

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

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Edition



BCI- Ambassador's  
Newsletter

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Editors Message

Hi to all Ambassadors.

In starting this newsletter I am in Hong Kong airport awaiting a flight back to Australia and have just had a Bonsai packed 5 days at BCI 2006 in China.

Fantastic Bonsai and displays, fabulous venue, lots of old and many new friends and a fabulous time at the BCI conference.

Demonstrators were first class and from all reaches of the World

To anyone out there that is contemplating a BCI conference I can certainly recommend them as a great opportunity to not only see fabulous trees but to mix with other like Bonsai fanatics, swap stories and make new friends.

Without exception I have never been to one that I do not come away thinking very favourably of the experience and certainly always with some gained knowledge.

I would certainly recommend these events to all.

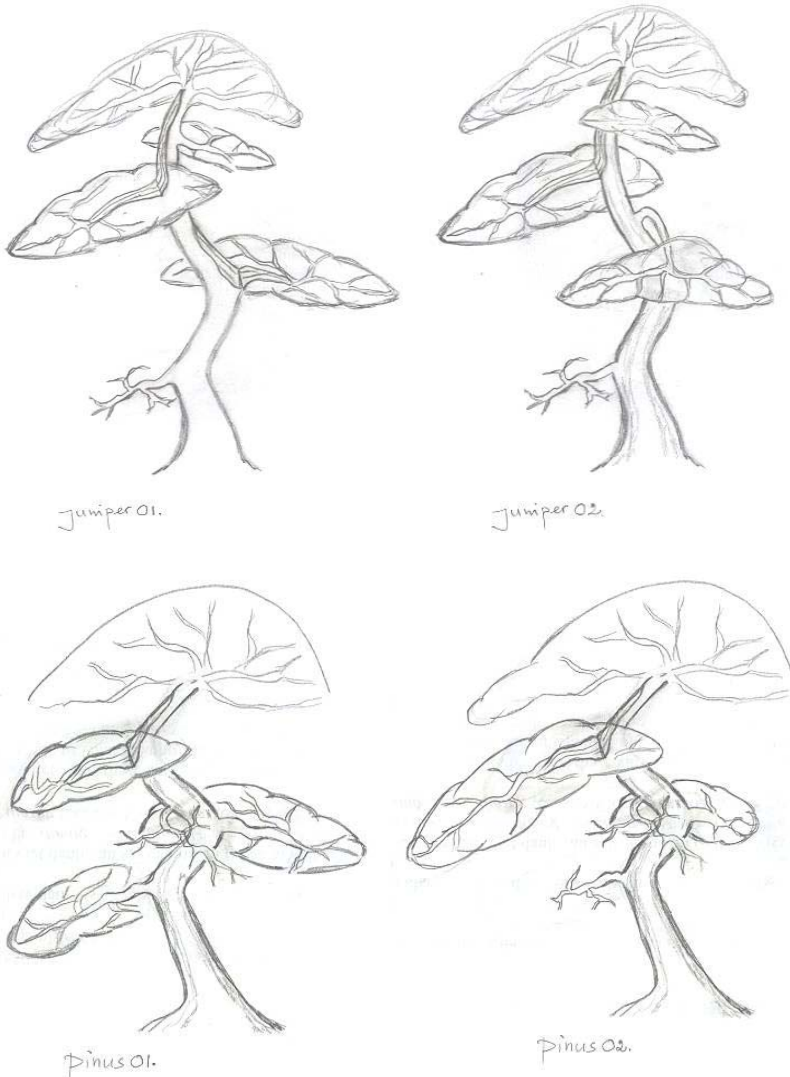
You will have noticed a new President and a new board, I would like to thank the outgoing President Linda Brant for a job well done and from me personally a thankyou for the help and assistance.

Certainly welcome to Mr I.C.Su our new President and all the incoming board.

