

# Fort Wayne Bonsai Club Newsletter

Vol. 11 Issue 1

January 20, 2007

## January Bonsai Club Meeting

The next meeting will be Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am at the Little Turtle Library at 2201 Sherman Blvd. Dues will be due at this meeting or you can mail them to Ed Hake, his address is in the roster at the end of the newsletter. 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. I have also included a membership application at the end of this newsletter. Please fill it out and send it in with your dues or bring it to the meeting.

The meeting is also the election of officers. Current officers are President: Darlene Kittle, Vice President: Darla Keller, Secretary: Rod Schueler, Treasurer: Ed Hake. Rod has asked to be relieved of those duties due to his future wintering in Florida. I am nominating Cat Nelson and Barbara Kirkwood to share the position of Secretary. We will also be open to nominations from the floor especially for the position of President! The calendar for 2007 will be discussed.

Great news! Cat Nelson has also agreed to set up and maintain a website for us! She has the skeleton up for viewing at

<http://home.earthlink.net/~centaura/bindex.html>

If you have links you can email them to Cat at [centaura@earthlink.com](mailto:centaura@earthlink.com). In my opinion it looks beautiful and it is not costing us anything.

(Although, Ed, there could be minimal expenses in the future but not till we grow a bit.) This will make it possible for people who do an internet search for bonsai Fort Wayne to find our website and contact information. It may help us grow. She has become a valuable asset in less than a year. Please also see the article she wrote about regional bonsai in this newsletter.

If we finish the business and have time we will view more of Andy Smith's DVD. You are also invited to bring any tropical bonsais that you are

having problems with or are just proud of for a discussion. Kathy Lee will be bringing snacks for the meeting.

I would also like to take a moment to thank Rod Schueler for his article on Chrysanthemums in this newsletter. You should know, Rod, that we will still expect articles for the newsletter even though you are retiring as secretary!

It's hard to believe that today is January 12<sup>th</sup> and my computer is telling me it is 53 degrees outside. I love it but I do worry about our trees breaking dormancy the winter really hitting. So far mine look okay.

When I updated the masthead above it shocked me to see Volume 11! I have done this newsletter for 11 years. That is amazing to me. Time marches on. I guess that is why some of my trees are beginning to look pretty good, nowhere near done but pretty good.

I have included pictures at the end of the newsletter of Doug Hawley's Quince trees he discusses in his article. There are also pictures of the crowd at the Christmas luncheon. For those of you who missed it, see what you missed!

Darlene Kittle, Editor

## Kathy's Korner

I've been browsing through the library and maybe because we are bound to our tender bonsai at this time of year, I chose *Bonsai in Your Home: An Indoor Grower's Guide* by Paul Lesniewicz. This is really a nice book for the novice and to the more experienced bonsai artist. Mr. Lesniewicz provides basic information such as:

- how much light and water,
- what kind of soil,
- what about fertilizer,
- how and when do I prune,
- what about repotting,
- what pot will show my plant to its best advantage,
- what pests will attack my trees and what can I do about them?

His discussions are easy to read and understand. Many pictures show the reader what the results could be with the various techniques that he describes. He gives many tips on how to care for

your little plant and how to guide them toward a treasured tree.

I've read all of the information more than once, but what still helps me grow in this world of bonsai is going over the pictures and the techniques again and again. As with any new skill, review and practice makes us more confident and proficient. It helps me, to see the names of the trees and what a bonsai from that particular plant might look like. If I see the picture enough times, I just may be able to remember the possibilities for a particular tree or shrub when I see it at a nursery, or being removed from a neighbor's landscaping, or being sold at our own auction or shows.

The book includes an alphabetical index of plants commonly grown as bonsai. Each plant in the listing includes a full page color picture, botanical and common name, best placement location, watering, feeding, and soil requirements, transplanting and pruning schedule, wiring and propagation.

This is a great book! I think it is worth having in your own library. I bought mine through Amazon as a used book. It arrived in great shape, like new. You might find a copy at a used book store. Or, of course you can buy it brand new. It will be money well spent. All that being said; I have placed my copy in our club library. It is available for loan to any club member for the price of your signature on the loan card. Happy dreaming!

