



# Vancouver Island Bonsai Club

## Wednesday August 4, 2004 . . .

There will be a presentation by Steven on seed propagation.

Please bring established bonsai trees that need work and you need some "pointers" to get you going. Some of the senior members will be available for consultation.

### Our Next Two Meetings:

Wednesday, August 4, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, September 1, 7:30 pm

Garth Homer Society Auditorium  
813 Darwin Avenue, Victoria

**Show and Tell...** This month's topic is "Root-on-Rock". Please bring your favourite root-on-rock bonsai for all of us to drool over and envy.

**Auction Tree ...** Dave Easterbrook's demo tree, a collected Eastern Larch was won by the highest bidder, Sir George! Congratulations George, we hope you have the space to keep it.

**Third Field Trip of 2004...** We have to take advantage of the good weather we are enjoying, so we are organizing more activities for the summer.

Tak Yamaura, from Japan Bonsai in White Rock, has offered our Club a free workshop and also a free Bar-B-Q at his nursery. The cost to our Members will be the workshop tree plus transportation. Observers are also welcomed.

Date and Time 21 August, 2004, 08:00 ferry from Swartz Bay.

Location Japan Bonsai, (see ad on page 3) Car pooling will be organized at the August meeting.

Directions From the Tsawwassen ferry terminal, take Hwy 99 south (towards US border) Exit King George Hwy south to White Rock and turn left on 24th Ave. Japan Bonsai will be on your right side.

**Do you save your bonsai magazines?** - Here's a suggestion from George:

Want to keep track of your bonsai magazine for easy future reference? Here is a tidy and inexpensive way: Go to Office Depot and purchase a package of 12 Rogers Magazine Holders for \$3.48 and a 2" Binder for \$5.47 for a total of \$8.95; (\$10.0 with taxes).

You can then easily store a dozen magazines in that binder. That's three years of the *ABS Journal*, *BCI Bonsai* or *International Bonsai* published by Bill Valavanis of Upstate New York. A single binder will probably be required the 6 issues yearly of *Bonsai Today* which is also thicker.

If you subscribe to more than one magazine, ease the stress of recovery by using binders of different colours.

Please note that the European size magazine paper will not fit the Rogers Holder. However, binders that work can be obtained from the publisher - see the ads toward the back of each issue.

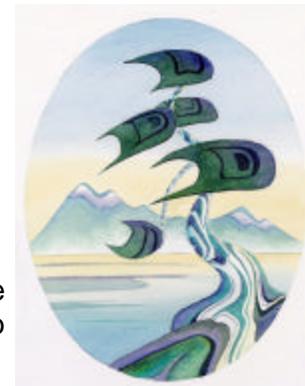
The club address is:  
**The Vancouver Island Bonsai Club**  
P.O. Box 8674  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 3S2  
<http://www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca>

<b>Bob Taylor</b>	(President)	<b>Tom Burley</b>	(Treasurer)
<b>Jim Morrison</b>	(Library)		
<b>Luis Martin</b>	(Newsletter)		



## 2004 Pacific Northwest Bonsai Convention XV

**"Talk to the Trees"**  
September 17 - 19, 2004  
Laurel Point Inn  
Victoria, BC



The registration form for this convention is available from the club website and from the Club Board members and there will be registration forms at the Club meetings.

The workshops are being filled very fast. If you are planning to register, particularly if you wish to take one of the workshops, please decide very soon.

All the information regarding the Convention, is on the Club web site ([www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca](http://www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca)). If you are planning to participate and you do not have internet connection, we strongly suggest that you find a friend, neighbor or relative with internet access and visit the site. You will be able to see photos of the artists, their background as well as the workshop trees, and you will be able to print the Registration form from the site.

Please do not forget to send in the information on exhibit trees for the Convention

### 2004 Pacific Northwest Bonsai Convention Request for Volunteers

Volunteers from the host club make for a successful bonsai convention. The convention provides us with a forum of artistic talent and with a place to meet with other bonsai enthusiasts and experience the creativity of the guest artists.

At the end of the convention, when all the activities are finished and everybody goes home, we are left, hopefully with a positive cash balance, which is the measure of our efforts. The positive cash balance is what allows our Club to subsidize "bonsai stuff".

Our Club invited artists, such as Quinan Zhao, Guy Guidry, David Easterbrook, Arthur Skolnik, to name a few, for workshop presentations. The cost to bring each artist is in the order of \$2,000, and we collect in the order of \$350.00 from ten workshop members.

The difference, and you can do the math, comes from "convention money", which comes from a successful convention, which comes from enthusiastic volunteers!! We need lots of volunteers for our convention in September. Our volunteer list is about 50% full, so please help us to help you.

