

2012

December

Edition



**BCI Diplomatic Mailbag - The Ambassador's newsletter:
Communicating with BCI members around the World**

Officers and Board Members of BCI

Tom Elias – President.

tselias@msn.com

Pauline Muth – Executive Director

Pauline@pfmbonsai.com

Glenis Bebb– 1st Vice President

glen@bonsainursery.com.au

Paul Gilbert – 2nd Vice President

Paullynpaul@msn.com

Kathy Hughs– Corresponding Secretary

mkhughes567@btinternet.com

–Recording Secretary

TBA

Kathy Coffman - Treasurer

kcoffman.coffman1@gmail.com

Robert (Rob) Kempinski –Immediate

Past President

rkempinski@cfl.rr.com

BCI BUSINESS MANAGER

Carol Roske

bcimanager@visn.net

MANAGING EDITOR

Joe Grande

BCIeditor@grandesign.net

BCI Web site

<http://www.bonsai-bci.com>

Directors

Massimo Bandera (13)

mb@massimobandera.it

Les Dowdell (14)

hokkoku@telusplanet.net

Min Hsuan Lo (13)

bonsailo@mail2000.com.tw

Frank J Mihalic (14)

mihalicf@yahoo.com

Chaira Padrini (14)

chiara@padrini.it

Nikunj Parekh (14)

nikunjyo@gmail.com

Helen Su (14)

hweiyng.cheng@gmail.com

Ng Ing Suan (13)

isng18@yahoo.com

Budi Sulisty (13)

budisulisty@yahoo.com

Ian Glew (13)

ianglew@optusnet.com.au

Joan Greenway (14)

joan.greenway@gmail.com

William Butler (14)

bill@bayouconcepts.com

Les Dowdell (14)

hokkoku@telusplanet.net

Editors Message

Welcome to BCI Ambassador's Newsletter

It is hard to believe than another year has almost passed!

*Our GOAL in this year is to raise as much money as possible for BCI,
so we can fund many new projects in upcoming years!*

Please check out the New Online BCI Magazine it is Great!

There are many new and exciting things in the future for BCI so keep tuned in

Frank Mihalic – BCI Ambassadors Newsletter Editor: Mihalicf@yahoo.com

We wish all of our friends a safe and wonderful holiday season!

What's in this issue?

- **BCI Excellence Awards**.....[2](#)
- **BCI Updates**.....[3](#)
- **NEW GSBF Workshop**[4](#)
- **Vietnam /Laos Bonsai**[6](#)
- **Mark your Bonsai calendar**.....[6](#)
- **BCI 2013 Convention**[11](#)
- **Message from the BCI President**[14](#)

BCI Excellence Awards

Are becoming one of the most coveted Awards in the Bonsai World!



Guillermo Castano is a True friend to Bonsai! He has done so much to promote Bonsai around the world. He has been on the Board of Directors for Bonsai Clubs International for more years than I can remember. He gives selflessly to help promote the Art of Bonsai, he is a true Ambassador of Bonsai. We will miss him on the board, but I'm sure he will keep his fingers in helping to promote the future of BCI!

He has created a very unique and original sculpture of a Bonsai on top of a world globe, to be used at the BCI 50th Anniversary Bonsai convention in China 2013. He has also created another sculpture with an arm rising from the table with a Bonsai sitting in the hand sporting Columbian emeralds on the branches. Also to be used to promote the 50th anniversary of BCI. **Guillermo** is the creator of the large coin looking BCI "Awards of Excellence", that the BCI Board members award at Bonsai shows and exhibitions around the World! These Awards have been very popular and coveted all around the world.

When you need advice on Bonsai, Sculpture, or just life, Guillermo will always be there to help you, no questions asked! I am honoured to call Guillermo my friend, and a true World Wide Ambassador of Bonsai!

BCI – Fundraisers

***PLEASE Help BCI by sponsoring a fund raiser,
and have some Bonsai Fun while doing it!***

**It is not easy financing a Non-profit organization like
Bonsai Clubs International.**

We are encouraging all BCI members, friends, and ambassadors to help raise money to support Bonsai Clubs International. Any thing you can do to support BCI is GREATLY APRECIATED! We are discussing many projects to help celebrate Bonsai Clubs International's **50th Anniversary** in **2013!**

Message to all Ambassadors:

We encourage all BCI Ambassadors and their clubs to share your experiences with us. We are always looking for articles for the Ambassadors Newsletter and for the BCI magazine. If you have some thing good going on, let us in on it.

