



Founded January, 1964

# JOURNAL



May 2011

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

## Schedule of events

Meetings are held at the TBG (Toronto Botanical Gardens), at 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, in the Garden Hall, (lower auditorium on the west side of building), unless otherwise noted. The first meeting is free for non-members.

### Beginner sessions: 6:30 – 7:20

The beginner sessions are held in Studio #2 upstairs, at the TBG. Beginners should read the articles in the **BEGINNERS** section, under **ARCHIVES**, at the [TBS web site](#).

**May: Japanese maple bonsai, with Reiner Goebel.**

**June: year-end critique and consultation, with John Biel.**

### General meetings: 7:30 – 10:00

**May 9: TBS meeting: Marco Invernizzi critique.** Got a tree that needs an expert opinion? Bring it in to the master for advice and adjustments. Got a bonsai you think is pretty good? Marco can help make it better!

**Lottery:** for positions in the David Easterbrook workshops this fall.

**May 28, 29: TBS Spring Show. TBG, 8am:** bring in your bonsai, tables, accent plants, viewing stones and bonsai in development to work on during show. Contact Mike or Otmar to volunteer your help setting up, guiding visitors, security, ticket selling, vending, serving at the social, helping with the photography, and finally, tearing down the show.

**TBS Social: 7pm, Saturday night.** Beer, wine, snacks, fun, amidst the TBS bonsai.

**Vending:** for sales items, arrive before 9 am either day to register your items, and select your volunteer hours in the vending area – see Grace Wicht, and read article on topic.

**June 13: TBS meeting: club elections. Workshop:** juniper workshop. **Cost:** \$30. Contact Cheryl and Linda to register. Bring your own tree workshop.

**June 18: nursery visit at Ray Shivrattan's.** Contact Otmar Sauer for directions.

### Backyard workshops/garden parties:

Offer your backyard for a workshop get-together this summer. Contact any member of your **TBS executive**, listed on the back page, to make arrangements.

### Outside the club:

**May 21, 22: [Bonsai Exhibition & Sale](#), Monroe Community Hospital, Rochester, N.Y.**

**June 3-5: [Shohin Bonsai Seminar](#), International Bonsai Arboretum, Rochester, N.Y.**

**June 16 - 19: ABS/BCI Symposium: [Bonsai in the Bluegrass](#), in Louisville, Kentucky.**

**July 30, 31: Bonsai Society of Upstate New York's [Boston Bonsai Bus Trip 2011](#).**

**November 15 – 28: [Japan ASPAC Bonsai Tour](#): Osaka, Takamatsu, Hanyu, Omiya.**

**November 17 - 27: [BCI Grand Bonsai Tour Japan](#): Osaka, Kyoto, and [Taikan-Ten](#).**

**On the cover:** Mike McCallion's Trident maple (*Acer buergerianum*). Photo by Mike as well.

# Planting the seed

by Mike Roussel



April is transplanting season here in the Greater Toronto Area and it's one of my favourite times of the year. To say that I love transplanting is a bit of an overstatement, but I really do like it. Despite all the work, this is the only time of year when I get to inspect and improve rootage on my trees, select new pots to better suit my designs and wire the branches before the leaves open. I am sure that you are or were all very busy repotting your trees, and I am sure that you have been as manic as myself.

Looking back at my April, 2010 message, I realize that my commitment to backyard intervention and reducing my collection did not take place at all, and I have many more trees to transplant than last year. I have been spending all my free hours for weeks doing this, which really is starting to get exhausting. Thank goodness for a slower spring this year, for I would be sunk by now! The good thing about transplanting is that the season for it ends, so it is a short term task that doesn't go on indefinitely.

The real problem I have with my ever increasing number of trees is that I have so many seedlings that require transplanting. My collection has now rose way over 50 individual trees, and that is mostly due to the amount of trees I am growing from seed.

## The seeds

Growing from seed gives me much pleasure. It satisfies some kind of deep need I have to begin new life, watch things grow and nurture them along. The biggest benefits I derive from growing from seed are that I get to grow trees that I would never find in my area, either because of their rarity, or because they won't grow here, and so aren't carried by local nurseries, and the process produces perfect bonsai.

"Perfect bonsai:" does this actually exist? You can decide for yourself, but we can say for certain that ideal bonsai starts at root level. If the roots are not good, the entire design of the bonsai suffers.

## The roots

Besides lucking out by finding a tree with great roots, the best way to have great roots is to start from scratch, from seed. Right from the start you can cut the tap root and splay out the roots. On each successive transplanting you can cut out bad roots, redirect them, slow them down, or promote their growth to balance things out. This is all much easier when the tree is grown from seed.

## The trunk

Then there is the trunk. Growing from seed allows you to shape the trunk in any way you want. For many trees, that simply becomes nearly impossible, even after one year of growth. If you didn't grow from seed you will have to live with what you have.

