



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

October 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
Hospitality – Carol Gazzo
Connecticut College Liaison – Jeff Smith

Kenji Miyata Demonstration

Kenji Miyata, resident Master at New England Bonsai Gardens, will perform a demonstration on October 6, 2004 at Connecticut College. Kenji will style a tree (base material cost of approximately \$200), which will be auctioned off at the end of the evening. Following the demonstration, Kenji will conduct Extreme Bonsai Makeover on member's trees as time permits. (Members bring trees (limit 1 tree per member). We will be raffling off the order)

Landscapes In Miniature – Saikei/Penjing with Tom Lee

A cliff, high, craggy and wind eroded...a quiet mountain stream through a living forest...a rugged coastline along the New England shore. Images of places real and imagined, inspiration to the ancient art of miniature landscapes. Continuing this years excellent program covering a diverse range of bonsai related topics, Tom Lee, President of the China Trade Bonsai Society, took his turn at the podium and introduced some of us to our first real taste of Saikei and Penjing.

Tom started the evening explaining the basics between Japanese Saikei (pronounced sigh-kay) and Chinese Penjing. Literal translation for both is Sai – Tree and Kei – Landscape or Pen – Pot and Jing – Landscape. In short, landscapes in pots or trays. The most pronounced difference between the two is that Saikei tends to be more austere.

Perhaps the most famous Saikei is John Naka's "Goshin" at the National Arboretum in Washington D.C. If you are unable to go personally, you can take a virtual tour at <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Gardens/collections/bonsai.html>.

Saikei/Penjing is generally classified into four types; Group Forest, Raft, Clump, and "Claft" which is a hybrid style of Clump and Raft, created by Hal Mahoney of Long Island. Tom's award winning Cotoneaster is styled in the Claft format.



Winner "Best Saikei Bonsai" 2002
New England Bonsai Gardens
Exhibition

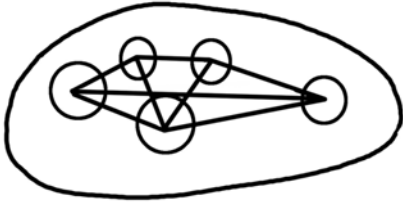
Two things to consider when doing a group planting...time and material. Tom says it takes a minimum of 1-3 years of planning before even beginning. Determine whether you want to do a single or double grouping. And choose quality material. Group plantings aren't that place to discard those "extra" trees just lying around.



Tom Lee explains the basics of Saikei/Penjing

When designing a Saikei, use the following principles; Consistency, Balance, Scale, Harmony, and Interest.

Consistency – Use primarily the same species of tree and similar types of rock. The idea is to simulate nature. You normally wouldn't see a lava mountain in the middle of granite seashore.



Overhead view of a possible five-tree configuration

Balance – Create asymmetrical triangles on both the vertical and horizontal planes. Even though triangles are the basis for configuration, avoid limiting yourself to multiples of three (e.g. 6, 9, 12 etc...) as this can become boring.



Scale – Use trees with height/trunk width in scale with each other. Avoid using trees that are the same height, and offset the trees so that all trunks are visible from the front. Use the higher branches on the individual tree, usually at least 1/2, but at least a minimum of 1/3.

The general perspective is from a distance. To create an illusion of depth, place the larger trees toward the front, and most of the smaller trees to the rear. Leave a few of the smaller trees up front for the close-up view. The main tree should be vertical, with the edge trees tilted slightly outward to aid in light.

Harmony – The question frequently comes up on “How many trees to use?” Tom’s guidance: The combined trunk area should be approximately ½ the area of the tray. Tom referenced Saburo Kato stating the most important trees are the three major trees of the composition, representing Father, Mother and Child. John Naka’s “Goshin” consisted originally of seven trees, then in 1973 he added four more to represent his eleven grand-children. The Japanese differ from the Chinese here somewhat. Saikei prefers odd numbers, generally prime (1,2,3,5,7,11,13,17...etc). In Japan nine represents pain and suffering, but in China, it represents forever. Penjing enjoys the number eight (such as a five and three double grouping) meaning prosperity. Neither Saikei nor Penjing uses four since this represents death.

Another aspect of harmony to remember, draw the viewer into the forest vice having the go around. Do this by creating a break in the landscape such as a path or a stream.



A five/three twin group setting with a path in the middle to draw the viewer “in”

Interest – The final and perhaps most elusive design principle. Let the landscape tell the story. Create a composition that draws the viewer both to it and into it. The viewer notes the small details, the variations in ground cover, and the subtleties of the textures. When the viewer can almost hear the birds sing in the forest, then interest has been captured.



