

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

June 2017



2017 VIBS Executive

President: Mark Paterson

Vice President: Vacant

Past President: Bob Taylor

Treasurer: Larry Phillips

Secretary: Jim Haskins

Library: Jim & Kathi Morrison

Newsletter & Website: John Mitchell

Also: Maurice Bombezin,
Randy Kowalchuk, Silvia Schmidt

Next Society meeting: Monday, June 19th, 2017

7:00 pm at Couvelier Pavilion, HCP

Scheduled topic: Penjing and Landscapes

Show & Tell: Penjing and Landscapes

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 2017:

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

Raffle table: There will be a raffle table this month. A bonsai-related donation would be much appreciated!

LEFT: White Satsuki azalea Photo: Maurice B



May meeting: Kurume azalea by Jim M

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Greetings everyone!

At the May meeting we held the **Vancouver Island Bonsai Society Show and Competition** and were very pleased with the response from members and with the quality of bonsai that were presented for judging. Bergson Menezes, June Carrott and Fran Simpson were among those singled out for honours. I have, unfortunately, misplaced my list of other winners but would like to offer congratulations to all of you and say "thank you" from the membership for your participation. Those who entered bonsai for judging were given raffle tickets for what was a table full of excellent offerings. Here are a few photos from this most enjoyable evening:



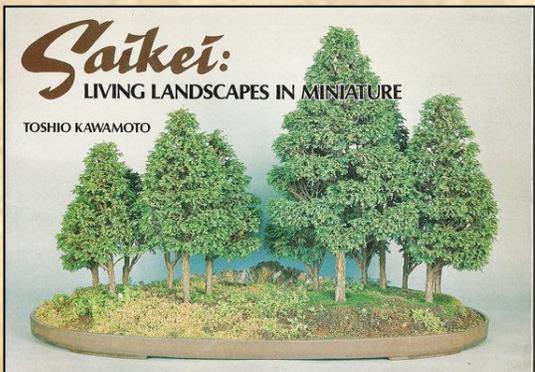
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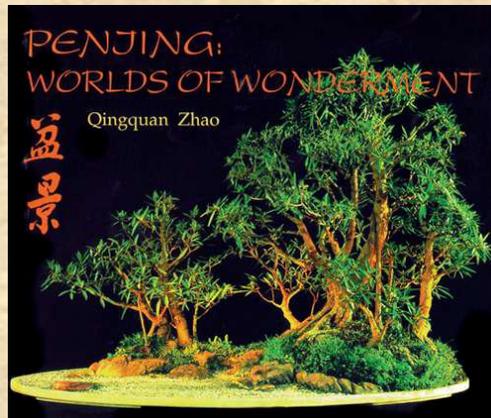
June meeting: The Chinese style of miniature tree landscapes is known as **Penjing**. There are two major types of Penjing; Tree Penjing (from which bonsai evolved) and Landscape Penjing with several sub-categories. Water & Land Penjing is a variant of Landscape Penjing comprised of various elements on a flat, often marble, tray and the arrangement of trees, rocks and human or animal figures with a representation of a water element included. Along with Landscape Penjing, it often suggests a story. Landscape Penjing usually features rock arrangements with a tree or trees to suggest a mountainous scene. One renown practitioner and author of several books on the subject is Qingquan Zhao, who has held workshops at a past convention in Victoria.

The Japanese style of landscape bonsai is **Saikei**, usually comprised of rocks, trees and arranged on a low-sided pottery tray. The contours of land and arrangement of trees is all-important. The present day refiner of this style is Toshio Kawamoto, who was the bonsai master who mentored Tak Yamaura of Japan Bonsai in Surrey. As an honoured guest of this club, Tak , on various occasions, created planted Saikei landscapes that delighted and amazed those who attended the demonstrations.