## The branches

Then there are the branches, you can select and train the branches with the same benefits as for the trunk. Doing this when the tree is young, you can totally eliminate the need for hard pruning, leaving a tree without any noticeable scars.

So: perfect roots, perfect trunk, perfect branches = perfect bonsai tree? Well there is that annoying question of design, but if you do these three well, growing from seed will get you to as close to perfection as possible.

Getting back to my backyard intervention, the TBS Spring Show will help for sure when I sell off my extra seedlings with "perfect roots". The rest is up to you!

One of the other benefits of growing from seed for me is to help introduce new species to the club, providing the building blocks for future bonsai masterpieces at our shows while supplementing the growing costs of my bonsai addiction.



**The Toronto Bonsai Society**

# Bonsai

## Spring Show & Sale

*An exhibition of some of  
Canada's finest bonsai,  
with demonstrations and sales.*

**TORONTO BOTANICAL GARDEN  
777 Lawrence Avenue East  
(at Leslie Street)  
Free parking**

**Saturday, May 28, noon to 5pm  
Sunday, May 29, 10am to 5pm**

**admission \$5, students/seniors \$4  
children under 12 free**

## Selling items at the TBS show

by Grace Wicht



The big difference this year in the TBS Spring Show vending area is that you must register to sell your plants prior to the show, and volunteer to help in the vending area.

Anything bonsai related, such as trees, pots, stands, tools, fertilizer, and so on, will be accepted for sale. No huge items, such as large garden shrubs in nursery containers, will be accepted - we don't have room!

All items for sale must be at the show by 9 am on Saturday morning; they will not be accepted after that, or at the social on Saturday night; and they must be checked in with one of the sales people before they are placed on the tables. If you are having a problem pricing an item, please speak to one of the sales people. Items will also be accepted on Sunday morning, before 9 am.

Code all your items on attached tags. Please check first with me, or the other sales staff, as to the code you will be using, so that you don't use the same code as anyone else. If your name is John Jones, you would put JJ #1 and the price. If you have room on the tag, you could identify the item. On the sales sheet you would also use the code JJ #1, and some information on the item; that is, type of tree, age, years in training, as well as the sale price. If you are willing to give a discount, note it on the sales sheet. Please price and code each item that you are selling.

Do not bring in a group of items, all costing \$1.00, and give them one code number. Price each item individually. The price of items should be in even dollars, rounded off to the nearest dollar - no 25 or 50 cents.

At the end of the show on Sunday at 5 pm, all items not sold must be picked up and checked out with one of the sales people. We are not responsible for items not picked up.

Proceeds from the sale may not be ready at the end of the show: please be patient, they will be given out at the next meeting. 5% of all sales will go to the TBS.

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## Bonsai Today magazines for sale

by Keith Oliver



As most of you know, the library has been collecting **Bonsai Today** and more recently **Bonsai Focus** magazines over the past few years. Awhile ago the quest was completed with the result culminating in an up-to-date collection having been bound and made available for borrowing. Now the library has extra copies of **Bonsai Today**, and the TBS executive has agreed to offer them for sale to our membership.

We have doubles and even triples of a few issues. Our over-stocked collection begins at issue #1, spanning the gamut through to issue #50 (with the exception of issue #16, which we unfortunately don't have). There is also one of each of issues #53 and 59. Most, if not all of these issues, are no longer in print and could be rather hard to find.

If you're looking to complete your collection, or want to begin collecting this most informative bonsai magazine, now is the time to do so. For more information, speak with myself at the library table, or send me an email with any enquiries you may have, and I would be glad to help.

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## TBS announcements

### Disaster in Japan

The Japan Relief donation box will be at the members table if you would like to make a contribution. The proceeds will be donated to the Japanese Canadian Cultural Center, who will pass the donations to the Japanese Red Cross in their relief efforts.

### Marco Invernizzi's appeal

When his friend, Isao Omachi, and family were severely affected by the disaster in Japan, losing everything except their lives, Marco and other members of the bonsai community came to his aid. To offer a direct donation, visit [Marco's web site](#).

### Obituary

Ken Brown, a long standing past member of the TBS, has passed away. Ken was admitted to the Bowmanville Hospital with difficulty breathing, and was diagnosed with pneumonia. Despite aggressive treatment he did not improve, and on April 13, he lost his battle. His health had been declining badly in the recent past, and he was becoming much more oxygen dependent, and unable to walk more than 150 yards without stopping for breath, carrying his tank or pulling it on a cart.

Ken was professional photographer by vocation, and a keen bonsai hobbyist with the TBS, becoming a student with Norman Haddrick, and studying with him for 10 weeks in the 1970s. Besides bonsai, he was a master bowman and hunter, and Norman had the pleasure of watching him hit targets from great distances in the field behind the Science Centre. He had a small collection of small trees, and showed some in TBS shows. He had great pleasure from his work and study of bonsai, and in the natural tree shapes he could see all around him.

