

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

August 2014



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2014 VIBS Officers

President: Mark Paterson
Vice President: Teague Griffin
Treasurer: Larry Phillips
Secretary: Tibby Solloway
2014 Convention chair: Bob Taylor
Door & Raffle: Susan Vidal
Librarian: Kathi Morrison
Newsletter & Website: John Mitchell

Next Society meeting: Monday, August 18th, 2014
7:30 pm at Garth Homer Centre

Theme: Teague will style a large collected Mountain Hemlock

Expert advice: There is a standing invitation to all members to bring in any tree that you would like an opinion or advice on – tap into several hundred years of collective bonsai experience.

Raffle table: Any contributions to the raffle table will be very much appreciated by all. One of our few fund raisers for the club and a very popular feature of our monthly meeting.

Club activities: Please give some thought to what you would like to see happening in the club this year. Feedback from the membership about what you would like by way of bonsai-related activities helps us structure our meetings.

Buy & Sell: trees or stock – members are invited to bring bonsai-related items and sell them at the meeting.

Show & Tell: bring in any trees of interest to discuss with us!

Work on your tree – please feel free to bring in a tree to work on, if you like. Assistance is always available.

Entering the building: Please be aware that the front door is the only entry/exit to the building. Security has become a significant issue for the Garth Homer administration and access to the building is now limited to the front door.

Library: Please return library books that you have borrowed so that others may enjoy them, too.

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Arts & Music in the Gardens

The weekend of August 9th & 10th saw great weather and many visitors to one of Victoria's finest art events. The Bonsai Garden drew enthusiastic comments from the many people who strolled the pathways to take in the magnificent setting and very well-displayed bonsai.



Left: Bob & Larry apply their styling talents to a Tsukiuomo cypress. (Photo by Mark Taylor)

Below: Teague, Bob & Tibby field questions from visitors and work at styling trees at the VIBS table.



Young women from Ume Silk Kimono find the perfect setting to model traditional dress.

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Seasonal advice from Maurice:

Going through this period of hot and dry weather reminds me of my saying about bonsai "no extremes and all in moderation".

Some days were particularly extreme (bright sun, high temperatures, and wind ... or even a combination of the three!)

Extra watering is not always the answer ... even prolonged morning sun could turn your pot into a frying pan, burning new roots etc ... more cooling and misting is the answer without fertilizer or maybe even finding a temporary new location.

Should the second part of August be a bit cooler, a light fertilizer (10-15-10) may be used (avoid high nitrogen).

0-10-10 may be used for early flowering trees (fruits, azaleas, winter jasmine etc...) Insects and diseases were fairly easy to control this year (for me ...) maybe we'll have a bad winter ... meanwhile the fall colors are just around the corner...



A lovely green plum bonsai from Maurice's collection



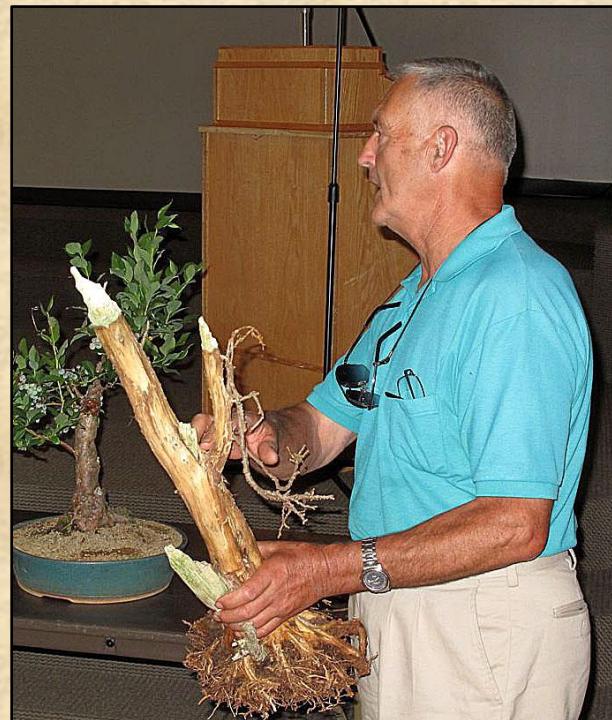
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Last Month ...



Mark & Bruno led last month's activity, creating Phoenix grafts (also known by the Japanese term Tanuki grafts). A Phoenix graft typically utilizes a piece of driftwood or a deceased tree to form the basic structure from which a new (living) tree arises (... from the "ashes"). I'm told that the Phoenix term was coined by our friend Dan Robinson from Elandan Gardens in Washington State.



Tanuki is a Japanese term for the badger, reputed to be a mischief maker in Japanese folklore. It is thought by some, apparently, that it is mischievous to practice this bit of sleight-of-hand in the creation of a bonsai.



This project is likely a work in progress.
We will await further developments!

