



# BONSAI SOCIETY OF LAKELAND

May/June  
2010

## A The President's Bench...

It's the BSF Annual Convention this week.... Starts on Friday and concludes on Monday (Monday is only a 9:00 a.m. Raffle). I have been to a few of these conventions and have found them to be interesting and educational. If you can get there, I think it is worth the short drive to the Ramada Inn in Celebration for a day or more. The demonstrations are good and the vendors have lots of items to see and/or buy. I checked the workshop website (<http://www.bonsai-bsf.com/events/2010convention/workshops.php>) Monday morning and if it is up-to-date, it looks like there are still interesting workshops available. Hope to see you there!

I had a chance to go to Clif's place, Pasimanan, since our last meeting. If you haven't been there, it's a great place to visit--especially if he is having a workshop. LOL, Clif doesn't know I am giving him free advertisement!! You should check out his website, <http://www.meetup.com/WestCentralFloridaBonsai/>

Let me give a few "plugs" for some local websites that I have found to be worth visiting:

\* <http://www.meetup.com/WestCentralFloridaBonsai/> We have talked about the Meetup website, for four central Florida clubs. I recommend you sign up and visit it often for activities and good information.

\* And, don't forget about our Club's Web Log. You can get to that through our website <http://lakelandbonsai.com/> or <http://lakelandbonsai.com/blog/>. Our weblog is getting little traffic, but it is a good place to post and ask questions.



\* One more, <http://ibonsaiclub.forumotion.com/> is worth the time. Take a look -- it is worth a visit and using.

Gail has also included other websites in the last issue. Always good reference material. Looking forward to our June meeting, remember, it is "bring your own tree".

*Paul*

### Officers and Board Members

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### Meetings

*Meetings* are held the third Thursday of each month at the First United Methodist Church, Room D-3, located at 72 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland. Meetings begin at 7pm and conclude around 9pm.

*Raffles*, with material provided by the members, will be held every other meeting starting Feb 2010. Trees demo'd by the presenters will (for the most part) be raffled.

*Bonsai workshops* are the second Saturday after the meeting, if scheduled, from 10am until ? They are located at Cee Jay Nursery, 4225 Lake Hancock Road, Lakeland.

# Upcoming Events

**May...** There will be no scheduled club meeting this month due to the convention. Use this time to pick out and spruce up a tree to bring to June's "bring your own tree" meeting!

**May 28-31..** (Memorial Day weekend) Bonsai Society of Florida's annual convention. Will be held at the same hotel as last year (Ramada Celebration). Workshops, demos, raffles, vendors, exhibit...Looks great!!! Check it out in the recent edition of Florida Bonsai, or at [www.bonsai-bsf.com](http://www.bonsai-bsf.com)

**June 17..** Club meeting, "bring your own tree" critique

**July 15...** Club meeting, Dorothy Schmitz

**August ? (date to be determined)...** Club meeting, Suthin

**September 16...** Club meeting, "bring your own tree" critique

**October 21...** Club meeting, Ed Trout

**November ??..** Multi club auction



## The Newsletter

This is YOUR newsletter! We hope to publish it bi-monthly. Please help us out by contributing: favorite articles (we will obtain author's permission), websites, tips and tricks, local vendors, jokes, member news, events, just about anything that can be published!! Also, we still don't have a name for the newsletter. Please be a part of this by giving your contributions, compliments, criticisms, Whatever!

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**JUNE 1ST** starts

This year's

Hurricane season...

Officials at the national hurricane center are predicting a busy season, with 11-16 named storms. Not that we will ever see such a storm season like 2004 (hopefully!), but we should give some thought as to how to protect our trees, which could become flying missiles...

## BONSAI PEOPLE

ROBERT STEVEN



Robert Steven is this year's headliner at the BSF convention. He started creating and collecting bonsai in 1979, and has a permanent exhibit of over 500 trees and penjing in Indonesia. He is a keen promoter of Chinese penjing as well as of expressionistic and surrealistic bonsai styles. Robert is active in teaching, judging and writing articles for magazines and newspapers. He is a member and officer of many national and international bonsai organizations. He has published 2 wildly popular books, Vision of My Soul, and Mission of Transformation.

