

BCI Diplomatic Mailbag - The Ambassador's newsletter:
Communicating with BCI members around the World

2010

March

Edition



BCI- Ambassador's
Newsletter

Officers and Board of BCI

I. Chi Su – President

E-mail: ic.su@msa.hinet.net

Glenis Bebb – Executive Director

E-mail: glen@bonsainursery.com.au

Robert (Rob) Kempinski – 1st Vice

President.

E-mail: rkempinski@cfl.rr.com

Willi Benz - 2nd Vice President

E-mail: Benz-W@t-online.de

Pauline Muth – Recording Secretary

E-mail: Pauline@pfbbonsai.com

Louise Leister – Corresponding

Secretary

E-mail: mysecretbonsai@bellsouth.net

David Radlinski - Treasurer

E-mail: dgradski@zoomtown.com

Linda Brant– Immediate Past President

E-mail: lbrant@comcast.net

Solita Tafur Rosade – Goodwill

Ambassador

E-mail: soli@rosadebonsai.com

Donna Banting – Managing Editor

E-mail: BCIeditor@aol.com

Poncevic “Vic” Maramba Ceballos

- Legal Advisor

E-mail: bonsairp@yahoo.com

Jim Brant –Web master

E-mail: bcwebmaster@comcast.net

BCI Web site

<http://www.bonsai-bci.com>

Directors

Massimo Bandera

E-mail: mb@massimobandera.it

Guillermo Castanõ Ramirez

E-mail: castanoo@prodigy.net.mx

Chai Bao Cheng

E-mail: chaibaocheng@126.com

Les Dowdell

E-mail: hokkoku@telusplanet.net

Paul Gilbert

E-mail: Paullynpaul@msn.com

Ian Glew

E-mail: iglew@b022.aone.net.au

Joan Greenway

E-mail: joan.greenway@gmail.com

Frieda Joris

E-mail: friebonsai@hotmail.com

Min Hsuan Lo

E-mail: bonsailo@mail2000.com.tw

Frank J Mihalic

E-mail: dagwood@ncweb.com

Susumu Nakamura

E-mail: dolphin7@mub.biglobe.ne.jp

Chiara Padrini

E-mail: chiara@padrini.it

Nikunj Parekh

E-mail: nikunjyo@gmail.com

Robert Steven

E-mail: markamtr@cbn.net.id

Budi Sulisty

E-mail: budisulisty@yahoo.com

Zheng ZhiMin

E-mail: flower@flowerworld.org

Editors Message

Hi to all

2010 is upon us and 3 months has past without a blink of an eyelid, depending on the part of the world you are in it may not have the same significance as the start of January does in my part of the world but for those who do celebrate New Year then – Happy 2010

Thanks to all that have given me articles and inclusions and I have had to leave some of the items till the next edition but rest assured I will put them in.

I was talking the other day to one of the board members and it was minus something and in my part of the world it was 35C (hot) and again it highlighted to me the vast differences in the Bonsai world.

That's it from me and have a great and Bonsai packed 2010.

Ian Glew – BCI Ambassadors Newsletter Editor : iglew@b022.aone.net.au

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BCI Convention 2010

This is a once in a lifetime and an outstanding opportunity to visit China, 14 days with almost all meals and internal flights included for only \$US1750.00.

I would doubt if you will ever have this opportunity again and certainly some of the places we will be visiting will not be accessible unless you are on this tour, more info, go to the BCI web site – www.bonsai-bci.com or <http://www.bci2010chinatour.com/>
If you prefer a copy of the registration form I can send it visa email in a PDF



BCI 2010
CHINA!
30 September - 12 October 2010

Group tour includes:

- Chancun World of Flowers (Bonsai & Suiseki Exhibition, Flower Market, Bonsai Demonstration & Suiseki Lecture)**
- Exhibition in Yaling Pot Museum (Jint Pot Pottery)**
- Bonsai Museum in Yangzhou (Bonsai Exhibition & Bonsai Demonstration)**
- Stone Culture Art Center in Beijing (Viewing Stone Appreciation)**
- BCI Exhibition & Convention 2010 in Tianjin (Bonsai & Suiseki Exhibition)**

Also:

- Qinhuai River Cruise (Nanjing)**
- Slender West Lake (Yangzhou)**
- The Forbidden City (Beijing)**
- The Great Wall (Beijing)**
- The Summer Palace (Beijing)**

Look for details in future issues of Bonsai & Stone Appreciation Magazine and at www.bonsai-bci.com

The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia (NBPCA) – Grant Bowie

This is an article that was put together by Grant Bowie and a number of others who are involved with the Collection. I had the good fortune to visit the collection back in September and certainly congratulations to a fabulous effort.

