

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

May 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, May 26th, 2014

7:30 pm at Garth Homer Centre

Theme: late Spring care of Maples with a view to enhancing ramification and other aspects of styling these trees.

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. It is a great fund raiser 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. We will be looking for your opinions over the next couple of months and hope that a survey will indicate what the membership wants by way of bonsai-related activities.

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.

Entering the building: Please be aware that the front door is the only entry/exit to the building.

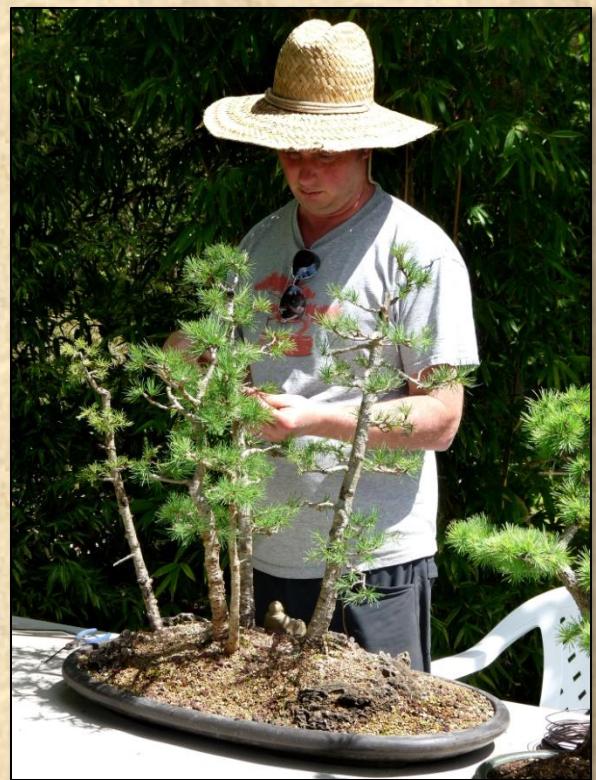
Membership Cards! At long last Membership cards will be available to all with a current 2014 Membership. Some nurseries and garden centres offer a discount when you show them your card.

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society NEWSLETTER

Field Day/ Open Garden Day at the Hort Centre



Unlike last year, the weather wasn't an issue as we hosted Field Day 2014 in the Bonsai Garden at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific. Some of the more experienced members of the club demonstrated techniques on bonsai from their collections, while other members sought input and advice for their trees.



It has only been two years this month since the initial band of volunteers began the task of converting a grassy meadow into the specialty garden that it is today.

Extensive underground irrigation was installed, benches and stands were built, pathways created and a small shelter was erected in a location with a lovely view of the gardens and the pond in the distance. The site is surrounded by mature trees of many species creating the feeling of "a clearing in the forest". It's quite magical no matter what the weather!

It is our understanding that this is only the second public bonsai garden in Canada after the Montreal Botanical Garden's bonsai collection in their Japanese Garden:

<http://espacepourlavie.ca/en/gardens-japanese-garden>

Above: Teague working on a larch forest

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There are a number of significant bonsai gardens in the USA ... among others, the Matthaei Bonsai & Penjing Collection in Ann Arbor, Michigan:

(<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/mbg/see/bonsai/styles.asp>), the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt: <http://gardensatlakemerritt.org/gardens/bonsai-garden/>) and, of course, the spectacular Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection: <http://pacificrimbonsai.com/> all worthy of note (and a visit!).



George looks over a colour catalogue of his trees

Our local gem, the Bonsai Garden at the Hort Centre is the realization of a vision held for many years by George Heffelfinger whose desire it is to share his passion for bonsai with as many people as possible and, in so doing, encourage a greater participation in this intriguing horticultural art form. A significant part of George's collection now resides here.

Larry Phillips, our club treasurer and Vice President of the Hort Centre, made a touching and eloquent tribute in dedicating a plaque recognising George's role in the establishment of the Bonsai Garden. Most of the trees in the Garden are from George's collection, acquired and maintained over the thirty plus years of his passionate pursuit of plants in pots.