"Bonsai is not simply an art object to buy and collect like paintings or sculptures; but we should involve our emotion to express our character and message in order to give the 'soul' to the tree. There is nothing right or wrong in bonsai art, do not treat the rules as check-list; but wisely implement the rules and honestly create our own identity, culture, without losing the common aesthetic value, and the nature character of the tree itself."



This issue's article....

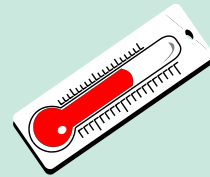
The article at the end of this issue is "Choosing the Right Pot for your Bonsai" by Harry Harrington.

It appeared in the April 2010 issue of the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society Newsletter, and is reprinted here with their permission.

There's lots more to choosing a pot than you think: read how to make your tree look incredible by choosing the right container.....

**THEN HIT THE VENDOR AREA AT THE CONVENTION!!!!**

# SEASONAL Care



	May	June	July
Water	<p>May can be a dry month, so check your trees every day. If you use a sprinkling system, you may want to group together the trees that require more water so they can be easily checked</p>	<p>Don't depend on rain showers, many times they only dampen the surface of the soil. You may need to water twice each day during these hot months. Be sure the soil is thoroughly soaked</p>	<p>Usually the hottest month of the year. If you use an automatic sprinkling system, check it every day to be sure it is functioning. Trees in the full sun need more water</p>
Fertilizer	<p>Everything is growing more quickly now. It is better to fertilize weekly "weakly". This is also a good time to add slow release fertilizers like Osmocote</p>	<p>Alternate applying acid fertilizer with your regular for your acid loving trees. Since you are watering more, the fertilizer is being leached from the soilless mix, requiring a regular schedule</p>	<p>Continue with your regular schedule using a fertilizer that has major and minor elements. Most trees love fish emulsion, too, especially bald cypress and buttonwoods</p>
Pests And diseases	<p>They too are in full swing. Start gently at first: spray them off with a stream of water, hand pick, soap spray. Be sure that you read up on what species of trees can tolerate what chemical, some are deadly to certain trees</p>	<p>Watch the new shoots for aphids, which suck the juices from new growth. The hot humid weather is perfect for growing fungus and mildew. Read the labels!!</p>	<p>Some bonsai nurserymen use a systemic treatment that uses Merit (Bayer Advance). Again, do your research, not all trees react the same, some are very picky</p>
Potting And Repotting	<p>Pot those trees that have finished blooming. If you were unable to pot any of your trees that needed repotting earlier this year, you can "slip pot" them into a larger pot, fill in with your soil mix, so not to disturb the roots.</p>	<p>Most tropicals can be repotted this month. Protect them from harsh sun and wind until new growth starts, which is also the time to resume your regular fertilizing program</p>	<p>Some tropicals prefer to be repotted in the hot hot summer, such as buttonwoods, buccinas and Nees. "Tropical Green Sheets" book is a great reference for almost all trees we grow here</p>
Other stuff	<p>Pinching is very important to keep your trees in shape, and encourage back budding. Good time to propagate tropicals: cuttings, airlayers, etc</p>	<p>Inspect your wiring often, trees are growing like crazy and the wire may need to be removed quickly. Regularly turn the trees to get even dose of sunlight</p>	<p>Pinching, trimming, pruning is a full time job. Carry your shears with you on your daily inspection. Consider defoliation on trees that benefit from it.</p>

# More info about pots.....

This month's article is an in-depth primer on selecting pots. However, just like any aspect of any thing, lots of folks have lots to say.....

## **JOHN NAKA:**

Never transplant first and then shape the tree.... Always remember that a pot should be selected for the trained tree. Do not select the pot first, and then train the tree to match the pot.

