

# Journal of The Ottawa Bonsai Society

## Journal de la Société de bonsaï d'Ottawa



May / Mai  
2006

[www.ottawabonsai.org](http://www.ottawabonsai.org)

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Ottawa Bonsai Society  
P.O. Box 4254, Station "E"  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1S 5B3

Société de bonsaï d'Ottawa  
B.P. 4254, succursale E  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1S 5B3

### Notes from your Steering Group Le mot de votre conseil directeur

After announcement that there would be an expedition on April 19<sup>th</sup> to collect larch seedlings suitable for bonsai forests, Gord Williams started the program of the April Meeting with a discussion of Cotoneaster as bonsai material.

Gord brought in two Cotoneaster praecox he acquired at a nursery last fall. This deciduous variety interested Gord because its leaves are quite small and they turn deep purple in the fall. Cotoneasters also have attractive flowers and fruit.

Gord circulated pictures of finished bonsai illustrating Cotoneasters make excellent bonsai, especially for those with limited space and their relatively modest price makes them a good choice for beginners. Good tips for our newer members, Gord!

Barney Shum continued the program with a demo on the twin trunk J. procumbens 'Nana' that we felt should be styled as an informal upright at the previous meeting. After removing unwanted branches, the tree was potted in a shallow tray and rocks were placed to conceal the deficiency in the lower trunk. A very pleasing twin-tree landscape began to emerge – "not strictly Saikei", according to Barney, "but it works". Light branch placement complemented the trunks which are the most attractive feature.

During potting, wiring, and refining branch structure operations, Barney was able to demonstrate characteristics of the procumbens 'Nana' that make this variety popular as a bonsai. He was even able to advise one Member that brought his own procumbens 'Nana' that is currently looking too dry.

The evening program went just a bit late but almost everyone was able to stay to admire the finished work (see pictures below). That says it all, Barney.

**Special note:** The expedition for Larch seedlings on April 19<sup>th</sup> was a success! Duart takes full credit for the fine weather! Eight Members collected about 100 seedlings (about 2 to 4 yr) so we should have some new forests for our future shows in a few years!

## NEXT MEETING

**7:00 p.m., Monday, May 15, 2006**

The next meeting will be divided in two portions that will likely run in parallel. We will have our annual swap sale where everybody can bring Bonsai items that they want to sell. These items could be trees, books, tools, pots, etc. Loretta from Bonsai Concepts will bring the following list of items to sell:

- 3 year old twisted pomegranate and Chinese elms \$7 each
- Minimum 10 year old twisted pomegranate and Chinese elms \$15 each
- Plugs of Bonsai Grass (accent plant) \$2 each
- Abused (humidity and sunlight from greenhouse) but not ever used Bonsai tools \$5 each
- And various sizes of Bonsai Pots.

You can also look at Bonsai Concepts's web-site (<http://www.bonsaiconcepts.ca>) if there is anything particular you need. Loretta would offer you 20% discount and would bring the items to the May meeting.

In the second portion of the meeting, the senior members will help members do some actual work on their trees! If you want some help in repotting, wiring or styling for one of your tree, this is the perfect event for you!

## Upcoming Events

**Atelier pour débutants sur la formation d'un bonsaï, le samedi 10 juin, édifice #72, Ferme expérimentale centrale, de 9h00 à 14h00.**

Cet atelier s'adresse directement à ceux et celles qui ont suivi le cours pour débutants au mois de novembre. Durant cette session, les participants recevront les conseils de membres chevronnés de la SBO et procéderont à la formation de leur propre bonsaï à partir d'un pant de genévrier San Osé. Ce plant, un pot approprié de même que le terreau et le fil pour ligaturage seront fournis. Les instructeurs mettront leurs propres outils de bonsaï à la disposition des participants qui n'auraient pas les leurs. Autant les participants que les instructeurs devraient apporter leur lunch – l'endroit dispose d'un frigo et d'un four à micro-ondes. Le coût de cet atelier est de 65 \$ par personne. Il y a une limite de 12 places!

