



# Vancouver Island Bonsai Club

Wednesday January 7, 2004 . . .

## Happy New Year!

Thank to everybody that contributed with food and refreshments towards our social meeting last month, it was a success, and the buy-sell-trading was also very well received.

### Our Next Two Meetings:

Wednesday, January 7, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, February 4, 7:30 pm

Garth Homer Society Auditorium  
813 Darwin Avenue, Victoria

## Show and Tell... "Winter silhouettes"

Please bring your deciduous trees for everybody to appreciate the trunk and branch structure. In many instances, trees with no leaves, can be as interesting as trees with full foliage.

## 2004 Membership...

Don't forget to renew your VIBC membership for another year. Please bring the renewal form on the last page of this newsletter or you can also download it from the web site.

## Club Meeting Workshop...

As announced during the December meeting, we are going to have a workshop during Club night, commencing at the January meeting and finalizing at the February meeting.

The cost of the workshop is \$65.00 and includes a tree, a pot and instruction.

The Club has 14 Lodgepole Pines set aside for this event as well as 14 pots. There are 9 registrants so far, so if you wish to participate please contact anyone on the Board. The instructors will be volunteer senior members of our Club, and we are aiming for a one instructor to two registrant ratio.



The way we are going to allocate trees and instructors is similar to the procedure followed at most bonsai conventions; the registrants will pull a number from a hat for a tree and another number for the instructor.

A word of caution, the instructor will not be allowed to touch the tree! He or she will give you advice, recommend what to do, and how to do it, but it will be up to the registrant to do all the work!!!!

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)		



## Workshop in the works... Multiple trunk Smoothleafed Elm (*Ulmus carpinifolia*)

There are a few of these trees growing in George's field propagated from cuttings taken in Ohio in the early 1990's. Some are single trunk, but most have multiple trunks. These trees will be ideal for an outdoor workshop, where the registrants will start by digging their trees from the ground (yes we can give you a hand digging) and then working on them. We do not have a date yet, as we will wait for some warmer weather, but if you are interested, please let us know.

The following article was taken from the *Bonsai Journal of The American Bonsai Society / Winter 1990*, by Kelley Adkins, Lake Bluff, Illinois:

The material used in my Friday morning demonstration was a collected multi-trunk smoothleaf elm (*Ulmus carpinifolia*). The plant was selected because it featured five trunks growing from a single root system and, therefore, allowed for a discussion of clump style bonsai. Multi-trunk trees are frequently seen in nature but are sometimes overlooked as potential bonsai.

This style is rather simply handled as a group planting, but because the trunks are in fixed positions a certain amount of latitude must be allowed in developing the design. For instance, crossing trunks are often unavoidable with a clump style bonsai. The other important design consideration is choosing a front that best shows off the trunks in relation to one another and the roots.



An example of a multi-trunk smooth-leaf elm

Another interesting aspect of this material was that it offered a look at the handling and development of collected deciduous trees. The tree had been collected in the spring of 1987, was potted and cut to heights roughly proportionate to the trunk diameters. The branches and tops were trained from adventitious growth the plant developed after having been cut back severely.

The principle drawbacks with this technique are the abrupt change in trunk diameter at the apex and the unavoidable scar that results from cutting a large tree back severely. Although these problems slowly disappear with time certain steps can be taken to hide or soften them visually. I showed how to hide them behind some foliage and then using wood gouges and a mallet cut a long tapered section from the trunk to lengthen and shape the scar to add taper just below the apex. This works best when the cut can be placed on the back of the trunk, but since that is not always possible, it can be placed on the side or front, but the front should be avoided. Another possibility is to carve out a section between the apex and one or more branches.

The end result is a very respectable bonsai developed from collected material in only a little over three years.



## Report from the PNBCA Convention XIV in September this year in Seattle.

Our Club had the largest participation attendance of all the clubs outside the Seattle host club. We had 11 members participating out of 61 and because of that the VIBC share of the net profits came to 9%.

This will increase our funds and we will be able to continue to bring renown artists and offer workshops for our members at a very reasonable price. Keep in mind that your Club subsidy for artist workshop is in the order of 75%!

## Major Bonsai Conventions in 2004...

Do not forget that this year is our turn! Victoria is the site for the **PNBCA Convention XV** in September 2004, and our Club is hosting it!

We are a few months away, but please start thinking about it as we are going to need lots of volunteers. We will keep you informed.

## 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.



I will  
treat your  
**Real Estate**  
like I treat  
my bonsai,  
...  
*with care and  
attention!*

Kent MacLeod  
Newport Realty  
385-2033  
100% Referral Business



**Jack Sustic workshop**—The workshop will be on 21 February from 09:00 to Noon, followed by a “demo” at 01:00 pm. At the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, 1040 Moss Street.

Jack Sustic is the Curator of Bonsai at the US Arboretum in Washington, DC

Jack’s visit is made possible by the Vancouver Island Bonsai Club, and he will be in Victoria on the very weekend of the Art Gallery's biennial Art in Bloom festival. We have allied ourselves with that initiative in our plans for his visit.

In the morning he will lead a workshop of ten Club members in the creation of a bonsai tree. After lunch, beginning at 1:00 pm, he will present an illustrated talk on “The Bonsai and Penjing Museum, Past, Present and Future” followed by a demonstration of hands-on bonsai design and creation.

This is a fund raising event for the Art Gallery so there is normally a significant charge for lectures; but, by special arrangement, members of the VIBC will be issued all day passes at rates every one can afford. Details of the program are yet to be worked out but you should reserve that Saturday for a special treat. Those attending will be treated to a tour of the extensive US National Collection of bonsai. Registration for the afternoon lecture entitles ticket holders to be present as “silent observers” in both morning workshop and afternoon lecture and demonstration.

More to come in the February Newsletter.

**VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB**

Membership Renewal / Application Form for 2004

I wish to renew my membership \_\_\_ or I wish to apply for membership \_\_\_ (new member)  
Attached is \$20.00 for single membership \_\_\_ or Attached is \$25.00 for family membership \_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Work: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate whether you would like to receive the Club Newsletter by Regular mail \_\_\_\_\_ or by e-mail notification of posting to the web site \_\_\_\_\_

If you are mailing this form, please mail to:

Vancouver Island Bonsai Club  
Membership Coordinator  
PO Box 8674  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 3S2