It is expected that, in future, trees from other collections will join George's trees in the garden as people make plans for the continuing care of species that may well live into the hundreds of years. We fully expect that, over the decades to come, the Bonsai Garden at the Hort Centre will continue to evolve and mature for the enjoyment of all who appreciate the art & science of little trees in pots.

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Last Meeting:

The theme was flowering bonsai and, once again, Maurice stole the show with his beautiful trees. Thanks for sharing Maurice!



I realize that anyone who knows me will find this a little difficult to comprehend but it seems that from the time of the meeting, until this evening, I seem to have misplaced my notes, so can't identify the various trees pictured ... except for the lovely Bitter Cherry, pictured at far right. I think I'll go back to writing notes on my hand.

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Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association 25th Anniversary Convention

October 3rd - 5th, 2014

Four short months from now this Society is hosting the last annual PNBCA convention - from now on they'll only be held every two years.

These conventions are very significant events for bonsai loving people, with the finest trees in the region on display and bonsai masters from around the continent presenting workshops in their various tree styling specialties. In addition, there will be demonstrations, sales tables, good food and many people who share your interest in miniature trees.

We last hosted the 2009 convention and we are looking forward to putting the show on again in the same venue: the Harbour Towers Hotel in Victoria.



VANCOUVER ISLAND
BONSAI SOCIETY

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

The advertising for the Convention began last fall at the 2013 Convention in Spokane and some workshops sold out right away. There is still time to register for most workshops but do remember that space is very limited. Registration before July 31st will save you \$20! Here are the registration forms:

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2014 Pacific Northwest Bonsai Convention
"25th Anniversary Celebration"
Thursday Oct.2, Friday Oct.3, Saturday Oct.4, Sunday Oct. 5 2014

Name: _____
2nd person, same household: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State/Province: _____
Zip/Postal Code: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____
Club Affiliation: _____

Registration Fees

Full Registration	Fee	Quantity	Amount
Individual	\$265.00	_____	_____
Received after July 31, 2014	\$285.00	_____	_____
Family (two from the same household)	\$470.00	_____	_____
Received after July 31, 2014	\$510.00	_____	_____
Total Full Registration		Subtotal A	_____

Single Event Registration (All Included in full registration) (Must register before September 19, 2014)

Friday All Day (Demo's, Workshop observer, Exhibit admission, Evening Reception)	\$100	_____	_____
Friday Evening Reception	\$50	_____	_____
Saturday All Day (Demo's, Workshop observer, Exhibit admission, Evening Reception)	\$115	_____	_____
Saturday Lunch	\$35	_____	_____
Saturday Evening Banquet	\$55	_____	_____
Sunday (Morning Programs, Workshop Observer, Exhibit admission, Lunch)	\$65	_____	_____
Admission to the Exhibit	\$5.00	_____	_____
Admission to the Marketplace	No Charge	Subtotal B	_____
Total Single Event Registration			

Exhibit Critiques

1. Friday 5:30 PM - John Romano	\$25.00	1st person	2nd person
2. Saturday 5:30 PM - Colin Lewis	\$25.00	_____	_____
3. Saturday 5:30 PM - Michael Hagedorn	\$25.00	_____	_____
4. Sunday 6:00 AM - Tak Yamaura	\$25.00	_____	_____
Total Critiques		Subtotal C	_____

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2014 Pacific Northwest Bonsai Convention
 "25th Anniversary Celebration"
 Thursday Oct.2, Friday Oct.3, Saturday Oct.4, Sunday Oct. 5 2014

Name:

Friday 8 - 12 AM	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	Amount
1. John Romano - \$225.00 Shohin Black Pine, not grafted	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Colin Lewis - \$225.00 ML Hemlock (3 Gallon)	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Michael Hagedorn - \$275.00 ML Hemlock (Collected)	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Tak Yamaura - \$370.00 Tsukomo Cypress	_____	_____	_____	_____
 Friday 1 - 6 PM				
1. John Romano - \$225.00 Shohin Shore Pine	FULL	FULL	FULL	FULL
2. Colin Lewis - \$300.00 Korean Hornbeam (small)	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Michael Hagedorn - \$275.00 Shimpaku Juniper	_____	_____	_____	_____
 Saturday 8 - 12 PM				
1. John Romano - \$100.00 Shohin Spruce	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Colin Lewis - \$275.00 Shore Pine - Literati	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Michael Hagedorn - \$225.00 ML Hemlock (small)	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Tak Yamaura - \$670.00 Shimpaku	_____	_____	_____	_____
 Saturday 1 - 6 PM				
1. John Romano - \$150.00 Shohin Japanese Yew	_____	_____	_____	_____
 Total Workshops, Subtotal D				_____

If a second person wishes to attend a workshop, please complete a page for that person.
 NOTE: this is only available to Family Registrations.

Full Registration Total (A)	_____
Single Event Total (B)	_____
Critique Total (C)	_____
Workshop Total (D)	_____
 GRAND TOTAL	_____

All payments must be made in Canadian funds.
 Method of Payment

Cheque	Visa	MasterCard	Amex
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Card #

VCC # (from back of card) _____
 Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please make cheques payable to Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

I agree to hold the Vancouver Island Bonsai Society, the Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association, their members and the workshop Artists harmless for damages from acts or omissions that may occur in the course of the workshop.

Signature of Participant: _____

Date: _____

18/05/2014

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From Out-of-Town? When making reservations be sure you let the hotel know that you are attending the PNBCA Convention in order to get the special rate: \$99.00/night for Standard Residential View & \$129.00 for Superior Ocean View. Rates will be good for 3 days prior and 3 days after the Convention. See:
<http://www.harbourtowers.com/>

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Mail Registration and Payment to:
Vancouver Island Bonsai Society
P.O. Box 8674
Victoria, BC V8P 2P3

Registrar: Tibby Solloway
Phone: 250-748-9369
Email: tibbyis@shaw.ca

Payment Policy

1. Early registration - payment in full with registration before July 31, 2014
2. Standard registration - payment in full with registration after July 31, 2014
3. We can accept checks, Visa, MasterCard, or American Express.
4. No refunds after September 1, 2014.
5. Workshop cancellations after August 15 2014; workshop fee will only be refunded if the space can be filled.

Workshop Sign-up Policy

1. All workshop participants must be registered for the Convention.
2. Day registrants are eligible for workshops, but full registrants will have priority.
3. Please indicate alternate choice of workshop in case your first choice is filled.
Your deposit must equal your most expensive choice. Any difference will be refunded at the convention.
4. Workshops will be filled based on the following:
 - a. Participants who register at the 2013 convention will receive their choice of workshops unless the number of early registrants exceeds the available spaces, in which case the participants will be selected by a random drawing.
 - b. All other participants will receive their choice of workshop based on the date their registration is received.

Release and Waiver for Workshop and other Event Participants and Observers

I, _____, acknowledge that I am voluntarily observing or participating in workshops or other Convention events being held by Vancouver Island Bonsai Society at the Pacific Northwest Bonsai Convention from October 2, through October 5, 2014. I am aware that working with bonsai tools, both hand and power, is a hazardous activity. I am voluntarily observing or participating in these activities and acknowledge the danger involved. I agree to accept all risk of injury involved in these activities.

As consideration for being permitted by the Vancouver Island Bonsai Society to participate in these events, I hereby agree that I, my assigns, heirs, distributes, guardians, or legal representatives will not make claim against, sue, or attach the property of the Vancouver Island Bonsai Society, the Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association, the Workshop or Event Instructors or Leaders or their Assistants for injury or damages resulting from my participation in, or observation of any of the Convention workshops or other events, including injury or damages that may be caused by the actions of other participants. I hereby release and agree to indemnify the Vancouver Island Bonsai Society, the Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association, the Workshop or Event Instructors and Leaders and their Assistants from all action, claims, or demands that I or my assignees, heirs, distributes, guardians, or legal representatives may have for any injury or damages resulting from my observation of, or participation in any of the Convention events or workshops.