Kathy Lee

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

**January 20, 2007** Meeting at Little Turtle Library

**February 17, 2007** TBD

**March 17, 2007** TBD

**April 21, 2007** tentative Bonsai Bob Workshop, we need 10 commitments to set this up.

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

**June 2007-** Ben Oki workshop.

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

## **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.

### ***Secretary's Report- November 11, 2006***

After a six-week hiatus to Green Valley, AZ in October, your secretary is back; at least until we can find another warm spot to escape WINTER. The November meeting of The Fort Wayne Bonsai Club was held at the fully renovated Little Turtle Library on Sherman Avenue at 10:30, a week earlier than our normal third Saturday.

We had several new faces, or excuse my memory loss. My notes show Kevin Hunter as a "potential new member". Jerry Meyers (sp?) as an "interested observer" and Janet, but I didn't get a last name. We intend to be an open club, offering various levels of membership, but always welcome botanical freaks who just think the hobby might tickle their fancy. As I have expressed so often over the years I patched these notes together:

### ***THIS HOBBY CAN SUIT EVERY LEVEL AND BUDGET***

In college, I started with an order from Mellinger's of seedlings and the first edition of *The Masters' Book of Bonsai*. The latter was on the deep discount table in the Valpo Book Store. This early start of window ledge trees almost immediately failed and it was years later and several other gaps

that mark my bonsai bio. Again, you can spend almost as little (driveway elms) or mega bucks as you want and care to afford. You can develop arcane expertise from memorizing Japanese styles, to studying the latest in pesticides, hormones, wiring techniques.....well, you get the idea! WELCOME ONE AND ALL!

Darlene will formalize this, but for purpose of these minutes there will be a "seasonal" (to remain politically correct) lunch at Sakura Restaurant. I have driven by and it is at the east end of Times Corners by Savoy Shop and Family & Friends; December 16, 1:00. There traditionally is no meeting in December. BTB (by the by) I have tried using my old Webster's to find a definition of *sushi* and there is no entry. I am careful not to stick anything in my mouth for which I can't find definition! Someone offered that sushi is NOT simply raw, dead sea stuff, but usually is wrapped in rice. I'm salivating just contemplating this (well, in fairness Sugar, my corgi pup is).

Darlene shared blueprints of the latest revised downtown Japanese Garden. Lynda Heavrin (sp?) is drafting an "AGREEMENT" for our Club to maintain the park. (ed. note: Whoooooaaa, as secretary, I be an officer, right? Hey, what am I gett'n lassoed into? Doesn't anyone recall Ed Hake's historic reflection of how this worked out the last time? I want to see the fine print!)

There will be a tentative Ben Oki workshop in early June. Do to scheduling conflicts, it will have to be at Cheryl Owens' in Elkhart, weekday, 4:30 p.m. until into the night. Estimated fee per tree is \$30 for full members, \$45 subscriber, and \$40 for nonmember, \$10 observer. NO PINES OR MAPLES WILL BE TRAINED, as June is too late. Ben regularly charges \$175-\$200 for workshops connected with national conferences, so \$30 is a K-Mart blue light special.

We discussed an April workshop with Bonsai Bob. WHAT? He told me he was considering packing up, heading out of that ice box Wisconsin to Florida? I guess it must be the CHEESE? Need minimum of 10 to sign up.

The snack sign-up schedule was circulated. FAIR WARNING: Rod has September 2007. I read that sardines are commonly found in the diet of the superannuated, hmmmmmmmm.

Contest or "Club" trees were hashed over. The complete, devastating failure of the sourwood trees put this effort in the ice box. Well, maybe try again. Mellinger's is reported OUT OF BUSINESS, but Darlene is looking at catalogs (Mussser, etc.) with seedlings and batch pricing. The two leading contenders are bald cypress or bristlecone pine. Your opinion counts.

The program was a video. (Actually, a CD using our new Club purchased player, since our taxpayers have not seen fit to equip the new millions of dollar library with \$50 electronics!) The feature showed Andy Smith, of Golden Arrow Bonsai, instructing how to collect specimens in the wild. "Wild" is generally mountain sides in very inhospitable regions. He has done this for years to the point his back/ body is not sometimes able to climb down with a tree strapped across his back. So, he now has a fitter assistant. Since most of our members, me included, would rather order his trees and have the UPS brown truck deliver them to our front porch; I'll skip film details. Suffice it to say that you will also need to drag up the mountain some tools; including several sizes of crowbars, hatchet, tree saw (sharpen regularly after cutting roots clinging to gravel and rock for 300 years), pruning clippers, and a kitchen knife or three. OH, did I forget the water? Not water for your own thirst, but, say ten gallons to loosen up that soil ball.

