



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

September 2004

China Trade Bonsai Society

Officers:

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

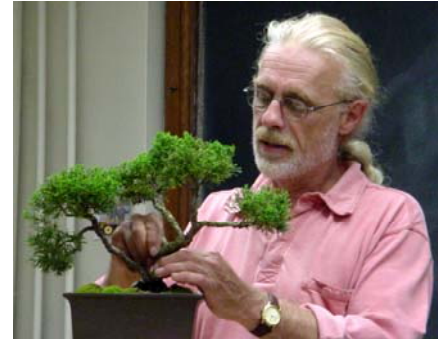
Points of Contact:

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 3)

Last month we covered the second part of Colin Lewis' visit to the China Trade Bonsai Society in June. This month, we continue the series reviewing the notes on Joe Purtill's Shimpaku Juniper and Connecticut College's Natal Plum.

Joe's Shimpaku is thought to be the only surviving tree from a batch of over fifty imported by the CTBS founder Val Gallagher. It is small, maybe ten inches in height, with two trunks. The pads are fairly dense without much juvenile growth. Joe originally acquired this tree in 1994; and believes it to be about fifteen years old now.



Colin discussing basic design and care for Shimpaku

When Joe presented his tree, he was looking for some design ideas. He had been attempting to train it as an informal upright, but wasn't pleased with the results.



Colin discusses changing the angle of the tree and possible styles

As with the previous discussions, Colin opened by asking the group for input. The general consensus recommended shifting to a twin trunk design, with various debates regarding which leaders to use and direction of movement.

I recently spoke to Joe and asked which path he took. He told me he chose a lesser-discussed path and has begun styling it as a semi-cascade. He has jinned one branch and repotted, planning to do the major repotting and styling in the Spring. Knowing Joe's attention to the smallest details, I look forward to seeing and photographing it next year.

Colin talked at length about the care of Shimpaku. He started by picking off the flaky bark, explaining that he finds it therapeutic. The flakes are like dead skin, and removing them exposes the beautiful red living bark underneath. The bark should never be oiled to bring out the color. Along

with this discussion, he described the "pimples" or Lenti cells which are believed to be used for gas exchange. If these are buried, they frequently become roots. To aid in exposing the living bark, he recommends using a soft wire brush. Brush in the direction of the lifelines, stopping when the veins become visible, but not damaged.

When pruning junipers do not leave flat cuts because they never heal. As the juniper grows, the bark has a tendency to pull away from dead areas. This characteristic, while creating beautiful natural shari, does not lend itself to grafting with already existing deadwood. This is why a juniper Tanuki is very difficult to create.

Again, Colin emphasized his thoughts regarding "styles", which are really just a way of classifying our thoughts. He said to not think "style", think "tree". He quoted the late John Naka in "Don't make your tree look like a bonsai, make your bonsai look like a tree".





Not a classic bonsai style, this Natal Plum still grabs the viewers attention

Although the Natal Plum from the Connecticut College Arboretum was actually the second tree reviewed, it fits well into the discussion at this point because it does not conform to any of the classic bonsai styles. Yet, this tree easily grabs the viewer's attention.

It has a wonderful, rough bark, very natural looking in its shape, making its own raft. Colin described it as Moorlandish, what one might see in the Welsh hills. He praised its movement and offered few suggestions for improvement, stating that he liked its very naturalistic style. Maybe a little thinning of the branches, thinning from the outside in to promote back budding.

Next month we will conclude our series on Colin Lewis' visit.

Japanese Black Pine Nite with Joe Purtill

Joseph J. Purtill began practicing bonsai in the mid 1980's, and is one of the original members of the China Trade Bonsai Society. For our August meeting, he assembled and presented an excellent handout dealing primarily with Japanese Black Pine, and secondarily with other two-needle pines. This was in part, a follow-up to last year's presentation by Shohin Master John Romano of the Rhode Island Bonsai Society and New England Bonsai Gardens, as well as an opportunity for members to view each other's bonsai.

