

Journal of The Ottawa Bonsai Society

Journal de la Société de bonsaï d'Ottawa



April/Avril 2009

www.ottawabonsai.org

Vol. 24, No.7

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Notes from your Steering Group Le mot de votre conseil directeur

At the March 16th Meeting, Duart Crabtree announced that the September 12/13 weekend will be reserved for OBS's 2009 Show at the Embassy of Japan. The Steering Group is considering activities that might be combined with the 2009 Show to mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the OBS. The Embassy has indicated that it would be receptive to our suggestions as 2009 is also the 80th anniversary of the opening of the Canadian Legation in Tokyo.

Gord Williams advised that he will make a presentation and lead a workshop on cuttings at the April Meeting. Members are encouraged to bring suitable plant material to the Meeting. Gord indicated that Members who want cuttings should bring tools and supplies and Gord's detailed list appears in this issue of the Newsletter.

Yvon Berier mentioned that there are still openings for the Level 2 Bonsai Design Course on April 18th, but the Level 1 Development Workshop scheduled for May 9th is already fully subscribed with a waiting list for cancellations.

Barney Shum opened the evening program with a presentation on the Cascade Bonsai Style based on the seminar he and Lyne Edmonds developed. As this subject is Level 3, Barney provided a one-page handout and started with a slide show to bring Members up to speed.

The challenge for the bonsai artist is to create an appealing composition with the minimum of material to resemble cascading trees found in nature. Although the familiar design rules are relaxed for cascade style, there are guidelines. Selection and proportion of the pot, obtaining visual balance, trunk line and branch placement are unique. Also, there are important differences with drainage requirements, repotting and root pruning, balancing apical growth, and anchoring the pot.

Barney brought two cascade bonsai to illustrate how the guidelines were used in his compositions and commented on re-designs being considered for Mrs. Rahim's mugo pine.

After the break, Barney created a cascade style bonsai from a Japanese garden juniper that he acquired at a local nursery. Members at all levels appreciated decisions that had to be made with respect to the preferred trunk line, selection of the cascading branch, use of the 'rule of three' for branch placement, location of major foliage masses near the trunk and observed preliminary wiring to unify the design.

Last month's program was a one-man show enjoyed by all! Thank you, Barney.

Next meeting
Monday April 20 at 7:00pm

Cuttings Workshop

We will be having a talk about taking cuttings and aftercare and then do a workshop where everyone can participate. What material that will be available will depend on what you, the members, bring in and share around. We are hoping for a smorgasbord of plant material that will provide something to satisfy the tastes of everyone and that each of us will be able to depart with one, two or even several different cuttings to play with and grow on.

Cuttings are a great way to obtain new plants in an almost no-cost manner. They allow us to learn the horticultural aspects of growing different species hands-on and because we can have many, if one dies then it is not a major disappointment. After we have gained experience for the care and feeding of a new tree species we can feel confident that going out and buying a major specimen will not be a waste of money.

Taking cuttings produces genetically identical plants to the parent unlike planting seeds that are a hybridisation of the parent's genetic material and may have different and undesirable characteristics. Cuttings also gives a couple years jump in growth over seeds and can create nice material bonsai almost immediately although to be realistic, it will still be many years before the plant will be a spectacular 30 cm high bonsai, if that is what you desire. The other advantage of starting plants from scratch is that you have the opportunity to be in total control over the rooting and branching from the start.

Things to Bring

This is a DIY workshop so you will need to bring a number of things. If you don't have everything on hand try to pick up the missing items. If you can't find something, don't sweat, we will try and share what we have, so bring a bit extra of what you do have to trade it with someone else.

- Plants
- Several Small Pots
- Rooting Medium sufficient to fill pots
- Chopstick
- Bamboo Shish Kabob Skewers - a couple per pot
- Small Plastic Bags - to fit over small pots, clean and clear (Baggies or similar)
- Sprayer for water
- Rooting Hormone - Whatever strength.
- Sharp Knife
- Sharp Scissors
- Masking Tape and Pen
- A Few Twist Ties

Plants - We need lots - Maple, elm, willow, cotoneaster, juniper, azalea, etc. Tropicals are great because they are typically easy. Bring what you have so that we can experiment with it. On the pot put your name and the name of the species (as much as you know).

Pots - 3" to 4" old nursery pots make a good size. Make sure that they are clean and have lots of holes for drainage. Just about anything can be substituted (e.g. plastic bottom of a water bottle, plastic food container) as long as it is clean and has lots of holes in the bottom so the water drains completely. With a 3" pot you can fit one large cutting (pencil size), two medium cuttings or 3 or 4 small cuttings.

Rooting Medium - The medium is best sterile for the least amount of trouble. Most roots need air to form as well as to minimize rot problems. You must balance the need for drainage against the constant need for moisture. Some possible choices:

- 1/2 peat, 1/2 perlite
- 1/2 coarse sand (2-3 mm) or chicken grit with peat or turface
- All turface
- bonsai soil (maybe not the best because of the composted pine bark mulch used sometimes is not sterile)

This workshop will be a lot of fun. It will give members an opportunity to see lots of different material and discuss with the owners how it needs to be kept. And you never know, this workshop could be the start of a future masterpiece!



