

# Fort Wayne Bonsai Club Newsletter

Vol. 11 Issue 4 April 21, 2007

## April Bonsai Club Meeting /Bonsai Bob Workshop

The next meeting will be Saturday, April 21st at 10:00 am in the Kittle Garage at 17725 Lima Road. We will be having a brief meeting followed by Bonsai Bob's Workshop that will last most of the day. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will have a warm day. During the workshop we will break for a carry in lunch. We will have ham as the meat supplied by the club and each member is asked to bring a dish to serve approximately 20. Please call Darlene at 637-5104 and let her know what you plan to bring so we don't have 10 dishes of baked beans. Thanks.

Observers are invited to attend the workshop for a \$10.00 fee. We will also be making more soil during the workshop as we are out!

Jerry & I are in Florida as I am writing this and I understand it is all of a sudden very cold at home. I am going swimming when I finish this! We have his mother and his aunt with us visiting his cousin and the couple who introduced us 27 years ago on a blind date. You would think we were on a plant collecting trip. I am not sure how we will get everything home. His mother and I may have to hold things in our laps and between our legs. I don't know whether his aunt has collected any plants to go home as she is at her daughter's home and we will not meet up until tomorrow. It started when we stopped at Bonsai Bob's winter home the first day we arrived in Florida and he gave me a Yaupon Holly Stump that is already sprouting and will soon be a beautiful bonsai tree. We have followed that with visits to a nursery and a Lowes garden center. Oooops! 13 plants + mom's 4 + luggage, etc. Well we do have a car top carrier and we will need it!

## Trip To Gee Farms & Japanese Garden Cherry Tree Festival

This month you get a couple of bonus meetings. On April 14<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting at 8:30 am at the Kittles at 17725 Lima Road to Caravan to Gee Farms. Jerry will be driving and the plan was for Kathy to drive but she discovered a conflict in her

schedule. Ed Hake will drive instead. The purpose of this trip is to buy plants for the Bonsai Bob workshop and for the workshop with Ben Oki in June. We will also be meeting the Western Michigan Bonsai Club at Gee Farms and going to lunch with them. This was arranged by Cat Nelson. Thanks Cat!

On Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the day after our workshop the Sister City Committee will be sponsoring a Cherry Tree Festival at the Japanese Garden next to the Civic Center. The tentative schedule of events is as follows: 1:00-1:20 Minyo Dancers Outside/south 20 minutes 1:30-1:50 Classical music- Dan Quinn Inside/Auditorium 20 minutes 2:00-2:30 Koto/Shamisen – Garrett Uyeno Inside/Auditorium 30 Minutes 2:40-3:00 Minyo Dancers Outside/south 20 minutes 3:10-3:40 Classical Music- Dan, Hiromi, Hikaru, Dorothy Inside/Auditorium 30 minutes 3:50-4:10 Koto/Shamisen Inside/Auditorium 30 minutes 4:15 Minyo Dancers Outside/south 10 minutes 4:20 Welcome- Michele JAAI By Garden 5 minutes 4:25 Mayor (or deputy) Declaration By Garden 5 minutes 4:30 History of Garden – Gabe Delobbe By Garden 5 minutes 4:35 Dedication and planting of cherry tree/ Symbolic shoveling of ground At Garden 5 minutes 4:50 Choir By Garden 10 minutes 5:00 Haiku awards Outside/south 10 minutes 5:20 Taiko Outside/south 30 minutes

The Bonsai Club will also be doing a small show on 2 tables from 1 to 5 pm for the celebration and Bonsai Bob has agreed to stay over for it and do 2 mini demonstrations. He will also speak for a few minutes about the direction we are going with the Japanese garden design. There will also be a "Taste of Japan" event.

## Kathy's Korner

I've let too many other things get in my way to do any kind of library review. So, instead all you get from me are some upcoming, mostly non-bonsai events coming near you in May! Well, maybe not near Cheryl and Cat, but most of the rest of you.

May 5 & 6 – Three Rivers Orchid Society Show at Franke Park Pavilion #1, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 11, (4 to 7 p.m.); May 12, (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.); & May 13, (12 N to 4 p.m.) – Botanical Conservatory Plant Sale at Foellinger Theater in Franke Park.

