



# CHINA TRADE BONSAI SOCIETY

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

Monthly Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:twcl@comcast.net)

September 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

## Bonsai and Gongshi with Kemin Hu

When praised as the most renowned woman connoisseur of Chinese Scholar Stones in over 400 years, Kemin Hu smiles and downplays the significance of the comment. But as she speaks, it is apparent the compliment is well deserved. She is the author of two books: "The Spirit of Gongshi: Chinese Scholar's Rocks" and "Scholars' Rocks in Ancient China – The Suyuan Stone Catalogue" with a third book in progress. Her lecturing credentials include the Asia Society in New York City, MIT's Boston Club Event, and most recently, the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 and stones on permanent display at the National Bonsai and Viewing Stone Collection in the U.S. National Arboretum.



*Kemin Hu*

Kemin spoke to the China Trade Bonsai Society during August's meeting, talking about her life, her influences, and of course, the stones. She is a second-generation stone collector, following in the footsteps of her father, a noted stone collector and connoisseur with fifty years experience in China.

The terms "Spirit Stones" and "Scholar Rocks" are primarily western, referring to the Chinese art of Gongshi. Gongshi is derived from two words: Gong meaning "respect" and Shi which is "stone". Gongshi has been practiced in China since the Tang Dynasty (618-907 a.d.) but is fairly new to the western world, particularly the United States. Many Americans first exposure to Gongshi occurred between 1997 and 2000 when stones collected by the late Mr. Richard Rosenblum were shown across the U.S. including the exhibit at Yale University in 1999.



*Mountain scene in a single stone*

Kemin draws many parallels between Bonsai and Gongshi, describing both as miniatures of nature, a soundless poem, and a three-dimensional picture deeply influence by Oriental Philosophy. With many historical Chinese paintings, she shows the tree and stone frequently together, illustrating the harmony found in nature.



*Lingbi Stone*

Kemin discussed the four primary types of stones among the famous Chinese Scholar Rocks. They are classified more by their origins rather than chemical composition. The first is Lingbi, which is found in Lingbi county of Anhui Province, China. When tapped, they ring with a metallic resonance. Sometimes they are cut to produce stone chimes.

The second type is Taihu, collected primarily from drainage areas of Tai Lake. They are formed underwater and noted for their soft colors and erosion created perforations. They are usually large and regarded as the best garden rocks.



*Taihu Stone*



Ying Stone

The third type is Ying Stone, traditionally from Yingde, Guangdong province. They are primarily created by erosion.

The final type is the Zibowen or Wen Stone. They are worn and decayed by nature, frequently found in desert areas.



Wen Stone

A more detailed discussion of the above topics, including how to properly judge and display the stones can be found at her website <http://www.spirit-stones.com>. Additional images from Mrs. Hu's visit and lecture can be found at [http://www.chinatradebonsaisociety.org/2005/2005\\_KeminHu.htm](http://www.chinatradebonsaisociety.org/2005/2005_KeminHu.htm).

The China Trade Bonsai Society would like to thank Kemin Hu for wonderful presentation as we continue this groundbreaking year in our club.

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## This Month

Joseph Stempien from the New Haven Bonsai Society will be demonstrating Saikei Landscapes in Miniature.

He will also demonstrate some of Toshio Kawamoto's Saikei techniques using Eastern White Cedar and Hinoki Cypress.

See you there!

## Club Calendar

- **September 7, 2005** - Guest Speaker - Joe Stempien from the Bonsai Society of Greater New Haven
- **October 1, 2005** – Connecticut College Arboretum Plant Sale
- **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

## Websites of Interest

Man Lung Penjing  
<http://www.manlungpenjing.org>

European Shohin Bonsai  
<http://www.shohin-europe.com/>

- **September 10, 2005** – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Bonsai Gardens Annual Members Exhibition in Bellingham Mass.  
(<http://www.nebonsai.com/new.html>)
- **September 17-18, 2005** – Tower Hill Bonsai Society Regional Exhibition in Boylston Mass.
- **September 20, 2005** – Kenji Miyata will speak at the New Haven Bonsai Society. Peter Hlousek (President of NHBS) has graciously extended us an invitation to join them.