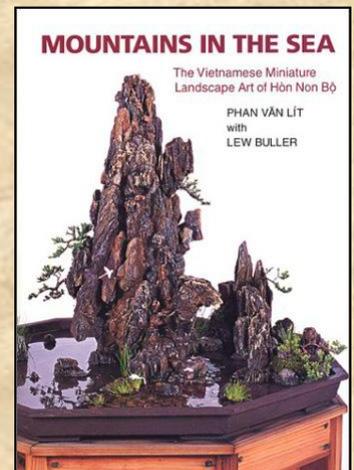
The Vietnamese style of landscape planting is known as **Hon Non Bo**. It is another sophisticated Asian landscape art that is also worthy of study. The library of the Horticulture Centre has an excellent book on the subject, Mountains in the Sea by Phan Van Lit.



One of the covers of the classic book on Saikei by Kowamoto



One of several volumes on Penjing by Qingquan Zhao



Phan Van Lit's book on Hon Non Bo

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Satsuki azalea - the tree of the fifth month

Anyone fortunate enough to have a Satsuki azalea bonsai has likely been enjoying a floral display of late that can reign unmatched in the world of flowering bonsai. Satsuki azaleas originated as a natural hybrid of two species of Rhododendron which bloom mainly in the fifth month of the Asian lunar calendar – "Satsuki" in Japanese and coinciding with our month of June.

In addition to the photo on the first page of Maurice's lovely white Satsuki azalea, here is a Satsuki photo submitted by club member John Simpson:



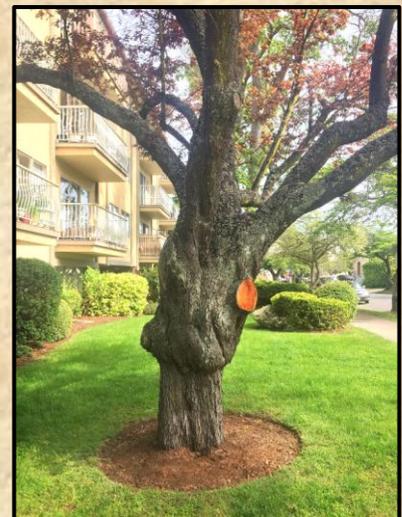
We often advise club members looking for potential bonsai stock in a nursery to examine at the base of a tree to determine whether it is grafted and whether the graft is prominent or badly done.



Here is an example of a poorly done graft on a Pine found at a local nursery, outlined in white for clarity.

John M photo

RIGHT: Here is a photo submitted by Mark P of how that poor graft can translate a few years further on. Thankfully, not a bonsai!



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Maurice's Bonsai Garden

Here are some Tree Penjing and Tree & Landscape Penjing from Maurice's collection:



Photos: Maurice B.



Our club could really benefit from the volunteer services of an individual with excellent organizational abilities to help coordinate club activities such as bus trips, Field Days, car pools, and other seasonal activities. Please look Mark P up at a meeting or speak with any member of the executive. Extensive bonsai knowledge isn't required but the opportunities for learning could be great!

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Coming Events:

July 15th 30th Annual Moss Street Paint-in – for the first time ever the Vancouver Island Bonsai Society will have a table at the Moss Street Paint-In. This is one of Victoria's premier cultural events of the season. Moss Street becomes a colourful corridor of artists, art and spectators stretching from Fort Street to Dallas Road. Not to be missed!

August 26th & 27th Art & Music in the Gardens at HCP. The VIBS Annual Bonsai Show & Sale will be held in the Bonsai Garden. No event info yet on the Hort Centre site: www.hcp.ca

September 24th Seminar: 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 per session both payable to VIBS. For further info or to register, please email: workshops@victoriabonsai.bc.ca

October 21st Annual VNCS Japanese Cultural Fair will be held at the Esquimalt Rec Centre. VIBS will be represented with our information table and a demonstration. Nothing yet on their website: <http://www.vnscs.ca/wordpress/>



We would like to ask that people sign up for volunteer shifts for the Bonsai Show & Sale at Art & Music in the Gardens, August 26th & 27th. It is impossible to stage this event without the assistance of a few dedicated volunteers to set up, assist and take things down.

Last year I received some Satsuki azalea cuttings from long-time club member Judy Horsland. I put them into a 2 litre pop "greenhouse" and forgot about them until the other day when I chanced upon them in full bloom and all of about 2 inches high.



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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



See!

Penjing by Maurice