

The 2013 International Bonsai Convention Yangzhou, China

by Joe Grande, Canada

The dates for BCI's 2013 convention are set and the website, www.bonsai2013.org is fully functional. Start making plans to attend the 2013 International Bonsai Convention and BCI celebrating 50 years.

The venue is the historically significant city of Yangzhou, a city with 2500 years of history and the meeting place of nature and culture. The host of this event is the Chinese Society of Landscape Architecture, Flower Bonsai & Artistic Stone Branch. The delegation from China, led by Zhao Qingquan (Brook), made a very comprehensive presentation to the BCI board in Denver and enthusiastically unveiled their excellent and comprehensive plans.

Yangzhou is a fitting location for this event for several reasons. Yangzhou is famous for its landscaping, poetic painting arts and Huaiyang food. It is home to the long-standing Chinese Five Bonsai Styles, a gateway to natural wonders such as the famous Huangshan Mountain and a short flight to the Terracotta Army, an archeological marvel.

Huangshan Mountain, also known as Yellow Mountain, is the archetype of the Chinese landscape. As Michael Collins-McIntyre wrote in his article, *The Call of Huangshan*, BCI Magazine Q2, 2011, "The combination of the mountains, the cloud sea, the trees and the lakes, streams, and hot springs have beckoned to countless pilgrims, artists and poets. It has been the inspiration for myriad Penjing, Bonsai, Suiseki and Gongshi artists. Its history and beauty—the interplay of mountains, clouds, trees, and water—have inspired UNESCO to make Huangshan a world heritage site."

The army is a collection of terracotta sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China and is the largest pottery figurine group ever found in China.

Ride a Dragon Boat, visit historical gardens and resorts, taste Huaiyang food, seek the ancient lanes and houses, appreciate and feel the amazing views and the deep cultural atmosphere of this ancient city.



The Five Pavilion Bridge (above) and the Twenty-four Bridge Scenic Spot (below) in Slender West Lake. Photos courtesy Thomas S Elias.





The BCI Post-Convention tour will include both Huangshan Mountain and the Terracotta Army. Watch the next issue and the BCI website for more details on this part of the convention.

The Chinese delegates continued their presentation to reveal more details of the conference and the extraordinary amount of planning to mount a convention of this stature. The four-day conference will feature internationally respected demonstrators and lecturers and packed with sightseeing excursions to Ge Garden, He Garden and the historical district of Yangzhou, a boat tour on Ancient Grand Canal, Slender West Lake and the newly expanded Yangzhou Bonsai Museum.

The four hotels recommended by conference organizers are rated from 5 stars to 3 stars and all look exceptionally well appointed and comfortable.

We all look forward to experiencing the bonsai, penjing and the viewing stones on exhibit. As we all interpret and adapt the way of bonsai to our local climates and cultures around the world, it will be especially interesting to see how the Chinese depict bonsai given their deep traditions in the historical precursor to bonsai, penjing.

Huangshan photos courtesy Daniel C. Luthi



For BCI members, 50 years of promoting the bonsai arts internationally is an important milestone for an organization that depends so much on volunteer work by its board of directors. This celebratory component of the convention is sure to add a special and not-to-be-missed element to the festivities.

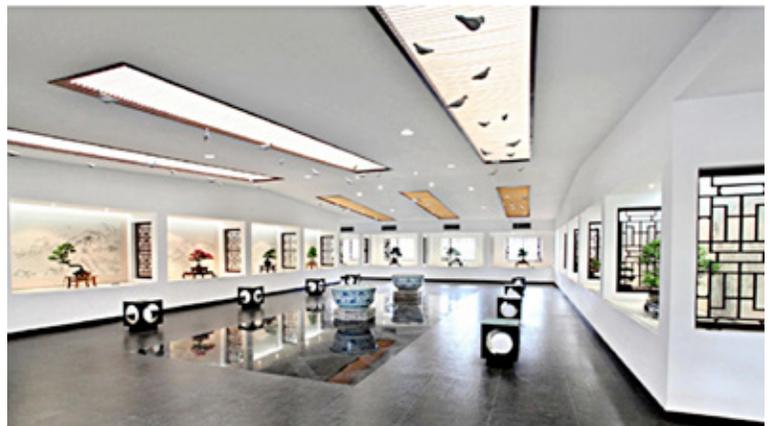
Certainly, we are in for a unique experience, gracious Chinese hospitality and universal friendship in the name of bonsai. Be sure to visit the website for this conference. There is a wealth of information and more to come as the convention draws nearer. 🌲

www.bonsai2013.org



Yangzhou Bonsai Museum

Exhibition area (below)



middle and bottom left; One of the four hotels chosen for the conference.

bottom right; figures from the Terracotta Army