***Please Join Us and send in your stories and we will try to share them with
all of the BCI members and Ambassadors, Thank You***

Anything exciting going on in your corner of the Bonsai world?

Contact the Editor**
At Mihalicf@yahoo.com

Something **NEW!**

At the **Golden State Bonsai Show** In Sacramento, CA

If you were one of the lucky ones that went to the **GSBF** Annual Bonsai show, there was something **New** offered as a workshop this year! 2nd generation Bonsai artist and Sculpture Frank Mihalic offered a very unusual Bonsai Workshop. ***Making your own Bonsai Pendant***, by using the lost wax carving process. After the class carved their Bonsai Pendants out of wax, Frank took them home and casted them into sterling silver, polished them and sent them back to the students! Below are pictures from that workshop showing the carved wax's and the finished casted Sterling silver pendants from the original wax carvings.





Some of the students in the wax carving class at GSBF



Candid Camera in Laos and Viet Nam



Being on a photography course in Laos and Viet Nam was both an unique and frustrating experience for a bonsai enthusiast. Frustrating because time was limited for seeking out bonsai shows or shops and unique because bonsai was found in many unexpected places.

The purpose of a travel photographer is to take pictures that identify the destination. These pictures are snapped quickly for a planned purpose and the bonsai on the streets of Laos and Viet Nam became the topic of my photos as we travelled.

Generally, the streets of Laos and Viet Nam are places where people work, play, eat and carry on with their lives. The bonsai trees on the street do the same.



The bonsai artist of the street bonsai is anonymous, and some of the trees appear "homeless". Bonsai stand alone on doorsteps, beside doors, hide in a corner or are displayed on a roof to attract an eye. Some bonsai are chained, some have forgotten wire,

and some are poorly trimmed or need water. Others, like the bonsai in the hotels show off their beauty to the travel weary.



The Temple bonsai are also proudly on show, neatly clipped and cared for by the monks or temple staff. Penjing stand in parks especially near the China border and are part of the gardens. Bonsai is also found unexpectedly on decks of the small ships of Halong Bay, Viet Nam. And of course, sometimes you are lucky enough to be invited into a hobbyist's garden after taking a picture of their bonsai from the street. No matter what the language, bonsai people are friendly and can connect through the appreciation of the art of bonsai.



Street bonsai invite candid shots and these pictures were planned with the ambassador's newsletter in mind. Hope you enjoy these candid photos as much as I enjoyed taking them.

It was nice to get an invitation to view a bonsai garden by a fellow bonsai hobbyist.

By: Joan Greenway - BCI Director

Coming up Soon!

December 27-Jan 1st, 2012: San Marino, California,
California Aiseki Kai: 22nd Anniversary Exhibition of Viewing Stones Show in
Friends Hall at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road
Hours are 10:30AM-4:30PM.

-----2013-----

21-22 January 2013: 14th Noelanders Trophy at the Centrum voor Duurzaam Bouwen,
Marktplaats 1 in Heusden-Zolder, Belgium.
<http://www.bonsaiassociation.be/en/trophy.php>.

Wednesday, 23 January 2013 at 7:00 p.m.: LCBS January meeting at Alan
Walker's garage at 916 Kirby featuring a workshop and lecture/demonstration by
Ben Oki. This will be Ben's first visit to LCBS!

1-3 February 2013: Opening reception for a month-long **Suiseki/Viewing Stone
Exhibition and Sale** at the Gualala Arts Center, Mendocino County.

29-31 March 2013: European Bonsai & Suiseki Convention hosted by Fédération
Française de Bonsaï at Audincourt, France. Details at <http://www.ffb-bonsai.org/>.

11-14 April 2013: Tree Ring Circus: LSBF 2013 hosted by the San Antonio and Austin
Bonsai Societies at the New Braunfels Convention Center jvmccoy@gmail.com.

17-21 April 2013: BCI 2013 will be hosted by the Chinese Society of Landscape
Architecture, Flower Bonsai & Artistic Stone Branch at Yangzhou City Slender West
Lake Scenic Area, No. 28 Great Rainbow Road, Yangzhou, China.
<http://bonsai-bci.com>

19-21 April 2013: 30th Mid-Atlantic Bonsai Societies Convention at the
Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn at Grantville, PA.
<http://www.midatlanticbonsai.freesevers.com>.