Colors acceptable for the majority of the trees are brown, gray or terracotta. The dull, unglazed pots in the subdued colors are the best for most evergreens. Glazed pots are used mostly for the deciduous trees.

Pots with either floral or scenic designs are not recommended if they distract from the tree. A deep pot with calligraphy, showing delicate strokes that blend with the lines of a cascade would be considered appropriate.

## **JAMES SMITH:**

A pot is to a bonsai as a frame is to a picture.

Banyan styles with heavy trunks and aerial roots look good in large, shallow, oval trays or slabs--giving the illusion of a landscape.

Remember: guidelines are not laws... Experiment and enjoy!

## **SOME DEFINITIONS:** (from the Bonsaimonk.com website)

**Tokoname--** This is not a single manufacturer, but rather a co-operative of artists located in the Tokoname region of Japan. High quality and hand-rubbed. Many are signed by the artist.

**Houtoku--** the "bread and butter" manufacturer of traditional, high fired pottery

**Mica--** from Korea, made of 80% mica, 15% polyethylene and 5% graphite. Mica has a natural ability to stabilize the temperature of the soil in the pots, promoting healthy root activity. These less expensive pots are durable and will withstand the elements for years.

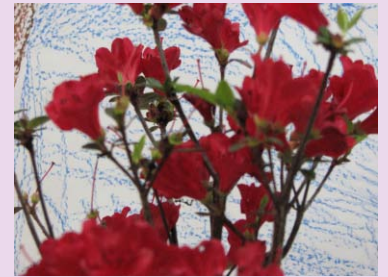
## **VENDORS:**

Local: BJ Pottery Outlet, Highway 92 E, Lakeland

[www.gobbs.org/Potters.htm](http://www.gobbs.org/Potters.htm) This website shows the website links and chop marks of almost all the bonsai pottery artists in North America.

[www.bonsaimonk.com](http://www.bonsaimonk.com) website for Bonsai by the Monastery in Georgia. I have ordered through them, and have always been happy with their prices and their packing skills.

# April's meeting



*SPRINGTIME!!!!* And the incredible azalea blooms that come with it.....

How lucky we were to have Cliff Pottberg present all things azalea in all their glory, with trees from his nursery and a slide show of a fraction of the many different varieties. You can view these on the website of the Azalea Society of America.

Cliff told us how to choose an azalea to use as bonsai: by the flexibility of the wood, the flower (form, shape, size, color), zone of hardiness, bark color and growth characteristic. He said that Satsuki's wood is more flexible than that of Kurumi.

Azaleas prefer an acid environment, and are basally dominant. They prefer semi-shade, and you should let them dry out a bit before wiring.

Watching him transform the monster that he brought with him, brought one thing to mind: I wish that we were raffling it off!!!! Gorgeous.



# BSL ROAD TRIPS

## Bonsai at the Polk Museum of Art



The Polk Museum of Art has focused on the Asian arts this spring, and the Bonsai Society of Lakeland has been there representing the art of bonsai. On April 8 we set up a bonsai exhibit for the opening reception for PMA's "Japanese Textiles and Prints" and "Functional Ceramics" exhibitions. On display were Sue Jones' cypress that was originally styled by Pete DiNunzio, a Shimpaku juniper and a Japanese black pine from Pete, miscellaneous trees from John's collection, including both pieces of his portulacaria air layering, a green island ficus, a Neea, a banyan style ficus nerifolia, and a 5 foot tall Fukien Tea. Also a mother-daughter ficus retusa styled by Hector Morales. The museum was a beautiful setting for the trees, which were hands-down the hit of the evening.