Andy states that only a small percentage of trees, no matter how interesting in style, can safely be removed. Permits are mandatory. Removing material from parks and certain preserves can get you a room with Ken Lay! Most of what he "recovers" is condemned anyway, either to Bush's love for roads and clearcutting forests, or to Hollywood billionaires' thirst for McMansions and ranches where eagles nest.

Well, that about wraps it. Enjoy the season as you see fit. Hot toddies are my order of the day and I have secured a limited quantity of 100 proof Southern Comfort. I LOVE YOU, JANIS JOPLIN. I hate you Old Man Winter. I still need to drag six bags of mulch staying thawed in the garage out and bury the frozen bonsai under the pine, and my calendar says I've already procrastinated to December 9!

## CASCADING MUMS

Over the years, most of us have been exposed to many “things Japanese” or of oriental design. Where I can’t quite say, but one such encounter was the chrysanthemum bonsai. Early in my pursuits, it didn’t quite register that these definitionally may have failed the true “bonsai”. They obviously are perennials, not trees. They always were in cascade style. BUT, they often appear with bonsai at Japanese shows. They also may be displayed in cascade type bonsai pots (but also can be used as trailing or cascading ground or rock covers, or in this article as hanging baskets). Lynda Heavrin at Lawton Park Greenhouse reminded me that these were used in a featured Japanese “ Showcase Garden ” at Foellinger-Friemann Conservatory a few years back.

These “bonsai” have come up in conversations among our Club members. Some have even tried to buy garden or florist mums to “bonsai them”. Generally, this will not work. There is a certain variety of mum that the Japanese use. You see, our garden mums are bred to grow short and full, like a pincushion. To even emphasize this characteristic, they are frequently pinched back.

As I reported at Sakura December dinner, the SEPT/OCT 2006 *Chicagoland Gardening* “the magazine for our region” had a very good article on this subject titled Cascading Geraniums ( geeeee, appropriate!) starting on p.58. For those unfamiliar with this publication, it is high gloss and does an outstanding job of listing area events and resources, mainly in Chicago western and north burbs. There are moments when I wish I still lived in Rockford , on the other side of that godawful traffic on the Dan Ryan, which some misinformed refer to as an expressway!

I will not keystroke in the article. Having been in publishing, I respect copyrights.

However, let me just bullet some high points. First, as you figured out by reading this far, special stock of mums is required. These grow long between internodes. Second, two key techniques are cited to bend them into long cascades; weights attached to branches, or tying them down to horizontal screens. The process begins in January and lasts clear through Fall. A calendar is offered.

They may look easy, but like a bonsai tree on steroids, these can be tedious for success. Left alone to grow too long, the stems become brittle and break when bent. Water and fertilizer are critical to

maintain the outsized plants. Obviously flowering is a key issue and light critical. Then there is timing. Ideally, the goal is to get blooms along the entire drape, not just at the ends. These may be less hardy than garden mums. The pictures show work being done in a greenhouse. I tried these a few years back from Glasshouse Works and was unable to accomplish much and then they died overwintering.

I will save this article or donate to our Club library. (It also has an absolutely stunning article on my favorite flower, the large dahlia with color pictures that burn off the pages.)

Lynda says she will order some plants for the Mother’s Day Plant Sale . For those who like to start early, the magazine lists several sources:

King’s Mums

[www.kingsmums.com](http://www.kingsmums.com)

Angel Valley Heritage Mums

e-mail [angelmums@gte.net](mailto:angelmums@gte.net)

Bluestone Perennials

[www.bluestoneperennials.com](http://www.bluestoneperennials.com)

Yoder Mums

[www.yoder.com](http://www.yoder.com)

and

Busse Gardens

[www.bussegardens.com](http://www.bussegardens.com)

Hey, for something different and challenging, this might be your 2007 project? Weather permitting, I hope to see you at the January meeting. Then Kathy, Sugar and I head for SW Florida .