17-20 May 2013: 26th AABC Bonsai Convention: The Australian Journey hosted by
the Canberra Bonsai Society. webmaster@cbs.org.au

19 April 2013: XVII Congresso Nazionale UBI Foggia, Italy.

7-9 June 2013: International Bonsai Colloquium sponsored by International Bonsai at
Rochester, NY, USA <http://www.internationalbonsai.com/index.html>.

12-15 September 2013: For the Love of Bonsai: ABS Learning Seminars hosted by
the Mohawk Hudson Bonsai Society at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, NY.
<http://www.loveofbonsai.com>

25-27 September 2013: WBC 2013 at Jintan, China. Details at <http://www.wbff-2013.org/indexaction!pbviewbyid.action?pbclid=213>.

4-6 October 2013: American Bonsai: Reforged & Refined hosted by Ryan Neil at the Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR. Details at <http://www.artisanscupofportland.com>.

24-27 October 2013: 2013 Biennial South African Bonsai Association Convention hosted by the Eastern Bonsai Society at Johannesburg, South Africa. bonsai@pixie.co.za.

November 2013: Shuga-ten exhibition held at Ueno Green Club in Tokyo
Tel: 03-5685-5656)

November 2013: 34th Taikan-ten bonsai exposition in the Kansai (west Japan) area held at Miyako-Messe in Kyoto

-----2014-----

22-25 August 2014: BCI 2014 will be held in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. Details TBA at <http://bonsai-bci.com>.

MidAtlantic Bonsai Societies 30th Annual Spring Festival April 19-21, 2013

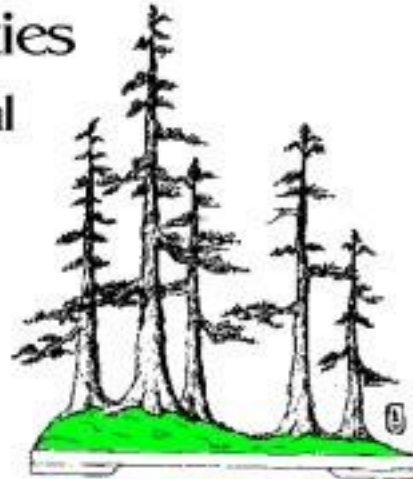
Featuring:

Minoru Akiyama - Japan

Peter Warren - UK

Ryan Neil - USA

Harrisburg/ Hershey Holiday Inn
Grantville, PA



Contact: Brian O'Byrne, 234 Saganore Road
Millburn, NJ 07041 973-279-3386
Email: bobyryne@yahoo.com
Visit our website at:
www.midatlantichbonsai.freeusers.org

*Friday Workshops
Professional and Members' Exhibits
Keido Demonstration by Minoru Akiyama*



**Inherit Culture and
Be Close to Nature**

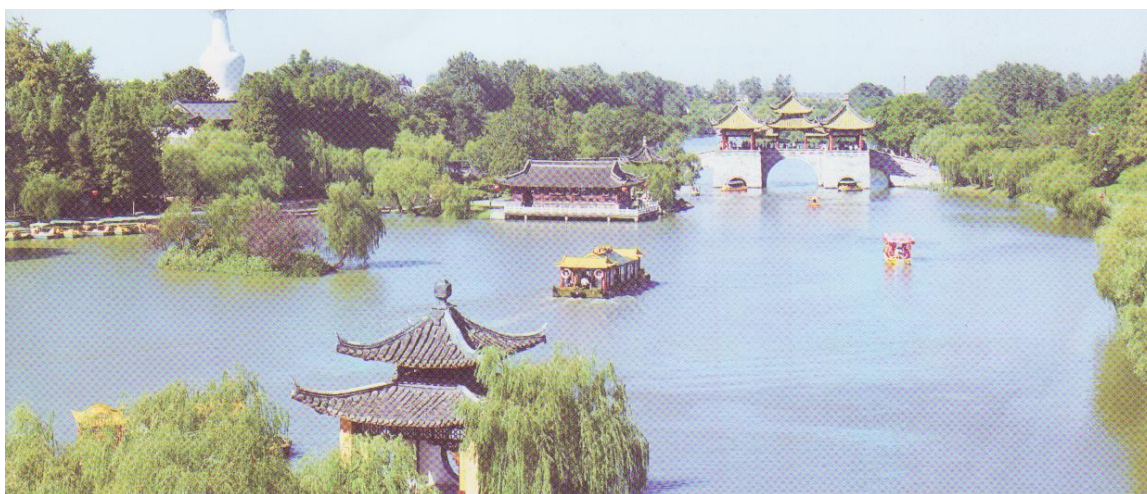
The 2013 International Bonsai Convention

