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THE CELTIS AS BONSAI MATERIAL

The Celtis-group is part of the Elm-family (Ulmaceae) which is found in all parts of the world.

As a deciduous tree, it is one of the most suitable species for Bonsai.

Members of the Ulmaceae-family, especially the Celtises are found in the collections of well-known Bonsai masters such as John Naka, Ben Oki, Richard Ota, Frank Goya, Hirashi Takeyama, WM N Valavanis, Dr. Yee-Sun Wu and others.

An interesting article by Sinkichi Kano, who specializes in the Zelkova, the sister of the Celtis, was published in a publication of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens in New York entitled "Handbook on Dwarfed Potted Trees". Mr. Kano specializes in the broom style with excellent results.

I find the White Stinkwoods enchanting. I'm not a winter person but they make my winters special. I am fascinated by the shape of the tree, its soft lines and its grace and elegance. Because of its delicacy it can easily be described as one of the ballerinas of the "bonsai world".

Although, the exceptional structure of the tree is hidden behind its leaves in summer, it is a tree for the rest of the year. During autumn it is most beautiful when its leaves turn into colours of old gold. It is a distinguished tree when it has shed its leaves in winter and its entire structure, from the elegant trunk to the delicate twigs is etched against a blue winter sky. During spring you will once again fall in love with it as with a young bride when it buds and the beautiful new leaves appear.

I agree with Lynn Perry Alstadt when she says: "After nearly twenty years of living with my Zelkova, (in my case Celtis), I am not sure if I take care of it by performing the daily ministering of its needs or if it takes care of me by providing that special peace of mind which comes from having looked at a work of art and found it satisfying, rewarding ... inspiring ..."