

Four Seasons of Bonsai

On my usual morning routine lately I have begun to see the changes slowly creeping up, for starters, usually at the wee hour of 5:45 a.m. I can see pretty well. This is normally my time to be alone with the yard, watering, weeding and just being at peace with no expectations of me. These days, that time is being relentlessly squeezed and shortened by the lack of light that the season is bringing. I can also hear more frequent calls from my friends the Great Horned owls, bellowing and chattering to one another across the darkened woods. I now have to either feed the pond fish in the dark or wait and throw food in as I pass by the benches in a watering frenzy, trying to judge what sort of day is on tap and betting on who really needs the water and who should wait a little longer. There is a chill in the air, which has been missing for quite some time as well. Fall is certainly my favorite of all the seasons, though it does not come without a feeling of melancholy, a sort of sadness to see the summer drift off yet again. Along with the changing of the leaves comes the increase in bonsai activity. Soon we'll be getting our storage practices fine tuned and prepared for the long cold winter that's sure to come.

This summer in July we had our annual Bonsai exhibit at the Quadrangle in Springfield, everyone really came through with some beautiful trees to display. We had some club members doing excellent demonstrations all weekend as well as some visiting help from the Hartford club as well.



This was a wonderful chance to get out and show our trees, make a few dollars for the club, and get the general public interested in what we do...great job folks!



A FEW FALL/WINTER TIPS

- Be sure your coldframe or storage area is clean and ready!
- Feeding regime should generally be slowed and nitrogen levels decreased for most species
- If storing trees outside...prepare or have your mulching materials readied
- Watering schedule will probably be greatly reduced as there is less daylight hours
- A great idea for those who use a coldframe or cold storage is the use of min/max thermometers
- Pruning can still be done at this time for most species
- Stock up on books and magazines...the winter is long !!!

Annual club dues of 20.00 for individual Membership or 25.00 for family. Membership dues can be paid at any club meeting or mail payments to Marilyn

Club Website

WWW.geocities.com/springfieldbonsai

Once again this year, I had the pleasure of hosting our annual G.S.B.S. Bonsai picnic at our home in Hampden. This year was even better than the last one due to an added event we had scheduled, thanks to the hard work and dedication of folks like Lee Berrouard and Doug Taylor. This year we had the wonderful opportunity to host a tropical workshop with South Carolina Bonsai artist Ron Martin. The day's events started out at 10:00 with Ron presenting a short lecture on principles of design. Ron is a colorful and entertaining teacher who has an obvious love for bonsai, which projects onto the audience in a way which, is lighthearted and enjoyable.

The material, which Mr. Martin drove up from the nursery with, was nothing short of spectacular. Trees, which certainly would fetch a much higher, price in our local nurseries. We were very fortunate that he travels with his own material! Among the rough gems were beautiful Ficus Nerifolia, Ficus Retusa, Big and small Bougainvillea, Black olive and many other tropical species in a wide price range from very affordable to "I guess I can swing it" affordable, depending on ones level of addiction!

After the workshop was pretty much wrapped up, we fired up the grill, Doug got all the burgers and hot dogs cooking and we entered the picnic phase of the day. Thanks to everyone who made up the rest of the food! I can honestly say..I sampled all of it and found nothing that I didn't like! Great job by everyone.

When everyone had eaten enough and conversations were getting on, the silent auction was going on as well, I think the club did fairly well and most everyone left with something. Just as we started to get probably a little too comfortable and relaxed, Ron started getting set up for his demonstration for the day. He saved some really nice Ficus Nerifolia for his construction of a tropical forest planting. As he began, he really stressed the need for scale, depth and imagination when working on a forest composition. Ron also emphasized the importance of using quality trees for EVERY member of the group, all too often a forest is comprised of many trees which aren't able to be planted on their own, "leftovers" if you will. In the end Ron created a forest that was natural, elegant and well on its way to being a very presentable piece of art! The planting was raffled off at the conclusion of the demo, and Pepsi walked away a very, very happy man.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the days festivities, once again we had a wonderful time and having a talented artist like Ron Martin in attendance made it that much sweeter. Great way to kind of wrap up the summer season!
Bob O

Figure 1- selecting material

Figure 2- Ron at work



Ron with Pepsi and his New Forest

A road trip to Suthin's Royal Bonsai Garden *by Doug Taylor*

Time to start over, that's how I feel after seeing Suthin's awesome bonsai trees. On July 20, (the day after our fun filled club picnic/bonsai workshop/bonsai demonstration & a fund-raising auction) nine club members and I went on a road trip to Royal Bonsai's 10th Anniversary Celebration and Bonsai Exhibit. We also stopped by N.E. Bonsai Gardens and found a few great buys on their bargain tables. I really enjoyed the bonsai on display at Royal Bonsai Garden. Suthin's Bonsai exhibit showed the meticulous care and artistic talents that he is known for, not only where his trees beautiful but his composition of three point displays were a great learning experience/example of how bonsai should be displayed.

