



## New Website Is Launched

The National Bonsai Foundation's re-designed website ([www.bonsai-nbf.org](http://www.bonsai-nbf.org)) was posted on the internet on December 1, 2006.

The site was designed by **James H. Dawson III**, of Jamie Dawson, Inc. in Wilmington, Delaware. He was assisted by **Donna Ellis** of Ellis Design, who has worked on several design projects for NBF and the World Bonsai Convention. The majority of the photographs on the site were taken by **Joseph Mullan** who did the photography for the NBF publication: *Awakening the Soul: The National Viewing Stone Collection*. Funding for the website design came from the *Yuji Yoshimura Education Fund*.

The prototype for the new web page was presented by Mr. Dawson to the NBF Board during the May meeting this year and the board approved the implementation of the design. The actual construction of the site began in June.

The previous website was the idea and creation of NBF Board member, **Christopher Cochrane**, who worked with **Craig Hunt** of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in the development of the site beginning in 1999. Mr. Hunt has been the Webmaster since that time and he will also hold this position with the new site. The vast amount of material, compiled by Mr. Cochrane and written by NBF Board members, which was a hallmark of the original site, will be archived on the present site. And the link pages that were an important part of the first site have been retained and updated.

The toolbar on the home page is divided into two sections. Information about NBF is on the left hand side of the bar and the right side highlights the Museum and the collections. The Museum pages will change on a regular



The home page of the newly redesigned NBF website.

basis to reflect the lively nature of the Museum. In particular, the pages "What's New" and "Collection Exhibits" will be updated on a regular basis as events occur. Also more photos of the trees and stones will be added soon to the collection pages until all collection holdings are available for viewing.

Every effort was made to place the visitor within the Museum context through the use of many color photographs, as well as maps, and a link to the U. S. National Arboretum site with the "Virtual Tour" of the Museum.

In addition, the page "Information of Interest" will change periodically. The current entry features an essay "History of the Introduction and Establishment of Bonsai in the Western World" by Arboretum Director, **Thomas S. Elias**. This article

appeared originally in the NBF volume: *Proceedings of the International Scholarly Symposium on Bonsai and Viewing Stones*. Plans are underway to have this page be the platform for bonsai professionals to address issues of philosophical interest and answer questions of practical concern.

The website should be easy to navigate as users will be able to go from one page on the site to any other of the many pages available. There are no restricted pages and the only area not available to nonmembers of NBF will be the current year's *NBF Bulletin*. Also, for the first time, the website will offer visitors the ease of using a credit card to buy publications and to join NBF or renew their membership.

We hope that you will visit the NBF website soon, and please return often.

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Assistant Curator

## President's Letter



As 2006—the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum's 30th Anniversary—comes to a close, the dedicated community supporting the Museum can take great pride in the solid strides we have made this year in our quest to maintain this treasure as the best Museum of its kind in the world.

A year ago at this time, **Jim Hughes** was the brand-new Curator of the Museum and both Assistant Curator positions were vacant. Now, with a full year under his belt as the fourth Museum Curator, Jim has more than met the intricate challenges of managing this historic institution and its wonderful collections. Now too, both of the Assistant Curator positions are filled with outstanding personnel: **Kathleen Emerson-Dell**, a skilled museum professional with

broad experience in the field of Asian art as the Assistant Curator for Artifact Collections, and **Aarin Packard**, a young bonsai master of the future as Assistant Curator for Plant Collections. At the same time, we are grateful for the continuing hard work of **Christy Hilberg**, the Museum Gardener, who does such an excellent job maintaining the gardens and outdoor spaces of the Museum complex.

As for NBF, we have been busy working on improving communications with our membership and the larger bonsai and penjing community. As you can see elsewhere in this *Bulletin*, we have spent many months preparing the redesign of the website to better inform you and the general public about the Museum and its collections. We also have expanded the number of issues of the *Bulletin* and have moved to a color format.

Of course, none of the Museum's accomplishments during 2006 would have been possible without your continuing support. So, on behalf of NBF, I would like to express our most sincere appreciation to you for your support this past year, and send you our very best wishes for the new year.

*Felix*

## New NBF Desk Calendar



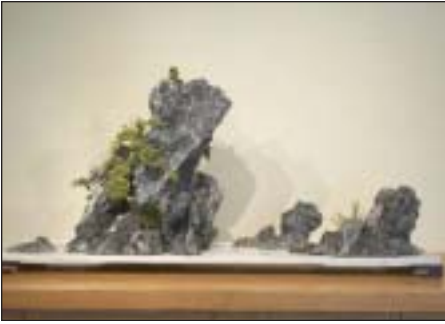
Sample page, 2007 NBF Calendar.

NBF has published a small Museum desk calendar for 2007. Since this is our first effort to do our own calendar, we have printed only a limited number. If these sell well this year we will print more copies in future years.

The calendar is available only to NBF members and the price is \$10.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping. If you would like to purchase this calendar, please send a check for \$13.00 in the envelope enclosed with this mailing. Thank you!

