

BCI- Ambassador's Newsletter



2006
March
Edition

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

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BCI Web site

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

Editors Message

Happy 2006 to all Ambassadors.

2006 has arrived and another Year and I am sure packed full of Bonsai action. China Conference is at the end of April and full of World class demonstrators, certainly an event not to miss, early bird is 1st of March 2006 but it is not to late to book.

In Australia summer is passing. Winter looms and in other parts of the World it is the reverse but Bonsai life goes on.

I certainly appreciate all the feed back I receive about the Newsletter, it certainly makes the job worthwhile.

A large job to set up all the Email addresses and this is the first time I have sent out the newsletter, it is the way to go. Any ambassadors out there that are receiving this by post please send me an Email address as it is quicker, more cost effective and the added advantage of easily being able to forward the newsletter onto to your club members.

Linda's suggestion of each club sending a copy of the newsletter to their members via Email was a great one and certainly would add value to all clubs, I am always trying to find something different to do or send in my club and I thought this was a fantastic suggestion.

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

BCI Contests - Spread the Word

In the first addition of my being editor of this newsletter there was some tips on taking photos of your Bonsai, the old saying of "You have to be in it to win it" certainly held true in our Australian National competition recently, an annual photographic competition held in Australia.

Only three entrants, all took out a prize.

As was stated during the conference there were over 200 people in the audience and most with camera's but only three out of the hundreds of members had dared to have a go.

The thing to really remember is that most of these competitions are not about the quality of the photographs but the tree, you don't have to spend a fortune to enter and these days with digital cameras it is easy to take and enter the competitions via Email.

Below is an article sent to me from Linda Brant – BCI - President

As you and your club members work on bonsai, I encourage you to consider these contests that are sponsored by **BCI**. There are cash awards for three of the contests. For the Ben Oki International Design Award there are also cash awards for sponsoring clubs, **so not only will you get recognition for your bonsai, but also monetary reward for yourself and your club.** These contests are well worth your consideration and all will accept online applications.

The Ben Oki International Design Award 2006 is for BCI members who are beginners (as certified by a local BCI Organization). This award, sponsored by Cheryl and Charles Owens in honor of their teacher, Mr. Ben Oki, recognizes design talent in beginning bonsai enthusiasts.

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The Centre Award International 2006 is for any bonsai person, amateur or professional. It is sponsored by Mr. Mario Remeggio and recognizes the ability to match up a tree with a correct pot.

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The **Ismail Saleh Award 2006** is offered in honor of noted bonsai artist Ismail Saleh. It is for any BCI member and is a bonsai design award.

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The **Pedro J. Morales Tropical Bonsai Design Award** is a \$1000 grant for new bonsai talent in the tropical Bonsai World in Latin America. It is a design award for amateurs and is conducted every two years. 2007 will be the next year for this contest..

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Please review the application forms for all contests found on the BCI Web site and encourage those in your local clubs who might like to compete. Make as many copies of the applications as you need and if there are any questions, please contact me. If you prefer, I will email an application to you.

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This is an opportunity for all members of your club to submit a tree for display at the up coming China conference, below is an extract from an Email from Robert Steven - Indonesia.

On my recent business trip to Guangzhou, I dropped in to visit the coming 2006 BCI Convention organizer in Sunde and met Mr. Zhen's assistant and Cylin, I gave them the CD of WBC winners as they planned to display these photos during the convention and they want me to collect more quality Bonsai photos from around the world so they can exhibit.

The idea is that they want to show to the government that this is really an international exhibition. Since it's hardly possible for the foreign countries to send their Bonsai, so at least they can show the photos to the local Bonsai enthusiasts because not so many have seen Bonsai from other countries.

I think this is a very good idea. For this, I have posted this issue on the IBC and receiving quite few photos, but mostly from USA. So I hope you can encourage your local friends to send their Bonsai photo to my email :markamtr@cbn.net.id

Please indicate their full name, country, species and size.
Please send me as early as possible so I can have enough time to put everything in CD and send to China to be printed out in photos.

Please do not send the photo that you had sent for the WBFF contest.

See you all in China...

Best regards,

Robert Steven

Snap shot of a STYLE!

Informal upright article

The informal upright style has a curved trunk with the apex over the base informal upright style has a curved trunk with the apex over the base



The informal upright style is one of the mostly found style used in Bonsai, the relaxation and comparative freedom lends this style to be found in many nursery stock plants.

It allows freedom and can really encourage that artistic soul within to come out and be creative, certainly a large portion of my collection are informal uprights.

Next time you are at a Bonsai show as you are walking around note down how many of the trees are informal uprights – it is something I did recently and it will amaze you as to the % of total trees will be this style.

TRUNK

If a line was drawn from the centre of the root ball vertically creating an imaginary line then the trunk can move within 10 to 15 degrees from this vertical line.