May 19 – Fort Wayne Bonsai Show at Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory; 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

May 19 – Master Gardener Plant Sale at County Extension Office, 1 to 4 p.m.

May 2 – Northeastern Indiana Iris Show at Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, 12 N to 4 p.m.

Oh me! Oh my! Soooo much to do and so little time!

Kathy.....(and I still haven't done my taxes!)

## **2006 Calendar of Local or Nearby Events**

**April 14, 2007** 8:30 am Kittle's driveway. Trip to Gee Farms to shop for trees and meet West Michigan Bonsai Club for lunch

**April 21, 2007** 10:00 am Kittle's Garage Bonsai Bob Workshop and carry in lunch

**April 22, 2007** Cherry Tree Festival and rededication of the Japanese Gardens

**May 19, 2007** 9:00 am setup Bonsai Show and Club meeting at Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory

**June 2007-** Ben Oki workshop at Cheryl Owens home during the week in the evening

**July 21, 2007** 11:00 am Club picnic at Kathy Lee's home

**September 15, 2007** Meeting

**October 20, 2007** 9:00 am setup Bonsai Show and Club meeting at Foellinger Freimann Botanical Conservatory

**November 17, 2007** 10:30 am meeting

**December 15 2007** 11:30 am Christmas Luncheon  
Location to be determined.

## **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 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.

## **March Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 AM in the garage at the home of Darlene Kittle. Although it was brisk outside, Darlene and Jerry had heaters going to keep us all comfortable.

Cheryl Owens has not yet been able to establish a date for the Ben Oki workshop.

Darlene is in contact with Stan Barker regarding the Cherry Blossom festival. The date needs to be changed but will not be established until later in March. Darlene will notify club members of the date. There will be a ceremonial tree planting because the date will likely be too early for a successful planting.

There will be a workshop on April 21, 2007 at Darlene's home. This will include a carry in meal, so members should bring a dish to share. The club will purchase a meat. The meeting will begin at approximately 10 AM.

Kathy Lee asked us to consider what would happen to our bonsai trees if we should pass away. In the past, we have had members ask the club to sell their bonsai for them, or have donated their trees to the club for a fund raiser. Another idea is to find an organization like the Conservatory who would be willing to maintain a collection.

Kathy also brought the latest revision of the new club flyer. She will print 200 of them and make them available for presentations.

Cathy Blyth sent a letter to Cheryl Owens with a proposal to donate her bonsai to the Fort Wayne Conservatory. Cheryl felt she should first make an offer to the yet-to-be-built conservatory in Elkhart and to the FW Conservatory as a backup. The FW Conservatory is making plans on what to do should they come here. The new manager of the

conservatory feels it is important to bring a collection to Fort Wayne, whether it is Cheryl's or some one else's.

Darlene will have her class on April 17 and 24. At least one of our current members is signed up for her sessions.

Several options were discussed about where to fire the pots we are making. Cheryl Gardner near Leo has a kiln in her home. It is also a possibility that we could work with the Community Center. There was plenty of clay left over from the activity last year, so there was no charge for clay this year. We most likely have enough for a session next year as well. Last year the charge for firing was \$3 for each piece and for each firing. Pots with glaze will require two firings.

Cathy Blythe mentioned the need for some plants to have a dormant season and really appreciated the information in this month's newsletter. She has moved some of her trees to a refrigerator to create this dormant period.

The trip to Gee Farms in Michigan will be on April 14. If you have not let Darlene know you would like to go, please give her a call or send her email. We will be meeting at 8 AM at Darlene's home.

April 21 will be the Bonsai Bob session. Bring your plants and tools. Bonsai Bob will bring some pots and tools for sale as well as some plants. We will also be making soil that day as our club is out of the current batch.

The meeting ended at 11:14 and we had a great time getting dirty and creating a variety of pots and mud men. Some of our members are quite crafty and creative.

Come join our fun in April.