The historical famous cultural city Yangzhou is one of the most beautiful cities in China. It is the city famous for its landscaping, poetic painting arts and Huaiyang food. It is also the hometown of the long standing Chinese Five Bonsai Styles. The 2013 International Bonsai Convention and Bonsai Clubs International (BCI) 50 Years Anniversary will be held in Yangzhou, which itself is the perfect melting between nature and culture. We strongly believe that it will be the extraordinary world bonsai art pageant: not only because BCI 50 Years Anniversary will bring a special surprise, but also owns a unique charming because the congress will be held in this ancient city with 2500 years history.

During the pageant, Bonsai masters from the entire world will present a wonderful manufacture skills demonstration and experts lectures. The "Bonsai Artistic Stone Exhibition" gathers the highest grade of spectacular crafts will exhibit the Chinese bonsai masterpieces of different styles and types. We also will give you help for the post-convention tour in China.

In the most charming season in such a beautiful city, you can also take the tour of ten miles water sightseeing route which Chinese ancient emperor went through by dragon boat, visit historical gardens and resorts, taste Huaiyang food, seek the ancient lanes and houses, appreciate and feel the amazing views and the dense culture sense everywhere of this ancient famous city.

The 2013 International Bonsai Convention and Bonsai Clubs International (BCI) 50 Years Anniversary will be held in Yangzhou from April 18th to April 20th, please log in our website www.bonsai2013.org, fill in the registration form and make the hotel reservations. We sincerely expect your coming .



Bonsai Demonstration :



Kunio Kobayashi(Japan), International bonsai instructor.

It has been thirty-five years since Kobayashi entered into the field of bonsai., Kobayashi created "Keiga-tei", "Mukyu-an", and then the Bonsai Museum. He has won the Kokufu-sho Prize 13 times; the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Prize for many times; He has done demonstration in many international conventions and has published a number of bonsai monographs. He also appeared on Tokyo MX television in the Bonsai program for a long time.



Cheng Cheng-Kung(Taiwan,China), International bonsai instructor.

It has been thirty years since he entered into the field of bonsai. For a breakthrough on the limitation of using mechanicals to make shape, he used a unique technique called silk sculpting which sculpts to reel off silk by hand. After organizing all the branches, juniper bonsai not only gives a look of natural beauty, but also a delicate texture of silk.



Hu Leguo(China), International bonsai instructor.

he has engaged in bonsai art for 50 years and often participates in domestic and international exhibition of bonsai, bonsai teaching, demonstrating bonsai-making and exhibits review. Mr. Hu excels at pinetree bonsai modeling, especially the techniques of high trunk and weeping technique that can express national humanity culture most. His bonsai works has won numerous major awards. He has published a number of bonsai monographs.



Ng Shing-Fat(Hongkong, China), International bonsai instructor.

He has been fond of poetry, painting and calligraphy since childhood and engaged in bonsai art more than 20 years. He pursues fresh and natural art with unity of form and spirit full of poetic modeling and is good at improvement and creation of bonsai. His bonsai works has won numerous major awards. Mr Ng has taken part in national and International shows to give bonsai demonstration performance. with publishing the picture album "MY BONSAI" and VCD about bonsai.



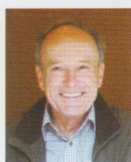
Lo Min-Hsuan(Taiwan,China), International bonsai instructor.

He has studied bonsai art after his father since his childhood, won numerous awards since 1980, served as the judge in hundreds of bonsai exhibitions and has taught bonsai for many years in Taiwan. Mr.Lo has traveled to the United States, Puerto Rico, Indonesia, Philippines Malaysia, Mexico, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania, Australia, Italy, Argentina, Australia, India, Vietnam and mainland China to give bonsai demonstration performance, and giving lectures. He has published bonsai monographs called *THE WAY OF BONSAI*.



Lindsay Bebb(Australia), International bonsai instructor.

