



# Journal of The Ottawa Bonsai Society

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## *The President's message*

*By Art Phelan*

The snow is still here at least in my backyard!! The snow storm last week convinced me to slow down and reign in my expectations. Spring is coming but not nearly as fast as I would like. Oh well, the best we can do is sharpen the tools, make up soil, clean the pots, get ready for a very busy season.

The March workshop was a success! Despite the bad weather, we had 7 participants in the Shimpaku workshop. The junipers yielded some nice little trees with lots of potential. The original plan was to work on Japanese Maples, however when we arrived at the nursery in Granby we discovered that the available Japanese maple trees had been trimmed when they were repotted and would not support a restyle. The best laid plans of mice and men are oft to go astray. A new member brought in a nice healthy little Juniper Procumbens Nana for a trim and style selection, all in all a successful evening,

The next meeting will be a styling demonstration on a collected Jack Pine that has been in bonsai soil for the past three years and has several new branches grafted on.

In May Mr. David Easterbrook, the curator of the Japanese and North American collections at the Montreal Botanical Gardens will give a styling lecture on Friday May 9<sup>th</sup> and will lead an intermediate level workshop on evergreen material of a good size, possibly dwarf Scots pine or Junipers on Saturday. If you are interested in this workshop please call Yvon Bernier, 819-684-0586 we are taking a \$20 deposit to hold your place in the

workshop. Four of the eight trees are spoken for so call now! By intermediate level we mean, some experience in cutting branches, applying wire, and potting. David will assist and direct you in styling the tree, you will do most of the work yourself.

The show is scheduled for June 15 & 16 at the Sandy Hill Community Centre. We will have demonstrations by local artists of the creation of a major Blauuw Forest, 11 or more trees, and the styling of a significant older evergreen. The demonstrations are scheduled from 2 til 5 on Saturday and Sunday.

Once again we are asking for volunteers to staff the Society executive. You don't need to be a Bonsai Master, you do need to be willing to get together once a month to plan and organize the program and have some fun. We need help for the upcoming show and for next year. If you are interested, call me or anyone on the executive.

## Ottawa Bonsai Society 2001/2002 Executive

### President – Président

Art Phelan  
94 Eastpark Drive  
Gloucester, ON K1B 4A4  
(613) 834-1134

### Vice President

Rémi Lagacé  
38 Racan  
Buckingham, QC J8L 3X6  
(819) 281-6990

### Treasurer – Trésorier

Yvon Bernier  
208 Avenue des Explorateurs  
Aylmer, QC J9J 1M9  
(819) 684-0586

### Editor – Éditeur

André Pedneault  
539 Boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne  
Aylmer, QC J9H 5T1  
(819) 685-0990  
Aylmer58@videotron.ca

### Secretary – Secrétaire

Vacant

### Directors – Directeurs

Mike O'Connor  
505 Bevan Ave.  
Ottawa, ON K1Z 5S6  
(613) 729-8881

Claude Laprade

### Past President – Ex-président

Barney Shum  
88 Delong Drive  
Gloucester, ON K1J 7E1

### Librarian – Libraire

Ron Charlebois

## The Ottawa Bonsai Society Meeting

Next meeting/ Prochaine rencontre: **April 15th, 2002**  
Time/ Heure: **7:00 pm**  
Location/ Endroit: **RCMP Building/  
Édifice de la GRC  
155 McArthur Road, Ottawa  
(at the Vanier Parkway)**

*Park behind the building, buzz the intercom at the front door to get in  
Sign in with the Commissionaire at the front desk*

### At this month meeting/ À la rencontre de ce mois-ci:

Styling demonstration on a collected Jack Pine

### Upcoming events

- May 10-11th** - Workshop lead by David Easterbrook  
**June 15th - 16th** - Annual Show and Annual General Meeting.

At every meeting/ À chaque rencontre:

- *The Show Table > Bring your tree(s); get a free ticket to the raffle/ Apporter votre/vos arbre(s); recevez un billet gratuit pour le tirage.*
- *The OBS Library/ La librairie de la SBO*
- *A unique opportunity to network with the OBS members and share ideas/ Une opportunité unique de rencontrer les membres de la SBO et d'échanger idées et conseils.*

## The OBS Web site/ Adresse Web

**\*\* New Web Address / Nouvelle adresse Web \*\***  
**<http://www.ottawabonsai.sytes.net:8080> OR**  
**<http://ottawabonsai.zapto.org>**

- People who would be interested to receive the Journal through e-mail instead of mail are welcome to ask and send a note to me at [Aylmer58@videotron.ca](mailto:Aylmer58@videotron.ca)
- Les personnes intéressées à recevoir le bulletin sous forme de e-mail sont bienvenues de le demander et de m'envoyer votre demande à [Aylmer58@videotron.ca](mailto:Aylmer58@videotron.ca)
- Suggestions on topics and subjects that you would like to see appearing and discussed in the Journal will also be welcome and well appreciated.
- Les suggestions sur des points précis et sujets que vous aimeriez voir traités et discutés à l'intérieur du journal sont encore une fois bienvenues et seront bien appréciés.