Portulacaria afra cutting taken in 2008

Demonstration tree at last meeting

Before the design



After the design!



Access to tools and soil in Ottawa! / Accès aux outils et substrat à Ottawa!

Vianney has an arrangement with Bonsai Gros-Bec to keep an inventory of bonsai tools and soil at his place. This will make it easier for members to get access to the basic material. The inventory includes concave cutters, knob cutters, various scissor, wire pliers, wire cutters, wires of all size and soil. In order to get pricing information or place an order, please contact Vianney via email at vianney.leduc@xittel.ca or at the OBS meetings.

Vianney a conclu une entente avec Bonsai Gros-Bec lui permettant de garder un assortiment d'outils et de substrat chez lui pour vente aux membres de la SBO. Ceci devrait faciliter l'obtention de matériel de base pour les membres. L'assortiment inclut des pinces concaves, des coupes bosses, des ciseaux de différents types, des pinces à couper le fil, du fil de toutes les grosseurs et du substrat. Pour connaître le prix des articles ou faire des achats, veuillez contacter Vianney par courriel à l'adresse vianney.leduc@xittel.ca ou aux réunions mensuelles.

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In the beautiful Lanaudière region, north of Montreal, we invite you to visit our greenhouses and our collection of bonsai and penjing from China, Korea, Japan and Canada.

A 10% discount will be given to members of the Ottawa Bonsai Society on pots, tools, wires and soil. We are open Tuesday to Sunday from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Please call for an appointment to visit us. We regret that we are unable to accept payment by credit or debit cards. Guided visits are available at \$5 per person.

We look forward to share our passion with you all!

Suzanne Piché and Robert Smith

Ottawa Bonsai Society
2008 / 2009 Executive
Société de bonsai d'Ottawa
Exécutif 2008 / 2009

Meeting Location / Lieu des rencontres

Treasurer / Trésorier

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 208, avenue des
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Librarian / Bibliothécaire

Mike O'Connor

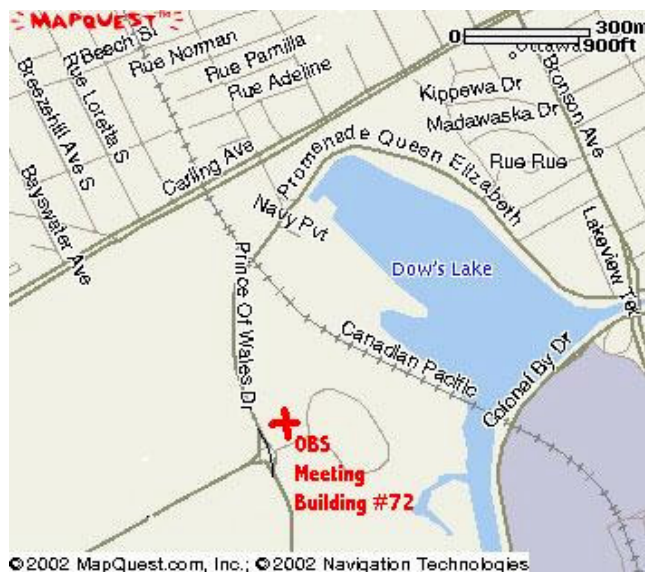
Secretary and Director of Public Relations /Secrétaire et directeur des relations publiques

Duart Crabtree

Steering Group Conseil directeur

Yvon Bernier
 Duart Crabtree
 Vianney Leduc
 Barney Shum
 Gordon Williams
 Matt Yakabuski
 Mike O'Connor
 Paul Lauzon

Nos rencontres se tiennent à l'édifice #72 de la Ferme expérimentale centrale. Pour vous y rendre, prenez la direction sud sur la promenade Prince of Wales jusqu'au rond-point à l'intersection National Capital Driveway et Prince of Wales (qui est aussi l'entrée principale de la Ferme expérimentale et de l'Arboretum), où vous prendrez la direction Est menant à l'Arboretum. Une courte distance plus loin, à la première fourche, Prenez la route de gauche qui mène directement à l'édifice #72 (vous verrez une affiche juste en face de l'édifice, de l'autre côté du chemin, qui dit «Friends of the Farm» . Le stationnement est situé de part et d'autre de l'édifice.



Our meetings are held at Building #72 at the Central Experimental Farm. Heading south on Prince of Wales, at the traffic circle at the intersection of the N.C.C. Scenic Drive and Prince of Wales, the major entrance to the Experimental Farm and the Arboretum, exit east into the Arboretum. After a very short distance, where the road divides, turn left to Building #72 which will be down a short distance on your left. There is parking just before or just after the building. The entrance is on the street side (east side) and there is a sign reading "Friends of the Farm".