It has been thirty years since he entered into the field of bonsai and often participates in international exhibition of bonsai, demonstrating bonsai-making and exhibits review. He has participated in the World Bonsai Convention in Washington DC(2005), the BCI International convention in Chencun China(2007), conventions in Australia and New Zealand, the ASPAC convention in Singapore, and conventions in Taiwan and Puerto Rico (2009) as an international demonstrator, workshop tutor, lecturer and judge.



David J. DeGroot (America), The United States bonsai artist, the curator of Weyerhaeuser's Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection.

He has studied bonsai in Japan for 40 years, with Yasuo Mitsuya, Satsuki, Tatemori Gondo and Hayata Nakayama. He has traveled across the United States, and Brazil, Canada, China, Britain, South Africa and Venezuela and other countries to give bonsai demonstration performance, and lectures. His new book *BONSAI DESIGN* will appear in 2012.



Budi Sulistyono(Indonesia), International Bonsai instructor, one of the founders of the Indonesian bonsai development.

He started the bonsai creation since 1976, and then from 1982 he began bonsai teaching. In 1988 he won the award given by the Japanese Bonsai Association and ranked the second place in the 2006 World Bonsai Contest. He has published two bonsai monographs. He has been the main lecturer of the demonstration and judge of the bonsai exhibition in many international bonsai conventions.



Liu Chuangang (China), International bonsai instructor.

He has devoted to the production and research of bonsai art for 30 years and has created Landscape Penjing, Tree Penjing, Tree-and-Rock Penjing, and a series of Panamella Pra-iliagagap Penjing, Dynamic Penjing, and Rainforest Penjing etc. His Works have won several important awards during the bonsai exhibitions. He has visited Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Japan, the United States, Puerto Rico, Holland, Spain, Italy and other countries, as a lecturer or giving demonstration of bonsai.



Zhao Qingquan(China), International bonsai instructor.

He has devoted to Bonsai for about forty years. His creation combines Chinese traditional culture with modern aesthetics. He has participated in the international bonsai conventions for many times. He has made more than 100 Chinese Penjing demonstrations in a dozen of countries. He has published more than 10 bonsai monographs, the new monograph Chinese Penjing (Penjing: The Chinese Art of Bonsai) written in English will be published in 2012.

Lecture :



Hu Yunhua (China), Chinese Bonsai instructor, president of WBFF.

He has been engaged in the garden work and the study of bonsai art for a long time. At home and abroad, he has published many bonsai monographs. He has been to the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other countries more than 10 times to attend the International bonsai conventions, giving speech on Chinese Bonsai, doing demonstrations, as bonsai exhibition judge as well.



Chiara Padrini(Italy), European Bonsai Association treasurer, BCI ambassador, President of the National College of Bonsai and Suiseki Instructor.

She found Bonsai and Suiseki Clubs and Associations. She has won many awards including the BCI 2008 excellence award and the 2009 Gold medal of the World Bonsai Congress. She is the author of articles on bonsai and suiseki that have appeared in French, America, English, Spanish, Swiss and Chinese magazines. She has exhibited stones from her collection in America, Europe, Japan, China and other countries and some of the stones had been selected as the international bonsai and suiseki exhibition.

Pot-making Demonstration :



Gong Linmin(China)

He is a senior in arts and crafts and also an outstanding Zisha ceramic artist. He is good at making Zisha pot. Mr. Gong has his unique style, which was inspired from the combination of western art and Chinese traditional art. His works have won the Best of the Best in China's Arts and Crafts Exhibition for many times, and most of his works are collected by museum and people in the bonsai field from home and abroad. He performed the Zisha pot creation demonstration at the 2011 Japan Takamatsu Asia-Pacific Bonsai Convention.

Program of the 2013 International Bonsai Convention

April.17, Wed.

08 : 00—17 : 00 Arrival of Reps , Bonsai and Suiseki Exhibition Contest, BCI Council Meeting
17 : 00—19 : 30 Dinner

April.18, Thur.

08 : 00—08 : 45 Arrival of the Reps
10 : 00 Opening Ceremony
10 : 40—12 : 00 Bonsai and Suiseki Exhibition
12 : 00—13 : 15 Lunch
13 : 15—14 : 00 Reps Meeting of BCI
14 : 00—17 : 00 Bonsai Demonstration、 Pot-making Demonstration
18 : 00—20 : 30 BCI 50 Years Anniversary and Welcome Reception

April, 19. Friday.

