

The **Bonsai** **Review**



issue 55 January 2012

Planning in advance for bonsai display

Seasonal display enthusiasts and bonsai exhibitors will be fully aware of the importance for forward planning, if you intend to mount a well considered display when your tree is accepted for exhibition.

The correct choice of pot and table may have substantial aesthetic effects on you bonsai so at exhibition level, you would do well to go through a process of evaluation before any unjust criticism taps you on the shoulder.

Just because your bonsai has been accepted for show, it does not mean that you've got everything right, and as we fine-tune bonsai appreciation in the Western world, selection teams will eventually use these factors as part of criteria for entry. Often, a bonsai event is only as good as the weakest tree, and it is usually that one that gets all the memorable remarks.

Good, well planned exhibits are a joy to witness for both the experienced exhibitor and the uninitiated public. This year could be ideal for a step forward in this area, starting with the Swindon Winter Show- Sunday 19th February, and the new Magical Bonsai Accents- Sunday 27th May at Failand Village Hall. Contact Mark Cooper kusamono@btinternet.com

*Fabulous NEW seasonal scrolls from
Bonsai Presentations
At the Swindon Winter Show
Sunday 19th February*

More info about the show- Paul Bowerbank 07982 401103



3rd U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition

Would you like to be represented in the highest level bonsai exhibition in the United States?

You should check out what Bill Valavanis is planning for June 9-10th, Rochester, New York. The promotional material itself is pure inspiration, which highlights the opportunity to see over 200 museum quality bonsai, supported by a host of bonsai dignitaries. Information and updates- www.internationalbonsai.com

If you wish to get to grips with tokonoma and display, Bonsai Presentations offer opportunities for individuals or groups up to four persons maximum. You might be considering a forthcoming exhibition event, or just to gain knowledge and experience. You will have seen our tokonoma studio many times throughout *The Bonsai Review* and in many other international publications, so why not bring your bonsai plus any accessories or use any of our elements. You can photograph your arrangements too. Contact Paul Goff for more details. Phone 01788 510442 E: paul@bonpres.freereserve.co.uk



2013

BEST OF BRITISH BONSAI 2013 Birmingham Botanical Gardens 11th-12th May

Steve Tolley, once again, has the task of finding the exhibition trees for this increasingly popular bi-annual bonsai event.

Although the show is seventeen months away, the selecting of trees is a mammoth task and one which has to be started well in advance. Trees of the required calibre sometimes need a little time to bring them to their best and this explains the need to start now.

Steve cannot possibly see all the very excellent trees owned throughout the country and so would appreciate their owners putting forward pictures of their trees for consideration.

If you feel your tree or trees have what it takes to be 'Best of British', please contact Steve at-

steven.tolley1@virgin.net
information supplied by Gwen Potter

This scroll above is an example of new work at Bonsai Presentations which provides a solution when you need to put a scroll next to a large but elegant bonsai on exhibition, or in tokonoma. There is often a danger of causing a claustrophobic sensation at exhibition when large bonsai are accompanied with large illustrations on a scroll. Here, this custom scroll which is large enough for a big bonsai, uses one of our mini illustrations which is only 4.5cm wide and would perfectly enhance a large bonsai of graceful charm and elegance, when dominant power and majesty is not the requirement.

To retain the integrity of the primary object in the display is vitally important, likewise the scroll pictures on page BR55/1 (*this issue*) show a delicate yet dynamic approach to Autumn display. These kakemono pieces with circular in situ illustrations are based on an unusual Japanese format, where the traditional proportions of measurements are reversed to place the picture nearer the top of the scroll to deliberately pull your eye upward.

Whether it be the harvest moon, or a cool Autumn sun low in the afternoon, the migrating geese unmistakably set the scene in these subdued scrolls without overpowering a display space.

Work of this quality is an enormous logistical challenge to perfect, and has taken me close to a creative coronary, so items such as these will be strictly limited.

More info- Paul Goff 01788 510442.

