



NBF Annual Meeting Events

May 4th was a very busy day at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.

To start, it was the opening day of the *Potomac Bonsai Association Exhibit and Sale*, which lasted through the weekend.

In the Arboretum Auditorium specimens of bonsai and viewing stones from the collections of PBA members were on display and in the meadow adjacent to the Museum vendors sold their bonsai wares in a festive tent.

Then, in the Frederic Ballard Special Exhibits Wing of the Mary E. Mrose International Pavilion, noteworthy trees from the collections of Museum volunteers, **Janet Lanman**, **Jack Cardon** and **Bill Orsinger** were on exhibit (see separate story on page 3).

And in the Yuji Yoshimura Center the National Bonsai Foundation Board of Directors was holding its annual meeting. The day began with breakfast for the Board and Museum staff and was followed by President **Felix Laughlin's** warm welcome to five new Board members: **David Bogan** (Indiana), **Ron Lang** (Pennsylvania), **Arschel Morell** (Maryland), **Sean Smith** (Pennsylvania), and **Fay Sharer** (Virginia).

On the agenda the first item of business was the nomination of **Mr. Changao Xin**, of Chanzhou City, China as an Honorary Director. Then the directors focused their attention on the Museum and grappled with ways that NBF could continue to offer robust support for the

Museum in order to maintain it as the best of its kind in the world. After reports from Arboretum Director **Tom Elias** and Curators **Jim Hughes** and **Kathleen Emerson-Dell**, discussion focused on



Left to right, **Marybel Balendonck**, NBF Vice-President, **Kiyo Nikaido**, sister-in-law of **Harry Hiraio**, **Harry Hiraio**, and NBF Honorary Director **Barbara Hall Marshall**, in front of the *Hiraio Viewing Stone Exhibit*.

Photo: Museum Staff

two important issues: developing more widely geographically based support for the Museum by increasing membership in NBF, and the development and implementation of a policy for donor recognition within the Museum complex.

With regard to the first element, **Felix Laughlin** challenged the NBF Board of Directors to commit themselves to bringing in 10 new members each over the next year. If the challenge is met the membership of NBF could increase a hundred-fold. To help with this initiative Board members will be supplied with

NBF and Museum brochures and presentation points to help persuade bonsai enthusiasts to join.

The donor recognition question is crucial to raising funds for completion of the final phase of the Courtyard Project, which is NBF's top priority for 2007/2008. In the coming year NBF Executive Director **Johann Klodzen** and NBF Board Vice President **Marybel Balendonck** will work with **Nancy Luria**, Leader of the Education and Visitor Services Unit of the Arboretum, and Museum staff to put in place the *Dedication and Donation Signage Standards* and the *Interpretive Signage Standards* that were presented to the Board at the 2005 meeting.

After lunch the Board gathered for the dedication of the displays stands that were given in memory of **Jack Billet** (see separate story, page 3). Then Board members were given the opportunity to walk around the Museum and meet informally with staff. This was followed by a brief afternoon session.

The annual Board dinner in downtown Washington brought the day to a happy end, as **Harry Hiraio** was honored for his 90th birthday and his many gifts to the Museum. Finally, in celebration of the 25th anniversary of NBF, a champagne toast was proposed in salutation of a long and happy future for the Museum.





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Assistant Curator
Aarin Packard
Assistant Curator

President's Letter



We are very pleased to report that **Mr. Chanbao Xin** has accepted our invitation to become an Honorary NBF Director. In July, Mr. Xin and **Mr. Yun-hua Hu**, also an NBF Honorary Director, visited the Museum, and **Dr. Tom Elias** and the Museum staff rolled out the red carpet for them. This was a key opportunity to discuss with Messrs. Xin and Hu how we can improve the Chinese penjing collection, and Tom and I believe this meeting will produce very positive results. We are looking forward to collaborating with these directors in acquiring new selections for the penjing collection.