## **Election in June**

As Mike Roussel announced during the April meeting, Otmar Sauer has withdrawn his candidacy due to health complications. That leaves the vacancies for elected positions as: President, Vice-president, and Recording Secretary. The non-elected staff vacancies are: Workshop Coordinator, Journal Editor/Publisher, Tools and Supplies, and Librarian. So far, the candidates for the elected positions are: Keith Oliver for Vice-president, and Jean Charing for Treasurer.

If you care about the TBS, please consider stepping forward. Let Greg Quinn, Nomination Committee Chair, know of your candidacy in advance. The vote will be held in June.

## **Tools and wire for sale, and tool cart**

Robert Dubuc, our club tool & wire guy, would like to know what members are looking for before the meeting, so that he doesn't have to haul seven boxes of the stuff to every meeting – let him know by email (on back cover). If anyone in the club has skill building carts for heavy items, such as our club tools and wire, please contact Robert as well.

## **Air-layering pot**

Reading the note that accompanied the KW Bonsai newsletter, I came across this neat [Rooter Pot](#) for air-layering at Lee Valley Tools.

## **Books, magazines for sale**

Our club librarian, Keith Oliver, has various donated books and magazines for sale at the May meeting.

## **Spring tree collection**

This year's club organized tree collection is on Saturday, May 14, at Manley's farm outside Peterborough, Ontario. Contact Mike Roussel to register. You will be required to sign a waiver for insurance purposes.

## **Nursery crawl**

The date for Ray Shivrattan's club visit has been set for Saturday, June 18. Contact Otmar Sauer (back cover) if you're interested.

## **Spring show**

Selling at the show will be conditional on helping out in the sales area. See Grace Wicht in the vending area to sign up for hours in the vending desk when you bring your sales items in.

## **Fall larch workshops with David Easterbrook**

[David Easterbrook](#), curator of the bonsai collection at [Le Jardin Botanique](#) (Montreal Botanical Garden), is coming to Toronto in October, 2011, to hold a series of workshops with larches he collected north of the St. Lawrence River, close to the border of Labrador. These workshops will last a full day (8 hours), with a lunch break, and be held at the TBG, with eight trees for each.

**Sunday, October 16:** Natural root-connected style larch clumps, ranging from 7-20 trees per clump; 18" to 24" high; planted in 20" x 16" plastic trays. Location: TBG, upstairs studio. Price: \$160.

**Monday, October 17:** Single trunk - medium sized larches; 18" to 26" high; trunk, 2" to 3" diameter; age 30 to 60 years. Location: TBG, Garden Hall. Price: \$270. The silent observer charge for each of the workshops will be \$10.

On Monday evening, at the general meeting, David will demonstrate bonsai with a single trunk, medium size, larch, which will be raffled off afterward. He is also available Tuesday, for a private full day workshop. His price for this is \$500, plus food to be provided. He does not mind if a group of members get together with him to work on their trees, at a member's home, with a maximum of five participants. Please let Otmar Sauer know if you are interested in this.

As a result of the general vote held at the April meeting, we will proceed with a lottery for the workshop positions at the TBS meeting this Monday night. If interested in registering, please notify Linda and Cheryl. Payment in full must be made at that time.

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## **Links to other clubs:**

**Bonsai Society at the RBG:** <http://www.BonsaiSocietyatRBG.com>

**Matsuyama Bonsai Society:** <http://www.informdurham.com/record/OSH1103>

**Misseto Bonsai Club:** <http://www.missetobonsai.org/>

**Kitchener-Waterloo Bonsai Society:** <http://www.kwbonsai.com/Welcome.html>

## Regular TBS meetings

Meetings take place on the second Monday of every month, except July and August, at the TBG (Toronto Botanical Gardens), located at 777 Lawrence Avenue East, at Leslie Street, in the auditorium on the west side of the building at 7:30 pm. The general meetings frequently include: demonstrations of bonsai techniques, critiques of bonsai trees, and workshops, in which each participant styles a tree with the help of an experienced member. These meetings are preceded at 6:30 pm. by the Beginner sessions, held upstairs.

A small fee is charged for workshops, and a tree, wire and instructor are provided. To participate in workshops, it is necessary to register in advance of the meeting so that materials can be provided.

Members are encouraged to bring in bonsai to show and work on during the meetings. Wire is provided at no charge. Non-members may attend a meeting at no charge to see if the club is of interest to them.

## Library hours and policy

The library is open to members at the beginning of our regular meetings. Members may borrow books free of charge for one month. Late returns cost \$2 per month with a minimum charge of \$2. Please return all materials the next month, and before summer.

## Membership desk

The membership desk will be open at all meetings. The opening time may be extended for the first fall meeting to assist with renewals. You may also register for workshops there.

## Tools & supplies

Tools and supplies are sold by the club at most meetings. It is a good idea to contact the executive member in advance of the meeting for specific tools and supplies.

## TBS Executive:

### President:

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Visit the Toronto Bonsai Society's web site, at:

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

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