

BCI - Ambassador's Newsletter

2006
December
Edition



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

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Editors Message

Hi to all Ambassadors.

Certainly I would like to begin this newsletter by wishing everyone a fabulous Christmas Season and a happy and safe 2007.

I am sure I said this in 2006 Christmas issue but what has happened to 2006, every Year the same and as the old saying goes – the older you get the quicker they go.

I am totally overwhelmed with the number of articles that have come in over the three months and this issue is certainly from the members, what a response, so great I have made an editors decision and pulled my planned article on Windswept.

Thankyou, thankyou, and thankyou for your support and kind words, very much appreciated. Please keep it up in 2007.

I do hope you enjoy this edition as it is a walk around the World of Bonsai and certainly a bumper member packed edition and again my thanks and keep the articles coming

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



A Call for Directors

Board of Directors.- The Board of Directors is the managing body of BCI, charged with formulating and implementing policies and procedures and striving to ensure the health, vitality and success of the organization. The nominating committee is seeking individuals to be placed on the ballot for the election in the spring of 2007.

Directors serve a term of two years those elected in 2007 will take office immediately following the BCI Annual Meeting to be held during Tropical Enchantment, BCI 2007, in San Juan, Puerto Rico from July 11 – 15, 2007. Your help is requested in nominating dedicated bonsai enthusiast as potential candidates.

What are the characteristics of candidates for Director? We are seeking individuals whose commitment to bonsai and the bonsai community will allow them to work diligently to further the art of bonsai at the local, national, and international levels. While many Directors are recognized bonsai artists with outstanding personal collections, a willingness to work hard and a commitment to make BCI as successful as it can be, are far more important attributes. Age is of no barrier, each year the member Clubs of BCI elect dedicated individuals to serve on its Board. Youthful candidates can bring fresh perspectives and vitality, while our older members can offer the wisdom and experience of their years.

Candidates must be individual members of BCI, in good standing, for a minimum of two years as of the date of nomination; must be willing to serve and attend Board meetings (usually twice per year including the annual convention); be willing to sign a statement of intention to serve; and to keep confidential matters that the Board so deems.

The presidents of the candidates' bonsai clubs should sign the submissions of candidates for nomination made by member clubs. A form will be provided for this once the nomination is received.

As an international organization BCI is seeking candidates worldwide. The art of bonsai transcends political and national boundaries. It is truly a way of uniting people of every culture and every continent. BCI Directors are in a unique position to share their love of bonsai and their experiences and efforts worldwide,

Serving as a Director of BCI is a great honour, for it means the member clubs recognize you as being worthy of their trust to lead our organization. But being a Director is also a lot of work. Candidates should be aware that the position is not an honorary one, but involves work and dedication and commitment. Over the many years that BCI has existed, the organization has been blessed with the service and contributions of many, many outstanding Directors and Officers. We would like to continue that record. For further details contact Linda Brant Email - lbrant@comcast.net

BONSAI and Stone Appreciation Magazine

After many years the BCI Magazine is going through a name change it will be called in the future "BONSAI and Stone Appreciation Magazine"

You will read more about this in the next magazine.



BONSAI WONDER”--- Bonsai Display at Hyderabad, India.

Few enthusiasts formed ‘ Friends Bonsai Society’ a Bonsai study group at Hyderabad, India in 1986. Society has steadily grown in number and stature. Now well recognized with affiliation to the Bonsai Study Group of Indo-Japanese Association, Mumbai India.

Main objectives of the study group were to promote awareness and better understanding towards the newly introduced concept of Bonsai art among the people and make them appreciate it.

These objectives have been successfully accomplished and our efforts were officially recognized when The Hyderabad Urban Development Authority (HUDA) entrusted us the responsibility and honor to create a permanent Bonsai Display at prestigious N. T. Ramarao, (Popular late Chief Minister) Memorial Park in Hyderabad. Challenge was accepted. With artistic imagination and hard work project could be completed in six months.