These items and more will be available at the Swindon Winter Show Sunday 19th February.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

STOURBRIDGE BONSAI SOCIETY

The members meet every second Sunday, January to November at 13.00hrs at The Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge DY8 4LU. Next meeting Sunday 11th March. We welcome all levels of enthusiast and aim to encourage each member to get the very best out of their chosen bonsai path. More info- Maurice 07919 692180 email: stourbridgebonsai@yahoo.co.uk

MANCHESTER BONSAI SOCIETY

Monthly meetings on second Mondays
NEW VENUE: The Stockport Labour Club, 2 Lloyd Street off Wellington Road North (A6), Heaton Norris, Stockport SK4 1QP. February meeting- 'Bring and Buy' 8.0-10.0pm. Third Tuesday/month 8.0-10.0pm General bonsai workshop. Heaton Chapel Community Centre, Broadstone Hall Road South, Heaton Chapel, Stockport SK4 5JD

HARLOW CARR BONSAI GROUP

Meeting on Sunday 19th February will be all day workshop on creating fondue slabs, commencing 10.0am in the Bramall Learning Centre, RHS Gardens, Harlow Carr, Crag Lane, Harrowgate.
More info- Susan 01845 523026

COTSWOLD BONSAI SOCIETY

Next meeting Thursday 2nd February- visit by Roger Spragg, who will bring pots and give talk on matching pots to trees. Meeting 1st March will be early Spring critique/re-potting workshop. Both members and non-members are welcome (subject to a small charge on entry).

VALE OF CLWYD BONSAI

Venue: Green Dragon, Unit 9, The Old Depot, Trelawnyd LL18 6DN. Vale of Clwyd Bonsai are a group of enthusiasts who meet to work on all things bonsai related. We meet on 2nd Sundays each month 3pm-8pm and the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 9am. You'll find us approachable and full of fun, always keen to talk bonsai and willing to assist/encourage you in this absorbing pastime. More info- Mark 07500 005337

NORTH DEVON BONSAI SOCIETY

Next meeting 13th February- Rock plantings and Root over rock. Meetings at the Methodist Church Hall, Rhododendron Avenue, Sticklepath, Barnstaple, North Devon EX31 2DJ. More info- Roy Hutchison 01398 341 440
www.bonsai-northdevon.co.uk

CLUB ACTIVITIES

THE BONSAI GROUP

Monthly meetings on 2nd Tuesdays at Capel Manor, Bullsmoor Lane, Enfield EN1 4RQ. Spring Bonsai Show Sunday 18th March. More info- Bill 07748 269136 or visit www.wix.com/bonsaigroupenfield/home

SWINDON AND DISTRICT BONSAI SOCIETY

Next meeting 14th February- Winter image preparation, Terry Adams talk on display. Meetings 7.30pm at Coleview Community Centre, Towcester Road, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon.
Sunday 19th February 10th Winter Image Show.
More info- Paul Bowerbank 07982 401103

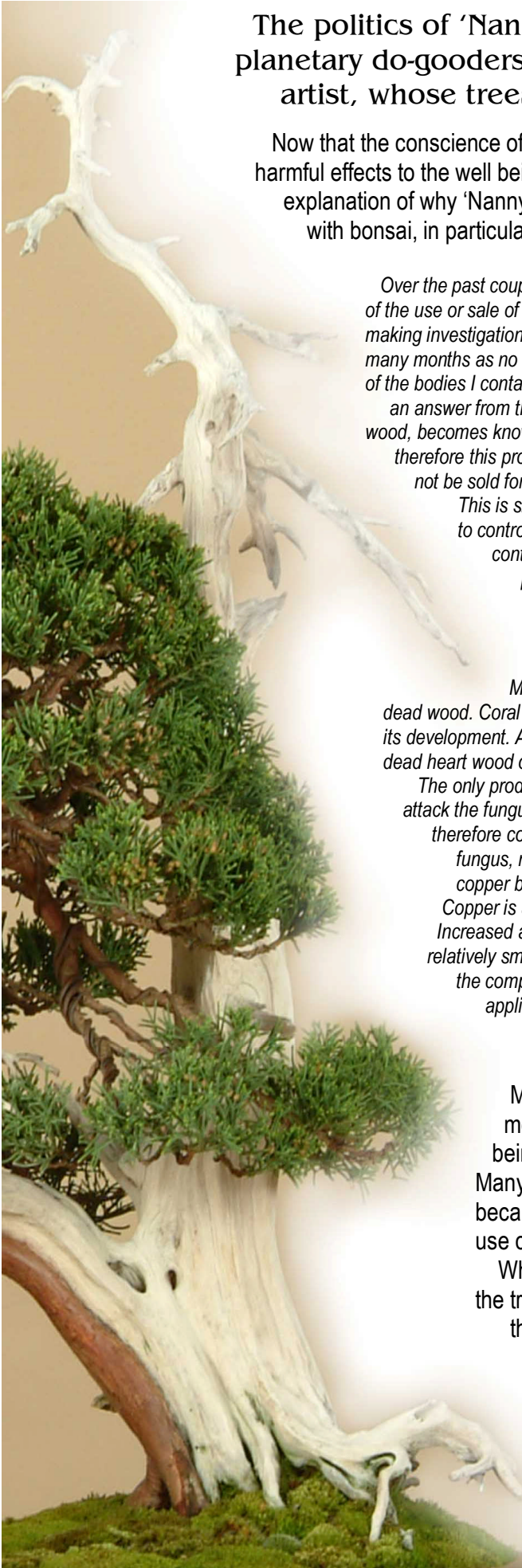
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BONSAI SOCIETY