# Penjing from Shanghai

By Kathleen Emerson-Dell



Penjing landscape "Lijiang River in Spring", Ying Stone, Guangdong Province, China

Photo: Museum Staff



Penjing landscape "Autumn Winds", Wucui Lingbi Stone, Anhui Province, China

Photo: Museum Staff

The Chinese Moon Festival was celebrated at the U.S. National Arboretum in October with exhibits, workshops and demonstrations presented by masters from the Shanghai Botanic Garden of the Peoples Republic of China. While Chinese flower arranging, calligraphy and paper-cutting were featured in the Administration building, various forms of penjing were demonstrated in the Yuji Yoshimura Center at the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum.

Li Linxiang, an award-winning master of penjing, created 4 water-and-land penjing landscapes on white marble trays—each with a different type of Chinese stone. He used a round marble tray to style a rock-and-tree penjing. These 5 arrangements, along with 5 Chinese ash trees (*Fraxinus hupehensis*) now in quarantine, were given to the Museum as a gift from the Shanghai Botanic Garden.



Li Linxiang creating penjing landscape "Spring Rain" with Qi Stone from Jiangsu Province, China

Photo: Museum Staff



Li Linxiang assisted by Tang Jianping, creating "Dancing Dragon" with Linglong Stone from Anhui Province, China

Photo: Museum Staff

## Visitors from China

The Vice Premier of China, Tang Jiaxuan, in Washington D.C. to meet with U.S. President George W. Bush, paid a surprise visit to the Museum in late October. He was shown through the Dr. Yee-sun Wu Chinese Pavilion by Curator Jim Hughes.



Left to right, Scott Aker, Gardens Unit Leader, Chinese Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong, Chinese Vice Premier Tang Jiaxuan, John Hammond, Acting Director of the Arboretum, and Curator, Jim Hughes.

Photo: Museum Staff



Jim Hughes showing the Chinese Delegation the penjing collection.

Photo: Museum Staff

## NBF Board Notes

❖ NBF Board member, **Ted Tsukiyama** of Hawaii, has been recognized as a "community leader who made a significant contribution in the public affairs and public policy arena in Hawaii" by the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs. He will be honored at their annual gala dinner in February 2007.

❖ The World Bonsai Contest winners for 2006 have been announced and the trees of three NBF Board Members were among the winners or honorees. **Julian Adams'** tree (*Pinus sylvestris*—Scots Pine) and **Edward Trout's** tree (*Conocarpus erectus*—Buttonwood) were in the winning category of fifty international trees. **Bill Valavanis's** tree

(*Carpinus laxiflora*—Loose Flowering Hornbeam—Aka Shide) was awarded one of the fifty best trees in the Honorable category. All of the winners can be viewed on the Bonsai Clubs International website at <http://www.bonsai.bci.com>

❖ **Sean Smith** of Marysville, Pennsylvania has been elected to the NBF Board.



## The Enduring Contribution of Jack Billet

By James Hughes

The *Melba Tucker Arbor*, in the lower courtyard of the Museum, is an accessible location and a hospitable site for many bonsai events. When the weather is pleasant, weekend demonstrations by the staff are held here. It was also used in May by the Potomac Bonsai Associ-

tion to splintering and cracking. I used this material myself on my deck at home. Eleven years later, the wood has turned gray, like aging teakwood, but all the joints in the structure maintain their integrity, unlike structures built from cedar or treated lumber.

The handsome stands were installed in late September and now the *Melba Tucker Arbor* is a focal point for visitors to the Lower Courtyard. This important installation was made possible by numerous and generous donations given to the National Bonsai Foundation in memory of **Jack Billet**, NBF director, teacher, artist and a tireless promoter of bonsai. He was an active participant in the work of the Museum and in 2004 we were proud to host an exhibit of *shohin* from his collection and the collection of **Doris Froning** in the Special Exhibits Wing of the Mary E. Mrose International Pavilion.



Photo: Joseph Mullan

*The Lower Courtyard & Rose Family Garden from the Merritt Gate*

ation for presentations during their spring show at the Arboretum. On that occasion the Lower Courtyard was filled to capacity by crowds of interested visitors.

Although the Arbor is an attractive setting for demonstrations, it always appeared a little “forlorn” on those other days when no activities were scheduled for the space. During the late summer we decided to remedy the limited use of that area by the addition of two wooden display pedestals. These stands would allow us to display bonsai or penjing on a regular basis when the Arbor is not being used for demonstrations.

The benches that we designed are made out of a South American tropical hardwood called ipé, which is an incredibly strong and dense wood that is harvested from naturally sustainable forests. It is very durable and is resistant



*Melba Tucker Arbor in the Lower Courtyard with new display benches*

Photo: Joseph Mullan

Now we are pleased to have these beautifully crafted additions that will honor Jack and his many contributions to bonsai and the Museum. They will be formally dedicated during the NBF Board meeting in May 2007.



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 before February 2007.

And this year for the first time you can now renew your membership on the newly designed NBF website: [www.bonsai-nbf.org](http://www.bonsai-nbf.org) or you can 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
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Benefactor	Over \$1,000

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

Visit our redesigned website:  
[www.bonsai-nbf.org](http://www.bonsai-nbf.org)