D. C., May 28-31, 2005 Schedule, Programs, Registration is now online. <http://www.bonsai-wbff.org/wbc5/main.htm>
2. China Trade Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition Committee
3. Regional Bonsai Society Exhibition Committee

**Platts Potluck** – The Potluck Dinner at Platt and David Arnold's house has been rescheduled to Sunday, 11 July (vice 10 July) so as not to conflict with New London's Sailfest Fireworks on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>. (not to be missed!)

The Potluck at 2 p.m., and families/significant others are included in this invitation. Bring bathing suits and towels if you want to swim or boat. Bring a dish to pass, and the beverage of your choice (soda, wine, beer, mixers). Iced tea and lemonade will be provided.

Please phone Platt at (860) 691-1125 or email to [ptarn@conncoll.edu](mailto:ptarn@conncoll.edu) to RSVP.

Driving directions are attached

## In the Region

**July 17-18** – Royal Bonsai Garden ([www.royalbonsaigarden.com](http://www.royalbonsaigarden.com)) is celebrating its 10-year anniversary. The two day celebration will include demonstrations by Ernie Kuo and Jack Hoover (see the above link for the exact schedule) as well as local talent. Suthin Sukosolvisit has extended a warm invitation to the members of the China Trade Bonsai Society to exhibit their bonsai for a chance to win a prize. If you are interested in showing your bonsai, contact Tom at [twcl@comcast.net](mailto:twcl@comcast.net)

**September 10-12** – Bonsai Clubs of New England Exhibition, Tower Hill Botanical Garden, Boylston, Mass. (This date is as listed at <http://www.towerhillbg.org/thwebspecev.html>, however, it is also listed as "Not Confirmed")

**September 18** – New England Bonsai Gardens Exhibition in Bellingham Mass.

**September 19 (2 p.m.)**– *The Contemplative Garden: Where Inspiration Meets Nature* with Martin Mosko and Alex Nodel authors of *Landscape as Spirit: Creating a Contemplative Garden* at Connecticut College, New London in the Olin Science Center Auditorium. Cost \$7 for Arboretum members & members of the co-sponsoring Garden Clubs, \$9 for non-members Sponsored by the Connecticut College Arboretum, Co-sponsored by the New London Garden Club and the Duck River Garden Club of Old Lyme

## Notes from Members:

Tom Zane writes – The August Issue of Florida Bonsai has gone to the printer. Black and white copies should be going out in about a week or so. Accordingly, we have posted the color copy on the Bonsai Societies of Florida web site at: [http://www.bonsai-bsf.com/color\\_cy.htm](http://www.bonsai-bsf.com/color_cy.htm). Be sure you have a good version of Adobe Reader, available at: <http://www.bonsai-bsf.com/publications.htm>. We hope you enjoy the magazine, and the latest improvements to the web site.

## From the Editor

Howdy Folks, another month done past and July has snuck right up on me. I've been working on a column and several ideas (at least in my head), but I'm afraid that will have to wait until next month...ahhh...last of the great procrastinators. I am still looking for new ideas and suggestions. Drop me a line. Also, pictures and stories would be awesome.

Please note that Platt has shifted the Potluck by one day to ease conflicts with other events. I really am looking forward to going, and of course so are my children...ever see a kid not look forward to an event which has the words "water" and "swimming"?

So, I hope to see you at Wednesday's meeting (Todd Hansen – Trees Within Trees), and again on Sunday!

### **Minutes June 2, 2004 Meeting**

The regular meeting of the China Trade Bonsai Society was held at New London Hall Connecticut College on June 2, 2004 with 11 members in attendance. President Tom Lee announced that Colin Lewis had missed his scheduled train from Boston and would be late. While waiting the members discussed their trees.

At 6:20 the President called the meeting to order and announced that Rob Sant had accepted the position of bulletin editor. Rob was commended for the excellent June edition.

President Tom announced that the next order of business would be the election of a treasure to serve until the next regular election. Alice Kuo's name was placed in nomination. There being no further nominations, Alice was elected by unanimous vote of the meeting. Former treasurer Birger Andersen turned over the financial records to the new treasurer.

It was announced by the president that there were now 28 paid up members of the club and that he anticipated that we would reach our goal of 30 members.

There was discussion of area bonsai shows. President Tom stated that he was working on a show with other nearby clubs. It was announced that our club would conduct programs at Holdridges on June 19, 2004 and Salem Country Gardens in October.

President Tom stated that the president of the Hartford club would visit our July meeting and would bring trees with him.

The potluck outing scheduled for Platt Arnold's water front estate will not involve the construction of pots. Members should bring food and swimming gear. Food contributions should be coordinated with Platt.

President Tom stated that in addition to the Black Pine program scheduled for August, an auction of member's excess equipment, pots and trees will be held.

Collin Lewis arrived at 7:50 and the meeting was turned over to him. He worked on trees brought in by members. Collin's presentation was outstanding with a detailed discussion of each tree. He covered bonsai design concepts and the characteristics of the various trees. At the conclusion of his presentation, the club expressed its appreciation by spirited applause.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Purtill  
Secretary

**Platt and David Arnold**  
***Turtle Hill***  
**160 Upper Pattagansett Road**  
**East Lyme, Connecticut 06333**  
**(860)691-1125**

**On I-95 headed North**, take Exit 74 (Flanders, Niantic). At end of ramp, go left onto Route 161 North. Continue to the first traffic light (0.3 mile) at the junction of Route 161 and Route 1 (also known as Boston Post Road). Take a left onto Route 1 South. See \* below for rest of instructions.

**On I-95 headed South**, take Exit 75 (Flanders, Waterford). (Please note that the exit numbers skip from 80 to 75). Stay to the right on the exit ramp, following signs to Route 1 South toward Flanders. Do NOT go toward Waterford. Continue straight, staying right, to the first traffic light at the junction of Route 161 and Route 1 (also known as Boston Post Road). See \* below for the rest of the instructions.

For your information, Exits 74 and 75 are east of the intersection of I-95 and Route 9, and west of the intersection of I-95 and I-395.

**Coming from the Hartford area:**

You may want to look at a map to see whether to use Route 91 to Route 9 to I-95, (in which case, see above directions for I-95 headed North)

**OR**

Route 2 to Route 11 where it ends, Route 82 North briefly, right at the light onto Route 85 East, right at the light onto Route 161 South. Continue on Route 161 South to traffic light at junction of Route 161 and Route 1 (also known as Boston Post Road). Go right onto Route 1 South. See \* below for rest of the instructions.

**Coming from Boston area:**

You may want to look at a map to see whether to use I-95 (in which case, see above for I-95 headed South)

**OR**

Mass Pike West to I-395 South to I-95 South. Please note that the merge of I-395 and I-95 is not well marked. If you get to an Exit 75, take it, and see directions above for I-95 headed South.

\*Go west on Route 1 for 0.5 miles. Take a right onto Upper Pattagansett Road (the turn is just opposite Ron's Guns). Go 1.3 mile on Upper Pattagansett Road, at which point the road curves sharply to the right. In the middle of that curve, take a left onto the lane that heads down the hill. The lane is marked by a signpost that says Lake Side, also by a yellow Dead End highway sign and a bunch of shabby-looking mailboxes. When the lane forks, take the right fork (our driveway). Our house (tan with blue shutters) is at the end of the lane at a circular driveway.