The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

June 2013

VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI SOCIETY

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2012 – 13 VIBS Officers

President: Randy Kowalchuk
Vice President: Mark Paterson
Past president: Bob Taylor
Treasurer: Larry Phillips
Secretary: Vacant
Newsletter& Website: John Mitchell
Librarian: Laurie Kowalchuk

Next Society meeting: Monday, June 17th 2013

Show & Tell: Bring in your June-flowering trees – or any tree that you think is looking particularly good. There should still be some Satsuki azaleas out there in their prime!

Demonstration: Bring in your trees and work on them, with, or without advice from the "experts". We will have some seasonal advice for your pines.

Raffle table: We will have the always popular raffle table – please bring in your donations to support the Society. Word is there might be a nice little Tokoname pot, a few bonsai starter trees, decorative items, books & other fine wares.

Attendance raffle – as a little something to encourage attendance we will hold a special raffle between 8:30 and 9:00. First prize will be a Japanese Tokoname pot, second prize- a piece of lace rock. Raffle tickets , 1 per person, will be passed out at the door (no charge).

Last meeting – Judy's Japanese Quince in flower

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Our new Show & Tell format

At the May meeting we tried out our new Show & Tell format. People who brought in trees attended at their trees and spoke to those interested in the display. The format seemed to work well and there was lots of conversation between the presenters and other members.

Teague taking his turn … nice selection of azaleas!

Feast your eyes!

Jane talks azaleas …

The primary feature of the new format is that people are at the front with their trees and able to talk about the various features in front of the group. In past people were often seated in the audience and some of the discussion was "lost". We will continue in this style for the next couple of Show & Tell sessions. Please let us know how you think this new format is working – we will take a moment at the meeting to solicit input and if it seems to be working for the members we will continue.

Beginner's Luck continued …

I mentioned in the last newsletter that it seems that new members have great success with our raffles. Russell Nurseries presented us with a lovely bonsai pot in appreciation for the introductory course we put on. We put the pot up for raffle and sure enough, our most recent member, who joined the club at the last meeting, won the pot. Nicely done sir!

Our newest member with his pot and a little something else from the raffle table.

Remember – June 30th is the deadline for early registration at the 24th Annual Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association convention in Spokane, WA. On the weekend of Sept 19 – 22, 2013.

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N E W S L E T T E R

The never-ending search for bonsai pots … last November I reported that good bonsai pots were becoming increasingly hard to find on Vancouver Island, and that one of the old reliable sources, the Market at Coombs, announced that they were not going to be stocking bonsai pots in future because of difficulties finding dependable suppliers of good quality bonsai pots in Asia.

What they didn't mention to me at the time was that they seemingly had every intention of continuing to be an outstanding source of pots of most every description, including several styles suitable for bonsai, as well as an excellent source of bamboo & related items. On a tour up-island on June 7th, Bob, George and I stopped in for a wee break (did I spell that right?) and discovered a bit of a bonanza. Here are a few photos:

Above: some of last year's stock is still available

Pots at Coombes – continued …

Left: Bob looking over the non-bonsai selection.

Below: Some pots are big enough to grow people in!

Some new styles this year!

Photos: John Mitchell

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N E W S L E T T E R

How about a door prize? In a stroke of utter brilliance, Randy, or was it Bob … or Larry? No, I believe it was Randy … came up with the idea that there should always be a little something in place to encourage attendance at our meetings … So … we will be implementing an "Attendance Raffle" – tickets will be given out at the door as members arrive and toward the end of the evening we will draw a ticket (or two) on something very nice. This month we have two lovely Japanese Tokoname bonsai pots from Sue M's collection (speaking of where to find that ever-so-rare specimen – a Japanese bonsai pot!).

This pot: 7½" x 11" inside

This pot: 6½" x 10 inside

There it is: in addition to a veritable encyclopedia of collected bonsai knowledge, fascinating demonstrations, the popular show & tell, the raffle table and, of course, the camaraderie of your fellow bonsai-afflicted members, you now have a door prize! You must be present to collect your prize! Life is good.

June – July Bonsai Care

Continue feeding with a balance fertilizer (10-10-10, 15-15-15, 20-20-20) diluted to half strength every two weeks.

Watch out on those hot days – if you are watering by hand be sure you're not missing anyone! Water twice a day – morning & evening. It's time to move hornbeams, azaleas and other heat-sensitive trees to open shade or other cooler locations. Pines will love the heat but keep them moist. Check online if you have species that you are unsure of the care of – and check several sources that pertain to our climatic zone. Advice from the San Diego, New Orleans or Manila sites likely doesn't apply here in Canada's Pacific Southwest!

June – July continued

This is usually the time of year that we work intensively, pruning pine candles to redistribute energy in these apically dominant trees to effect the shortening of needles, stimulate back-budding and set the stage for next year's bud formation. This is one of the "deeper" subjects in bonsai – look for advice at the monthly meetings if you are unsure what it's about.

Partial or total defoliation of healthy trees will bring on a flush of smaller leaves – only try it every three years or so. Obtain expert advice if the concept is new to you.

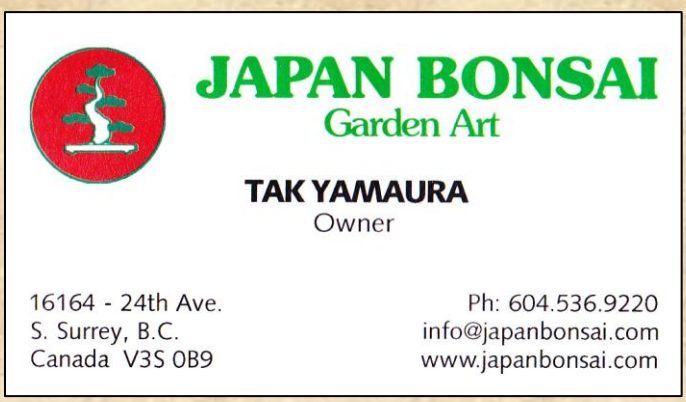
Watch for spider mites – aphids are everywhere – many caterpillars are feeding voraciously!

Read about your species – research online – ask someone with bonsai experience particular to your tree.

Bonsai Garden Update

Larry and his merry band of volunteers are working their magic, getting the Bonsai Garden in shape for the Arts & Music in the Gardens event in August and for the Grand Opening on September 15th. Please see Larry if you have any time to volunteer on Wednesdays.

Remember… when on the mainland:



There is exciting news of a really big sale at Japan Bonsai this fall! This will be a special not-to-be-missed event Sept 28th – Oct 6th. See the website: http://www.japanbonsai.com/

Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

Membership Renewal / Application Form

I wish to renew my membership _____ or I wish to apply for membership ____ (new member)

Attached is $25.00 for single membership ___ or attached is $30.00 for family membership ___

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (Home) _____ Phone (Other) _____

Please provide your e-mail address for information about various activities and notification of the posting of the Newsletter to the website: _____

If you are mailing this form, please mail to:

Vancouver Island Bonsai Society
Membership Coordinator
PO Box 8674
Victoria, BC
V8W 3S2

Jane's Satsuki azalea - May meeting