

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

April 2016



Inside!

April meeting
Green Thumb Nursery
trip
Contribution trees
Fresh Spring leaves
Announcements and
Calendar items!
... and more

2014 VIBS Officers

President: Mark Paterson
Vice President: Vacant
Past President: Bob Taylor
Treasurer: Larry Phillips
Secretary: Jim Haskins
Door & Raffle: Susan Vidal
Librarian: Kathi Morrison
Newsletter & Website: John Mitchell
Also: Jim Morrison; Maurice Bombezin, Randy Kowalchuk

Next Society meeting: Monday, April 18th, 2016

7:00 pm at Couvelier Pavilion, HCP

Scheduled: **Theme:** Distribution and initial styling of "Contribution Trees" as discussed at the February & March meetings.

Show & Tell: Green Thumb Nursery trees, VIRAGS winners, trees with fresh spring growth.

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.

Club activities: Please share your thoughts on activities that you would like to see. The Activities Calendar on the VIBS webpage has been updated for 2016

<http://www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca/bonsaiCalendar.htm>

Raffle table: Please consider bringing an item for the raffle table - it is a good fund-raiser for club events and this year promises to be a very good year for special events.



Last month ...

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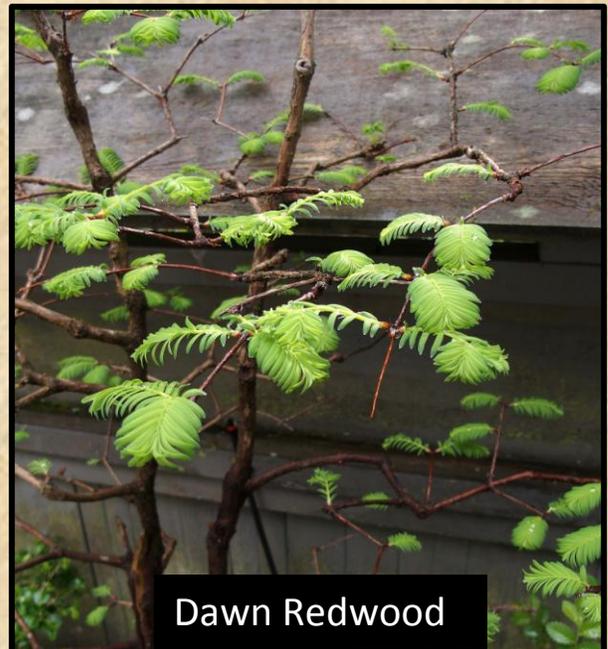
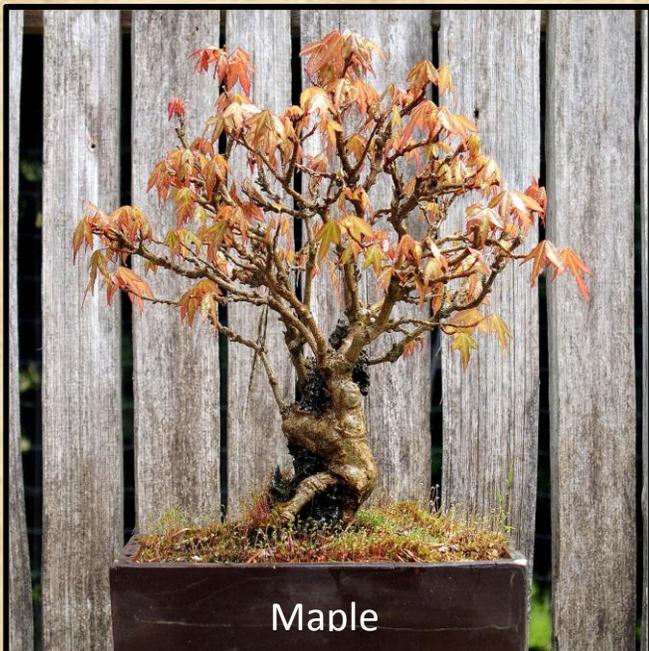
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Greetings all

Our growing season is well underway. It's getting to be time to pinch candles on pines and spray for caterpillars with Bt (organic product that kills leaf-munching larvae) ... and many other vital bonsai-care tasks.

This month:

The Fresh Growth of Springtime ...



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The Fresh Growth of Spring leaves ... continued:

Acer palmatum Akita yatsubusa
... reminds me of something ...