Next meeting 2nd February- Interactive evening, maximising the potential of workshop material. Members please bring raw or part trained material for discussion and preliminary work. Monthly meetings on 1st Thursdays 7.30pm at Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South, Northampton.
More info- Martin Gregory 01604 407265

Your regular club activities and agendas can be featured in these columns to reach the wider bonsai community and it's FREE. If you need a promotional feature please ask for details. The copy deadline is 15th Monthly and these details are based on what is supplied by you!



Although not necessarily of this season, whilst I am waiting for the fabulous display of white/pink flowers on this Cherry Orchard group of prunus incisa, we can enjoy this picture taken last Autumn, continuing the migrating geese theme. The planting is 85cm wide in a shallow mint green pot by Bryan Albright.



The politics of 'Nanny State' and powers exerted by planetary do-gooders come into the realm of the bonsai artist, whose trees struggle as 'chemical victims'.

Now that the conscience of the human race is being stretched and provoked to consider harmful effects to the well being of our environment, David Cheshire sends us this explanation of why 'Nanny State' might be concerned about the use of chemicals with bonsai, in particular those with dead wood features.

Over the past couple of years, I have been told many different stories regarding the legality of the use or sale of lime sulphur for bleaching deadwood on bonsai. This has led to me making investigations with various government bodies to find out the truth. This has taken many months as no reference to the actual banning of this product exists or is known by any of the bodies I contacted. After many emails and telephone conversations I have finally had an answer from the HSE. Lime sulphur when used solely as a bleaching product on dead wood, becomes known as a cosmetic product and thus not of concern to the HSE, and therefore this product can legally be sold in the UK for this purpose. The product should not be sold for use as an insecticide or fungicide and should never be labelled as such. This is similar to products such as Armillatox, which was once sold as a fungicide to control honey fungus, however this product never actually succeeded in controlling the problem and thus could not be licensed in the UK for this purpose. This product is now only sold for the purpose of cleaning paths and driveways.

Coral Spot

Many growers find coral spot to be a very difficult problem which attacks dead wood. Coral spot is a very primitive fungus and many fungicides will have no impact on its development. Although the fungus only survives on dead wood, this might include the dead heart wood of trees, which over time, appears to affect the living areas also.

The only products that will help with coral spot are copper based fungicides. Copper will attack the fungus in many ways and resistant strains of this fungus are unable to develop, therefore copper is a very effective product. Although it will not totally eradicate the fungus, regular treatments will prevent further development. A caution when using copper based products on bonsai is to avoid the product falling on to the compost. Copper is a trace element needed for healthy growth, but in concentrated and increased amounts, will essentially become a poison, especially when applied to the relatively small amount of potting compost for bonsai in pots. It is recommended that the compost be covered to prevent drips, or tilting the tree on its side during application.

Much is being broadcast at the moment through various media and networking channels, about certain chemicals being totally banned from horticultural use.

Many bonsai growers didn't need to be bullied into restraint because they had already made that conscious decision not to use chemical agents that might be considered as harmful.

Whatever your politics and viewpoint here, being armed with the truth about the real hazards of toxic chemicals might result in the discovery of very simple and harmless ways to fight off attacks on our prized bonsai. In any event, pressure on manufacturers from shareholders, will find a solution because the politics of large food crop producing corporations will eventually demand it.