

Fort Wayne Bonsai Club Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 12

December 16, 2006 **December** **Bonsai Christmas Luncheon**

We rarely have a December newsletter so you don't have to consider this a real newsletter. It is a reminder of the Christmas luncheon coming up next Saturday. If you can attend please confirm that you are coming by emailing me back or calling me at 637-5104 by Friday, December 15th so I can call Sakura and give them a head count. Sakura is at 5828 West Jefferson Blvd on the East end of Times Corners Shopping Center. I'm looking forward to Shrimp Tempura or Shrimp Teriyaki and maybe a little sushi. There will be some door prizes at the luncheon (so Ed, bring the tickets with you, please and thank you).

In January we will have the election of officers, we are in need of a new secretary so if you are interested let me know. The duties of secretary are to keep the minutes of the meeting and write an article that includes the minutes and any editorial comments you may have. If you cannot attend a meeting you need to find a substitute to take the minutes for you. Dues are also due in January so come prepared to pay your dues. Individual dues are \$25.00 per year, family dues are \$30.00 per year and mailbox membership is \$10.00 per year. With mailbox membership there will be a \$3-5.00 surcharge for any workshops or field trips. This year we are planning a workshop in June with Ben Oki at Cheryl Owens home in Elkhart, IN. The cost of the workshop will be \$30.00 per person with a limit of 10 people so I suggest you get a check to Ed for the workshop as soon as possible so you don't miss out.

We are also **considering** another workshop in April with Bonsai Bob. It will also have a limit of 10-12 participants. We need a minimum of 10 to make the workshop feasible. If you are interested in that workshop let me know ASAP so I can set up the workshop with Bob who is enjoying his winter in Florida and is busy setting up a small club down there. I am including a picture that he sent me of

his bonsai garden and fountain in Florida at the end of this newsletter. I know he couldn't be down there all winter and not play with bonsai!

I ran into Harley Wilson this week and found out that Valesca had knee surgery on Tuesday on her other knee. We hope she recuperates fast and can get back to her bonsai! He also said he is doing well. We hope to see you both back at a meeting in February or March.

For those of you not attending the Christmas luncheon Jerry and I would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas and a Happy 2007.

Darlene Kittle, Editor

Kathy's Korner The 2007 Conference of The Gardeners Of America/Men's Garden Club of America includes a tour of the world recognized Anderson Japanese Garden near Rockford Illinois. Other tours included are The Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden, the private Harding La Paloma Garden and the Rockford Park district Sinnissippi Gardens. The Convention is hosted by The Wisconsin Illinois Region. The dates are July 12, 13, & 14, 2007.

I don't have registration information for the conference at this time, but if you are interested in considering membership in the garden club so that you can attend this conference, I do have that information.

The November/December issue of The American Gardener: the Magazine of the American Horticultural Society has an article titled "Rocky Mountain Haiku." The article written and photographed by Tom Jenkins features a half-acre Denver bonsai garden in the Denver area which is the legacy of Bob Kataoka.

Mr. Kataoka was a founding member of the Rocky Mountain Bonsai Society. He died in 1986, but is honored by the RMBS through the presentation of the Bob Kataoka Memorial Award which is given to a rising bonsai artist at their annual bonsai show at the Denver Botanic

Garden. His vision is kept alive in the private garden by his daughter Lily Uyeda who uses the skills that he taught her.

According to a long time friend Allan Hills, one of the most important lessons Kataoka imparted to him was how to make bonsai North American. He was a guiding light for the RMBS as the result of reading many of the Japanese bonsai magazines and adapting the methods to local native trees, such as ponderosa pines.

The article acknowledges that collecting from the wild is becoming increasingly difficult due to governmental environmental restrictions. But, the principles and techniques used to maintain a plant in its “natural” state can be applied to a nursery plant as well. The key is observation of a plant in its natural state and working toward simulating that “in nature” look.

Kathy Lee

Flowering Quince for Bonsai

by Brent Walston

Introduction

Flowering Quince, *Chaenomeles spp.*, has been used by the Chinese for thousands of years to celebrate the New Year. The brilliant flowers on the leafless stems are a wonderful harbinger of Spring. This tough and versatile plant also makes excellent bonsai. Bred in the East for many centuries, there are some remarkable cultivars that are relatively unknown to the West. Among these are cultivars that are short in stature and some that are even quite prostrate, and others that are deep clear reds, pure white, clear pink, or contorted in growth habit.

Getting a Decent Sized Trunk All of the cultivars sucker to some degree, a process that dissipates their energy into many small stems, making it difficult to get a good trunk. When

growing them out for bonsai be sure to remove all the suckers as soon as they appear. There seems to be little advantage to putting them into the ground to fatten the trunks, they seem to grow just as quickly in five gallon cans. However plan to spend five years to grow even a 3/4 inch trunk. This is what makes thick trunked quinces so rare and so valuable. They are remarkably adapted to root pruning and usually suffer little from even a drastic pruning as long as an equal amount of top growth is removed either before or at the same time. This phenomenon makes them ideal to collect and there is always someone who wants one removed from his or her yard.