Approximately 3,000sq feet of land in this park has been designed for Bonsai Display and named BONSAI WONDER. Members of our group enthusiastically contributed more than 100 best Bonsai in various styles and species from their personal collection. Most of the Bonsai are of local tropical varieties, not very exotic. The different species of Ficus family are in more number. Some fruit bearing Bonsai like mango, pomegranate, oranges, and guava are purposely on display for viewer's enjoyment. There are flowering Bonsai too, which makes the display colorful. Bonsai stand made of logs of dried coconut palm are arranged around an artificially made pond at different levels to create natural atmosphere. Screen to serve as backgrounds are made of Bamboo sticks that blend with bridge and other Bamboo decor. A brief information and nameplate, arranged next to each Bonsai to further trigger interest of the visitors. Though the whole display might not be compared with international standard, but the ensemble in total has created pleasant effect.

Being first of its kind in city BONSAI WONDER is now a special attraction to the visitors of NTR park, It has also received acclamation from the visitors through out India and claimed to be the only well maintained Bonsai display at Public place.

Apart from wide appreciations, it contribute highest amount of satisfaction towards our group.

Mrs. Mangala Rao,

Group leader, Friends Bonsai Society, Hyderabad, India. Ph—040 27633032

Email—man_puru@hotmail.com





Email address change.

We have up graded our web address and listed below is the new contact for BCI the new email address for the Magazine is bcieditor@cox.net and for the business office it is bcibizness@cox.net.

Thanks to my friend in New Zealand for picking up the deliberate mistake in the last newsletter.

Emails received

A number of Emails received and thank you for your kind comments and please keep the feedback coming

From Cheryl Owens

Thank you for the very "newsy" Ambassador's Newsletter. It was very informative and the colour photos were fabulous.

The Elkhart Bonsai Study Group (Elkhart, Indiana, USA) has been on Sabbatical, since the leader (me) is awaiting a new hip. Maybe I lifted too many large bonsai over my 45 years in the hobby.

The Ft. Wayne, (Indiana) Bonsai Club spent one entire Saturday re-potting my personal collection of tropical, due to my sudden disability. Six people drove one hour and 15 minutes to assist me. We had a catered lunch and lots of conversation.

I will share your newsletter with these 2 groups.

Cheryl Owens



Elkhart Bonsai Study

Dave Bogan of Greater Evansville Bonsai Society forwarded me a copy of his fabulous newsletter and mention frost and negative temperatures, funny to me as we are just entering the spring and the warmer weather is just ahead.

Listed below is a questionnaire that was sent out to all members of the Matsuyama Bonsai Society and may be of use to other clubs, they asked me to share it with all ambassador's.

A questionnaire to club members

Matsuyama Bonsai Society

2006 – 2007 Planning Page

Please complete the following questionnaire so that the Club Executive can plan events and workshops with your needs in mind.

Name: _____

Bonsai Catalogue by species, level of training and refinement of plant as follows

A) Qty: Exhibit quality bonsai, in a harmonious pot, with a compatible stand. Nursery stock, 10 + years in training..

B) Qty: Exhibit quality bonsai, in a harmonious pot, with a compatible stand. Nursery stock, 5 + years in training..

C) Qty: Trees in training. 1 to 3 years

D) Qty: Trees in training. 3 to 5 years.

E) Qty: Trees in training. 5+ years.

F) Qty: Seedlings and Rooted cuttings for future bonsai.

Questions:

Do you have more Indoor or Outdoor Bonsai? (Please circle one.)



What is your main tree specie? _____

Suggest one topic that you would like to see developed in our meetings:

For the executive - Please provide any ideas or thoughts for improvement:

China - BCI 2006.

I met Dr Saraswathy Unnithan at the conference in China and spent a day touring with her fellow Bonsai enthusiasts from India, I hope all the clothes I tried on for the ladies husbands, sons and relatives fitted on their return.

Below is an article published in horticulture World.

By Dr Saraswathy Unnithan

My dream to participate in a Bonsai Convention in China, the Motherland of Bonsai and Penjing came true on 30th April 2006, at the world Penjing and Shangshi fair. The convention hosted by the Bonsai Club International Hosted, the People's Government of Foshan and Chinese Society of Landscape Architecture at Chencun FlowerWorld, Chencun Town, Shunde District, Foshan City.