## A note from our regular guest shohin artist and friend John Romano.

Hi all,  
I recently returned from Shizuoka, Japan where I have embarked on an annual part time apprenticeship with Mr. Nobuichi Urushibata, a shohin extraordinaire, at his nursery, Taisho en. This occurred somewhat serendipitously through my working with Rob King on the new American Shohin Bonsai Society and through a mutual bonsai acquaintance in Japan (who arranged for the apprenticeship). You can read an interview with Mr. Urushibata by Marco Invernizzi at this site:  
<http://216.65.36.71/subscriber/profile102a.htm>

Rob and I went together and will hopefully continue on an annual basis for short or extended stays. I have posted a journal at <http://www.nebonsai.com/journal.html> that I will continue with 4 installments (there is only the first installment up).  
Peace in Bonsai,

John Romano

## Reaching Out With Bonsai

On August 24, Joe Purtill addressed the Senior Citizens Lunch at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center about Bonsai.

Using trees from his personal collection, he focused on the History and Development of Bonsai, the differences between Bonsai and Topiary, and the Care and Maintenance of Bonsai.

He concluded by inviting all to attend our next meeting.

## From The President

We have an addition to our calendar; the Connecticut College Arboretum Annual Plant Sale will be October 1, 2005 from 9am-2pm. We welcome the opportunity to participate in this important yearly event, especially with the generous support shown to us and our festival by the college.

We will discuss the details during this month's meeting, but we generally set up a couple of tables exhibiting some of our best bonsai, literature, and perhaps a demonstration.

We, of course would like your bonsai to show, and if you could, volunteer to just come by for an hour or two to talk to folks and tell them what we're about.

Tom

## Tree Care for the Month of September

September in New England begins the time of change. Temperatures for the month average a daily high of around 73°F with lows in the mid 50's at night. Early September carries some of the residual heat of August (upper 70's to low 80's) with a noticeable cooling by mid-month. Of special note, the end of September begins dropping into the upper 40's at night, so if you leave your tropicals (Ficus, Brazilian Raintree, Olive, Serissa) outside for the summer, you may want to watch the forecast for nights to protect them.

- First part of September can still be hot, so continue the same routines from July and August by periodically rotating bonsai with respect to direction of the sun and watching for hot days to guard against sunburn. If a severe leaf burn occurs and premature leaf drop results, put the bonsai in the coolest and shadiest place available, keep the soil moist and cool as possible to prevent re-sprouting and start the tree on its required period of dormancy.
- As the growing period comes to a close, water less frequently, however, do not become complacent and inadvertently allow a tree to dry out.
- Reduce feeding to about half if bonsai indicate they are still in growth cycle. Gradually reduce feeding to minimum in preparation for fall feeding (preparing for dormancy)
- Trim long shoots if they have matured.
- Towards the latter half of the month (after cooling begins, if necessary, wait until October), most trees can be transplanted (see list), but only from one pot to another, and not if the tree requires radical root pruning.
- 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.
- Also toward the latter half of the month (same considerations as above), it is possible to successfully collect and transplant some native trees, provided they are in good health and have good rootage.

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

## From the Editor

Well, its September with two wonderful shows ahead of us this month. First, the New England Bonsai Gardens Annual Members Exhibition on the 10<sup>th</sup>, followed by Tower Hill on the 17-18<sup>th</sup>.

The website has been updated with various and sundries, including the calligraphy (thanks Tom) you see to the side. It reads "China Trade Bonsai Society" from top to bottom and right to left. It was done by the artist Guo Ming Chen from San Francisco whom Tom met during vacation.

Finally, I have the gallery from the Bonsai & Asian Arts Festival up. There are a few blank captions, and I've tried to minimize my errors, so if you see one or can fill in the blanks, let me know. Also, if you have your own pictures (or better ones), email them to me or drop me a CD at Wednesday's Meeting.

Rob

