



# Vancouver Island Bonsai Club

## Wednesday June 2, 2004 . . .

We will have demonstrations in pruning and leaf removal (defoliation).

**Show and Tell...** Please bring overgrown trees to receive pruning instructions, and please do not forget to bring your own shears.

**Photo Contest...** Closed at the last meeting. The contest was won by Louise Harvey. Congratulations!

**John Biel demo tree...** This tree is a twin trunk Mountain Hemlock, and will be raffled at this meeting. The tickets (\$2.00 each), went for sale at the May meeting and will be also on sale at the June meeting. Good luck! Another tree will be auctioned at the July meeting.

## Some Housekeeping info...

1. For those who know Michael Hagedorn, a bonsai pot maker by trade, he has gone to Japan for a 3 year stint as an apprentice to Bonsai Master Shinji Suzuki. You can see some photos of the stunning junipers he is caring for at [www.crataegus.com](http://www.crataegus.com)

2. We are updating our web page for the 2004 Mall Show and anyone who has photos that we could post please bring to the next meeting. They will be returned to you once they are scanned.

3. We are going to be constructing a section on our website for a gallery of members trees. There will be no names connected to these for security reasons. If you have a photo of a tree you would like to show one and all, please email it to Randy at [webmaster@victoriabonsai.bc.ca](mailto:webmaster@victoriabonsai.bc.ca) along with a description of the tree, age, etc. For those who can't email, bring the photo along to the next meeting.

4. We are looking for someone that could conduct lessons on bonsai care and styling for a professional gardener in town who is looking after a very nice bonsai collection for his boss. This would be most likely a once a week session for an hour for however long it might take. They are prepared to pay for these lessons. If you feel qualified and interested, please contact Randy at 370-7562 as soon as possible.

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### Basic rules of bonsai to remember:

1. The expression "roots easily from a cutting" is a term which applies to everyone but you.
2. Automatic watering systems will always work perfectly .... Until you leave the house.
3. Insecticides are made for killing your trees not the pests.

The club address is: <b>The Vancouver Island Bonsai Club</b> P.O. Box 8674 Victoria, B.C. V8W 3S2 <a href="http://www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca">http://www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca</a>	<b>Bob Taylor</b> (President) <b>Tom Burley</b> (Treasurer)  <b>Jim Morrison</b> (Library)  <b>Luis Martin</b> (Newsletter)
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## 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.

### **WANTED: EXHIBIT TREES FOR THE 2004 PNBC XV CONVENTION**

I have been asked to coordinate the exhibit tree display for the Convention, and I would like to invite all the Vancouver Island Bonsai Club members, as well as the members of all the Greater Vancouver area bonsai clubs, to select their best specimens and submit their tree particulars, as well as a photo, in order for us to select the "Best of BC".

To put things in perspective, our Club organized the 2000 PNBC in Victoria, and we had 41 display trees inside and 17 display trees outside. Our Convention site is the same as four years ago so we are looking at the same number of trees. The inside trees were displayed in 3 adjacent and secured rooms. The outside trees were 2-men-trees and some up to 4-men-trees, which were distributed along the lobby and outside areas.

Please refer to page 4 of the May Newsletter for the application form. Please complete as much information as you can and forward it to me at the Club mailing address no later than 31 July, 2004. Please send 1 form per tree, and indicate how you are planning to deliver the tree(s) to the Convention.

Thank you, Luis Martin

### **Pruning suggestions...**

Here is a timely springtime suggestion from the *Bonsai News of the Lake Charles Bonsai Society* of Louisiana:

"Try to stay up with your pruning schedule so your trees don't get out of hand. Take time to study your pines and maples and other opposite branching trees for proper pruning choices at each node. Don't leave more than one branch growing at any single node or you will have swollen, knobby areas which rob the branch of taper and grace".



**First Field Trip of 2004.** - Saturday, June 12th, Salt Spring Island nursery tour.

We will meet at the Crofton ferry terminal and catch the 9:30 am ferry to Vesuvius. We will visit The Plant Farm and Thimble Farms in that order. We will have lunch in Ganges and have some time to visit the market before departing for Fulford Harbour to catch the 4 pm ferry to Sidney.

A sign up sheet will be available at the next meeting. If you are unable to sign up at the meeting, but would like to come on the field trip, please call Aileen at 385-4448.

**Horticultural Centre of the Pacific (HCP)** will have a "Pottery in the Garden" on Sunday, June 13th, from 10:00 to 4:00. This is a pottery show and sale featuring Garden Gnomes and Creatures. There will be approximately 20 local potters participating in a juried show and there will be pottery making demonstrations.

The HCP will also offer plants for sale. Twenty percent of the pottery sales go to the HCP.

More at the June meeting. For more information please contact Pat Smart, 384-9028 .

**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

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**Propagation form cuttings...** There was a request to print Steven Cook's presentation on propagation from cuttings from the last Club meeting:

This information is not truly useful until November however there is one aspect to be aware of at this time.

Hardwood cuttings are more certain to produce success than soft or semi-hard cuttings since they have more developed vascular, hormone, and food storage systems than the other two types of cuttings and are therefore more able to sustain the conversion from parent stock to established clone.

In November, find on the parent stock this years growth which by this time has lignified (turned to wood). This growth must be this year's and as such be "juvenile" vegetation not having had sexual activity within its hormone system. That is no flowers set. Take these shoots which should be about the size of a number two pencil (bigger is ok) and cut them into about seven inch lengths with a bud within a quarter inch of the top and a quarter inch of the bottom. Make the bottom cut a double cut to form a "v" shape. This provides a maximum area for water uptake as well as root bed for the future tree. This arrow also indicates the direction of the bottom since it is essential to orient the cutting in the same direction that it was growing on the parent. Bundle your cuttings into a group of thirty or so for convenience of handling and bury this bundle in a garden bed to a depth below the frost line. I use eighteen inches as that mark. Next year in the latter part of march dig up the bundle and you will find many of the sticks have leaves coming out of the buds. Remove all the leaves except the ones on the top bud and insert the cutting point down into a garden bed so that only the top bud is exposed. Say the top one inch. Keep the bed wet by watering very well every day when it is not raining. Keep pests away and by the first of May you will have strong growth from the top bud. This does not mean that you have roots however. So keep up the watering routine. By mid June roots will be established and you can treat the cutting more casually.

In order that the cuttings have their maximum amount of sugar stored for the wintering and sprouting process it is important not to force growth in the parent plant in the year where the parent is producing the shoots to be used. So no nitrogen fertilizer for that year.

**Definition: What is a "specimen tree"?**

Specimen trees are your "... show em' off and impress em' ..." trees. Generally they look the way you want them to and are in really nice pots. Everything else is in development or kindling.

(Taken from Andy Walsh, ABS Forum)



(‘BEN’ Taken from the Times Colonist)