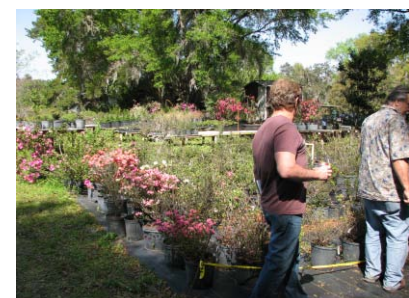
Cindy and John Petterson were back at the museum on April 17 to set up a smaller exhibit and to give a lecture entitled "Beyond the Art--the Art of Bonsai". Cindy gave a thumbnail timeline on the history of bonsai which included landscape plantings in ancient China to the discipline of the Japanese and the boost in popularity in the US after World War II. And, finally discussed the use of tropical materials for bonsai. John explained the various design styles and techniques and then discussed the unique characteristics of the trees on display. An enthusiastic question and answer period followed. Good group; we hope some of them visit us at a BSL meeting soon.

On May 13, John gave a presentation to the Bartow Garden Club. John and Cindy are our wonderful ambassadors to the world of bonsai, and we are very proud and appreciative of all their time and effort!!!!

## March 27 at Cliff Pottberg's Nursery

A beautiful, cool morning to spend wandering this incredible nursery. For me, the best part was listening to Cliff's endless knowledge of all things bonsai and horticulture. Seeing new varieties of familiar plants. Enjoying the many different colors, shapes and sizes of azalea blooms.

For Brent, it was discovering the incredible nebari on his new fat maple. Then packing it up and taking it home!





# INTERNET SURFING

## BLOGS

A blog (contraction of the term web log) is a type of website, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. It is an internet “diary” of sorts.

There are many bonsai blogs out there.... Some by internationally famous names like Walter Pall, etc. There are some local central Florida bonsai blogs. They keep us up to date with their activities, their tree styling and progressions, and everything bonsai. Lots of fun and lots of learning, some go back years.....

### LOCAL:

[www.orlandobonsai.com](http://www.orlandobonsai.com) blog of Paul Pikel

[www.knowledgeofbonsai.org/Rob\\_Kempinski](http://www.knowledgeofbonsai.org/Rob_Kempinski)

[www.zone9bonsai.com](http://www.zone9bonsai.com)

[www.Taikoearthpottery.blogspot.com](http://www.Taikoearthpottery.blogspot.com) blog of Rob Addonizio

### OTHERS WELL WORTH LOOKING AT:

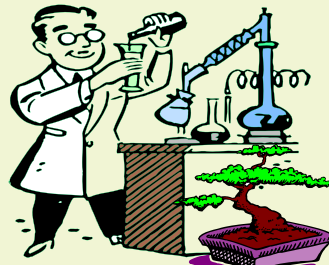
[www.Walter-pall-bonsai.blogspot.com](http://www.Walter-pall-bonsai.blogspot.com)

[www.Bonsaibark.com](http://www.Bonsaibark.com) blog from Stone Lantern

[www.BonsaiNurseryman.typepad.com](http://www.BonsaiNurseryman.typepad.com) Brent at Evergreen Gardenworks

[www.Crataegus.com](http://www.Crataegus.com) blog of Michael Hagedorn

[www.Kitsunebonsai.blogspot.com](http://www.Kitsunebonsai.blogspot.com) blog of Heather Coste



## The Science Of bonsai

Sounds easy, huh? But....**the lack of proper watering results in more dead bonsai than all other causes put together!!!**

What's the big deal, you say? A tree in a pot has very different watering needs than the same tree in the ground. Watering needs change over time, change with what we are doing to the tree, what type of soil, what growing conditions, etc. **Use common sense!!!** Smaller pots require more frequent watering, as do shallow pots and a tree that has been root pruned. A tree that is pot-bound or recently defoliated requires less frequent watering. Observe the tree, the soil, and know the requirements of the species.