Most informal uprights I have seen have a twist or two in the trunk and the “S” type bend is also seen regularly.

APEX

The crown of the of the informal upright tree is always leaning forward as if bowing to the viewer

BRANCH PLACEMENT

The typical First, second back rules are followed in this style, although with the curved trunk no branch should start from within the curve.

ROOT STRUCTURE

Should radiate out around the trunk and with most upright styles avoid any sticky straight out in your eye root.

Juniper



Black pine



Comments and photos on formal upright tree

Again thanks for the response from my article on formal uprights and I really have learnt a lot in researching the subject and more importantly I have experimented with the tree I featured in the last article.

I really thought that I would get a flood of response about the first branch – stay or go but non came.

What I did receive was some extremely helpful tips on improving the tree, in most cases the suggestions said crown to big and branches to wide.

I have included two photos of the tree and you can see that I have taken the advise and reduced the crown and the branches have been reduced in length, this plus a much needed hair cut has I think made the tree a much more attractive member of my collection.

The tree is now shooting as we are coming into the end of Summer in Australia and I am sure will pad up considerably before we go into the dormancy of Winter.

Will keep you informed on the trees continued progress.

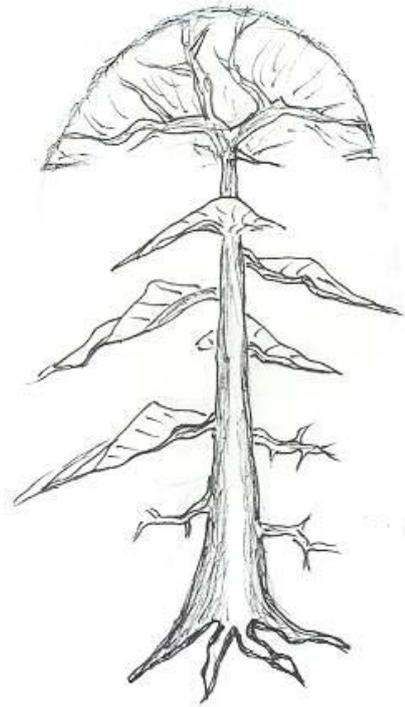
Before



After



The drawing below was sent o me to be included in this edition by Vietnam Bonsais Association.- Brussels, Belgium. School of Bonsais DONG SON Do van Luat, President - thankyou for the fabulous drawing.



I have been asked to include the following and more details can be found on the BCI web site. For more details, go to: www.dongson.be.tf/ or email: bonsais.dongson@skynet.be

May 2nd - May 07, 2006.

The 17th Anniversary of the Vietnam Bonsais Association and of the School of Bonsais DONG SON will be held at the Center : Chaussée de Wavre 1360 - B.1160 Brussels (Belgium), from 10:00 - 18:00. An exhibit in many traditional styles including the Vietnamese Miniature Landscape Art of Hon Non Bo.

Bonsai and trees Around the World.

I did receive some great feed back about the Fig I showed in the last edition and I am sure I am not on my own in taking photographs of trees when I am touring, so have again included some shots of real trees. Again, like last newsletter I must say that this is not a Bonsai but recently I made a visit to the Blue Mountains which is about 2 hours West of Sydney. I have never as yet visited the Grand Canyon but I am told by some American friends that the three sisters shown below and the canyon surrounding them are similar, although not as vast.

What amazed me was the hardiness of the trees and certainly asked the question how a tree could live in this terrain.



The picture on the right shows the three sisters which has a magical aboriginal story about a father protecting his three daughters from a mythical creature and turned them into stone but unfortunately lost the magical stick to turn them back into human form.

The photo at bottom left is a close up of the first sister and it certainly amazing that anything can live on the top of this rugged and sometimes extremely cold (snow) peak, it just shows how hardy trees are.

At the bottom right is pictured a tree exposing the root structures for all to see that amazing grip that a tree develops on the Earth



Closing

I have recently joined a local club in NSW and went along to what is my new clubs Christmas party, much to my surprise the demo for the night was a blindfolded demo by four willing volunteers.

All four blindfolded and nothing on the table then each given a tree, pot, soil, wire and assorted tools and told - go for it.

All in attendance had a great laugh and the participants also enjoyed the event maybe an event you may want to try, the results were to say the least amazing!!

I will in the next newsletter show you some of the photographs of this extremely entertaining night.

In closing again have a fantastic 2006 and please articles, photos, drawings are what will give this newsletter appeal and life blood so do not hold back.

Next issue at this stage will be a China conference experience and certainly I hope to meet as many ambassadors as I can, if you are going please so hi or as they say in Australia – G'day

In Closing one thing to say China conference early bird is closing at the end of February so if you are thinking about going, get in quick as after the cut off date it will cost you more.

Hope to see you in China!