Japanese Quince



Creeping Alpine Willow (*Salix*
nakamura 'Yezoalpina')



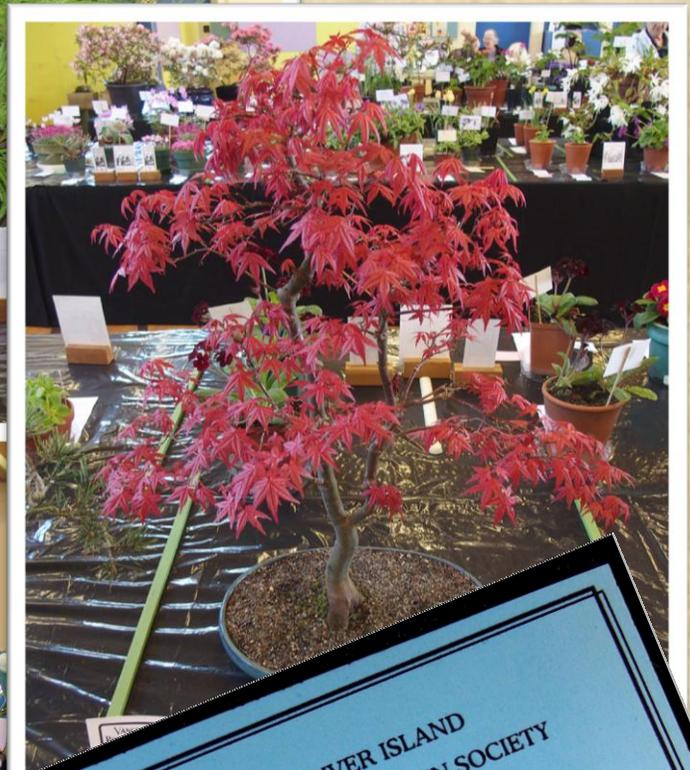
Japanese maple - variety unknown

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Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Society (VIRAGS) Spring Show

On April 8th & 9th the Cadboro Bay United Church was the venue for the annual alpine show & sale. There were wonderful specimens of alpine plants, succulents and bonsai. Maurice took away most of the top prizes for bonsai with his phenomenal Larch, a red-leafed Japanese maple and a crabapple in full blossom.



Congratulations Maurice!

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Here are a few of Maurice's lovely trees in bloom. Most, if not all, were air-layered from neighbourhood trees.



Azalea

Photos by Maurice B



Plum



Crabapple

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Club Trip to Green Thumb Nursery, Nanaimo

By Mark Paterson

Green Thumb Wholesale Nursery is always fun. It is located in Nanaimo right behind Green Thumb Retail Nursery. There are 7 acres of trees and shrubs and to walk every isle without stopping would take about 2 hours.



Caroline, Daphnie, Brian, Lili, David and I (and my son Finn!) Arrived at Green Thumb at about 9:30am. We drove to the back of the nursery where there were mostly evergreens. Tuesday's selection of trees worth looking at included: pines, hemlocks, junipers, boxwood, cryptomeria, larches, yew and spruce. It was Daphne who found the first good piece of stock, an "S" shaped Chinese juniper.

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We tried to follow some of the suggestions we discussed at the March meeting about tree selection. The 3 gallon white pine section had about 60 trees. We went through and picked the 10 most promising trees. With those trees we dug around the roots only to find the graft line was hidden by dirt. After some serious scrutiny, Lili and Caroline each chose a high quality white Pine.

We skipped the “standard” trees, tall trees with straight trunks. But the greenhouses had azeleas, heather, California lilac; and the field behind that had potentilla, rhodos and way, way more. It was

good to see everyone recognizing what a block of trees worth passing over looked like. We made good time looking mostly at blocks with favorable looking stock that we would then choose the best out of.

We could have spent another hour or two wandering and looking, but I had to work in the evening and I was the guide, so we got to the checkout at 11:30am. At less then 50% retail cost we spent over \$400 on tree stock. Gerhard, the owner, said that as the economy picks up he will have less overgrown stock but more new stock, So Green Thumb will be a great place to go for some time to come. As we have introduced non-wholesale friends to Green Thumb, they are now qualified to bring still more bonsai/non-wholesalers to Green Thumb without me.



Photos contributed by Mark P

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How to make everyone a bonsai in a few months

By Mark Paterson

A teacher once said to me “better a tree now than a tree in 5 years.”

The idea behind the Contribution Tree Program is, simply, if one of the society's goals is to demonstrate bonsai technique, we should encourage each member to create a bonsai. We will sell the trees at the HCP's yearly Art and Music in the Gardens (August 6th & 7th), thereby recovering the cost of the trees and you will have had the experience of styling a bonsai.

We will begin shaping these trees at the April meeting where we are giving them to members who have signed up for the program. You can buy your tree for \$15, if you want to, right at the meeting. They will need time to recover and heal after their shaping. We will pot the healthiest of them up at the end of the June meeting. We will help others pot theirs up over the next month through the mentorship program. If you haven't bought your tree yet the bonsai will be \$30 for the potted bonsai (or \$15 more for the pot). We will price the trees at \$45 for the HCP sale.

All the trees selected have a decent-sized trunk, most have a bit of movement in the trunk & branches, and all have a good amount of foliage. WE WILL MAKE A SIMPLE BONSAI WITH A N INTERESTING TRUNK AND FULL CANOPY. This is actually a somewhat difficult task. The intention of this program is to have a tree which will sell in 4 months. These are actually two incompatible philosophies which I would love to untangle for you.