The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia (NBPCA) has been open for almost one and a half years, in Canberra, the national capital of Australia. The display consists of trees that are owned by the Collection and some that are on loan for varying periods of up to 3 years. This spring we had 9 new bonsai on loan from the State of Victoria, including an iconic *Angophora costata*, (a type of eucalypt).

Other new bonsai included ash, black pine, olive, English hawthorn, English elm, Atlantic cedar, saw leaf Banksia and coastal Banksia. We now have our first bonsai donation from South Australia, a 50+ year old root over rock Desert ash.

Bonsai enthusiasts from all over Australia and from dozens of countries have come to view the collection and have been impressed with the bonsai pavilion and the bonsai on display.

After one full year on site, we have experienced almost the full range of weather that Canberra can visit upon us; from minus 6 degrees Celsius, in the depths of winter, dust storms in spring and 40+ degrees at the height of summer. We just don't want to experience hail or snow.

The collection was officially opened in September 2008 during Canberra's annual Floriade festival and had approximately 38,800 visitors over 23 days. In 2009 we had approximately 45,300 visitors over the 30 days of the festival. Floriade itself attracts around 4000,000 visitors a year. Out of the Floriade month, we average around 800 – 1000 visitors per month.

None of this would have been possible without the help of almost 40 volunteers who gave generously of their time to the bonsai and the visiting public. We also have a full time Interim Curator to guide the maintenance and development of the Collection.

The planning for our permanent home in the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens is proceeding apace. We are keenly awaiting the eventual move to our permanent home there, which could be in about two years time. The planting of trees in the arboretum is expected to be 80% complete by then.

The NPBCA collection will also feature an Arboretum in Miniature, with many of the species being planted in the ground also being featured in the bonsai and Penjing collection.

We are receiving two of each of the species being planted, so the Arboretum in Miniature will have trees of the same age and provenance, but of vastly differing sizes to those in the ground. The Collection already has some much older specimens of some of the new trees being planted.

The site is over 250 hectares (600 acres) and we will have a prime location at our future home. The National Bonsai and Penjing Collection of Australia is located in Commonwealth Park Canberra, near the centre of the city.

It is a joint project between the bonsai community across Australia and the Government of the Australian Capital Territory.

It is open daily from 10am till 3pm.

Contact details. Email nbpca@bigpond.com

Collection +61(0)2 6262 9219

Mobile +61 (0)418 611 488

Website <http://www.cbs.org.au/NBPCA/Index.htm>
Arboretum website: <http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/arboretum>



Sticky Wattle 1998



Victorian Banksia Integrifolia



Smaller trees on wooden display stands



Children at the display



The crowded display at NBPCA – Floriade 2009



Angophora Costata

Article from India

I received this fabulous article from my friends in India and would like to share it

AVADH BONSAI ASSOCIATION-10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Avadh Bonsai Association was established in the year 2000 with the sole aim of spreading the art of Bonsai by its founder president Mrs. Santosh Arora with the active support of her husband Mr. K.K.Arora. In Lucknow (India), quite a few people were doing Bonsai in their own way without any formal training because of which this art did not flourish much.

Finding the urgent need we started training course in basic techniques under the guidance of our founder president Mrs. Santosh Arora. Having had a very enthusiastic response the training was extended to advance techniques. We also introduced monthly workshops for the students for a follow up in which they were encouraged to discuss their problems, reshape their plants and keep abreast with the latest in the world of Bonsai. We have also held 3 exhibitions with the support of Sahara India Parivar which has helped us to bring awareness of Bonsai among masses.

Soon it was found that what we were doing was not enough as the world was developing at much faster pace evidently shown by the standard of their plants. Our next step was to take membership of an international organization called BONSAI CLUBS INTERNATIONAL with subscription to their magazine giving wealth of information on the international developments in Bonsai.

Our group leaders gave further boost to our task by attending international conventions and seminars bringing back the knowledge thus acquired and sharing with other members through slide shows based on the photographs clicked during such programmes. We have

recently started a Library for our members having a number of books, Video, cassettes and Magazines on Bonsai.

18th Dec, 2009, was rather a momentous day for all members of **Avadh Bonsai Association** as they congregated at Gen. Secretary, Mrs. Renu's Prakash's Chaitanya Villa, to felicitate their **Founder President, Mrs Santosh Arora and Chief Advisor, Mr. KK Arora**, for successfully embarking ABA into its iconic 10th Year.

The buoyant occasion, later saw Mr. and Mrs Arora share an informative Slide Show featuring some priceless photographs from Chicago's Botanical Garden's; Exhibits and Demonstration Highlights from the BCI's International Bonsai Congress, held at New Orleans, USA from 19th - 21st June 2009. The slides included the choicest works of some Internationally acclaimed Bonsai Masters like Sandro Signeri from Italy, Glenis and Lindsay Bebb from Australia, Nacho Marin from Venezuela, Guy Gadry from USA, Tedy Boy from Indonesia, Peter Chan from UK, William Valavanis and Ed Trout from USA as they 'styled and shaped' an array of plants like Crape Myrtle, Bald Cypress, Boxwood, Bottle Brush, Elm and more....

