



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

May 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

Pest and Disease Control

If asked, Jeff Smith will tell you that he hates pesticides. When given an option, its just better to just “squish” the bugs.

Pests pose particular problems in the Spring. Just like the trees that emerge from winter hibernation, so do the bugs, and many find the new growth to be tender and delicious.

The first impulse is to grab a bag of pellets, granules, crystals, or spray and “let them have it!” But improperly used, pesticides pose as much a hazard to the plant and environment as to the thing you’re trying to kill.

Chemical extermination should be considered as a last result. Many of the common Spring problems can be minimized or avoided by maintaining a high standard of cleanliness. This includes cleaning tools when finishing working with one tree, and before moving on to the next.



Jeff Smith, Arboretum Horticulturist at Connecticut College lectures on Pest Control

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The following are links provided by Jeff to help identify and treat most common pest related problems, as well as provide more information regarding use of insecticides and alternatives:

General Use Insecticides For Home Gardening (from University Of Kentucky Entomology Department) - <http://www.uky.edu/agriculture/entomology/entfacts/trees/ef445.htm>

Aphids, mealybugs, scale, spider mites, and other little nasties – from the Pest Management section on the Bonsai Societies Of Florida website - http://www.bonsai-bsf.com/pest/pest_master.html

Dues Reminder

Just another quick friendly reminder to renew your membership. To date we have only 13 paid members this year. Take a look at our excellent program scheduled, and you will see its well worth the price.

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 – John Romano!



examples of his own. John will also do a demonstration on a small San Jose juniper garden plant for a shohin sized bonsai."



Examples of John Romano Shohin

Club Calendar

- **May 4, 2005** - John Romano Returns! Shohin Bonsai Demo.
- **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, we will be meeting next Wednesday (May 4, 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.

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.

A good opportunity to visit an exhibition prior to ours is Bonsai Society of Greater New Haven Exhibition, May 21-22, 10:00AM-4:00PM, Edgerton Garden Center, New Haven, CT.

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, Asian Landscape Art from Charles Chu and Arnold Chang as well as from the Chu-Griffis Art Collection from Connecticut College. There will also be vendors, demonstrations and more. 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

In The Region

- * May 2, 2005 (4:30 p.m.) – (Wesleyan University) Japanese Tea Ceremony Demonstration and Tour of the Freeman Family Japanese Garden. Seating limited to 25 guests.
- * May 14, 2005 (10 a.m. – noon) – (Wesleyan University) “Open Days” Garden Conservancy Garden Tour of the Freeman Family Japanese Garden
- May 21-22, 2005 - New Haven Bonsai Society Annual Exhibition in Edgerton Park
- May 28-31, 2005 - 5th World Bonsai Convention in Washington D.C.
- 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.

* For Wesleyan University Events, contact Shirley Lawrence at (860) 685-2330, or email slawrence@wesleyan.edu for more information reservations.

Wanted – A Few Good Trees

Sponsoring the First Annual Bonsai & Asian Art Festival is an excellent opportunity to show off your best bonsai.

We expect to display between 40 and 60 trees, and hope that all members will want to contribute at least one exhibit. These can be Bonsai, Penjing, Saikei or Scholar Stones.

Please think about what you want to display, including trays and stands. The show is just six weeks away!

Tree Care for the Month of May

In case you haven't notice, most everything around is finally starting to bud out. By the end of May, everything will be green again. Days average in the 60's, warming into the 70's by month's end. Nighttime temperatures will average in the 40's to low 50's by month's end; however, historically, temperatures in the low 30's have been recorded for the area. Things to think about this month:

- Start placing your tropical bonsai outdoors during the day, and occasionally overnight if the temperature looks like it will stay above 50. Place them in partial sun areas for starters or else sunburn will occur.
- Transplanting season continues this month for most non-tropical species, particularly most conifers and later budding deciduous trees.
- Many pines are starting to candle. Remove unwanted candles completely, and pinch others according to desired shape and growth habit.
- This month starts the feeding cycle. Use low nitrogen fertilizers for fruiting bonsai and pines until candles are set. For non-fruiting deciduous trees use a higher nitrogen fertilizer during the aggressive growth period. Alternate types of fertilizer.
- Increase watering to support new growth, but don't water just to water. Check the soil to for dryness or else root rot may occur.
- Collecting and transplanting native trees continues this month.

Bonsai Tips

Ok, so it's not a very original name, and suggestions to jazz it up are more than welcome. Here are just a few bits of information that float by now and then, and I'd like to pass them on. When possible, I try to verify them first, and will tell you if I haven't.

Back Budding – This tip came from Todd Hansen. Use a toothbrush and clean the tree's bark in the area you desire back budding. Spritz daily with a solution of water and ½ strength general purpose fertilizer (like Shultz's). I've tried this with my Brazilian Rain Tree for about a month now, and it does seem to be working. I'm seeing new growth in areas that were blank.

Sagina Subulata – It goes by several names, Irish Moss, Scotch Moss, Corsican Pearlwort, etc. It looks like a miniature lawn, no more than about ½ inch high, with tiny flowers. It's quite attractive, and left unchecked can be quite deadly to bonsai. If you pull it, just the smallest bit of root left behind will result in it coming right back. So, how to get rid of it. For a large problem, repot. But before it gets to be a big problem, Todd Hansen says to touch-treat it with vinegar using a small paintbrush or Q-tip. After it dies, pull it out. If it comes back, treat it again. I've tried this one too, and yep, it works. Dies in about three days.

Insecticidal Soap – One alternative to harsh chemical poisons is the use of insecticidal soap for treating infestations of pests such as spider mites, mealybugs, and aphids. There are many commercial brands available (Safer, Bayer, Ortho, etc...) which cost up to around \$8.00 per quart bottle. A less expensive and equally effective method is to simply make your own with the following recipe.

Recipe: Mix 1.5 Tablespoons of a non-perfumed dishwashing detergent (Crystal White or Octagon work well) and 3 Tablespoons non-perfumed rubbing alcohol with 1 quart of water. Since over time the alcohol will evaporate, if the mixture has been sitting for more than a couple of months, re-add the alcohol proportionately before use.

Remember, whenever treating any plant with a foreign substance, do a little research ahead of time to avoid heartache later. Some plants do not react well to soap based insecticides.

From the Editor

Hard as it may seem to believe, but we are just six weeks away from the First Annual Bonsai & Asian Arts Festival. I, for one am pretty excited. Now is the time to be considering all those things like the tree, pot, stand, companions, scrolls etc.

Last month I wrote an article about Pot Selection and stated that I did not know the artist who created the Eastern White Juniper. Thanks to Tom I can now give proper credit. The artist was Sally Cartwright.

This month we've added a section to the website called Articles of Interest. (<http://www.chinatradebonsaisociety.org/articles.htm>) Here we will add links to both in-house articles (you are more than welcome, even encouraged to show your writing by contributing) and external articles with valuable bonsai information.

We have also added a new section to the newsletter dealing with bonsai tips. I came up with this idea after talking to Todd Hansen about various and sundries. Face it; there are lots of little bits of information that are valuable to know. Again, looking for contributions in the area.

On a final note, we've created a ¼ page b&w flyer (300 dpi print image) and put it at <http://www.chinatradebonsaisociety.org/FlyerCards.jpg> for handing out with tickets. That's about all for now, so until next month...happy pruning.