Ian Glew – BCI Ambassadors Newsletter Editor. [iglew@b022.aone.net.au](mailto:iglew@b022.aone.net.au)

### Sketches of Bonsai

Our friends in Brussels have again made sketches of the trees I put into the newsletter last issue and are shown below.



School of Bonsais DONG SON / Vietnam Bonsais Association / BRUSSELS Belgium

Do van Luat, President. Has again submitted some sketches of his interpretation of the trees I showed in the last newsletter.

Thanks for the contribution and keep them coming.

**AVADH BONSAI ASSOCIATION- LUCNOW-INDIA**

YEAR 2005- A REPORT

BY MRS. SANTOSH ARORA AND MR. K.K. ARORA

2005 was an eventful year. Since there was no exhibition planned for this year we had a lot of time for other activities. Besides monthly workshops and executive committee meetings we had 5 special meetings for all the association members and workshop members on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 27<sup>th</sup> July, 15<sup>th</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> November and 18<sup>th</sup> December.

The first one was to take the members to another world of Bonsai which most of them had not seen before, being new entrants to Bonsai, with the help of power point slide show. They were shown photographs of very high quality plants styled by internationally acclaimed masters and discussed with them the fundamentals of shaping of plants of that standard like, **selection of plants with thick root system and tapering trunk line, keeping the bottom of branches clean, clear of dangling leaves, creation of gaps and pads, making of crowns and triangles and creating of Jin and sharee.**

Our president Mrs. Santosh Arora and Vice president Mrs. Benu Kalsi with their spouses attended WBFF world Bonsai convention 2005 held in May in Washington DC. In order to share the knowledge acquired by them in the convention Mrs. Santosh Arora and Mr. K.K. Arora presented to the members and others a slide show showing the work of different masters with photographs of their plants at different stages of the demonstrations with narrations and discussions. The show also included photographs of a few masterpieces displayed in the exhibition. The information's gathered during demonstrations and discussions were compiled and shown in slides and discussed their application in day-to-day working with plants. This compilation was later printed with a caption "WISE WORDS FROM THE MOUTH OF MASTERS" and distributed among members.

The third meeting was a combined workshop of all the members. A few members were asked to bring their pre bonsai plants or ready Bonsai to shape by themselves in presence of all other members with collective suggestions. The results were very encouraging. There was a demand that more such workshops should be held to give chance to all the members by rotation.

The next special meeting was different and very informative. We invited a well-known horticulturist to give a talk on fertilizers, nutrients, soil mixtures, plant diseases and their remedies with particular reference to Bonsai plants. The lecture was full of informations. The members asked very relevant questions related to their problems experienced by them often. The expert could satisfy the members with convincing answers.

The last of the meeting was to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Avadh Bonsai Association on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2005 by organizing a Cocktail-Dinner meet at hotel Carks Avadh, where all our exhibitions are held. It was attended by about 60 association members, workshop members, their spouses and invitees. The invitees included the guest of honour Mr. Sushanto Roy, CEO of Sahara Housing and Infrastructure and his charming wife Mrs. Richa Roy and Mr. O.P. Srivastva, the deputy-managing Director of Sahara India Parivar.

The celebration included a small formal function. The founder President Mrs. Santosh Arora enumerated the achievements of the association in a short period of 5 years and also announced the future plans and requested the sponsors Sahara India Parivar for their continued support. She made a strong point to expose the members to the international world of Bonsai by their visits to international conventions and by calling Masters to Lucknow to give demonstrations and hold workshops.

Mr. Sushanto Roy in his brief speech congratulated Mrs. Arora and other members and reassured their support in the cause of spreading the art of bonsai, in whatever manner possible.

Mr. O. P. Srivastva also congratulated everybody involved in the bonsai movement. In his inimitable style he objected to be called sponsors. He further clarified that Sahara has become a part of this movement and whatever they are doing is for them as well. He emphasized not to refer them as sponsors, in future. He stressed that India had a proud heritage of being Teacher to the world in many fields and we will keep up this tradition in the field of Bonsai as well, in due course of time. He also made a suggestion of making Lucknow as a sister city to one of the bonsai center city in the world. He was greeted with a loud applause for his gesture and very ambitious thinking. We will be highly obliged if BCI or any reader can give suggestion in this regard.