Respectfully submitted. Barbara Kirkwood

**Bonsai Styles The Complete Practical Encyclopedia of Bonsai**  
by Ken Norman

Slanting –  
SHAKAN

This bonsai is based on a growing in



style tree the

wild that has been exposed to strong winds and very stormy weather, so that it has blown over at an angle slanting away from the prevailing wind. The natural reaction of the tree after this has happened is to redirect its branch growth to suit the new growing angle of the trunk. Most species of tree can be grown in this style and examples in nature can be seen on cliff tops and in mountainous areas where there is a prevailing wind that pushes the tree over to one side. When this becomes more pronounced, it generally falls into the windswept category, but it is difficult to draw a distinction between these two styles.

**Semi-cascade – HAN-KENGAI**

This style reflects the effect of extreme growing conditions on a tree. It is designed to give the



appearance of a very old tree growing from the side of a quarry or rock face, or perhaps on a riverbank, where all the tree's efforts have gone into growing towards the light. Although the trunk line may initially have been upright, in natural conditions it could have been bent over into a nearly horizontal position by falling rocks, stones or soil. Ideal material for training as semi-cascade bonsai are prostrate-growing plants, such as cotoneaster and juniper, which can be bought from plant nurseries.

Barbara Kirkwood

## **WHAT TO DO IN APRIL**

by Jim Hagan

By now your bonsai should be out of their winter storage and back on their benches. If your display benches are in an area of high winds you should consider tying the containers to the bench – especially if your trees are large. A sudden wind can easily sweep the bonsai and container off the bench. Aluminum bonsai wire is very useful.

When you bring you bonsai out of their winter storage you may find an excessive amount of moss. If moss covers the entire surface of the soil it will limit the flow of air and moisture to

the root system. And if the moss is growing up the trunk of your bonsai the result is usually fatal. Thin the moss to allow air and moisture to penetrate to the root system and **remove all moss from the tree trunks.**

Spring is a good time for spring cleaning. Take an old toothbrush and a mild soap solution to gently scrub the trunks of your smooth barked trees. You will be surprised to see the amount of grime that is removed. You will not only remove dirt but also bugs, fungi, moss and the same time stimulate the tree. Inspect each of your bonsai carefully. Be especially alert for old wires. Remove all previously placed wires. In the spring both branches and the trunk grow rapidly. If old wires are not removed the bark can be permanently scarred. If upon removal of the wire the limb does not hold the desired position you must rewire the limb.

Your deciduous trees should be repotted first. Conifers may be repotted up until June. Plants that flower early (such as azaleas) should be repotted as soon as the blossoms begin to fade. Protect newly repotted trees from the wind and direct sun for at least three weeks. Keep the soil moist but not wet. One month after repotting begin to fertilize weekly at one half the recommended strength.

With spring also come insects and diseases. Check your supply of fungicides and insecticides. Check your trees every day. Don't wait. Counterattack at the first sign of infestation. Use a separate bottle (appropriately labeled) for each chemical. Be sure to follow all instructions. Preventative measures are helpful in controlling insects. The area under your benches should be clean – no leaves, weeds, puddles, etc. Use a commercial insect spray under your benches and along the pathways of your bonsai garden.

#### **WHY DO WE REPOT BONSAI?**

A bonsai is confined to its container. At some point it will fill the container with the roots and become "pot bound." Air, water and nutrients will not be able to penetrate the root ball. The tree will suffer and eventually die without some action being taken.

#### **HOW OFTEN TO AND REPOT AND WHEN?**

There is no simple way to say "repot every x Years." The answer depends on the age and species of your tree, the size of the pot, and most importantly the health and vigor of the tree. But, as a guide younger bonsai are

usually repotted every one or two years and older trees less frequently.

The ideal time to repot is when the tree is awakening from dormancy. The optimum time is when the new buds are swelling. This is when the tree has vigor. The reserves it built up during the previous year are being brought into action for the new season's growth. When repotting you usually remove about one-quarter to one-third of the current root ball. Dead roots, thick roots and damaged ones are also removed. Something blunt and nonmetallic (such as chopsticks) are good for untangling roots. Be gentle. Use sharp tools when cutting roots.

Prune each tree as needed.