It began with a personal invitation from the governor of Chenchun Mr. Zheng Niansheng, to all the participants During the 5th World Bonsai Convention in Washington DC May 2005. He explained how at the annual BCI Convention in Orlando, Florida in Sept 2002, they pipped Germany, Switzerland, India, Indonesia, Singapore and USA in the race to hold The 2006 fair.

Foshan is a city in China's coastal Guangdong province with a population of 1.1 million people. An ancient city founded in the Jin Dynasty and named during the Tang Dynasty in the 7th century AD. Today, located about 100 km away from Hong Kong and Macao in China's industrial heartland, this city of shimmering skyscrapers and broad roads is China's third largest manufacturing base in the Pearl River Delta after Shenzen and Guangzhou.

I booked my place for the convention and my hotel accommodation through internet in February this year to avail the early bird discount. I landed in Changi airport by a Singapore airline flight from Mumbai Early on the morning of 29th May and spent four hours at Singapore airport sight seeing and shooting the beautiful orchids there. From Singapore, I flew to Guangzhou airport in China to an extremely warm welcome by Allen, PRO of Country Garden Holiday Resort and his assistants. The drive to the hotel through clean wide roads lined with gardens was a pleasant experience. Allen, good in English was very inquisitive about India. The hotel lobby had a special BCI counter and I met old friends and some Indian delegates at the reception. After the formalities I was led to Villa No. 2.

After breakfast the next morning we were driven in buses to



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the venue, about 45 minutes drive from the hotel. The Guangdong Chencun Flower World which covers an area of 300 hectares the largest flower trading market in Asia. Exhibition and related activities were spread in to about 60 hectares. The opening ceremony in the morning was very spectacular with flower arrangements streamers and balloons accompanied by huge Chinese drums and dancers. Unlike earlier conventions, the programmes were in the open air. The weather God was very kind and it did not rain during the function.

Demonstrations began in the afternoon. Masahiko Kimura's Cypress Penjing and Qing-quan Zhao's Shuihan penjing were the first items featuring simultaneous demonstrations and lectures. Obviously we had to make a difficult choice as all the programmes were excellent. We could observe some very fine rock and water Penjing by eminent Chinese Masters like Zhao, Yun-hua Hu and Chuan-gang Liu, Qin-fei Zhu and Lignan Penjing lecture and demonstration by Zhong-ming Liu and Ke-ying Xie . Windswept rock Penjing by Robert Steven, single bonsai of Juniper and Pines by Lindsay Bebb and Kimura also made for interesting viewing.

Lectures and presentations on various aspects of bonsai and Suiseki by world renowned masters were other attractions at the venue.

Japanese master Arishige Matsuura gave a two-hour presentation of Japanese Suiseki.

Most interesting and informative was another two-hour presentation by Solita Rosade of USA on the History of Bonsai Conventions and Bonsai & Suiseki from all corners of the world. I C Su from Taiwan gave a Chinese lecture on appreciation of penjing, Shangshi and ancient pots, rapidly translated in English by his artist wife Helen. Su owns a huge collection of bonsai, Suiseki and antique pots at his residence at Taipei, Taiwan.

The exhibits were of excellent quality and antiquity with a variety of plants used to create master pieces. The rock penjing were also of the highest grade. A separate wing in the Exhibition Area was devoted to Sangshi or viewing stones. A large number of visitors both young and very old thronged the exhibition through out the day on all days unlike in other conventions.

It was also a time to meet old friends from earlier

Conventions in Kuala Lumpur, Taiwan and Washington and made new friends from Australia, UK, South Africa, Singapore and Oman. The legendary Saburo Kato and Madame Kato were there. Kimura Lindsay Bebb, Solita and Chase Rosade, IC Su and Helen Su, Pedro Morales, Robert Steven, Zhao,

Montri, Min Hsuan Lo, Yun Hua

Hu- were other dignitaries present at the convention. The pleasant BCI President Linda Brant and her equally affable husband Mr. Brant were there enquiring about the works of the participant.

To sum up the experience, we did have a communication problem. But as I discovered, language is no barrier to convey love and appreciation. On the whole it was a very memorable, educative and pleasant trip.



July-September, 2006

Horticulture World



Eye catching Rock Penjing displays.



Rock Penjing displays.