## \*\* *Announcements* \*\*

### *May meeting & Intermediate workshop by David Easterbrook*

As previously mentioned, due to the long weekend in May, please remember the May meeting will be *re-scheduled to Friday night May 10th*, location still remains to be confirmed. David Easterbrook, the curator of the Japanese and North American Bonsai collections at the Montreal Botanical Society will give a lecture related to the workshop scheduled for Saturday May 11th.

Saturday May 11th, David will lead an **intermediate level** workshop, We will obtain material with some character and potential, hopefully field grown and in at least 3 gallon pots. The most likely candidates will be Dwarf Scots Pines or Junipers.

The workshop will be limited to 8 participants. The cost for the workshop will be \$60 to \$90 depending on the material selected. There are 4 places left for participants and it is "First-come, first- served". For people interested to participate, please call. A \$20 dollar deposit will be required. Persons not working on trees will be welcome to attend as silent observers. Remember the workshop is considered to be *intermediate level*, requiring some experience in cutting branches, applying wire, and potting. David will assist and direct you in styling the tree, you will do most of the work yourself.

### *The Ottawa Bonsai Society 2002 Show & General Meeting*

Please note that the *OBS 2002 will take place June 15th & 16th at the Sandy Hill Community Centre*. We will have demonstrations by local artists of the creation of a major Blauuw Forest, 11 or more trees, and the styling of a significant older evergreen. The demonstrations are scheduled from 2 til 5 on Saturday and Sunday. As we need help for the upcoming show we are looking for volunteers.

Following the Show, we will have the Annual General Meeting on Sunday June 15th 2002 at 17:15. Once again, people interested in joining the Society executive are welcome. You don't need to be a Bonsai Master, you do need to be willing to get together once a month to plan and organize the program and have some fun. If you are interested, call me or anyone on the executive.

## \*\* *Varia* \*\*

The *Toronto Bonsai Society* meets the second Tuesday of every Month at the Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue E. at Finch in the Floral Hall. The meeting starts at 8:00 pm. For more info:  
<http://www.torontobonsai.org>

The *Society de Bonsai and Penjing of Montreal*: <http://www.bonsaimontreal.com>

*Misseto* (the Bonsai Club of Mississauga and Etobicoke) meets the 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 7:30 pm at the Islington United Church, 25 Burnamthorpe Road, Etobicoke ON

## *Spring: Seasonal Care Information*

*Article courtesy of the Phoenix Bonsai Society.*

This is the time of year for regrowth, renewal, repotting, and restyling.

Faster-growing young trees or plants which have been in the same container for two or more years may need to be repotted. Before this is done, consider if a different size, style or color container will better enhance the appearance of the bonsai. Perhaps just a slight repositioning in the existing pot is all that is necessary. Or a radical restyling may be in order to finally bring out the true spirit of a particular "problem child." (Of course, during the winter slowdown you've already had time to do this kind of planning...)

Ideally, pot / re-pot just as the new leaf buds are reaching their maximum size before they start to open. This ensures that there are sufficient internal reserves in the plant to keep it going during the one to two weeks before new feeder roots have developed enough to continue absorbing nutrients for the plant. If major root pruning was not done at this time, feeder roots will be active much sooner.

Try to work in the shade, out of the wind, on a day when the dew point is at least 30 degrees F. Keep a spray bottle near to moisten the root ball as needed.

Use sharp scissors when cutting roots and make clean cuts. The younger and more vigorous your tree is, the more frequently you might prune roots. Remove the tap and other large roots with concave cutters. Be sure not to try to cut rocks or anything other than roots! The top growth of your tree is, to an extent, a reflection of the bottom growth, and vice versa. By keeping the roots fibrous and well balanced, the top growth will follow suit.

Fertilizer primary components of Nitrogen - Phosphorus - Potassium (K) are necessary, respectively, for Leaves & Stems - Roots & Flowers - Overall Health and Hardiness. At least fifteen other elements in smaller quantities are also vital for the life of plants. Organic fertilizer is not necessarily "better," but it can provide helpful small amounts of more complex substances which the inorganic commercial blends don't include. It is wise to alternate between the two types.

In the repotting mixture you may want to include about a quarter-label-strength application of slow release solid fertilizer with micronutrients. This could be either as Osmocote® granules or Gro-Power® planting tablets.

Have the roots not grown very much since the last time you potted? Consider your choices: use a coarser soil mix this time; make sure your pot drains better; decrease the nitrogen and/or increase the phosphate content of the fertilizer for this tree; do not disturb the roots for a few years.

Leave the plant out of direct sun or wind for a week, and gradually reintroduce it. Initially cut back somewhat on the amount of water you give it. Use the transition period to also spruce up your personal display area. Even if you never have visitors over, your trees deserve to be shown off in the best possible way. After a few weeks, begin adding some balanced organic fertilizer. Junipers and pines will benefit from weekly foliar feedings of fish emulsion. Finally, cut off any flowers just as they finish blooming to ensure the next year's good showing.

Unless you specifically want to bulk up a trunk or branch, do not let the new side buds and branches grow too long. Cut back and limit the active buds to only a pair or two per branchlet. The goal is to have compact, ramifying growth. Elms and junipers may require weekly "haircuts." Clean and oil your tools after each session.

