



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

June 2005

China Trade Bonsai Society

Officers:

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

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Small Is Beautiful – Shohin Bonsai with John Romano

To say shohin (pronounced sho-heen) is to say “little thing”. To say Shohin Bonsai, and you speak of bonsai that are held in one hand, a specialty and passion of John Romano.

John visited with the China Trade Bonsai Society in May, providing an excellent lecture and demonstration on the development and care of Shohin Bonsai.



Shohin Master John Romano Demonstrates on a San Jose Juniper

Shohin Bonsai, by definition, are less than 25cm (approximately 10 inches) from the top of the pot to tree apex. Keeping it simple, this also includes smaller categories such as Mame and Shito. John develops most of his



Shohin Bonsai by John Romano

bonsai at heights less than six inches with amazing detail using an attitude that says “in five years this will look good...in ten years this will look better”.

Material for Shohin Bonsai comes from numerous sources, seeds and cuttings being the most common. One of the best methods to obtain a fairly mature tree is by air-layering,

however, some species (Japanese Black Pine, Japanese Maples) can take up to two years to establish strong enough roots. A larger tree can be cut back to Shohin size in stages provided patience is exercised and the tree's health takes priority.

John maintains his Shohin Bonsai small by repotting yearly with pruning and pinching. For soil he uses a fine mixture of pumice, Turface, and Akadama with no organic matter. For fertilizer he uses pellets and fish/seaweed emulsion.

Dues Reminder

With the First Annual Bonsai & Asian Arts Festival just a few weeks away, full member participation is needed. To date we have only 14 paid members taking advantage of some fantastic workshops and lectures, not to mention (ok...mentioning) our FIRST large scale public showing!

Please bring your checks (\$25, payable to China Trade Bonsai Society) to Wednesday's meeting, or if you won't be able to attend, mail them to:

Alice Kuo
P.O. Box 40422
Providence, RI 02940

This Month – Just back from the World Bonsai Conference, Tom Lee will discuss Preparation and Displaying Tips.

Bring Bonsai and other materials you wish to display at the First Annual Bonsai & Asian Arts Festival for critique and discussion.

KOKEDAMA

When choosing a companion plant to display with your bonsai, consider using a Kokedama (small plate or bowl with moss covered soil and arranged plants).

John Romano conducted a brief demonstration during his May visit using Green Moss, Water, Potting Soil, and Wild Mountain Laurel saplings.



A Kokedama



Start with a layer of green moss, placing in its center a small quantity of regular potting soil.

Next, add the plant of your choice. Illustrated is a small native laurel sapling, but any attractive wild grasses or plants will work. The key is to select something that will complement the bonsai.



Begin to work the soil and moss into a ball, using a little water to help hold it together.

Wrap with live green moss and finish holding it together with wire "staples". Display with a tray or a thin stone slab.

In The Region

- July 23-24, 2005 - Hartford Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition in Elizabeth Park
- 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 June

Summer officially starts this month, so watch the temperatures and the water. By months end the average daytime high will be near 80°F. Things to think about this month:

- Early June is a good time to finish up those few remaining transplants, especially azaleas and pines. Be careful with deciduous trees.
- Periodically rotate bonsai with respect to direction of the sun. Watch for hot days and guard against sunburn.
- As days get hotter, water more frequently. When watering, water down the benches, ground and surrounding areas to increase the humidity.
- Defoliation in late June for deciduous trees. Be sure new buds are set before leaf removal. This is especially true for this year with the late spring and cooler temperatures.
- Beginning training vertical shoots on deciduous trees. Be careful since they are young and tender.
- Fertilize rapid growing deciduous trees, but be sparing with conifers.

Club Calendar

- **June 8, 2005** - (Second Wednesday due to The World Bonsai Convention in Washington DC) - Preparations and Displaying Tips for First Annual Bonsai & Asian Arts Festival
- **June 18, 2005** - First Annual Bonsai & Asian Arts Festival presented by China Trade Bonsai Society and Connecticut College Arboretum
- **July 6, 2005** - Restyling Tropical Bonsai with Suthin Sukosolvisit
- **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

From the President

Reminder, the BAAF planning committee will be meeting next Wednesday (June 8, 2005) 5-6pm, just before our monthly club meeting, to discuss status of the festival. This meeting is open to all volunteers wishing to assist.

The CTBS regular meeting will be Wednesday, June 8, 2005 at 6-8pm (Note: meeting change this month). Tom Lee will start out the open discussions for displaying bonsai. All members should also bring in their bonsai and tools/supplies if they would like to work on them at the meeting or would like suggestions or help.

To help offset some of the BAAF cost, we are looking at having an auction/raffle at the show. If you have any trees or Bonsai/Asian Art material you wish to donate, please bring them to Wednesday's meeting.