A small entertainment program followed which included a dance number by Miss. Amrita daughter of Mrs. Renu Srivastva, associations General secretary and Mr. O.P. Srivastva. The surprise item of the evening was a poetry rendered by Mrs. Jyoti Sinha, which she specially wrote for this occasion. Incidentally she is a well-known Urdu poetess. She had recently participated in a Mushaira in UK on their invitation and earned laurels for herself and for the city of Lucknow. Another surprise was in store from our

honoured guest Mr. Ambrish Gupta, vice president of Hotel Clarks Oudh when he sang beautifully an old Hindi movie song. The formal part of the function ended with cake cutting ceremony.

There was a small display of Bonsai plants at a few strategic points of the banquet hall. The ambience and the gathering were very lively. The way the proceeds were conducted gave a feeling of a family get together. A sumptuous spread of mouth-watering dishes awaited the participants, which they enjoyed thoroughly before calling it a day.

The year 2005 thus ended with a happy note with a resolve from the members to do better in the year 2006 in which we have to organize our 3<sup>rd</sup> biennial exhibition and also call a foreign master.

## Bonsai and Trees Around the World.

The two photos below are from an annual show of the Bonsai Society of Australia Inc some years back, both photos have some fantastic trees but there is something about a Bonsai in flower that is certainly a show stopper.



If you ever visit Sydney – Australia these Chinese Gardens in Darling Harbour ( Centre of Sydney) area a must see.

They are serene and quiet in a very busy and bustling city of Sydney.





### BCI 2006 Conference – China

The 2006 BCI conference in Foshan – Guangdong China was again an outstanding success and certainly the number and quality of the trees will stay with me for a long time.

Below are some photos to share some of the highlights of an actioned packed 5 days, I will include more in future newsletters.



A welcoming Dragon



Linda Brant (in green) opening the event



Some of the amazing, huge Bonsai outside



First glimpse of the exhibition



An aerial shot



Trees – Trees - Trees



Mr Kimura's finished tree



Mr I.C. Su and Helen during their presentation



Mr Qingquan Zhao and his finished tree



Mr Lindsay Bebb, interpreter Rainbow and the tree



Mr William Valavanis and the finished tree



More trees outside in the garden



### Ambassadors Corner

We did have an ambassadors meeting at the China conference but unfortunately numbers were down and no real business was discussed, what was lacking in numbers was certainly made up in enthusiasm.

The concept of an ambassadors program was originally put together for all member clubs to have input regardless of size or location around the world into the Clubs operation and to share ideas and thoughts on Bonsai and ideas to make BCI bigger and better.

I am pleased that we have again some input from clubs in this newsletters both from Brussels and India, I welcome all articles, ideas, photos, drawings etc. – please input from you is the life blood of the newsletter.

Photos of native trees in your country or state are ideal, I have tried to share some pictures of Australia with you in the newsletters to prompt the input .

### Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be I am sure packed with input but on top of that we will have more trees from China, a profile of one of Australia's top Bonsai artists and his Nursery, a really great idea for a meeting night and lots more.

### Closing

In closing I would like to thank all those involved in a fabulous Conference in China, I certainly recommend any BCI function to any Bonsai enthusiast and also those not bitten by the addiction as the conferences are not just about seeing first class trees and top rated demonstrators but the friendship that is present in these functions.

Again a thankyou to Linda Brant for her leadership and welcome to Mr I.C.Su in his new role as President of BCI.

In Australia we are entering Autumn and with me being in a new part of the country it is colder and I am enjoying a colourful Autumn for the first time in many Years, I have really missed this season.

Once again lets have your input, it was really fantastic to meet with all the Bonsai Addicts from around the World offer help and advise and certainly this newsletter is the ideal opportunity to have an article, idea or photograph published on an international the scene.