After repotting the tree, water it well. Place it where it is protected from frost and has a good airflow. Don't water again until the soil begins to dry – which indicates the roots are active. Don't fertilize until the tree is actively growing. Once all is well the tree can be put back into its normal display position. Then water and fertilize as usual.

### **Root Work** **By Dave Bogan**

*Reprinted from the Greater Evansville Bonsai Society newsletter with permission..*

During a recent repotting session, I started thinking about how confusing working on root systems might be to the beginning Bonsai enthusiast. Truthfully, there are no real direct or easy answers. Honestly, every tree will be treated differently based on; species, age, health, timing and actual root size and condition.

**Species:** Example, Trident maples if required, will allow you to prune off just about every root. Junipers prefer not to have their roots trimmed hard. Elms allow for general pruning and thinning, pines prefer you be gentle and cut sparingly. Prior to working on any tree, you must know and study the individual species traits prior to cutting. Some species have tough roots while others such as buttonwoods have roots soft & tender like spaghetti.

**Age:** Young saplings respond and allow more severe root work than one over 20 years of age.

**Health:** If not healthy, you should never work on a plant's roots. Why would you want to

stress a sick or weak tree? In some extreme cases, if it is a last resort or the tree may die, a tree may require root work. Typically this is done in cases of a bad or deceased root system where you need to remove the damaged areas.

**Timing:** Typically root work is done as a plant emerges from their dormancy period. For most trees and shrubs, this is in spring. In the case of most tropical species, the root work is done only during its growth period in late spring early summer. Some work can be done in fall IF you protect the roots and never allow them to freeze. I prefer spring when the plant is fresh from its winter sleep and ready to start its seasonal growth period.

**Root sizes, quantify & condition:** This is the area most get confused. Notwithstanding the above issues, just how many roots do you remove? To answer this, we must first determine why we are repotting in the first place. To simplify it, are you repotting for additional or better growth, it is root bound or in many cases, just because you think it should be repotted?

In the early stages of development, we may repot with greater frequency. We do this hopefully to increase our root system. In this case, pruning of the roots makes the plant react just as it does during top or branch pruning. By pruning a branch or a root, it tells the plant to respond with new growth replacing what was removed. Thus, we help encourage ramification – additional branches or roots. The denser & finer a root system, the better the trees health and vigor. This translates into better and faster growth.

**Root Pruning for vigor.** In this case, we must attempt to prune most all the roots or at least all the root tips. We start by totally cleaning out the roots of all old soil. This enables us to see all the roots and spread them out. First, we determine root strength and location. We want to balance the root system and have roots in the correct location including surface roots. In other words, we want the same amount of roots on all sides. If one side is denser, we thin it out. If one side has heavier roots, we cut them back and allow thinner roots to stay longer to gain strength. We also focus on the surface root area and attempt to balance it. In balancing for vigor, we at least trim every tip so they are encouraged to ramify and add additional side roots. This

type of re-potting may happen every two to three years to promote the newly forming root system.

**Root Pruning due to being pot bound.** Actually a good sign – if it really occurs. A tree that has become “root bound” is one that has grown actively and is very healthy. Actually, what we think is “root bound” may not be totally true. Generally we feel a tree is root bound when we see roots circling the pot. This is actually a natural tendency of roots. Roots will always continue to grow out towards the pot edge. Eventually when they can grow no farther, they start circling. As they continue to circle the outer areas will get thinner with multiple roots. Actually, only the outer perimeter and maybe the bottom of the pot area are root bound. Becoming truly root bound where the entire root system is tight throughout the soil is rare and mostly happens only after very prolonged growth or in the occasional nursery grown tree still in its small plastic pot.

When we do find circling roots, it again says we have done well and it's time to do a little root pruning. If the original re-potting was done correctly, you may not need to remove all the soil but I still prefer to change it all so I don't create different areas of soil type or compaction. First, I remove the outer circling roots along with any matted ones on the bottom. This will get you back to a basic root system. Now wash out the remaining soil. Again, inspect the remaining roots, attempt to balance their strength, remove any oversized or damaged roots and once again, check the surface roots for character, location and size.