Show Preparation Recommendations

A couple of suggestions for those wishing to show their trees or viewing stones at the First Annual Bonsai & Asian Arts Festival:

- a. Trees should be clean, free of pests, weeds and disease.
- b. Use stands if available. Other options are bamboo mats, wooden slats, etc.
- c. Replace with fresh moss if desired.
- d. Clean pot or tray.
- e. Remove wire unless it is needed.

Volunteer Needed for Tower Hill – We need a volunteer to represent us at Tower Hill (Sept 17-18, Planning meeting June 15). See Tom Lee if you are interested.

Congratulations to Todd Hansen, who was last year's runner up in The Joshua Roth New Talent Bonsai Competition and placed Second this year at the World Bonsai Conference competition in Washington D.C.!

Bonsai Tips

For this month's tips, I've listed some various products that are periodically mentioned in lectures.

(From John Romano) An economical source of Pumice (for use in Bonsai Soil) is called "Dry Stall" and may be carried at Agway. For information on it, see the following website:

http://www.drystall.com/dry_stall.html

A lime-sulfur product for bleaching Jins/Shari's is Ortho Dormant Disease Control Lime-Sulfur Spray, which can be purchased at most nurseries.

To preserved deadwood (jin & shari), use a wood hardener such as Minwax® High Performance Wood Hardener to slow the rate of decay.



From the Editor

June is here, and I want to get this issue out... so much to include in this issue that I don't seem to have enough room for it all. So, just a couple of things from me.

In April's Newsletter I stated that I didn't know the name of the artist who created a beautiful Eastern White Cedar bonsai that was shown at the 2004 Tower Hill Exhibition. Last month Tom had informed me that the owner was Sally Cartright. More information this month. Doug Taylor from the Bonsai Societies of Greater Springfield read our newsletter and wrote to inform us that the owner was Sally Cartright, and the original designer was Nick Lenz.

Finally, while doing a little research, I came across the following site dedicated to European Shohin Bonsai. Enjoy <http://www.shohin-europe.com/>



Shohin Eastern White Cedar (Thuja occidentalis) by Sally Cartright, originally designed by Nick Lenz

First Annual Bonsai & Asian Arts Festival

As the BAAF draws nearer, continue to spread the word. Email your relatives, friends, co-workers, telling them that we are pleased to announce our First Annual Bonsai & Asian Arts Festival, on Saturday June 18, 9am-5pm. This unique exhibit will be in a fantastic setting at the Cummings Arts Center, Connecticut College. It is co-sponsored by the China Trade Bonsai Society and Connecticut College Arboretum. The festival will have Bonsai and Penjing, Original Asian Landscape Art from Charles Chu as well as from the Chu-Griffis Art Collection from Connecticut College.

Additionally, there will be on exhibit:

- Prints from Dr. Yee-Sun Wu
- Prints and Sketches by John Naka
- Demonstrations by Tom Lee (President China Trade Bonsai Society), Todd Hansen (Second Place Winner in The Joshua Roth New Talent Bonsai Competition at the World Bonsai Conference in Washington D.C.), and Teddi Scobi (Co-Owner of New England Bonsai Gardens)
- Tom Lee will unveil the new "Prosperity" Penjing Forest Style

Detailed information can be found in the sites below.

http://www.chinatradebonsaisociety.org/bonsai_festival_final.pdf

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

http://www.chinatradebonsaisociety.org/JTCGallery_Virt_Tour01.htm

Instructions For Members Exhibiting Trees At The Bonsai & Asian Arts Festival

The Cummings Art Center can be reached by turning left at the security/information booth at the top of the hill from the main entrance to the college on RT. 32. An elevator will be available for you to get up to the main level of the arts center.

Volunteers will commence setup on Friday, June 17, 2005 after 12:00 noon. We recommend bringing your bonsai to verify how you want it displayed, however, for security reasons, you will need to take them home that day. Final setup will be between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on June 18th. It is essential that your exhibits be brought in early to ensure we are ready to open the doors at 9:00 a.m.

For security reasons, you will be asked to sign your trees in. Warren Steadman is in charge of this process. You will also be asked to make out a display card to be placed in front of your tree. The card will look like this.

TREE _____
AGE _____

The common name of the tree should be placed on the first line. If you know the botanical name it should follow the common name. Your best estimate of the age of the tree should go on the next line. Any additional information that might feel is appropriate (ie. Raft style) may be added on the third line.

If any one anticipates any problems, or needs any help, in getting their trees to the art center or in getting them home please call Joe Purtill at 860 599 5524.



Scholar Stones Exhibited at New Haven Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition

Photo Gallery

New Haven Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition in Edgerton Park



Collected Larch by Jack Hoover



Banyan by Steven Smith



Collected Hemlock by Nancy Mack



Japanese Maple in Real Rock Pot by Alfred DeAngelis



Trident Maple by Jack Hoover



Japanese Maple by Nancy Mack



Prostrata Juniper by Virginia Ells



Collected Korean Hornbeam (and closeup) by Dr. Anthony Alario