We congratulate **Young Choe** and **Ron Lang** on their stunning Kusamono Display, which opened in the Frederic Ballard Special Exhibits Wing in July. Young has been a volunteer at the Museum in charge of accent plants for several

years, and is becoming recognized as one of the leading Kusamono artists in the United States. Ron Lang, an NBF Board Member, is an internationally renowned ceramicist.

We will be reporting further about this event and its opening reception on the NBF website and in the Fall *NBF Bulletin*.

This year marks the **25th anniversary of NBF**, and we can all be proud of NBF's pivotal role in supporting the Museum over the last quarter of a century. During this period, we helped to complete the Mary E. Mrose International Pavilion, the John Y. Naka North American Pavilion and the Yee-sun Wu Chinese Pavilion, as well as the first two stages of the Courtyard Project. More challenges, of course, lie ahead, and we ask you to continue your generous support as we move towards the completion of the Courtyard project.

We also ask you to encourage your bonsai friends to join NBF as we hope that we will be able to double our membership over the next year in order to increase our support of the Museum. Please invite them to visit the NBF website (see below) to see all the exciting things that are happening at the Museum, which belongs to everyone.

Felix

NBF Website

We encourage all NBF members and friends to visit the redesigned National Bonsai Foundation website regularly. The site is updated almost weekly with new photos of trees and viewing stones from the collections, and the current exhibits, as well as different events

within the Museum. To find out what is happening please go to the NBF Home Page and click on the feature "What's New Around the Museum" or "What's New: Exhibits." The website address is www.bonsai-nbf.org.

Bonsai Invitational Exhibit Features Three Washington Artists

The Frederic Ballard Special Exhibits Wing in the *Mary E. Mrose International Pavilion* is the display area for a variety of special focus shows throughout the year. Besides showcasing trees and viewing stones from the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum collections, the Museum hosts

exhibits by local bonsai and viewing stone clubs, ikebana schools, and invited artists.

In late April and early May an exhibition of trees from the private collections of local bonsai artists **Janet Lanman**, **Jack Cardon**, and **Bill Orsinger** was on display. These three individuals have shared their

knowledge of bonsai by volunteering at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum for a combined total of 66 years.

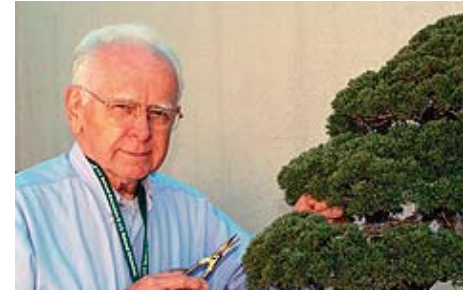
Additional photographs of trees from this exhibit can be viewed on the NBF website at: https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/exh-3local_artists.html.



Janet Lanman



Jack Cardon



Bill Orsinger



White Pine, *Pinus parviflora*, Informal style – 58 years in training.



Shimpaku Juniper (right), *Juniperus chinensis var. sargentii*, Literati style – 16 years in training.



Kingsville Boxwood, *Buxus microphylla* 'Compacta', Informal broom style – 18 years in training from cutting.

Billet Display Stands Dedicated

Display stands given in memory of Jack Billet (see *NBF Bulletin*—Winter 2006) were dedicated in the context of the May 4th NBF Board meeting.

In addition to the Board, special guests included his wife **Barbara**, his son **Bradley**, daughter-in-law **Tracey**, and grandson, **Matthew**, as well as his good friend **Dorie Froning**. Many members of the **Brandywine Bonsai Society** were also present, as were **Jim and Mary Kaye Doyle**, who gave a stone lantern, placed in the Kato Family Stroll Garden, in memory of Jack.

The plaques on the benches have the following inscription: “In memory of Jack

Billet—Teacher and Friend—From the National Bonsai Foundation—2006”. In his dedication remarks, Felix Laughlin described Jack’s many contributions to bonsai and the Museum, noting that the words “Teacher and Friend” best described Jack’s legacy.