Sincerely, Roderick N. Schueler, (still) secretary

## The Differences Between Chinese Quince and Japanese Quince

By Doug Hawley, Cincinnati  
Excerpted from the ABS Forum

Chinese Quince (*pseudocydonia sinensis*) and Japanese Quince (*chaenomeles japonicus*) are related genres but different trees especially as bonsai. Japanese quince are usually grown as clumps. In nature, Chinese quince are apically dominant and thus grow upward as a trunk, whereas Japanese quince are basally dominant, causing them to grow as a bush, with some Japanese quince, for example the Nishiki variety, can be grown as single trunks, but the trunks are never real strong, and the

highlights are the flowers. Chinese quince, on the other hand, are generally grown as single trunked trees. The primary reason is that they are capable of developing thick tapered gnarly trunks and branches, and have some of the most spectacular exfoliating bark of any tree. If you have access to the book 'Classics of Japanese Bonsai' check out the Chinese quince on plate # 5. It's one of the best bonsai of any species ever, in my opinion. It completely characterizes the best features of Chinese quince are a strong multi kinked and twisted trunk and branches, and beautiful bark. Chinese quince are easy to grow in your zone 4-5 area. Ignore the Japanese advise to root prune in the fall (timed to avoid a soil nematode's active period in it's life cycle), as they will tolerate more vigorous root pruning in early spring. During the initial spring leaf bud opening, pinch the second bud off of the stronger twigs before it actually fully opens (you will have to pry open the first leaf to get to this before it opens). This encourages stronger growth from the weaker buds, encourages back budding, and creates more ramification. Let the subsequent new twigs grow out to about five or six leaves, then cut back to one or two. All this pruning induces back budding and secondary branches. Chinese quince has a habit of putting out side branches at right angles. These angles are maintained (unlike a maple, for example, which will almost completely straighten out these young branch angles) when the main branch is pinched. If one repeatedly cuts back to a new angled side branch over several seasons (i.e. cut and grow method), you begin to achieve sharply angulated and undulating branch movement. Chinese quince can tolerate radical pruning and wiring quite well. They flower in early spring, and if you allow it, will eventually put out several giant yellow fruits which I am told are pretty tasty.

Part 2: Thanks for the comments, but as I went back to see what I had said about the pruning I realized it's a good thing to proofread every once in a while! Besides typos, I probably wasn't clear about the pinching techniques. But there is actually also a bit more I could add.

Chinese quince have attractive, shiny, sticky leaves which grow in alternate fashion. In the early spring, the leaf buds open, and put out the first leaf, which is sometimes undersized. The second leaf bud then opens, forming a normal sized leaf. As the third leaf bud opens, the interspace between the first and second leaf is still quite soft, and continues to elongate until

about the time of the fourth leaf opening. If you pry the opening first (or second) leaf bud open, reach in and pinch off the developing second (or third) leaf bud, and do this on all the outer tips and strong inner tips, it will have the following effects:

- The internode will stay short, and a new bud will be forced to grow at the cut bud, which will usually have smaller leaves and shorter internodes when it grows to 5 or 6 leaves, compared to what the original growth would have been.

- Back budding will be more likely to occur, especially those close to the tip, and this secondary growth will also be more compact.

- You will strengthen the more proximal branches, and you will eventually often prune branches back to these more proximal branches the following year to create better branch movement and taper, and to control branch length over time.

Once all the secondary growth has reached 5 or 6 leaves in length, cut back again to one or two leaves. Generally, with most deciduous plants, cutting back to two leaves is preferable to one, since then you get two buds for new branchlets, hence better ramification. With quince, often only the last leaf left puts out a new bud, but other inner buds also sprout if your pruning is widespread throughout the tree. I generally cut back to one leaf on strong upper branches, and two or three on lower branches.

Chinese quince set their next year's flower buds in around early to mid July, so if you prune after this, you will lose your next year's flowering. Things can get pretty sloppy if you choose to go for the flowering, as these trees grow very vigorously through the summer; it will hardly resemble a bonsai by the time it flowers next April or May. If you do choose flowering, be sure to remove the entire flower unless you want fruit.

The fruit is a giant yellow edible citrus (even has vitamin C) the size of baseball, obviously out of line size-wise with a bonsai. However some quince in Japan are displayed with one or two fruits hanging off the branches, which definitely has impressive shock power. The branch that holds the fruit thickens dramatically if you ever wanted to make use of this.

