

Ed Trout

TROPICAL BONSAI ARTIST

ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 2007

Bougainvillea – I have often looked at photos of Azalea's in bloom as bonsai and wished that I could grow them as easily as people do in other areas. However, we often overlook a tropical specimen that will grow here and offer some of the most stunning flower colors imaginable – the *Bougainvillea*.

This will be a great workshop and I am honored to be able to work on such promising bonsai.

The following is a brief description of *Bougainvillea* and it's care;

Actually *Bougainvillea* is a sprawling, woody vine. This colorful plant was named for Louis Antoine de Bougainville, a Frenchman who sailed around

The actual flowers of the *Bougainvillea* are unimpressively small yellowish-white waxy tubes.

The blooming flower is surrounded by 1–2" long papery bracts, which are responsible for the colorful display for which this plant is famous.

This species and hybrids are very prolific



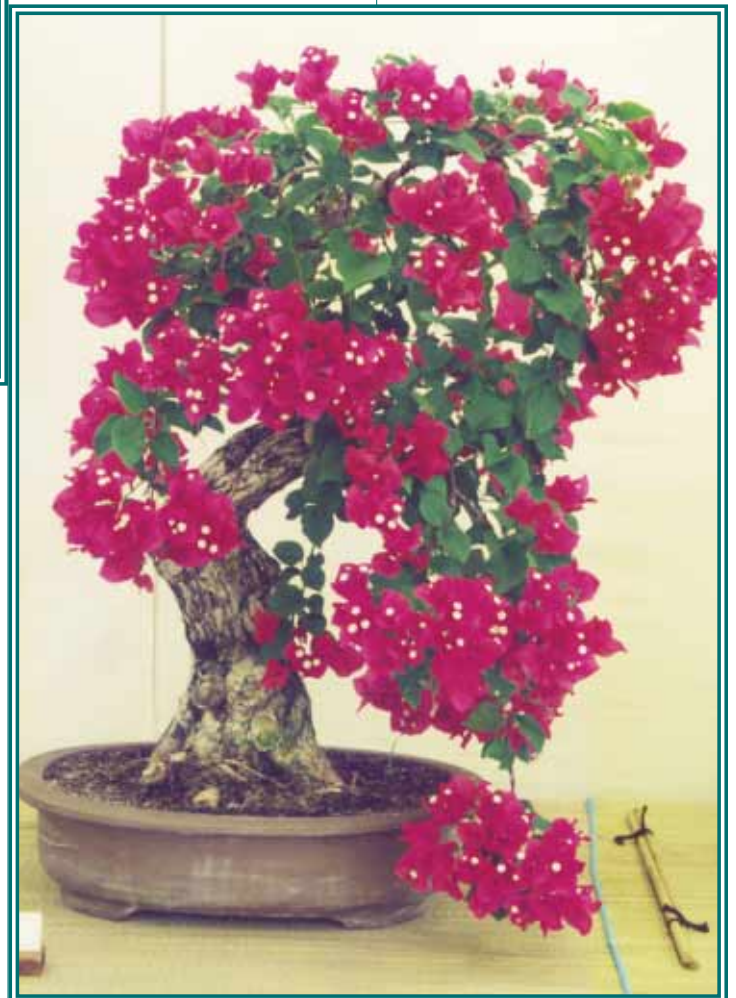
Si-Diao BSF 2008



Right now, as caretaker of the ten unbelievable trees for next year's BSF Convention workshop, I am awarded daily with great color. My backyard looks like it's on fire! These trees are all different, and can be styled in any way the workshop participant desires. I don't yet have a favorite of any of the trees, but have sketched a possible design for one of them (see page 2).

the world and discovered the plant in Brazil in 1768.

The *Bougainvillea* is mostly evergreen or semi-evergreen, dropping its leaves for a brief period in winter. There are several species and hybrids in cultivation, all of which are great for either container growing or landscape planting.



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growers, and most bloom year round.

I've learned over the years that when grown for bonsai, plants that are slightly pot

bound will flower best. They can be "forced" to flower by allowing the roots to dry out. I fertilize with Miracle-Gro® once a week throughout the year, and use a good well-draining bonsai mix for soil.

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Sean Smith & Ed Trout*

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