

# *Neea Buxifolia*

A WORKSHOP WITH TOBY DIAZ

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I was first introduced to the *Neea buxifolia* when I visited Pedro Morales in Puerto Rico in 2004. I was invited to view Pedro's collection and was in awe of the

very straight with most of the branches growing straight up as well in order to reach the sun. It has compact small leaves, a small yellow bell-shaped flower, and red berries.

there. It is not easy work! You must fight hilly, and heavily wooded terrain to find the trees. You will see many trees, but very rarely do you find one with much trunk movement or a very large nebari. It's an exciting experience but certainly not for everyone.

Luckily you don't have to fly to Puerto Rico to find your own tree! BSF will be offering a Shohin *Neea* workshop at the 2008 convention to be held in June at Cape Canaveral.

These trees were sent to us from Puerto Rico several months ago after being hand-picked for this workshop. As part of our continued effort to provide the best workshop material possible, we have changed the soil and these trees are ready to be reworked and repotted at the convention. They are being looked over and maintained by



many fine examples of this plant. The *Neea* is native to the north side of Puerto Rico. It is a tree that grows in the wooded and hilly areas of the island. Normally it grows

These characteristics make it excellent material for bonsai, and a local favorite! I have visited Puerto Rico several times since, and had the opportunity to collect *Nees*



Si-Diao BSF 2008



# *Neea Buxifolia*

CONTINUED

Toby Diaz who will lead the workshop in June. Toby will teach you the secrets and techniques you need to create a high quality shohin from this material. Toby is well-versed in these trees having plenty of opportunity to work with them on his frequent trips to Puerto Rico when he visits family and friends. I think everyone who participated or observed his workshop on *Bucida spinosa* at the 2007 convention was impressed. Everyone left with a beautiful tree, this was due in part to the work he did prior to the convention in preparing the trees so they did not need to be "cut-back hard." The *Neeas* you will work on will get this same special care, so you should leave with a tree that you could exhibit in the near future. This workshop will book up fast so make sure to register early.



The workshop fee is \$125 (definitely a good price for this material). They all have a nebari of about 1½–2 inches and a height of 5–6 inches, as well as plenty of branching with which to work.

*Erik Wigert*



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