**DEHYDRATION.** Forgot to water? Watering system failed? The person you trusted to water your trees while you are on vacation was an idiot? Short spells of dehydration can be overcome by simply watering the tree at its normal watering frequency. Over-watering after dehydration should be avoided as it can cause further damage to the tree. Additions of vitamins or some compounds found in sphagnum moss can improve the health of the roots and allow the tree to recover faster. Prolonged dehydration will require a more drastic approach. If new shoots have completely collapsed they should be removed as secondary signals will be sent to the entire branch and can result in the death of larger parts of the branch. Depending on the species, you can remove some of the leaves to balance the amount of water it can absorb. New leaves should be removed first as they transpire more than older leaves. (This must not be done on junipers or pines, as you will damage the tree even further or even kill it.) Avoid damaging the roots, as they have to recover and are already in weak condition. Some plants do benefit from a plastic bag enclosure for a week in order to increase the humidity and keep the leaf pores (stomata) closed until the tree recovers. For conifers, dressing the root area with sphagnum moss will help the trees and will keep proper humidity and aeration for the root.

Reprinted from *Botany for Bonsai* by Enrique Castano, with permission.

# Choosing the right pot for your bonsai

(this article was taken from Harry Harrington's Bonsai4Me website. It is reprinted here with permission of the author and of the Greater Louisville Bonsai Society)

The literal meaning of bonsai is 'plant in a tray'. While the tree itself contributes to one half of the composition, the pot completes the overall image. The 'bonsai' in its literal sense is judged by the visual impact of both the tree and the pot. Unfortunately, choosing and locating the correct, or the best, pot for your tree is not easy. While a well-chosen pot will enhance a bonsai and strengthen a design, a poorly chosen or unsuitable design will actually lessen the impact of the tree. Ultimately, until the 'right' pot is found, the tree will never reach its full potential as a bonsai.

A pot can be an expensive investment for your tree; buying an unsuitable pot for your tree can mean having to find a more suitable pot in the future. Finding the right pot the first time is not only satisfying but saves money and helps avoid ending up with a pile of pots that don't quite seem to suit any of your trees! This article is written to help the enthusiast understand how to go about choosing the correct pot for his tree. My express thanks go to Vic Harris of Erin Pottery for his help in writing this guide and for providing images of some of his pots to illustrate this article.

## Choosing the right pot for your tree

Choosing the best pot for a particular tree is not easy. As well as the more mundane factory-made Chinese and Korean pots, there are a number of bonsai potters and potteries throughout the world who are able to offer individual and diverse pot designs and glazes to the enthusiast. There are so many available colors, sizes and designs that it can become very difficult to identify exactly which one(s) are best for your tree. Pot choice is also subjective, ultimately some of the final decision will be made according to your own personal tastes. Some enthusiasts prefer more conservative pot shapes, textures and glazes, where other enthusiasts prefer to make more unusual 'individual' choices.

In an effort to help choose the correct 'type' of pot for your tree, I have asked Vic Harris to help me draw up some basic guidelines when choosing a new pot for your tree. To arrive at a good decision, it is useful to break down the choices into 4 parts: pot dimension, pot shape, pot color and texture.

## CHOICE 1: POT DIMENSIONS

The first thing to consider is the size of the pot that you will need. The correct pot dimensions can be achieved, using some basic rules, according to the dimensions of the tree itself. The *general* rule of thumb is that the pot's depth should be equal to the diameter of the trunk just above the soil level.

For oval or rectangular pots, the length of the pot should be  $\frac{2}{3}$  the height of the tree.

For round pots, the diameter of the pot should be  $\frac{1}{3}$  the height of the tree.

For trees with especially wide canopies, a wider pot can be necessary, and this can be compensated by using a slightly shallower pot. Equally, a tree with a very thick trunk (in comparison with the height of the tree) may suit a slightly deeper but narrower pot.

It should be remembered that these guidelines are based on aesthetics only. For horticultural reasons, some tree species require larger or smaller pots. Species with very fast growing roots such as Trident Maples often require deeper pots while flowering and fruiting species such as Crab Apples require more root run and therefore deeper pots.

## CHOICE 2: POT SHAPE

The style of pot that you choose will need to harmonize with the tree. You need to take a look at your tree and evaluate its characteristics. Try to decide whether your tree is masculine or feminine. Many trees are a combination of both, although usually one is more dominant than the other. This is very subjective; for some people a tree may be masculine, for others, it might be feminine. Ultimately, as the owner of the tree, it is for you to decide. It should be noted though that a firmly masculine tree will never look right in a very feminine oval pot; in turn a feminine tree will always look awkward in a masculine pot.