The ceremony concluded with a few words from his son:

“It’s a beautiful day. Thank you all for sharing it with us. Please take some time to wander through the Museum and enjoy the trees. Then, perhaps this evening, get a glass of your favorite beverage and toast your memories of the good times with Jack, as that is what he would have wanted most.”

At the annual Board dinner that evening in downtown Washington, Jack was remembered again as he would have wished.



Front: Dorie Froning, Rear, left to right: Tracey Billet, Matthew Billet, Bradley Billet and Barbara Billet with one of the display stands in memory of Jack Billet.

Discovering Bonsai and Penjing

By James Hughes

"I cut off a branch from my bonsai during class. I am going to try to root it and make it into a bonsai also."

"I'd very much like to find a local bonsai society and begin a collection of my own trees."

"After class, I'm going to the nursery on the way home to buy the things I don't have, but need, to do bonsai."

"I hope to 'see bonsai material' as I look at nature so I can start more bonsai."

These are some of the comments from students taking the **Introduction to Bonsai Workshop** that I taught at the Museum in June. The class was filled with novice students excited and eager to learn about bonsai and penjing. Some had already tried it after reading about the art in books. Some had admired them from a distance for years and finally gotten the nerve to start creating their own. One participant commented, "I come to jog at the Arboretum several times a week and I always walk through the Museum afterwards. Now I want to try to make a bonsai of my own."

Nurturing these new fans of bonsai and penjing is an important part of the Museum's mission. Teaching them sound horticultural principles, presenting traditional concepts of design, and exposing them to the many resources and organizations available to them for future growth, is a gratifying part of my role as curator of the Museum.

For many people, the classes, the exhibits, the lectures, the displays of the Museum, are their first introduction to bonsai, penjing, and stone appreciation. As a **free public garden** visited by local residents, visitors from across the nation, and tourists from many foreign countries, the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum—strategically placed in our nation's capital—is an effective vehicle for exposing the public to this amazing art form.

Visit NBF's Website:
www.bonsai-nbf.org

Museum Notes

- ▶ Earlier this year **Boon Manakitivipart** from Alameda, California visited the Museum and consulted with staff on the pines in the Museum collections. While he was here several black pines and a California juniper were repotted. All of these trees are doing well.



Boon Manakitivipart and Curator Jim Hughes discuss a tree.

- ▶ The Public Broadcast System (PBS) television Washington, DC affiliate (WETA) filmed the staff and collections of the Museum on June 19th for a program on "Unique Museums in the Nation's Capital". The program will be broadcast in the Fall.



Assistant Curator Aarin Packard with the WETA TV Crew.

- ▶ The American Public Gardens Association held its annual national meeting in Washington, D.C. in late June. On Friday the 29th participants visited the U.S. National Arboretum for tours through the Native Plant, Asian and Conifer Collections. Prior to an evening dinner in the Great Meadow, receptions were held in three locations: the Capitol Columns, the National Herb Garden and the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. NBF was the host for the lively Museum reception.



Supervisory Curator Carole Bordelon with APGA guests.



Membership in the National Bonsai Foundation is based on the calendar year. Therefore, if you have not yet renewed your membership for 2007, it is due now. Membership in NBF includes receiving the *NBF Bulletin*, a 10% discount on books published by NBF, invitations to Special Museum events, an NBF Member decal, as well as having the honor and distinction of supporting the world's first and finest bonsai and penjing Museum.

In addition, every January NBF publishes a handsome colored poster/brochure of the schedule of exhibits and programs in the Museum for the coming year. This poster/brochure will be mailed to all those who join or renew.

Please send a check or credit card information in the envelope enclosed for your convenience.

The categories of support are:

Basic Membership	\$35
<i>(\$25 for Charter members)</i>	
Contributor	\$50 to \$99
Sponsor	\$100 to \$249
Patron	\$250 to \$999
Benefactor	Over \$1,000

Thank you for your support of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.