The real problem I see concerning repotting is many do it way too often. Many firmly believe a tree must be repotted at least every other year. This may be true during the first 4 – 6 years but again I think it's too often. Typically a tree will respond and grow stronger during the second year after repotting. After this, the tree will respond and their growth will be greatly influenced by external conditions. During and after the second year, fertilizer will tell the growth story. Why interrupt all this great growth in the second or even third year? If the tree is in good soil, the roots were trimmed and properly prepared, don't repot until it's absolutely necessary.

In the rare case of a truly root bound tree, you will know it quickly. The tree will

generally not absorb water quickly, even when watered properly, it will dry out quickly and you will notice a lack of vigor. You may also start noticing areas of the tree having better growth while other areas seem to be dying back. In this case, you have probably gone one year to long in repotting. Learn to listen and see what your trees are telling you before repotting. Don't repot simply because it makes you feel better.

### **Soil**

We're all aware how important soil is for growth and maintaining Bonsai. Many have their own mix or special ingredients. I don't want to debate all the possibilities. I simply want to state a few simple facts about soil. First, we know the soil must be "open" this means you must have spaces within the soil for pockets of air. The size of these pockets will depend on the size of soil used. Common garden soil or commercial potting soil has very small ingredients. Small ingredients equal compaction & small air spaces. Generally speaking, you need soil which has a majority particle size of around 1/4" for Bonsai in their first 8 or so years. The larger particle size will encourage faster and coarser growth. As a tree matures, the soil particle size should reduce which in turn will slow growth and cause it to become finer. Generally, I use two types of soil – both premixed and available in bulk. First is a mix containing primarily 1/4" haydite and some bark particles. The other mix is 1/8" sharp stone and bark. Larger size early on then smaller as the tree progresses. I will admit, I do occasionally add to these mixes. Both of these mixes are basically sterile and except the bark, contain no organic additives. Generally, when I repot a tree, I remove all the old soil. So, if I simply repot with the commercial mix, I will not have any organic matter or any soil born bacteria. So, I always add a small amount of "worm castings" which has some mychorhiza spore added. Rich in everything ol' mother nature intended to be in soil. I know in time, all soil will contain bacteria and nutrients brought in by water and air but I simply like to have it in the beginning. All types of plant growth utilize some type of bacteria or mychorhiza in a symbiotic relationship to obtain nutrients.

On some hard pruned trees or especially with junipers, I add some long fiber sphagnum

moss. This moss helps prevent root rot diseases and helps maintain moisture.

The only exceptions to the above is when I create a small "mame" sized tree. Since the pots are so small, I use small grit soil (1 /16") plus sphagnum and a small amount of worm castings. This mix seems to help retain moisture longer. Plus, in a mame, we are not attempting to grow them fast. We simply want to maintain growth with a small degree of increased branch ramification.

You must decide on the proper soil for your trees, location and watering habits. If in doubt, always go with the heavier or larger grit soils.

On a final note, some prefer Akadama – hard clay particles. Yes, it has a lot of good qualities but never allow a tree to stay in it over 2 years. Akadama breaks down and will become a mush after 2 years of normal watering. Personally, I rarely use it.

### **Chopsticks & Soil**

During the re-potting process, we must ensure that the new soil is worked in and around all the roots. Confusing, we talk about wanting air pockets in our soil & then we say don't leave any in the soil. Yes, small air pockets of 1/4" or less. Without going into a lot of detail, roots absorb moisture and nutrients not as a liquid but rather in a gaseous form. Thus we need small areas where this can take place. Larger pockets tend to dry out the surrounding roots and hold moisture too long. So, we must strive to work our soil in around the roots. Typically, most use chopsticks to do this but, I've heard of some using knitting needles. I prefer a piece of flat bamboo. I make mine from a 3/8 – 1/2" wide sliver of bamboo. Simply taper one end to a blunt point.

The real issue here is how you use this tool to work the soil in and around roots. I've seen people stab it into the soil or use force to push it in. Hey, we want to "gently" work the soil in. We've cut and abused the roots enough without jabbing, smashing and cutting them with a stick.