### What makes a tree feminine or masculine?

A masculine tree gives an impression of strength; it might have a heavily tapered trunk, have craggy, mature bark, strong angular branching, and it may have deadwood. It might have a straight, powerful trunk or a dense canopy. A feminine tree will have a more delicate appearance, a smooth trunk line, smooth bark, sinuous movement in its trunk and branches, a light canopy and slow taper.

Some tree species are predisposed to being considered feminine or masculine. Pines or angular Hawthorns are often considered masculine, whereas delicate Japanese Maples will be considered as naturally feminine.

However, a strong heavily tapered Japanese Maple with delicate leaves and branching could be considered to be a feminine species with masculine features; while a tall Hawthorn with craggy, rough bark, gentle curves and very gradual taper could be considered a masculine species with a feminine characteristic. With trees such as these it is necessary to identify which is the strongest feature and reflect it. Is it the craggy, fissured bark of the Hawthorn or the gentle curves of the trunk that have the strongest visual impact? Is it the delicate branching of the Maple or the powerful tapered trunk that attracts your eye the most?

Fortunately, it is possible to find pot designs that can reflect both femininity and masculinity. Pots are considered feminine or masculine. Deep pots with strong angular features are considered masculine, while more feminine pots are shallower with softer lines. For instance, strong, chunky, deep rectangles with sharp corners are very masculine pots, as are square pots. These are suited to thick heavy trunked masculine trees, especially conifers. For thick trunked deciduous trees, the corners of the rectangle can be rounded, thus reducing the masculinity of the pot a little. Working down through the scale of masculinity, deep chunky ovals come next and then we have drums/round pots that are androgynous, that is are suitable for a masculine or feminine tree. After this, we move into the feminine pots which are shallow delicate ovals and very shallow round literati pots.

### Pot Shape, Basic Guidelines

**Rectangular Pots** are suitable for coniferous species and big deciduous trees with very pronounced taper, wide base, heavy buttressed nebari. These are used for masculine trees to add a feeling of strength in the tree.

**Oval Pots** are suitable for reflecting the femininity of deciduous trees, clump style bonsai, groves and forests. The less taper the tree has, the more feminine it tends to become; sinuous curves can also dampen the masculinity of a tree.

**Round Pots** are suitable for coniferous or deciduous feminine trees, particularly (but not exclusively) for literati/bunjin trees. Tall straight or sinuously curved trees with very little taper are the most feminine, and the pots that tend to suit these trees are very shallow rounds.

**Pot Lip or Rim** A lip on the upper rim gives additional strength to a masculine tree. A straight rim is softer for more androgynous trees. A bowl/convex side is more suited to feminine trees.

**Pot Corners** Sharp, right-angled corners are masculine and suitable for masculine trees. Indented corners on a rectangular pot soften the masculinity of a pot. Rounded corners soften the pot further, beginning to resemble an oval pot and more suitable for masculine deciduous trees.

**Feet of Pot** The main purpose of feet on a bonsai pot is to allow for good drainage and airflow, but feet can also be used to change the pot's appearance. Feet can be subtle and decorative or strong and robust. These qualities can be used to influence the overall feel of the pot; big chunky feet can add strength to the design, and understated delicate feet will have the opposite effect.

### CHOICE 3: POT COLOR

Once you have decided on the shape of the pot, you need to think about the color and texture. Every tree is unique. Although it is possible to generalize about a particular species, each individual tree will have something to pick up on, as no two trees are exactly the same, and there are always small variations that can be brought out in the pot color and texture.

The color of the pot can be used to pick up on a feature of the tree and therefore helps the tree and pot color 'work' well together. The color in the tree that is complimented can be that of the bark. For instance, an unglazed red/brown pot picking up the bark of a Juniper. It can compliment the color of the leaves through the summer or the autumn color. On fruiting or flowering trees, the color of the pot can be used to compliment the color of the flowers or the berries.