Fruit and Flowers Another remarkable quality of Quince is its ability to repeat bloom after heavy pruning. Of course in a bonsai situation they are always being pruned so that they flower on and off all summer and especially in the fall. Most cultivars will also set fruit which is yet another pleasing quality for bonsai. The fruits range in size from about one inch for 'Orange Delight' to about the size of a medium apple for 'Toyo Nishiki' a popular cultivar that has pink, white and sometimes red blossoms on the same plant. I have even seen individual petals perfectly divided, one half pink and one half white. All of the fruits are edible and wonderfully fragrant, although they must be very ripe to release their perfume. This usually occurs in late Fall after a few frosts have softened them.

Proper Names The species names of *Chaenomeles* is a taxonomist's nightmare. Usually they are referred to as *japonica* although I see *speciosa* used often for the larger varieties. A similar situation exists for crabapples where the parent species are so cross bred that they are named simply *Malus* followed by the cultivar name. I have adopted this same procedure and will leave the fight to the taxonomists. Although I must add that *C. contorta* does seem to be a distinct species, or at least subspecies since the contorted characteristics are preserved in the seedlings.

Propagation Quince are easily propagated by cuttings and by division of the suckers or root division. They are best grown in full sun, except that some of the cultivars do burn in afternoon sun in the hottest and driest areas. They are not particularly heavy feeders and it is probably best to limit the amount of nitrogen to get the best flowers. The flowers form on wood that is a year or two old

so do not remove all of the previous years growth when pruning. They occasionally will throw flowers from quite old stems especially after heavy pruning. Also the wood that forms first in the Spring will mature by late fall and may throw a few flowers then.

Cultivars I grow twenty some cultivars and it is not possible to describe them all here, but I will point out some of ones that are particularly suitable for use in bonsai. The contorted forms are always favorites. There is a white flowered one that has pale pink buds that open to pure white, and like all the contorted ones the stems are fantastically contorted, often doubling back on themselves. The Red Contorted has solid red buds that open to a deep pink. It is less aggressive than the white and will probably be ultimately smaller, perhaps four feet if planted in the open. This year I plant to introduce a contorted seedling selection that is a beautiful clear salmon pink.

One of the best forms for bonsai is 'Hime' a small red form with solid red flowers and showy yellow stamens. The flowers and fruit are smaller than other Quince making it a good choice. The growth is not aggressive and it gets quite twiggy at an early age. Another small flowered form is 'Kan Toyo'. The flowers are a nice pink and only about 1/2 inch across. A very rare and highly prized cultivar is 'Kurokoji' that has very beautiful dark red velvety flowers. This is the darkest red form I have ever seen. However, the growth is weak and upright, but the sheer beauty of the flowers make it good candidate. The most beautiful white form is undoubtedly 'Jet Trail', an almost prostrate and slightly contorted form. The flowers are a brilliant pure white without a trace of pink, and it is very floriferous and a repeat bloomer.

'Falconet Charlotte' has beautiful double pink flowers on a plant that is not too large and can be controlled. Also double flowered is 'Iwai Nishiki' a dark solid red with large fully double camellia shaped flowers that also tend to form in clusters sometimes 6 inches across. It is low growing and almost prostrate. Spitfire is another red that is quite small in stature and develops nice twiggy branches with little effort.

And finally

Quinces are quite easy and very rewarding. People are delighted to come into our nursery and see a nice little Shohin bonsai with a single 3 inch yellow fruit hanging from it and sometimes flowers too at the same time!

2006 Calendar of Local or Nearby Events

December 16th 2006- Christmas luncheon, location to be determined.

June 2007- Ben Oki workshop.

The club has the following items for sale:

Wire assortments: club members \$40.00, subscribers \$42.00, non-members \$45.00

Micromax micro-nutrients: \$5.00 for members, subscribers \$6.00, non-members \$7.00

Bonsai soil, shopping bag of 2 scoops: \$5.00 for members, subscribers \$6.00, non-members \$7.00

New Fertilizer blocks. ½ lb bag \$2.50 for members, Subscribers \$3.00, non-members \$3.50
1 lb bag \$5.00 for members, Subscribers \$5.50, non-members \$6.00

We also have bonsai slabs for forest plantings. Prices range from \$25.00 to \$50.00. Call Darlene or Ed regarding purchase.

All these products are great buys and priced much lower than retail if they are even available in this area. Call or email Darlene or Ed if you want products brought to this meeting.

See you at the meeting!!

Membership Roster and Subscribers The

Membership roster will be printed again in the January issue.