His informative handout is a compilation from many sources and publications including John Romano (as compiled by Platt Arnold), Zazue Oishi, Douglas K. Hawley M.D., Harry Tomlinson, and Simon & Schuster's Guide to Bonsai.



Joe discusses regions of growth in Japanese Black Pines

The handout will be available shortly on the CTBS website for anyone who missed the meeting. It covers essential topics such as growth regions, pruning and pinching, year-round care broken down by the season, needle plucking, wiring tips, repotting instructions, fertilizing and needle reduction techniques.

Potpourri



*President Tom Lee discusses styling a Japanese Garden Juniper (*Juniperus Procumbens Nana*) in a cascade style. The tree belongs to Mr. Joe McGinnis.*

Annual CTBS Auction



The annual CTBS Auction to raise money for the club included an Atlantic White Cedar, two Unknown Species, a large pot, wooden stand, a Bonkei designed by Joe Purtill, seven Japanese Larches, and a watering nozzle.

Tree Care for the Month of September

September in New England begins the time of change. Temperatures for the month average a daily high of around 73°F with lows in the mid 50's at night. Early September carries some of the residual heat of August (upper 70's to low 80's) with a noticeable cooling by mid-month. Of special note, the end of September begins dropping into the upper 40's at night, so if you leave your tropicals (Ficus, Brazilian Raintree, Olive, Serissa) outside for the summer, you may want to watch the forecast for nights to protect them.

- First part of September can still be hot, so continue the same routines from July and August by periodically rotating bonsai with respect to direction of the sun and watching for hot days to guard against sunburn. If a severe leaf burn occurs and premature leaf drop results, put the bonsai in the coolest and shadiest place available, keep the soil moist and cool as possible to prevent re-sprouting and start the tree on its required period of dormancy.
- As the growing period comes to a close, water less frequently, however, do not become complacent and inadvertently allow a tree to dry out.
- Reduce feeding to about half if bonsai indicate they are still in growth cycle. Gradually reduce feeding to minimum in preparation for fall feeding (preparing for dormancy)
- Trim long shoots if they have matured.
- Towards the latter half of the month (after cooling begins, if necessary, wait until October), most trees can be transplanted (see list), but only from one pot to another, and not if the tree requires radical root pruning.
- 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.
- Also toward the latter half of the month (same considerations as above), it is possible to successfully collect and transplant some native trees, provided they are in good health and have good rootage.

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

From The President

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

Club Calendar

September 1 – Penjing/Saikei Design with Tom Lee followed by discussion on upcoming New England Bonsai Garden Exhibition. Please Bring potential trees for additional critique and support.

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.

In the Region

September 10-12 – International Bonsai Symposium, Holiday Inn at the Airport, Rochester, NY,

September 17-19 – Bonsai Clubs of New England Exhibition, Tower Hill Botanical Garden, Boylston, Mass. (This date is as listed at <http://www.towerhillbg.org/thwebspecev.html>)

September 18 – New England Bonsai Gardens Exhibition in Bellingham Mass. Teddi will set up an area for our club, so start getting those trees ready to show!

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.

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. Printable copies of the entry forms for both admittance and actual entries will be located on our own website of <http://www.chinatradebonsaisociety.org/> within the next day or so (thanks Evan).

From The Editor

When first I visited New England, in the spring of 1982, everyone made a point to tell me that if I remained until fall, I would be amazed by the color. I was nineteen at the time, coming from out west with thoughts on about everything but trees. But stay I did for almost two years, and enjoyed without a doubt the two most beautiful autumns I had ever seen.

I recall this, because it is nigh on September and autumn begins officially in about three weeks. Already my maple out front is showing touches of red, and dropping a sea of leaves much to my son's chagrin. I look at my bonsai, my willow has turned gold early and my sumac has six red leaves already. I have promised myself again to make that trip to northern New Hampshire and drink in the color, and promised not to get too busy and break that promise again this year.

Bonsai is at its best when it reflects nature in miniature. New England offers some of the best classrooms for study. While I look forward to the exhibitions at Bellingham, Tower Hill, and my first trip to Long Island, I also look toward a relaxing weekend in the White Mountains. Enjoy the fall.

-Rob