



Vancouver Island Bonsai Club

Wednesday, October 6, 2004 . . .

The Pacific Northwest Bonsai Convention XV was a great success, thanks to the hard work and efforts of many of our club members! You will hear the reports at the October meeting.

Show and Tell... Your best fall colours, and to all of our Members that participated in the Convention workshops, please bring your tree to the meeting.

October Field Day and Workshop

As mentioned at the last meeting we are planning to have a plant-on-rock workshop at Highcroft Farms on Saturday 16 October. The workshop will be conducted by volunteer senior members from our Club, and the cost is \$30.00 per person. This price, which covers materials only, includes a lava rock and a plant.

The workshop is limited to 14 people, as we have only 14 rocks. When you sign up, please specify an indoor plant (8 available) or an outdoor plant (6 available). The selection will be on a first come basis.

If you are taking the workshop, you will be mixing and using "muck", so be prepared to get dirty. Disposable rubber gloves are recommended.

The Club will supply wire and soil, as well as coffee and cookies. George has already placed an order for good weather. The sign-up for the workshop will be at the October Club meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, please email the Club or phone Luis at 544-1551.

There will be no charge to Club members who would like to be silent observers, or would like to bring a tree to work on, or would like to mingle and socialize.

I would like to remind everybody to bring a lawn chair.

November Workshop

Marco Invernizzi, a well known international bonsai artist (from Italy) will be in Seattle mid November and we are looking into bringing him up to Victoria for a workshop and maybe a demo. More information will be presented at the meeting.

Our Next Two Meetings:

Wednesday, October 6, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, November 3, 7:30 pm

*Garth Homer Society Auditorium
813 Darwin Avenue, Victoria*

The club address is:

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

Bob Taylor (President) **Tom Burley** (Treasurer)

Jim Morrison (Library)

Luis Martin (Newsletter)



Bonsai Tips: Learning the Easy Way

Bob, our Club president, lost his bonsai tools. He spend a week trying to figure out where he saw them last, with no avail. He finally came to the conclusion that he probably left them on top of the car roof when he drove away, and who knows where the tools landed. Bob's tools were in a canvass carrier with pockets for individual tools, which can be rolled-up and tie it securely with a strap.

A week later George told him "I found your tools, you left them at the farm on an outside bench and they got all wet in the rain"...

Bob was thinking that he would have to spend hours removing the rust and polishing them back to their original condition. When Bob saw his tools, they were in very nice condition, without much trace of having been exposed to the rain at all. The reason is that Bob sprays his tools with WD-40!

Bob wanted to pass this tip on to you so you do not have to learn the hard way!

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.



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TAK YAMAURA
Owner/Consultant

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DORMANCY Get ready, this is the time to start preparing for it.

What is Dormancy?

Dormancy is a survival strategy that temperate climate species have evolved to stay alive over the winter. These species have a biological clock that tells them to slow activity and prepare soft tissues for an onslaught of freezing temperatures.

Species that have well developed dormancy needs cannot be tricked out of them. If you attempt to give a such as species, for instance Japanese maple, *Acer palmatum*, an eternal summer by bringing it in the house, it will grow continuously for as long as two years. After a maximum period of sustained growth a temperate climate plant will automatically go dormant no matter what the season or condition. Deciduous plants will lose their leaves and evergreens will curtail all new growth. This is very stressful to the plant and usually fatal. It will be 100% fatal if the plant does not receive the necessary period of cold temperatures required for dormancy.

Cold Hardiness

Cold hardiness acquisition is also a necessary part of dormancy in temperate climates. Plants begin entering dormancy by setting buds in mid to late summer. Stem tissues begin increasing levels of sugars and carbohydrates in response to lowering temperatures in the fall. By the time freezing temperatures arrive, they have developed enough natural antifreeze to survive it. Different species develop different degrees of cold hardiness according to their natural environment. Roots do not develop cold hardiness in the same fashion and must be protected to a greater extent than top growth in container plants.

Breaking Dormancy

In order for these species to break dormancy and begin growing again they must acquire the requisite number of hours of cold temperatures. For most of these species it is 1000 hours of temperatures below 5 degrees C (40 degrees F). Once this requirement has been satisfied the plant may begin growing again immediately. The new growth is triggered by temperature alone. If temperatures rise much above 5 degrees C for any extended period of time, say a week or so, the buds will break and the plant will begin growing. This can happen outside in January if there is a freak warm spell, or it can be artificially manipulated if plants are brought indoors. A return to cold weather will of course kill the new growth and buds.

Treatment of Subtropical plants

Subtropical plants, such as Chinese elms, have little if any dormancy requirements. In colder areas they drop their leaves, go dormant and act like deciduous trees. In milder, non freezing environments, they are evergreen and exhibit continuous growth except for occasional 'quiescence'. They require fairly high light levels and that will be the most difficult factor to maintain. A sunny window is usually insufficient and supplemental light, such as a fluorescent lamp six inches above the plant, is strongly recommended.

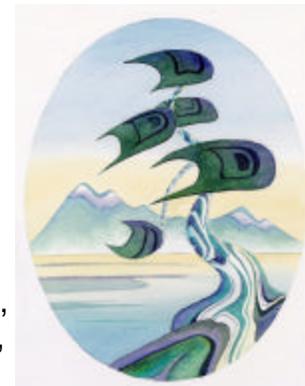
Determining Which Plants Need Dormancy

When determining whether or not a plant can be grown indoors, the strongest clue will come from its natural environment. If the species is native to a temperate climate area that receives regular freezing winter temperatures, it will be impossible to grow this plant continuously indoors. It can only be an indoor plant if you can also satisfy its dormancy requirement by providing it with the requisite number of hours of temperatures under 5 degrees C.



2004 Pacific Northwest Bonsai Convention XV

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



The convention was a success. There were almost 90 registrations, mainly from BC, Washington, Oregon but also from Idaho and Montana, and from as far as New Mexico!

The workshops were almost full and the quality of the workshop trees were outstanding!

Our Club Members contributed with 72 trees for the exhibit (a few shown here), and all visitors to the exhibit selected number 70 as the "most popular tree" (top left picture).

Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed much of their time. We received this comment from a registrant from South of the border: "...the Victoria Convention was one of the best I have ever been to. One of the things that made it special was the friendliness of the volunteers."

You will hear more at the meeting.