Three examples of Saikei: Alberta Spruce (Shot at 2003 Tower Hill Exhibition), Hinoki Cypress (Shot at Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection 2002), and Chinese Elm (Also shot at 2003 Tower Hill Exhibition)

2004 New England Bonsai Garden Exhibition

On September 18, 2004 New England Bonsai Gardens held their annual show and exhibition. As always it was an excellent time. Since a picture paints a thousand words, enjoy the following gallery. – Rob (photography by R.E. Sant and Tom Lee)



Tom Lee's Willow Leaf Ficus



Joe McGinnis's Juniper



Tom Lee's Jack Pine



John Romano's Shohin Exhibit – Awarded Excellence in Design – 2004 International Bonsai Symposium "Cultivated Bonsai"

Top to bottom, left to right – Shimpaku, Willow Leaf Ficus, Crabapple, Trident Maple, Shimpaku



Pyracantha



Shimpaku Phoenix Graft



Kenji Miyata works on a Mendocino Cypress group planting



The Winner (John Romano awards First Place Prize – A framed Illustration of a Satsuki Azalea)

Tree Care for the Month of October

October is here and already the days seem shorter with a definite nip in that morning air. The native maples are changing, and leaves are starting to fall. Temperatures for the month average a daily high of around 68°F early in the month to around 58°F by Halloween. By the end of the month the lows will be dipping into the 30's with a chance of frost.

- Tropical Bonsai should be brought in for the season, with an occasional day outside if temperature permits. Watch for sudden changes in temperature.
- October can still have warm spells. Be careful that deciduous trees don't re-sprout. Move them to shady places on unseasonably warm days.
- Water less frequently; however, do not allow a tree to dry out.
- Continue feeding with low nitrogen fertilizer for dormancy, not growth.
- Trim long growth on conifers. Clean off any dead needles from pines.
- Prune deciduous trees to shape after leaves have fallen.
- Remove wires from deciduous trees if they are starting to cut into the bark. Some wiring may be done, keep in mind that flexibility will be diminished.
- Remove any remaining fruits and seedpods. Clean up leaves from around the base of Bonsai to prevent unwanted funguses from occurring.
- Most trees can be transplanted (see list), but only from one pot to another, and not if the tree requires radical root pruning. This is the last month to safely transplant bonsai.
- In particular, consider transplanting your Flowering Japanese Quince (*Chaenomeles Japonica*) and Pomegranates (*Punica Granatum*) during this period as cold temperatures become more intense. This will reduce the risk of developing root gall.
- It is possible to successfully collect and transplant some native trees, provided they are in good health and have good rootage. Consider though whether it is better to do it now or early spring.

Species which *may* be transplanted in October: Boxwood, Buttonwood, Most Conifers (Pine / Cedar / Juniper / Fir / Hinoki Cypress / Cryptomera), Cotoneaster, Elm, Ficus, Gingko, Hornbeam, Maple, Olive, Pomegranate and Quince (see above notes), Privet, Pyracantha, Willow, Wisteria, and Yew

Club Calendar

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

October 16 – CTBS Demonstration and Fundraiser at Holdridges Nursery
(Route 117 Ledyard).

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.

In the Region

October 30-31 – Bonsai Society of Greater New York Second Annual Bonsai Convention and Yoshimora Competition, and 2nd District Flower Show at Farmingdale University, Roosevelt Hall, Farmingdale, Long Island, NY.

From The President

As the year winds down, we have an excellent opportunity to raise funds for our club as well as practice our skills on raw material. Steve has coordinated with Holdridges Nursery (Route 117 Ledyard) for another Bonsai outing. Our last one brought in \$90.

Welcome to new CTBS Members Pak Sit and David Bridges

We need volunteers to coordinate the following CTBS events

1. CTBS Field Trip Coordinator 5th 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. Jeff Smith update.
 3. Regional Bonsai Society Exhibition Committee
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From The Editor

I love a good Bonsai Show / Demonstration. For me it's better than football! I watch, I learn, I get motivated. And like any good armchair quarterback I want to go out and throw a touchdown pass! Only for me its break out the scissors, pruners, wire and turntable. I'm sure that every time I tell my wife goodbye, I'll be back in a few hours, my garden cringes and a few leaves fall prematurely. The past several months have provided me with no end of motivation from John, Collin, Joe, Tom and last months NEBG Exhibition. This past July a friend of mine gave me this huge Yew out of his yard, and normally I would strongly discourage collecting a tree mid-summer. But since it was scheduled for execution anyway I took it, and it became my summer project. I mention it because this week (Wednesday to be exact) Kenji Miyata is coming to town and I'm sure its already shaking. I have watched Mr. Miyata twice, and I am amazed at his skill...oops...there go a few more leaves. This is our last major demonstration scheduled this year, and I hope to see you all there.

-Rob

p.s. Rest easy, I won't be bringing the Yew.

p.s.s. I apologize for not finishing the Collin Lewis series this month. But with so many current events I thought it might hold for one more month. I hope you enjoyed the gallery.