Les membres intéressés devraient s'inscrire avec Yvon Bernier : (819) 684-0586 ; fax (819) 684-7365 ; [ycbernier@videotron.ca](mailto:ycbernier@videotron.ca)

**Bonsai Development Workshop, Saturday, June 10 in Building #72, Central Experimental Farm, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

This is a workshop aimed specifically at those who have taken the Beginners' Bonsai Courses given last November. Participants will receive assistance from experienced OBS members to begin developing their own bonsai using nursery grown San Ose junipers. The plant material, a suitable pot and the necessary supplies will be provided. The team of instructors will make their own bonsai tools available for sharing among those participants who may not have their own. Participants and instructors should bring their lunch; the room is equipped with a fridge and microwave oven. The cost of this workshop is \$65 per person. There are only 12 places available!

Interested members should register with Yvon Bernier : (819) 684-0586 ; fax (819) 684-7365 ; [ycbernier@videotron.ca](mailto:ycbernier@videotron.ca)

## Special event: Michael Persiano in Ottawa on August 14 at the Japanese embassy!

As announced in the last newsletter, Michael Persiano will be in Ottawa on Monday August 14. Mark this date in your calendar! We will have a clinic with him in the afternoon from 1:00pm to 4:00pm for OBS members and he will do a styling demonstration on an old collected eastern white cedar in the evening for the public as well as members.

The format of the afternoon tree design clinic with Michael has been discussed and will be as follow:

1. We prefer that each person who submits a tree should have the undivided attention of Michael for a prescribed period of time. Others present are spectators, unless invited to participate in the discussion by Michael. Between 1 pm and 4 pm we would try to review designs of 6 to 9 interesting trees (i.e. ~20 to 30 minutes per tree).
2. Michael intends to sketch the proposed design. The trees from the afternoon clinic will be displayed in the auditorium along with the sketches to add interest to the evening event.
3. We are looking to find suitable trees (i.e. trees that offer a design challenge). Candidates willing to submit trees should commit by the date of our June meeting. If more than 6 to 9 trees are offered we will need a jury to pick the most interesting trees at the June meeting.
4. Individuals who submit tree(s) for the afternoon clinic will pay OBS \$25 per tree.
5. Observers of the clinic will pay \$10 to participate. Since admission is not acceptable at the Embassy, tickets will be sold in advance. Don't miss out on this special event, buy your ticket soon!

## Shopping trip!!

Arrangements have been made to visit Bonsai Grosbec, a specialized bonsai nursery, on Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>! The plan is to leave Ottawa at 8:30 a.m. and stopping for lunch along the way, arrive there around 1:00 p.m. We would stay until 3:30 p.m. and then return to Ottawa. You can visit their website at <http://www.intermonde.net/grosbec/>. Please call or email **Vianney Leduc (827-3384 or [vianney.leduc@lac-bac.gc.ca](mailto:vianney.leduc@lac-bac.gc.ca))** for additional details, to register for the trip and to make arrangements for car-pooling

## Juniper Procumben nana styled by Barney at the April meeting.

Before styling



After styling!!



## Cotoneaster

*By Gordon Williams, April 2006*

Want to try something different from our steady diet of junipers? How about trying a Cotoneaster for your next bonsai this spring? The Cotoneaster (pronounced Cot-o-ne-as-ter) is supposed to be one of the favourites for bonsai, though we don't see many in the Ottawa area. There are a number of factors and properties that make the Cotoneaster suitable for bonsai that I'll discuss below. I'm working on two this spring; one has already been potted up and looks great, the other I'm waiting for the next nice day for repotting.

The Cotoneaster is a shrub with many, many varieties. Although most are only suitable to warmer climates there are a number of varieties that can be found at our local nurseries that are hardy to Zone 4. Where I bought mine last fall they had 4 or 5 varieties in stock. Since we are in Zone 5B, that gives us a little bit of room to manoeuvre if we don't get the winter protection quite right. In fact, I left my two plants in their nursery pots above ground last winter without any winter protection and they have come through unscathed, but I wouldn't recommend that.