Japanese quince, in contrast, flower on year-old wood, so you can prune until your heart's desire and

still get great flowering. They also flower in late winter, before leaf bud, and will hold their flowers for almost a couple of months if you care to burn out that much energy and are willing to somehow keep them from ever getting wet.

Pictured below are two of my quince; I took these pictures just now, and you can see that, irritatingly, they are already starting to bud. They won't do much growing though, once it finally gets cold here in Cincinnati, until next month, when I will be forced to replot them (they are both due). I've had the slant exposed root one for around 15 years. The smaller one was a couldn't resist cheap acquisition for such a large trunk, and I've been cut-and-grow shaping the trunk (it reached about 4 -5 feet tall each year) for 3 years; in fact I just cut the trunk at the point where it divides into two sections earlier this week. I can't decide which of these two upper extensions to keep as a continuance of the trunk, the curlier one on the right, or the more angled one on the left. Any opinions?  
Doug Hawley, Cincinnati

## **The Bonsai Traveler**

Area Bonsai News from Cat Nelson

Well, its winter time. That long, slow season in which we get to sit back and plan our bonsai adventures for the coming year. Some of last years highlights for me were discovering the local world of bonsai - the spring All-Michigan Show in Grand Rapids, the Spring Show in Fort Wayne, the August show in Chicago, the reopening of the permanent bonsai display at the Chicago Botanical Gardens. I had a personal errand that took me to Memphis, TN where I got to visit Brussel's Bonsai - the largest bonsai greenhouse in the states.

The smaller shows around the region were very interesting, and worth the drives. Looking ahead to 2007 I see the spring All-Michigan show the weekend before Fort Wayne's Spring show - no conflict there. Held at the Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, MI - its a nice full day of multiple club displays, half a dozen good vendors, workshops, and the Meijer Gardens to explore.

Chicago is bringing back its Spring show - started in 2005, skipped in 2006 due to the construction, and now back with the intention of being an annual event. One day shorter than the three day August show, I expect the permanent display (two

courtyards with over 30 world-class trees) to be out of winter storage and lots of big vendors from across the country. It does happen the same weekend as Fort Wayne's spring show - I will be working both, taking the day off from Chicago on Sat. to come to Fort Wayne. For anyone not able to make the August show it would be worth a day trip on Sunday.

Farther into the year there are individual club displays from various MI clubs; I know that Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo both have individual club shows, and Grand Rapids will have a display of just their club trees later in the season. Indianapolis also has several things going on, all of which I missed in 2006. I do not have dates and times for these individual club shows yet, but its still early.

Kalamazoo is traveling to Jack Wikle's in July and I was thinking of tagging along on that trip - taking Cheryl who missed out on our club outing last year. Life is taking me back to Memphis in July - I could be talked into transporting trees back if folks want to trust me picking out items for them. I know that I will be getting at least one tree on that trip, if not two. I shall be bringing my new prize to the show in May - and a catalog of what species they offer for those brave enough to remote-shop.

Stay tuned for show dates and other interesting items that I run across in the coming up year!  
-Cat



Quince Bark



Quince #1 after being cut back.

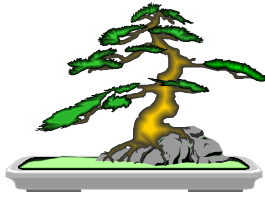


Root exposed quince #2



Christmas luncheon at Sakura, see what you missed!!





# Fort Wayne Bonsai Club

## Membership Information form

We would like to welcome you as a member of the Fort Wayne Bonsai Club. The club is a non-profit, educational, training and social club. Our goals are to share information with the public and each other and to promote growing and studying about growing hardy and tropical bonsai. We meet monthly (excluding August and December) and produce a show in May and October. A newsletter is sent each month, one week prior to the meeting.

If you are interested, we invite you to come as a guest to our next meeting. We will be happy to have you join us. If you wish to join the club now, please complete the information below and give to any club officer. Dues for full membership are \$25.00 for a single; or for dual membership (same household) \$30.00 per year. Subscriber only dues are \$10.00 per year. Dues received at the October show or later cover the dues for the next membership year.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Day/Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: (Used for newsletter) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Receipt

*Fort Wayne Bonsai Club*

Dues paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 2007 \_\_\_\_\_ to 2008 \_\_\_\_\_  Full (S)  Full (D)   
Subscriber

Treasurer: Ed Hake - 747-0493

V.P.: Darla Keller

President: Darlene Kittle