



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

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

From The President

China Trade Bonsai Society enjoyed one of our most successful years in 2004 both in membership growth and learning experiences. I hope for an even better 2005. To accomplish this, we need member participation at every level, from planning to execution. Our next planning meeting is February 2, 2005 at 6:00pm at the Connecticut College Arboretum, where we will vote to finalize the plans and proposals made at the January meeting. All members are encouraged to attend.

The following is a brief synopsis of the major points to be concluded during the February meeting. Detailed information will be presented at that time.

Additionally, I have scheduled a meeting with Kathy Dame of the Connecticut College Arboretum for Wednesday, January 26, 2005 in the Olin Conference Room, Room 103 to discuss our plans and any questions regarding the Bonsai and Arts Festival. As you can see, we have a lot to cover, so come prepared with constructive suggestions to ensure another banner year.

Tom Lee
President, China Trade Bonsai Society

January Planning Meeting Notes:

- Budget:** In 2004, our regular membership increased from 18 to 32 (not including our honorary memberships), which is the highest in the history of our club. Between members' dues and our numerous community events we brought in \$1539.48. Our expenditures for day-to-day operations, as well as guest lectures by Kenji Miyata, Colin Lewis, John Romano, Todd Hansen and Jack Hoover amounted to \$1705.83 leaving us a balance of \$2109.91. Our target for 2004 end of the year balance was \$2000, so financially we were very successful thanks to all the hard work from our members. For 2005, I have proposed a similar budget to include guest lecturers (Kenji Miyata, Suthin Sukosolvisit, Todd Hansen, John Romano, Kemin Hu and Joe Stempien) as well as the First Annual China Trade Bonsai Society Bonsai and Arts Festival. I believe that continuing to provide excellent programs will further increase our membership to a target goal of at least 40 by years' end. I am also optimistic that our first indoor festival will also be a financial success with our member's support. Continuing with top-notch lecturers will only help to also develop our own bonsai skills. The program as presented was passed by unanimous vote of members present.
- Membership Dues:** It has been proposed to raise our annual membership fee from \$20 to \$25 to help offset some of our expenses. The membership fee still includes admission to all CTBS events, other than those events specifically designated as extra to help offset any additional costs to the club. As in the past, additional immediate family members in the same household are welcome to attend regular scheduled meetings at no additional charge.
- Move Date of June 2005 Meeting:** It was proposed, voted and passed to move the date of the June 2005 monthly meeting from June 1, 2005 to June 8, 2005 to accommodate those wishing to attend the World Bonsai Conference in Washington D.C.
- First Annual Bonsai and Arts Festival:** Discussed and assigned several volunteers to fill key roles in the planning and execution of this event. Unfinished items will be concluded at the February meeting.

Proposed Changes to CTBS By-Laws to be discussed and voted at February Meeting:

1. **Change of Fiscal Year Dates:** It is proposed to amend our bylaws to change the fiscal year dates to coincide with the calendar year (January 1 through December 31 vice March 1 through end of February). This is desired in order to have the financial statements available by our first planning meeting in January.
2. **Program Year Dates:** It is proposed to specifically state in the bylaws that the start of the club's program year is March 1 to the end of February.
3. **November Meeting:** It is proposed to remove the "annual meeting and setting of dues" designation in the bylaws for the November meeting and to re-state item 6 of the Bylaws of the China Trade Bonsai Society as Amended 4 December 2002 to read: "Nominations for election of officers shall be at the October monthly meeting. The meeting of the corporation for the election of officers shall be at the monthly meeting in November, newly elected officers to take office in December after the December meeting. Regular and special meetings of the corporation shall be held at such time as may be designated by the president or by the membership. Notice of the annual and special meetings shall be given not later than thirty days prior to the meeting.
4. **January and February Meetings:** It is proposed to amend our bylaws to specifically designate January as the annual meeting of the China Trade Bonsai Society. The purpose of the January meeting is for the Treasurer to present the detailed accounting of financial report for the previous year and the President to present the proposed planning, budget and setting of club member dues for the following year. It will be held the first Wednesday of January at the regular meeting place designated by the club. If the club is unable to meet due to inclement weather or otherwise, the club will meet the following Wednesday or soon thereafter as designated by the President. Any unresolved issues will be addressed and resolved at the February members' planning meeting. These meetings are open to all members and all members are encouraged to attend.