Most Cotoneasters are prostrate shrubs that get used in people's gardens for ground cover and climb over rocks and walls. Because of their low-to-the-ground growth habit they have lots of trunk movement and make ideal informal upright or cascade style bonsai. Typically we would be looking at a bonsai with a height of between 4 and 10 inches for this type of plant. Because of their small size they can be grown from cuttings within a year or two. From nursery stock they are almost instant bonsai!

All varieties are well loved for their showy red berries, which last from August well into the late fall. Flowers are pink or white in late spring or early summer. The leaves turn colour in autumn adding further appeal. The leaves, berries and flowers are all small and in scale with the size of the tree. So when you see the berries on the bonsai they are scaled congruently as apples on an apple tree. The growth is quite compact and twiggy. New growth can be cut back to one or two leave (nodes) to encourage denser growth. It is the feeling of correct proportions that I find most appealing with this species.

Cotoneasters are said to be quite adaptable to different types of soil. I'm using our regular 1/3-1/3-1/3 soil that we produced at the OBS workshop. There is a great deal of roots when you take them out of the nursery pot. You will need to remove some of the underneath roots as well as thin them out somewhat before you can fit it into a bonsai pot, even an oversize one. These plants will sucker and if the sucker starts below the soil surface the sucker will layer itself. I've cut a number of rooted suckers off and potted them up to see if I could get them to grow on.

The variety that I got is 'preacox'. The information sheet says that they like full sun to partial shade, but my guess is that they would do better in full sun for most of the season. It also says that it doesn't like permanently wet soil.

My adventure with Cotoneaster has just started, but I'm looking forward to having some fun with them. At \$15 each, one can afford to make some mistakes. I hope that some others in the OBS will take up the challenge this spring so that we can compare notes and ideas in the fall. Happy Cotoneastering!

### **NOUVEAU MEMBRE / NEW MEMBER**

Nous souhaitons la bienvenue à :

A warm welcome is extended to :

***Douglas Tompkins***

**Ottawa Bonsai Society**  
**2005 / 2006 Executive**  
**Société de bonsaï d'Ottawa**  
**Exécutif 2005 / 2006**

## Meeting Location / Lieu des rencontres

### Treasurer / Trésorier

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

### Librarian / Libraire

Mike O'Connor

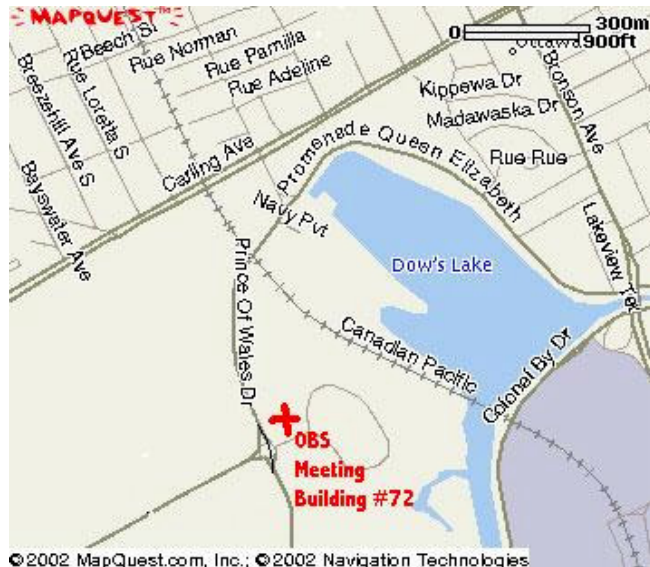
### Secretary and Director of Public Relations /Secrétaire et directeur des relations publiques

Duart Crabtree

### Steering Group Conseil directeur

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

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".