



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

August 2005

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 – Susan Carucci
 Operations – Steve Tomicheck
 Webmaster – Robert Sant / Evan Kent
 Photography and Newsletter – Robert Sant / Joe McGinnis
 Hospitality – Carol Gazso
 Connecticut College Liaison – Jeff Smith

Ficus Group Planting

with Suthin Sukosolvisit

A recognized Shohin Bonsai Master, Suthin Sukosolvisit began his studies over thirty-five years ago in his native Thailand. Seventeen years ago, he moved to the United States where he worked at Bonsai West until 1994 when he opened [Royal Bonsai Garden](#). Recently he attended the 5th World Bonsai Convention where he received an Honorable Mention for his Shimpaku entry.



Suthin Sukosolvisit from Royal Bonsai Garden in Stoughton Massachusetts

For July's meeting, the China Trade Bonsai Society hosted Suthin, where he demonstrated something a little different. Instead of using just a single tree, he created a three-tree clump style planting (Sambon Yose) with Willow Leaf Ficus.

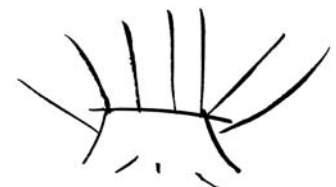
There are several ways to create multi-trunked bonsai. Some species naturally form clumps (quince, azalea), while others, like maples, send off numerous shoots if the trunk



Clump Style (Single Root Base)

is "chopped". Another method is to plant several trees through holes in a board, and as they grow they form air layered roots which fuse. The final method, which Suthin demonstrated, is to prune and plant several trees in close proximity and allowing them to grow together.

The trees chosen for the demonstration were willow-leaf ficus (*ficus nerifolia*). The first tree chosen (mother) was selected for its nebari, the side trees for their lower branches. The side trunks should reflect the main trunk in movement. If the main trunk is straight, then the side trunks should also be relatively straight. Fronts were chosen, marked with chopsticks, and the pruning began.



Trunk Chop (with shoots)



Choosing relative positions

The ficus responds well to aggressive root pruning, so many of the large roots were pruned back to "fit" the trees into position. Excess material was removed to open up the bonsai, making it look more like a tree and less like a bush. The upper branches were thinned to allow more light to the lower branches, improving the growth balance.



Air-layered to create fused roots



The Finished Bonsai

Finally, it was placed in a proper bonsai pot and presented to the club.

This Month

Kemin Hu, praised as the most renowned woman connoisseur of Chinese Scholar Stones in 400 years, will present "Bonsai and Gongshi". Kemin is the author of two books: "The Spirit of Gongshi: Chinese Scholar's Rocks" and "Scholars' Rocks in Ancient China – The Suyuan Stone Catalogue." She has lectured in many arenas including at the Asia Society in New York City, MIT's Boston Club Event, and the 5th World Bonsai Convention in Washington, DC. Her personal collection has been featured at a number of exhibitions including a 100-piece exhibit in the New York Chinese Scholar Garden (Staten Island Botanical Garden, 2002). Her Scholar Stones are also on permanent display at the National Bonsai and Viewing Stone Collection in the U.S. National Arboretum.

Club Calendar

- **August 3, 2005** - Gongshi, Scholar Rocks and Suiseki with Kemin Hu
- **September 7, 2005** - Guest Speaker - Joe Stempien from the Bonsai Society of Greater New Haven
- **October 5, 2005** - Extreme Bonsai Makeover with Kenji Miyata
- **October 2005** (Saturday TBD) - Exhibition/Demonstration at Holdridges Nursery
- **October 2005** (Saturday TBD) - Exhibition/Demonstration at Connecticut College (Annual Plant Show)
- **November 2, 2005** - Bonsai Tools: Care and Use with Tom Lee
- **December 7, 2005** - Christmas Party

In The Region

- September 7, 2005 - New England Bonsai Gardens Annual Exhibition in Bellingham Mass.
- September 17-18, 2005 - Tower Hill Bonsai Society Regional Exhibition in Boylston Mass.

Tree Care for the Month of August

Temperatures for the month of August average a daily high in the 80's with lows in the 60's at night for the Groton area. Most bonsai summer growth has slowed or completely stopped during this time of the year.

- Periodically rotate bonsai with respect to direction of the sun. Morning sun is best. Watch for hot days and guard against sunburn.
- Water more frequently. When watering, water down the benches, ground and surrounding areas to increase the humidity.
- Be careful against any drastic pruning this time of year.
- Wire/Bend small branches for training.
- Fertilize as usual this month.
- With the exception of certain tropic bonsai, do not transplant or repot except in an emergency. For those tropical trees that are transplanted, move from direct sunlight for a few days to allow for transplant shock.

From The Editor

Last month, I received a rather irate letter from a member for publishing their picture and/or name in the newsletter. To be fair, this individual had previously expressed a desire to not have their name published on the internet. I didn't think about the fact that the newsletter is also posted on the internet at the time of publishing.

Although I like to give credit where due, to prevent further unpleasantness, if anyone else has issue with their name or photo being published either in the newsletter or on the website, please let me know.

Rob

Websites of Interest

World Bonsai Friendship Federation
<http://www.bonsai-wbff.org/main.htm>

North American Bonsai Federation
<http://www.bonsai-wbff.org/nabf/main.htm>

Bonsai Clubs International
<http://www.bonsai-bci.com/>

National Bonsai Foundation
<http://www.bonsai-nbf.org/>

U.S. National Arboretum
<http://www.usna.usda.gov/>

Gallery

This month, both the Bonsai Society of Greater Springfield (BSGS) and Bonsai Society of Greater Hartford put on excellent shows. Enjoy the pictures. - Rob