Coming events:

March 26th – April 24th Stone Images VII at the Pacific Bonsai Museum, Federal Way, WA
Viewing stones, large and small, collected by PSBA members in Washington State rivers will go on display at the [Pacific Bonsai Museum](#) in Federal Way starting March 26 in the Viewing Stone Interest Group's annual exhibit.

The show will run from March 26 to April 24 with the final two days being held in conjunction with Puget Sound Bonsai Association's spring show.

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The show, Stone Images VII, is the seventh annual exhibit staged by the group at the museum and the group's 10th show since it was founded in 2006. The Viewing Stone Interest Group is a study group affiliated with PSBA.

Viewing stones have a long tradition in Asia where they are called suiseki in Japan, gongshi in China and suseok in Korea. The stones are often displayed with bonsai but also can be exhibited by themselves. This year's exhibit features a number of stones collected in 2015 when record low water levels caused by last year's drought exposed river stones that had not been exposed for decades. <http://www.psba.us/home/march-26-april-24-stone-images-vii-at-pacific-bonsai-museum.html>

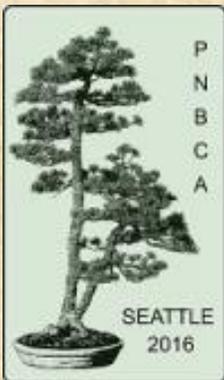
May 8th Annual Bonsai Club Field Day at the Bonsai Garden at HCP 10AM until 4PM March.

May 28th Workshop Introduction to and Care of Bonsai presented by **Maurice Bombezin**
Time: 8:30 AM – 12:30PM Classroom at HCP. Free to bonsai club members. Limited to 12 participants. There will be no "silent observers" at this event. Bring your own tree.

June 11th Bonsai pot and slab workshop. **Anton Nijhuis** from Campbell River will present an all-day workshop on building bonsai pots and slabs using a variety of cement mixtures and wire 'armatures'. Participants will be able to learn techniques and take home a bonsai pot or slab to use for your bonsai or landscape groups. All materials supplied.

September 25th David DeGroot Shaping & Advanced Styling 2 Sessions 8AM and 1PM Each session limited to 6 participants & 12 "silent observers". Bring Your Own Tree Participant fee: \$150 Observer fee: \$20

October 13 – 16 Puget Sound Bonsai Association will be hosting the **PNBCA Bonsai Convention**



October 13-16, 2016 (**It's All About The Trees**) at the beautiful Red Lion Olympia Hotel located at 2300 Evergreen Park Drive SW in Olympia, WA 98502. Call (360) 943-4000 for reservations. Event co-chairs Linda Breeden and Doug Bradley have been busy collecting workshop trees and plan to offer a number of workshops for beginners and advanced students. Special emphasis will be on shohin and collected material. There will also be special programs on viewing stones and antique pots. **The Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association (PNBCA) includes clubs from British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Its purpose is to share information**

among member organizations More information and Registration: <http://www.psba.us/pnbca-2016/>

For a complete list of events please see the Activities Calendar on our website: <http://www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca/bonsaiCalendar.htm>

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Bonsai events coming in May

Field Day May 8th The Bonsai Garden at HCP will provide a spectacular setting for Field Day. This event continues a long-established tradition in this club and provides an opportunity to get together and talk with others with an interest in bonsai and to sell or purchase bonsai and related items. Members are encouraged to bring trees/ bonsai to work on. There will be a limited supply of bonsai soil available for sale. This is always a most enjoyable activity.

May 28th Workshop Introduction to and Care of Bonsai presented by **Maurice Bombezin** Time: 8:30 AM – 12:30PM Classroom at HCP. **Free to bonsai club members. Limited to 12 participants so sign up soon!** There will be no "silent observers" at this event. **Bring your own tree. This is a super opportunity for those new to bonsai to get individualized instruction and advice from one of the local bonsai greats!**

Remembering ... Ellsbeth Patricia (Trisha) Wainman-Wood



Actor, lecturer, photographer, mother. Born Sept 2, 1931 in Kelowna. Died on January 16, 2016 in Victoria, of natural causes. Aged 84

A fondly remembered former member of the Vancouver Island Bonsai Club, Trisha divided her time between a hobbit style bungalow on a tidal creek in Victoria, where she fed the ducks, and a rustic cabin by the sea on Gabriola Island. She meditated, was a whiz at Boggle, took up table tennis, grew bonsai trees, gardened extravagantly and became active in environmental causes. Our sincere condolences go out to Trisha's friends and family.

- contributed to the Globe & Mail by Bonnie Laing. Published Tuesday, April 05, 2016. Edited hv IM

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Membership Renewal / Application Form 2016

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

Attached is \$30.00 for single membership _____ or attached is \$35.00 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, B.C.
V8W 3S2



Stepping stones, as found in the garden of member Ron W. They're Japanese symbols for Spring, Summer, Autumn and ... Spring. **No Winter!** Just like our seasons just passed.