I have carefully read this agreement and fully understand its content. I acknowledge that this document / waiver is a release of liability and a contract between me and the Vancouver Island Bonsai Society.

Printed Name

Signature and Date

From Out-of-Town? When making reservations be sure you let the hotel know that you are attending the PNBCA Convention in order to get the special rate: \$99.00/night for Standard Residential View & \$129.00 for Superior Ocean View. Rates will be good for 3 days prior and 3 days after the Convention. See:
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Membership Cards!

Membership Cards will be available for pick up starting with the May meeting. If you live north of Duncan and don't regularly get to a meeting, we will be happy to mail your cards to you.

Some garden centres and nurseries offer discounts if you show your membership card.

Mr Fertilizer Hydroponics: I happened to be passing this establishment in Victoria and thought I would stop in and see if I could engage the proprietor in a discussion on one of my favourite topics (growing things!). As it turned out, our discussion turned to discounts to garden club members. These good people were incredibly receptive to the suggestion and mentioned something in the range of 15% (if I recall correctly - ask first)!

This store carries quite an array of products (ahem) - fertilizers of every description including Superthrive, specialty pots of all sorts, growing media, some of which might suit bonsai and some really neat little bonsai scissors that after the club discount, come in at about \$12 and a bit of change, plus tax, of course.



I've carried these little shears in my kit for several years (purchased in Calgary for \$18) and have found them to be very well made and useful.

Look! There's even Bonsai on the package!

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May/June Bonsai Care Tips

Keep a close watch on training wires, if you use them. Vigorous growth in some species will have the bark swelling into wire that is too tight on the branch. The marks are unsightly and the branch may die.

Be prepared to move some bonsai into the shade as days continue to lengthen & grow warmer. Hornbeam, most maples and many other deciduous trees prefer dappled, or open, shade.

If you see indications, spray for insects with an organic insecticide like Safer's soap, Neem oil or, in the case of caterpillars, Bt mixture.

Continue to fertilize with a balanced fertilizer(e.g., 15-15-15) at half strength every two or three weeks.

Plant a wooden "moisture stick" in your pots - use half clothespins, BBQ skewers, a short piece of dowel rod, etc. Pull out every few days and examine it to see whether the stick, and therefore the soil, is moist.

Pruning -let branches grow on deciduous trees until 2 or 3 sets of leaves are present then cut back to one or two - it helps keep internodes short & better proportioned. Prune back to the leaf growing in the direction you want to train the branch to go.

Google your species - specify "bonsai" - look for seasonally appropriate tips. Here's a site:
<http://www.brusselsbonsai.com/bonsai-care.cfm> There are many, many others.

Azaleas can be pruned now that blossoms are spent.

The rules of pruning are not universal - look up techniques for your trees or ask someone who has had success with your species. Proper pruning technique can make the difference in shaping your trees by properly directing growth and keeping internodes short.

If you have an irrigation system, be sure it is working dependably. One of these days it may just get hot and the protective effect of all this misty, moisty weather will be a distant memory and it will be time for the newsletter guy to resurrect that 'steer skull/ dead tree under the broiling sun' image again.

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Last November I reported on an Elm that I air layered successfully. Both the parent tree & air layer have leafed-out and are now growing very vigorously.



From the middle to the end of May is an ideal time to air layer deciduous trees - I'm working on crab-apple, hawthorn and elm.

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Elm (likely *Ulmus carpinifolia*) parent (left) & air layer (right) - May 2014



JAPAN BONSAI
Garden Art

TAK YAMAURA
Owner

16164 - 24th Ave.
S. Surrey, B.C.
Canada V3S 0B9

Ph: 604.536.9220
info@japanbonsai.com
www.japanbonsai.com

unless otherwise noted, all photos by John Mitchell

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society
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Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

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