Official votes on the Treasurer's report, President's proposed plan, budget and dues for the following year will be taken at these meetings. A majority vote of the members present will determine the outcome. If there is a tie, the President will have the deciding vote.

Once the final vote on the budget and plan is passed, an outline of the club's program, activities and request for dues for the following year will be provided to the regular membership prior to the March meeting in the form of the club newsletter and posted on the club's website.

5. **Dues:** It is proposed to amend our bylaws to read "Dues: The annual dues required for regular membership shall be determined by majority vote of the regular members at the annual meeting, or other meeting designated by the president."
6. **Membership:** It is proposed to amend item 4.c of the Bylaws of the China Trade Bonsai Society as Amended 4 December 2002 to read: "The Treasurer shall maintain a list of regular and honorary members throughout the year. The Secretary shall maintain the archive of all members' lists as provided by the Treasurer annually."
7. **Officers** – It is proposed to amend item 7 of the Bylaws of the China Trade Bonsai Society as Amended 4 December 2002 to read: "The elective officers of the corporation shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer who shall serve a term of one year. Other officers may be established and elected by the regular members. The succession of officers shall be in that order listed if an officer resigns for any reason or is unable to perform their duties."
8. **Subcommittee chairs:** It is proposed to amend our bylaws to include subcommittee chairs and state "Subcommittee Chairs may be created and appointed by the President as needed in the course of maintaining smooth running of the club. Recommended subcommittees may include, but not limited to: Programs, Operations, Publicity, Newsletter, Webmaster, Photography, Hospitality and Connecticut College Liaison."
9. **Amendment dates:** List the Original and all amendment dates of bylaws.

China Trade Bonsai Society of Southeastern Connecticut, Inc.

Bylaws As Amended 4 December 2002

1. The name of the corporation shall be: ***China Trade Bonsai Society of Southeastern Connecticut, Inc.***
2. The purpose of the corporation shall be:
 - a. To study, practice and advance the art of bonsai, oriental gardening, and associated subjects.
 - b. To do anything necessary or desirable for the accomplishment of the general purpose of the corporation.
 - c. The corporation is organized and operated for the above-stated purposes, and for other non-profit purpose, and no part of any net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any member.
 - d. To engage in any lawful act or activity for which corporations may so formed under the Connecticut Revised Non Stock Corporation Act.
3. The principal meeting place of the corporation shall be at Connecticut College, located in New London, Connecticut. The corporation may have such other meeting places as may be designated by the president or vote of the membership.
4. Membership: There shall be two classes of membership:
 - a. Regular Membership -Anyone interested in the activities of the corporation is eligible to become a regular member with full voting privileges.
 - b. Honorary Membership -Anyone interested in the activities of the corporation may be awarded Honorary Membership by a vote of the membership.
 - c. The secretary shall maintain a list of regular and honorary members.
5. Dues: The annual dues required for regular membership shall be determined by a two thirds vote of the regular members at the annual meeting, or other meeting designated by the president.
6. Meetings: Nominations for election of officers shall be at the October monthly meeting. The annual meeting of the corporation for the election of officers and the setting of dues shall be at the monthly meeting in November, newly elected officers to take office in December after the December meeting. Regular and special meetings of the corporation shall be held at such time as may be designated by the president or by the membership. Notice of the annual and special meetings shall be given not later than thirty days prior to the meeting.
7. Officers: The elective officers of the corporation shall be a president, vice president, secretary and a treasurer who shall serve a term of one year. Other officers may be established and elected by the regular members.
8. Amendments: These by-laws may be amended or repealed in whole or in part by a majority vote at any meeting of the corporation with advance notice given of one week.
9. In the event of dissolution of the corporation, any funds remaining on hand shall be distributed to a suitable non-profit organization as voted by the members.

As Amended 4 December 2002