Photos by Greg N (thanks Greg!)

Randy Clark of Charlotte, North Carolina has produced a most excellent and well-illustrated article on the Tanuki graft. See:

<http://www.bonsailearningcenter.com/IMAGES/PDF%20Files/tanuki.pdf>

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The Convention!

In Victoria!

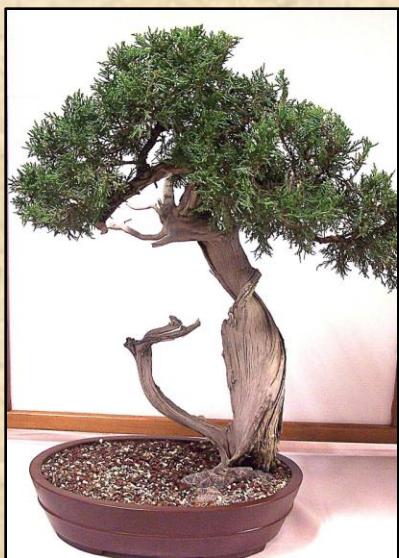
This Fall!!!

On the weekend of October 3rd, 4th and 5th this club will host the 25th Annual Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Convention.

A selection of bonsai artists of international renown have been chosen to present workshops, demos and critiques as we host the last annual PNBCA convention - henceforth our conventions will be held every two years. It is not likely that this convention will return to Victoria before 2020.

The close-to-home convenience of this event presents an opportunity that those of us on Vancouver Island should not miss, especially if you suspect that, to whatever degree, you have been infected by this peculiar bonsai bug.

The last convention held in Victoria was in 2009. I had been puttering with "bonsai" for years and had read and re-read the famous softcover Sunset Bonsai book until it disintegrated, but still couldn't admit to having kept a "bonsai" alive for more than a year or two. I dropped by the Harbour Towers Hotel on the appointed weekend, and was so taken by the bonsai that I saw on display and so intrigued by the discussions I heard, that I joined this club the following month.



A few bonsai from the 2009 Convention



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PNBCA - 2014 October 3-5, 2014

Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association
Harbour Towers Hotel, Victoria, B.C.

Single Full Registration\$265

Received before July 1st, 2014

Family Full Registration \$470

Received before July 1st, 2014

25th ANNIVERSARY!

1989 - 2014

PNBCA Bonsai Convention 2014:

Colin Lewis

Michael Hagedorn

John Romano

Tak Yamaura



Some of the Shimpaku juniper & Tsukumo cypress lined up for workshops this fall

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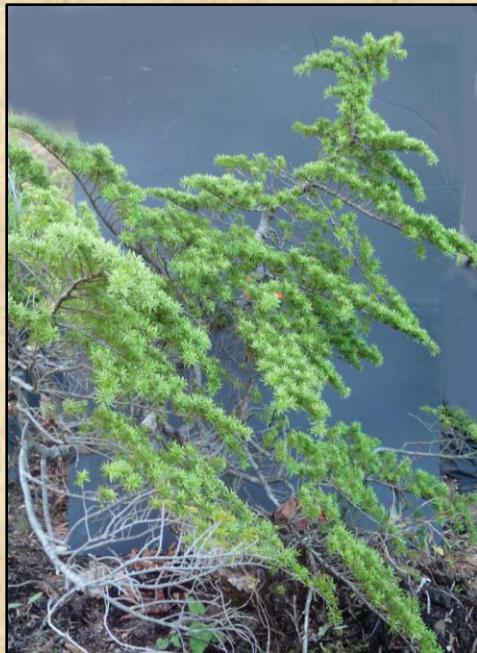
Below: Spreading Dwarf Japanese Yew (Nursery stock)



Above: Mountain Hemlock (Nursery stock)



Non-grafted Japanese Black Pine from Japan Bonsai



Some of the "large" collected (wild) Mountain Hemlock

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Here is a link to our ad on the PNBCA site:

<http://pnbc.ca/conv2014/PNBCA%202014%20Convention%20Ad.htm>

There is quite a variety of collected and nursery-sourced stock available for the workshops. Some workshops have reached capacity and are "sold out". All of the stock has potential for good bonsai especially when created under the supervision of one of the bonsai masters who will be in attendance at this conference.

Volunteers are still needed. We will continue to leave sign-up lists for volunteers at the monthly meetings. Thanks to all who have already volunteered. We will be contacting volunteers over the next few weeks with a description of your duties.

Bonsai training pots ...

Dale Martel at Elk Lake Garden Centre sent a note to say that they have brought in a large number of bonsai training pots. There are ovals, rectangles and rounds in both heavy and light plastic. Prices range from \$2.50 to \$18.00.

I haven't seen the pots ... pop in and have a look. I'll try to have a report on them next month



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Membership Renewal / Application Form 2014

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



Amazing "nebari" on a Trident maple at Japan Bonsai