



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

October 2005

China Trade Bonsai Society

Officers:

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

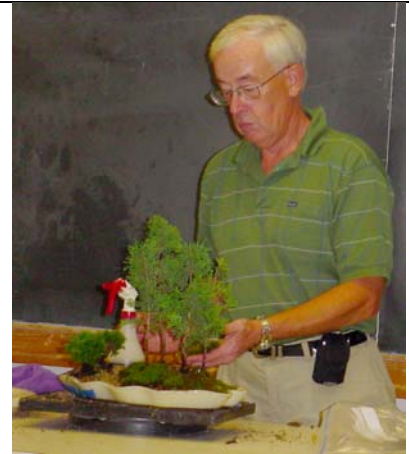
Points of Contact:

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

Joe Stempien – Saikei

Following the second world war, Toshio Kawamoto began to combine group plantings and root-over-rock bonsai styles. Since mature bonsai material was in short supply, he used younger specimens to illustrate natural scenes and called this new art Saikei.

Joseph Stempien from the New Haven Bonsai Society visited the China Trade Bonsai Society in September, demonstrating some of Toshio Kawamoto's Saikei techniques using Eastern White Cedar and Hinoki Cypress.



Joe Stempien from the New Haven Bonsai Society demonstrating Saikei Techniques

Saikei uses many of the same techniques as bonsai, but differs from traditional group plantings by using multiple species of trees and combining them with rocks, figures, mosses and ferns to illustrate some form of nature and capture the viewer's interest. Last year, Tom Lee discussed the basic

rules for Saikei design in his lecture "[Landscapes In Miniature](#)" This year, Joe expanded our knowledge by reviewing those same principles and demonstrating with live material.



Eastern White Cedar Saplings

First, remove the material from their pots. Wrap the roots in damp paper towels to prevent drying out. This allows the artist to move the material around and get a better visual perspective before committing them to a permanent position.

Next, prepare the container with screen and wire, including wires to hold the material in place as required. Position the soil and rocks as desired for visual effect. In the image to the right, note the



Basic Layout Plan

"stream" narrows toward the far side increasing the depth of field. Also to note, even numbers and straight lines are generally avoided. Even though the illustration shows a total of eight trees, they are divided into two odd numbered groups without any three trees in a straight line.



Positioning Rocks and Soil

The trees are positioned according to the plan with soil mixture of course sand, surface, and ground pine bark.

It is piled higher in the middle to avoid the "flat look" and moss is used as an accent and to hold things into place. Gaps are placed between the mosses to allow water to pass through. The end result is a pleasing landscape.



The Finished Saikei

Winter care is the same as for most bonsai. For the Eastern White Cedar and Hinoki Cypress used with this planting, keep less than 40F for winter months and protect from wind and hard freezing.

Club Elections

As we start to wind down this year, it becomes time to think about the directions we want to take our club in the upcoming year.

Per the bylaws, the nominations for elected officers will be conducted during the October meeting with elections following in November. Anyone interested in one of the elected positions (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) please contact the Secretary, Joe Purtill, or in his absence, Rob Sant.

Tree Care for the Month of October

October is here and already the days seem shorter with a definite nip in that morning air. The native maples are changing, and leaves are starting to fall. Temperatures for the month average a daily high of around 68°F early in the month to around 58°F by Halloween. By the end of the month the lows will be dipping into the 30's with a chance of frost.

- Tropical Bonsai should be brought in for the season, with an occasional day outside if temperature permits. Watch for sudden changes in temperature.
- October can still have warm spells. Be careful that deciduous trees don't re-sprout. Move them to shady places on unseasonably warm days.
- Water less frequently; however, do not allow a tree to dry out.
- Continue feeding with low nitrogen fertilizer for dormancy, not growth.
- Trim long growth on conifers. Clean off any dead needles from pines.
- Prune deciduous trees to shape after leaves have fallen.
- Remove wires from deciduous trees if they are starting to cut into the bark. Some wiring may be done, keep in mind that flexibility will be diminished.
- Remove any remaining fruits and seedpods. Clean up leaves from around the base of Bonsai to prevent unwanted funguses from occurring.
- Most trees can be transplanted (see list), but only from one pot to another, and not if the tree requires radical root pruning. This is the last month to safely transplant bonsai.
- 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.
- It is possible to successfully collect and transplant some native trees, provided they are in good health and have good rootage. Consider though whether it is better to do it now or early spring.

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

This Month

Master Kenji Miyata returns! He will perform a demonstration followed by his version of "Extreme Bonsai Makeover" and some expert advice to member's trees as time permits. Limit of one tree per member and if there are too many trees, we may need to use a raffle system.



Club Calendar

- **October 5, 2005** - Extreme Bonsai Makeover with Kenji Miyata and Officer Nominations
- **October 22, 2005** - Exhibition/Demonstration at Holdridges Nursery
- **November 2, 2005** - Bonsai Tools: Care and Use with Tom Lee and Club Elections
- **December 7, 2005** - Christmas Party

Connecticut College Arboretum Annual Plant Sale



On October 1, 2005, the China Trade Bonsai Society hosted an information table at the Connecticut College Arboretum Plant Sale. It provided us with additional opportunities present to the public information about ourselves. We were even graced with the presence of Charles Chu as he stopped by to visit for a few minutes.



From the Editor

From a bittersweet standpoint, as I begin to bring in my tropical plants for the season, I look at my garden and realize that come spring, I won't be setting it back up, but rather will be packing the remnants for my trip back to the Pacific Northwest. When I first arrived two years ago, I was chatting with Platt and I mentioned that I would like to invite the club over when my garden was done. She (in jest and somewhat prophetic) said it would never happen because gardens are never completed. So, as I begin to take it down I realize she was right. Enjoy this picture, which although never completed, is as close as I got.

This brings me to my next point, with nominations and elections upcoming, I am looking for someone to take over both the website and newsletter. I have enjoyed the working on both for the past couple of years, but as I begin my transition back to civilian life I need to spend time writing resumes and attending job interviews. In short, I fear I won't have the time to deliver the quality product you deserve. So drop me a line if you are interested via the website (webmaster@chinatradebonsaisociety.org).

That said, enjoy this month's edition. I hope to see you Wednesday.

Rob



New England Bonsai Gardens Annual Exhibition

On September 17, 2005, the New England Bonsai Gardens hosted their annual member's exhibition. Enjoy this mini gallery featuring some of finest local talent.