Slowly and easily, work the stick into the soil. Move it back and forth with a little down pressure and it will find its way through the roots. Now, once it's inserted, slowly wiggle it around. This is where a flat piece of bamboo

seems to work better. While you move the stick back and forth, I like to hold a finger or two on top of the soil next to the stick. By pushing slightly, it seems to help work the soil down.

Do this all around the pot. As the soil firms up, you will feel it on the stick and you will no longer see soil working its way downward next to the stick.

Another trick to help settle the soil is, using the side of your fist, rap on the sides of the pot. The vibrations will help work the soil down.

Once you are satisfied the soil is worked in properly, you can water the tree. Many prefer this initial watering be via a soaking tub. When possible, I like to let mine soak for 30 minutes. Once finished, you can add some top dressing and maybe a little moss.

### **Soil Top Dressings**

Above, I talked of using coarse soil when potting our Bonsai. Well, this coarse soil usually doesn't look the greatest so; we typically use a top dressing to make things appear more like normal soil. A top dressing is just that, a thin layer applied to the top surface. This dressing can be made from a lot of different materials. The easiest material is again regular bonsai soil that has been sifted. I sift my soil through a 1/8" screen and use the material, which passes through the screen. This will be a mixture of fine gravel and bark, which easily can be worked in and around the soil surface & surface roots. It is also fine enough that moss will grow and thrive on its surface. The only drawback is during the first watering. A lot of the new surface soil is made up of small pieces of bark, which will tend to float away. Don't worry, some will leave but enough will remain behind under and around the small stones.

What arrangements to make for your bonsai in case of major illness or death has been a big discussion on the ABS Forum. It is a big consideration since our trees are very likely to outlast us. If our children are not interested what do we do? What arrangements have you made?? This has prompted ABS to post this article on their website:

### **Bonsai for the 21st Century and Beyond** By Thomas L. Zane

#### **Introduction**

The life of a bonsai in Japan often is perpetuated by being cared for by successive generations, by nurserymen or others. In the West we do not have the luxury of reliable generations to care for our trees when we no longer can. Bonsai should be preserved for the whole of their natural lives in order that future generations will be able to enjoy and to appreciate them in just the same way that we are able to enjoy and marvel at the great and ancient bonsai of Japan.

Darlene's overgrown literati ficus benjamina at Lawton Park Greenhouse before:



After pruning and wiring by Ed and Darlene

The American Bonsai Society's contingency program to cater for bonsai in need is called "Bonsai for the 21st Century and Beyond" and is designed to be executed on a member society or individual member basis.

The program provides immediate help in the event of bereavement, emigration or in any other situation when the bonsai may be under threat. It can often be embarrassing and a bit tricky knowing just how to offer help without appearing to be a vulture on the fence waiting to snap up the bonsai when the owner can no longer be a care giver. But without this offer, nothing may be done and the bonsai are neglected or die or revert to type and lose their bonsai form. This of course is tragic.

### **The Program**

1. Bonsai owners are encouraged to make prearrangements concerning the disposition of their bonsai when they no longer are able to care for them.
2. The family of a seriously ill bonsai owner is encouraged to contact an ABS member or club to request assistance in arranging for the caring of the bonsai until the owner's illness is resolved or until a decision is made on the disposition of the bonsai.
3. The family of a recently deceased bonsai owner is encouraged to contact an ABS member or club to request assistance in arranging for the caring of the deceased owner's bonsai until a decision is made on the disposition of the bonsai.
4. ABS members, who become aware of a bonsai owner's incapacitation or death, are encouraged to contact the family to offer assistance in arranging for the caring of the bonsai and, if necessary, to advise on and to assist with appropriate disposition of the collection. Advice and assistance can be obtained by contacting the ABS Executive Secretary.
5. The family of a seriously ill or recently deceased bonsai owner, who does not know of a local bonsai enthusiast, is encouraged to contact the ABS Executive Secretary for assistance.
6. The ABS Executive Secretary has a list of resource volunteers who have agreed to coordinate the providing of whatever assistance is necessary. When a request is received it will be forwarded to a resource volunteer.