#### Workshops

Boxwood workshops are filling up, as a matter of fact, **Cheryl Manning's workshops are sold out** and only **a few spots remain** for the **Bob Wilcox workshops. Sign up today!!!**



**Preparing a Bonsai for Exhibition**—Here are a few tips which might help in preparing a bonsai for exhibit.

1. Make sure the tree is in a healthy condition and free from disease or insect infestation. Spray the tree with insecticide a week or so before the show to be on the safe side. Don't do it the day before. The smell of the insecticide will be offensive in the exhibit space.
2. Make sure the tree is well groomed and trimmed properly. Remove dead branches, brown needles, damaged or bug eaten leaves. Clean and scrub the bark to remove dirt and unwanted algae. A poorly groomed tree reflects poorly on the owner and the club.
3. If your bonsai contains areas of dead wood (jin and shari), then you need to treat these areas with lime sulphur to whiten them up. It is a good idea to do this a week or so before the show. Not only does it sometimes take four or five days to bleach out, but the odor of the lime sulphur in the indoor exhibit area can be even more offensive than the insecticide.
4. Make sure your trees are thoroughly watered before bringing them to the show.
5. Pull weeds, plant moss and sprinkle the soil surface with some decorative gravel or fresh bonsai soil to give the roots good delineation and to make the whole presentation sparkle.
6. Use vegetable oil to "polish" your bonsai pot and to remove any water marks or stains.
7. Very important: Place your name (on masking tape or similar) under the pot, and on the underside of your stand.

**The Bonsai Directory...**

The following local business are known to supply bonsai plants and/or other necessary materials. Frequently you will enjoy a discount if you identify yourself as a member of the Vancouver Island Bonsai Club:

Peninsula Flower Nursery, 8512 West Saanich Rd.,  
Proprietors: Fred and Jane Starke

A large selection of bonsai, pre-bonsai shrubs, as well as trees and conifers suitable for landscaping and oriental style gardens.

Better Gnomes and Gardens, 3200 Quadra St.,  
Proprietor: Laurie McKay

The very best selection of bonsai pots in Victoria. Mostly good quality Chinese pots; some in larger dimensions.

Marigold Nursery Ltd. 7874 Lochside Drive  
Large nursery with garden and landscape stock and some "good finds".

Peninsula Landscape Supplies, 2070 Keating Cross Rd. One trip will get you the components to make bonsai soil. From small bag size to truck load: lava rock, coarse sand and bark mulch.



**JAPAN BONSAI**  
GARDEN ART

TAK YAMAURA  
Owner/Consultant

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## Report on the July Field Trip , from our exclusive field correspondent Helen.

### Fossicking for Fossils on a Field Trip.

On a cool and overcast Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup> eleven people and two black dogs travelled "Up Island" in search of rocks. We conveniently met at the Park and Ride at Helmcken Road at 8.30am - a very civilised hour to start out. After deciding who was coming on our trip and who was meeting at the same time and place for a guys fishing trip we carpooled and set off before 9.00.

The essential coffee/comfort stop was taken in the small town at Cowichan Lake and then we all met up at the Mead's Creek Bridge just 5 kilometres up the lakeside towards Youbou. At 10.15 a short walk into the trees brought us to the almost dry river bed. There was enough water flowing to be able to rinse off any potential treasures and note the depth of colour inherent in many stones. Wet rocks look so different and I learned a new trick. If you use a thin coat of wax on rocks before displaying them it will enhance the visual effect - making them look almost wet. I always learn something when we get together.

The site we were at had an abundance of rock varieties to please every one's taste. A good time was had exploring up the stream bed and getting wet feet. As potential rocks were discovered large piles would develop for later pickup on the way back. When one club member was seen with their nose just one inch from the ground they insisted that the tumble they took was to get a closer look! The perfect rocks were of course just too big to carry but we all came away with something to enhance our collections and we must always leave some for those who will follow....

Then on to another area closer to the lakeshore. Less rugged rocks were available but by then we were getting tired and hungry. We had packed a bathing suit and a picnic lunch because we are all invited to Tom's place after the field trip. He has an idyllic spot on the shore overlooking a mountain at Honeymoon Bay. Our leader/driver/navigator gave us all a very good tour up and down the lakeside - and then we repeated it again - just to be sure we hadn't totally lost the turnoff! When we finally found our destination Tom and his wife gave us a very warm welcome with invitations to warm up in the hot tub or cool off by tubing on the lake. The sensible ones amongst us took advantage of the barbecue and watched the action. All too soon it was time to head home. Now we are all caring for additions to our collections that need no watering, need no pruning, do not need a care giver when we go on vacation but best of all they never die.