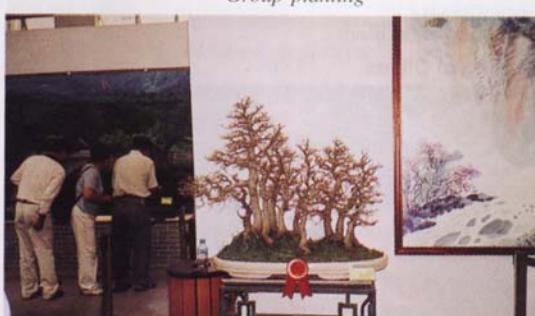
Podocarpus macrophylla group planting.



Group planting



Ficus microcarpa on the wall.



Celtis sinensis group planting 112 cm pot



Author with Saburo Kato and Madam Kato.



Sagretia theerzans. Pot 100 cm plant height 100 cm.





Bonsai and Trees Around the World.

In the words of Crocodile Dundee
"You call that a fig, this is a fig"



Me- Anyone guess where this tree is?



1958 Wisteria

Ambassadors Corner

What can I say after this edition but "WOW" and thankyou all again the articles came flooding in and I had to put a number on hold till next edition, please keep them coming.



Trip of Bonsai and Suiseki in Malaysia

Our President of BCI Mr. I.C.Su has been on the road and forwarded to me this fabulous article which I would love to share with you.

I attended the first Penjing & Gushi exhibition held by Malaysian Penjing and Gushi Association on September 16 and gave a speech with the topic as "Participate BCI is the best path to internationalize your organization".

Malaysia is located in the subtropical area where plants grow fast. Because of the territory and the weather of Malaysia, the variety of plants for Bonsai is very similar to those in Taiwan. Same thing applies to stones, the stone in Malaysia is mainly Yellow-Wax Stone. I started participating the Suiseki-related activities in Malaysia since 1996 and met many friends in those occasions. This exhibition happened to invite many of them to join, including friends from China, Taiwan, Macau, Singapore and Hainan. I also had the chance to confer the Presidents award of BCI as encouragement.

I had invited several people that are listed below in this exhibition.

Group member:

1. Bonsai Art profession committee, HaiNan.
2. LiuZhou City Stone Appreciation Association
3. Macau Penjing Association

Individual member: About twenty individuals from Malaysia, Singapore, and Thai.

Bonsai instructor:

1. Hsieh, Chiang-Shui – Singaporean, painter, Bonsai teacher, and Bonsai and Suiseki collector.



2. Liu, Chuan-Gang – University professor, master of the art in Chinese Bonsai, and the president of Hainan Bonsai Association.

Articles:

1. Report about the Largest Bonsai and Suiseki park in Malaysia, by Mr. Lin, Lai-Fa.
2. Report about the exhibition in Malaysia by Mr. Tai, Boon-Wah
3. An article with title of “Bonsai and the art of Bonsai” by Liu, Chuan-Gang, the master of Art in Chinese Bonsai

Reference:

Introduction to BCI is a very attractive to recruit new members.

I will organize a group of 14 people as the Bonsai and Suiseki VIP tour to visit China (10/1~10/8)



Su's giving speech



From the right: Chairman of the Exhibition, Lai-Fa Lin
Vice Minister of Education, Shi-Chi Weng
President of BCI, I-Chi Su
President of Malaysian Penjing & Gushi Associationm Boon-Wah Tai



Opening ceremony for the Exhibition.



Handing out give-away of the exhibition.



Australian National Bonsai and Penjing Collection.

Australia has commenced the planning stage of setting up a National Bonsai and Penjing collection naturally based in our Capital – Canberra.

I will show more details next issue but if you want more details

<http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/nonurban/projects/arboretum.shtml>

Closing and next Issue.

Well again all the best for the Christmas and New Year season.

Next issue will have my article on Windswept and Linda Brant is promising an article on the International Stone Symposium held in Grantville P.A. in October 2006 which certainly will be worth waiting for, I also have a few pictures to share of an outstanding Raft I photographed in a wilderness area in NSW.

I am again on the move and returning to Brisbane and moving to a sub tropical climate at the beginning of summer will be interesting.

Once again thankyou all for the articles, this has made this edition one of the largest to date.