This hour long Presentation was followed by a Press Conference, where Mrs. Arora, shared highlights from Avadh Bonsai Association's decade long Journey; the group's three landmark Exhibitions; Visitations by Grand Master's Mrs Jyoti and Mr. Nikunj Parekh in April, 2007; Mr. Robert Steven's, in Sept, 2008; her own personal experience and contributions to the field of Bonsai. In the end, she also stated some of ABA's futuristic plans for the coming year 2010 which included the following events.

- Free Bonsai Camp in February 2010,
- Talent Competition
- 4th grand exhibition in November 2010
- A Picnic

And finally winding up the year long celebrations with a grand Dinner meet with families of all the members. The event was extensively covered by both print and electronic media the next day.

The Program concluded with some promising and assuring words by Mr. O.P. Srivastava, Sahara India Parivar, a huge round of applause and Cheers for 'ABA', followed by a lavish Cake-Cutting Ceremony along with a gourmet spread of refreshments, to commemorate the Grand 10th Anniversary Celebrations.



Members relaxing before the event



Mrs Santosh Arora addressing the conference



Collection of photographs



Mr and Mrs Arora

Malaysia – Convention

I did feature this convention on my last newsletter in December but have received a number of additional photographs I could not resist a few more shots of some fabulous trees and the convention. Naturally a shot of Budi





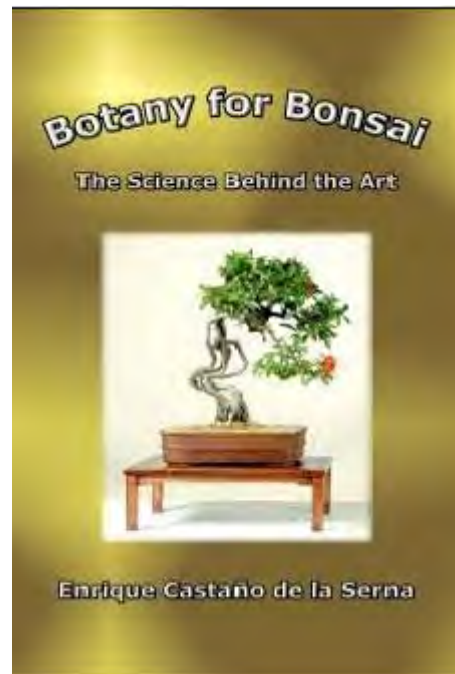
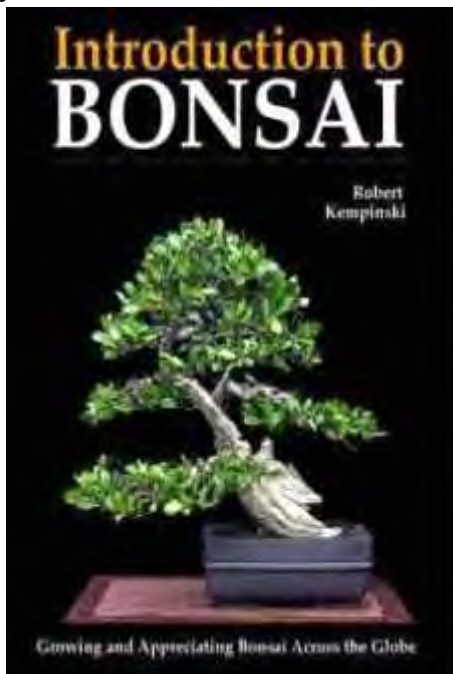
Ambassadors Membership Alert

Certainly hope all ambassadors are promoting membership and that your club has signed up 15 new members and will be in line for a copy of the Teachers register, if you need more information contact me and I will send all the details.



Book Review

I have just received two books **Introduction to Bonsai** by Robert Kempinski and **Botany of Bonsai - The science behind the Art** by Enrique Castano de la Serna. Both look fabulous publications and worth thinking about for your club library and possibly your own collection.



Just reading the first one and will let you know more but they both look excellent publications.



Closing and next Issue

The National collection in Australia finally made it to the newsletter and I do apologise for the lateness of this article but as they say it is worth waiting for. The collection has been many years in the planning and although only new the plans for expansion are amazing.

If your thinking about the China convention tour then book now as I understand there is a limit on the numbers and it is filling fast – first in best dressed as they say and once it's full you will miss out.

A New Year in my part of the world and with it comes the New Year resolution, I make only a few and almost always do what I have said, another two half marathons and some trees that are in need of attention are the items on my list. – What's on yours?

Thanks again for the articles and I will hopefully feature a Robert Kempinski article next issue.

