

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

January 2017



2017 VIBS Executive

President: Mark Paterson

Vice President: Vacant

Past President: Bob Taylor

Treasurer: Larry Phillips

Secretary: Jim Haskins

Door & Raffle &

Library: Jim & Kathi Morrison

Newsletter & Website: John Mitchell

Also: Maurice Bombezin,

Randy Kowalchuk, David

Atterby, Silvia Schmidt

Next Society meeting: Monday, January 16th, 2017

7:00 pm at Couvelier Pavilion, HCP

Scheduled: Phoenix graft

Show & Tell: Phoenix graft.

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 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: There will be a raffle table this month. Feel free to bring in a bonsai-related donation!

Membership renewals: due January 1st, 2017



A snowy composition by Maurice

Photo: Maurice B.

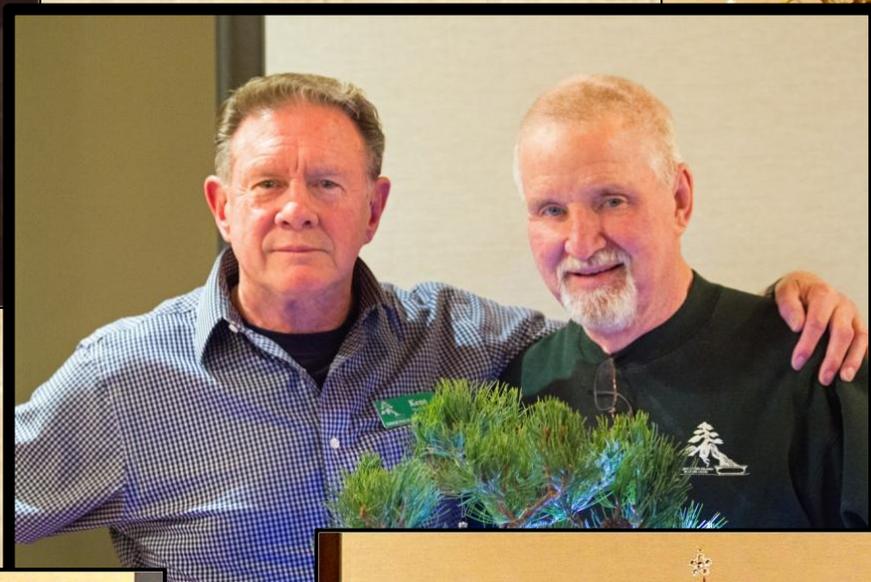
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New Year's Greetings Everyone!

At last month's meeting a small feast was on offer as our annual 'pot luck', as usual, vastly exceeded our ability to put much of a dent in the really lovely dishes that stretched across the room. Prizes were awarded for best dressed Christmas bonsai – congratulations Gary!

Below: newly inducted Life Members, Kent MacLeod and Bob Taylor were recognized for their outstanding contributions to our club over many years. Photo: Mark Taylor



Gary with his Shore Pine



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Maurice's Garden



Photos: Maurice B.

Phoenix grafts

Here's a topic that comes up now and again in bonsai circles and usually elicits a bit of controversy in the process. As in the legend that has the phoenix arising from the ashes of its own demise, the phoenix graft can resurrect a piece of driftwood or no longer living tree into a rather fine new bonsai. Phoenix graft is a term apparently coined by Dan Robinson of Elandan Gardens as an alternate name for a bonsai style that Japanese practitioners call Tanuki. Tanuki is the name given to the Japanese raccoon dog, known in legend to be a mischievous trickster and a "shape-shifter". A Tanuki or phoenix graft is the amalgamation of three main components – a tall, slender and flexible tree like a juniper, pine, yew or larch, a significantly aged but deceased tree or portion thereof and a bonsai pot. And tools. The idea

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Phoenix graft (Cont'd)

is to carve a groove in the back of the tree and affix the slender, pliable living stock to it. The two joined components then are planted in a bonsai pot and over time the two will meld together as the living tree grows. The large, aged-appearing driftwood or trunk gives the desirable look of age and the greenery grafted to it gives it life. Some say canine trickster; some say phoenix. Some like it; some ... not so much. I like the idea and to that end have been collecting peoples' deceased bonsai and hope someday to make the time to resurrect them:



Awaiting a miracle ...

Photo: John M

There is a bit more to it than that – the topic should be an interesting one at this month's meeting.

Executive member Randy Kowalchuk would like a show of interest in a bus trip to Bonsai Northwest <http://www.bonsainw.com/> and the Pacific Bonsai Museum <http://pacificbonsaimuseum.org/>

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Please remember that 2017 Membership renewals are due January 1st, 2017.

Everyone who has renewed by the “end” of the Christmas reception will be entered into a draw for the early renewal prize of a bonsai.

In 2017 we are suggesting that members think about contributing volunteer time at one of our events – a shift at The Art & Music in the (Bonsai) Gardens comes to mind or a couple of days helping out on Wednesdays at the Bonsai Garden (this can be a great learning experience!). More info to follow, I'm sure!

Decisions on styling deciduous trees can best be made when trees are in their leafless winter state (something to do on those lovely winter days!).

David DeGroot has confirmed that he will present another bonsai styling seminar September 24th, 2017. Cost \$150

Vancouver Island Bonsai Society Board of Directors - Call for Nominations

At the 2017 Annual General Meeting on **February 20, 2017** you, the members of the society, will be asked to elect Directors to the Board.

This is YOUR opportunity to participate in setting the direction of YOUR Society and helping to shape its future. Board members are elected for a 2 year term.

The Board has openings for at least 3 Directors and if you would like to nominate someone for the Board or wish to volunteer for the Board yourself please send an email to:

secretary@victoriabonsai.bc.ca providing name and contact information.

Carrying on for the 2nd year of a 2 year term are Mark Paterson, Maurice Bombezin, Randy Kowalchuk and Larry Phillips. Bob Taylor continues as past president.

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Coming events:

February:

Saturday, February 11th: Phoenix graft workshop.

Monday, Feb 20th Business: Annual General Meeting & Election of Directors **Topic:** Seasonal and Basic Care **Show & Tell:** "Nonworked" stock/tree material

March:

Friday, March 17th - & Sat March 18th Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society (VIRAGS) Spring Show & Sale

Monday, March 20 Topic: Purchasing bonsai stock (Guest speaker) **Also:** "Non-Worked" Tree Material

April:

Saturday, April 8th Beginner's Styling Workshop

Sunday, April 9th Shohin – Informal Study Group

Monday, April 17th Monthly meeting **Topic:** Wiring & Styling Trees

May:

Sunday, May 7th: Annual Nursery Crawl & Field Day

Monday, May 15th: Monthly meeting **Topic:** Show & Judging **Show & Tell:** Your Finest Tree

Saturday, May 27th: Advanced Styling Workshop

Remembering: Charlie Anderson



1933 – 2016

It came to our attention late last month that a long-time driving force in Pacific Northwest bonsai passed away at his home in Poulsbo, Washington on October 7th. Charlie was a member and a former president of the Puget Sound Bonsai Society. He was a regular participant in the PNBCA conventions that our club hosted over the years. A Charlie quote: "As far as I know, it's the only four-dimensional art there is. It has height, width, depth and time."

Charlie is survived by his wife Ruth; son Matthew, daughter Kathryn, plus grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Photo from the Bainbridge Island Review

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Membership Renewal / Application Form 2017

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: _____

Date:

If you are mailing this form, please mail to:

Vancouver Island Bonsai Society
Membership Coordinator
PO Box 8674
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 3S2