### **Some Options**

There are various options available to local clubs or individual members who volunteer to help when the primary bonsai caretaker is no longer available:

1. The collection can be left in place and cared for by local members until final disposition.
2. The collection can be dispersed amongst members in the local area who will care for them until final disposition.
3. The collection can be moved to a nursery for care pending final disposition.
4. All or part of the collection can be:
  - a. Left in place and sold by the owner in a yard or estate sale.
  - b. Given by its owner to family members and bonsai friends.
  - c. Given to the custody of the local bonsai club to be auctioned or sold with all or part of the funds going to the club.
  - d. Disposed of by donation to regional, national or international bonsai organizations for auction or raffle.

f. Donated to a permanent collection.

## **The Following was contributed by Cat Nelson**

### **BE A PART OF AMERICAN HISTORY**

#### **We need your help!! Every single one of you!**

We are pleased to announce that after a year of research and study, we have submitted a proposal to the United States Postal Service (USPS) to issue a stamp featuring bonsai trees.

A USPS American bonsai stamp? Yes! Yes! We can have it, but every one of us needs to let the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee know we want it. Please print and circulate the attached petition or write

one in your own words, just be sure to mention you are supporting the proposal written by Eunice Corp for an

American Bonsai stamp, and state some reasons why American bonsai should be commemorated.

The postal service receives about 50,000 proposals a year, and only issues twenty-five stamps a year. When

a proposal is received it goes before a reviewing committee to see that it meets the criteria set by the postal

service, one of these criteria is that it is 'American mainstream' - hence my efforts needed a lot of research to

convince the screening committee that an oriental art, with a Japanese name, is American mainstream!

But YEA! We did it! The screening committee approved the proposal to be forwarded to the Citizens Stamp

Advisory Committee! (CSAC): An elite group of fifteen members, including people such as Joan Mondale

(wife of Walter), actors, congressmen, history professors, noted artists, etc. This group may or may not recommend

it to the postmaster general, who makes the final decision. We are optimistic that it will make it. When we started the proposal we sent it to bonsai people to edit, but they were not answering the

questions we

needed answered, they were too much into bonsai. So then we formed a committee of "lay" people: an English

teacher, a proposal writer, a physician, an attorney and two architects. They quickly alerted me what they

needed to know about bonsai that was American. The proposal has ten footnotes, mostly authentic websites. (A

special thank you to Judith King of Washington DC and Tim Liu of Honolulu, Hawaii for the magnificent final

editing!)

Fifteen booklets were created, one for each member of CSAC, the booklet includes; the proposal, some pictures

of bonsai, photos of stamps from other countries, John Naka biography (because we referred to the John

Naka pavilion in Washington D.C.) written by Marybelle Balendock (printed by kind permission from her), a

map showing the density of bonsai clubs in the US and its territories, and a short biography of me – just to validate

that I have credible bonsai knowledge.

My club's\* web master (Deb Kennedy) wants to work on our Sakura Bonsai Club web site, so that people can

download the proposal and petitions on the site, and receive the latest information about the stamp. However,

Deb is having carpal tunnel surgery and cannot work on the site right now, in meantime we are sending out this news release.

\*(Sakura Bonsai Society of Northern Michigan)

We will not have any input about the design of the stamp; the postal service graphic arts department will create that. Nor will we (Eunice Corp) receive any honors or notification from them or anyone else. We will not even be notified if it is accepted, we will just have to read it on the post office web site to learn about it at the same time the rest of the world learns about it. This is to honor all of our trees and bonsai in general and not an individual!

Use the other petition for organizations, including your bonsai club president and board. Also, request signed

petitions from your local art council, philatelic groups, church groups, garden clubs, Ikebana groups, your congressmen,

your governor, and any other notable persons or groups you can think of. Letters in their own words on their stationary or letterhead will be most impressive. Address and send the petitions to:

Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee

C/O Stamp Development

U.S. Postal Service

1735 N. Lynn St, Suite 5013

Arlington, Virginia 22209-6432

Your participation is appreciated.

Thank you for your contribution to American bonsai!

Eunice Corp