Although you generally want the color and texture of a pot to match some characteristic of the tree, sometimes contrasts can work very well; for example, the red leaves of a red-leaved tree work well with a blue pot. The color can also be used to accentuate the energy of the tree. Warm colors, such as browns, reds, oranges and yellows, provide a feeling of warmth and stability to the tree; whereas cold colors, such as blues and greens can balance and refresh the overall composition. Warm and cold colors can be used to contrast with a bonsai. Warm colors can be used for tiny (mame-sized) bonsai to exaggerate their color, whereas cool colors can be used to tone down bright leaved species.

### Basic Guide to Tree/Pot Color Combinations

This is a very basic guide designed to be a starting point or general guide to colors that can be suitable for any given tree; and, of course, the final choice can be altered to suit the individual characteristics of any given tree.

Light browns/Oatmeals.....Acer, Elm, Beech, Oak, Larch, Hawthorn, Ash, Gingko

Off whites/Greys.....Hawthorn, Oak, Acer, Ash

Light Greens.....Acer, ash, beech

Dark Greens.....Acer, Azaleas, Chinese Elm, Cotoneaster

Medium Browns.....Elm, Birch, Mountain Ash, Acer

Dark Browns/Red Browns/Unglazed Reds/Browns.....Pine, Juniper, Cotoneaster, Larch and other conifers, Azaleas

Light Blue... Azaleas, Malus, and other flowering species

Matt Blues.... Acer, Juniper, Pine, Azaleas

Matt Blue/Greens..... Pine, Junipers, Acer, Azaleas (this combination will also suit just about any tree, as they are the colors that you see most trees framed by when in their natural state)

#### CHOICE 4: POT TEXTURE

Textures in a pot are again used to complement a tree. Smooth clay finishes are suitable for more feminine trees, whereas heavily textured pots bring out the masculinity and wildness in a tree.

#### CONCLUSION:

As can be seen in this article, choosing the correct pot is not simple but it can be learned. Ultimately, a combination of personal tastes, knowledge and experience makes the process much easier. When buying a pot for your bonsai, try to make sure you know the pot measurements needed for the tree. It is not good buying a suitable pot only to find it is too big or small for your tree. Have a good idea of the shape that will suit the masculinity or femininity of your tree. Have a good idea of the color and texture that will suit your tree.

Don't be embarrassed to ask the advice of the bonsai nursery or the potter you are buying from. An experienced potter or bonsai nursery will always be able to give you a choice of suitable pots to choose from. However, always try to have a picture of your tree with you as this makes the nursery or potter's job much, much easier!



A masculine pot with sharp corners, an outward square lip & strong feet. This pot would suit thick trunked junipers/pines, the blue green glaze harmonizing with the blue green foliage & the dark brown/rusty red of the textured lower portion of the pot picking up on the trunk coloration



A shallow round literati style pot, although this is a feminine style, often the trees used for this style have masculine features, (rough bark) & this is taken into account by adding a rough texture to the pot. This pot would suit literati style junipers and pines with the rusty red unglazed finish



Drum style, suitable for masculine or feminine trees, but with this glaze, it would be most suitable for deciduous species like acers, gingko.



Slightly less masculine pot, soft cornered rectangle, no lip, inconspicuous feet, this pot with its gray glaze would suit a heavy trunk oak or hornbeam.



Although an oval, still has some masculine qualities. It is deep & has a strong outward square lip. With its dark green glaze, a heavy trunk red maple would suit this pot, the dark green contrasting well with the red leaves in a similar way to blue, or a thick trunk Chinese elm, here the dark green would blend with the dark green of the leaves.



A feminine oval with gentle outward flare and soft rounded lip with a cream glaze. Any of the lighter colored more delicate trunk deciduous trees, with smooth bark, would look good in this pot: acers, beech, ash.