08 : 00—09 : 00 Ambassadors' Meeting of BCI
09 : 00—12 : 00 Bonsai Demonstration、 Pot-making Demonstration
12 : 00—13 : 15 Lunch
13 : 15—14 : 00 BCI Council Meeting
14 : 00—17 : 00 Sightseeing of Chinese Famous Garden :Ge yuan Garden ,
He yuan Garden and historical district of Yangzhou
18 : 00—19 : 00 Dinner
19 : 30—20 : 30 Boat tour on Ancient Grand Canal

April.20 Sat.

09 : 00—12 : 00 Bonsai Demonstration
10 : 00—11 : 30 Bonsai and Suiseki Lecture
12 : 00—13 : 00 Lunch
13 : 00—14 : 00 BCI Annual Meeting
14 : 00—17 : 00 Sightseeing of Slender West Lake and Yangzhou Bonsai Museum
18 : 00—21 : 00 Farewell Dinner

April.21, Sunday.

Conclusion of BCI conference and beginning of Post-Convention Tours

The detailed schedule is subject to the convention manual.



President's Message to BCI Ambassadors

Greetings for the holiday season! I hope that you and every member of your bonsai clubs have a happy and healthy New Year. This is an exciting time in the international world of bonsai because so many positive events are occurring.

In September, I attended the 10th anniversary of the Crespi Cup, an international bonsai stone appreciation meeting, in Parabiago, Italy. The Crespi family, owners of one of the finest bonsai nurseries in Europe, organized this event. People from many countries were greatly impressed at the high level of the art of bonsai in Italy and how popular bonsai is in that country.

On November 8th, I spent a day in Yangzhou, China meeting with city officials concerning our planned convention. Even the Mayor of Yangzhou, Mr. Zhu Minyang, came to the meeting to express his personal commitment to our convention. It was impressive to see how thoroughly they are preparing for this event. This ancient historically important city considers our convention to be a highlight of 2013. They are committing all of the city's resources, financial and human, to this effort. Two major exhibitions of trees, over 500 of them, will be on display and many of China's best artists will be present and demonstrating their skills for us. It will be a spectacular event. This may be the grandest BCI convention ever staged. The city is arranging tour to several of their historically important classical Chinese Gardens and sites in this city that will be celebrating its 2,500 anniversary in 2014. Our convention will be held at the beautiful Slender West Lake at the new Yangzhou Penjing Garden. I think it is the finest penjing garden and collection of trees in China! Don't miss this event. Transportation to Yangzhou will be provided to foreign visitors arriving at the Shanghai airport.

Finally, I am pleased to report that we have two new clubs joining BCI, both located in China.

Thomas Elias, President
Bonsai Cubs International

BCI 50th Anniversary Committee Update

BCI is celebrating its 50th anniversary and has already had a party in Denver. To help us celebrate we have received gifts from Guillermo Castano Ramirez and Pauline Muth which we would like to share with you. They will be auctioned online at our website

Guillermo Castano Ramirez has given BCI, for its 50th anniversary, a one of a kind "lost wax" bronze sculpture. It is studded with Columbian emeralds and will be offered for on line auction to all Bonsai Clubs, or Bonsai Schools.



It would be a magnificent piece of art for any bonsai club/schools, to give as an award, to be placed on a bonsai display table or to be used as a commemorative gift.

Please watch for details back page of the Last Quarter BCI magazine 2012.



Only 50 of these **Kusamono pots** (pictured above) will be hand made by **Pauline Muth** to mark the 50 years that BCI has woven friendships and bonsai together across the world. Each little pot is unique, handcrafted, and can be used as a “companion pot” or Kusamono. With the pot, you will receive the instructions by **Young Choe**, as to how to create your own unique Kusamono. **Young Choe** is a highly recognized new Kusamono artist.

These pots can be ordered @ Pauline@pfmbonsai.com

Each pot will include shipping and can also be ordered on line at the BCI website. **Cost of pot in the United States \$36.00**

Cost of pot anywhere out side of the United States \$47.00

You or your club can enter a special anniversary photo contest, using past or present trees that represent your best bonsai. Get your Club named in our Anniversary Book More information will be in the magazine.

Be ahead of the curve and feel free to this information at your clubs as **"Advance News" or "Trends In Bonsai"**

- Joan Greenway

ALSO Keep your eyes open for the NEW BCI 50th Anniversary LOGO !

Have anything you want to share, just send it in!

Club Events, Tree Pictures, or just Ideas!