



VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

Wednesday, April, 2005 . . .

Show and Tell... David Rowe Maple Forest workshop trees and any of your blooming bonsai.

Does your tree need repotting? Good roots and Bad roots. We will be having a discussion of soils and repotting techniques. Bring in trees you think need repotting and a senior member will show you what to look for when checking roots.

Farm Field Day - Has been scheduled for 10 April at Highcroft Farm. For those who have not attended before, this is an informal social event where members' can bring their trees to pot, prune, and wire; where more experienced members are always available for consultation. If you do not want to do any of the above, the coffee and the donuts are worth the trip. It is also open for buy-sell-trade bonsai related stuff. We might even have a machine to slice rocks!

Field Trips - Two of them on the works...

1. A trip to the Mainland to visit Japan Bonsai and a couple of other bonsai nurseries. This trip is going to be scheduled for mid-August. We will be chartering a bus for all to go as one! Cost per person will be \$40.00 which includes the Ferry fee and bus ride. Tak is planning a demo and barbeque for us.

2. Tentative for mid June a one overnight (or maybe two nights) trip "up island" to Port Alice, home of Peter Wilson (collected trees, see picture at right), and Port Hardy, home of Hal Seybold (viewing stones). We will be leaving Friday evening June 17th, staying overnight in Campbell River. We will then proceed early Saturday morning to Port Hardy and staying overnight there, returning to Victoria on Sunday. For those interested a sign up sheet will be available at the next meeting.

Dungeness Bonsai Society— 29th Annual Show, May 20 & 21, 10:00 to 5:00 at St. Luke's Church, 525 North 5th Avenue, Sequim, WA. Their show usually coincides with ours, and this time as they also had to change dates, it is the weekend before ours. We are planning to go over on the 21st by ferry. Their club members will pick us up and bring us back for the last ferry of the day. Sign up sheet will be at next meeting.



Our Next Two Meetings:
Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, May 4, 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)
Randy Kowalchuk (Vice-president/Newsletter)
Luis Martin (Mallshow Co-ordinator)



BONSAI WORKSHOP AND DEMO BY JIM DOYLE July 1st and 2nd

Well known across North America Jim Doyle will be coming to the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia as part of our Canada Day Celebration. Jim is proprietor of Nature's Way Nursery in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.



Our club will be hosting the visit to Victoria and the plans are as follows:

- Friday July 1, Canada Day, Jim will work under a private agreement, paid for by the members of our Study Group, in an all day session.
 - Morning of Saturday July 2 at 9 AM, Jim will conduct a workshop for 10 of our club members working with either European larch, Cotoneasters, or Hinoki cypress. All participants will be working with the same species and the charge for this workshop will be \$80.00 which includes the tree. No charge for silent observers.
 - Afternoon of Saturday July 2 at 1 PM, Jim will do a demo with one of the larger club owned trees.
- All Club members are welcome.

All these sessions will take place during our fine summer weather at Highcroft Farm. Members wishing to take in both sessions on Saturday are invited to bring their own picnic lunch. Sign up sheet will be at the next club meeting. The picture at the right is of a boxwood which Jim Doyle has styled.



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

Laurie has now got in her spring shipment of pots and remember club members get a 10% discount.

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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Repotting (Taken from *The Bonsai Handbook*, David Prescott)

1. Check underneath the pot to see if the tree is secured with wire. If so, cut these wires where they pass through the drainage holes. Push a broad-bladed knife between soil and pot using a sawing action to ease the roots away from the porous walls of the pot. Now, gently ease the tree from the pot by holding the trunk by its base, and tilting one way and the other. If you intend to use the same pot, keep the exposed roots moist while you wash and rinse the pot.
2. Prepare the pot by fixing some wire mesh over the drainage holes. Make wire staples which you push down through the mesh and bend over, under the pot. Take two lengths of wire to hold the tree in the pot. Push the wires up through the holes provided, if any. If not, thread the wires through the mesh. Bend them over the rim of the pot.
3. Take your root hook or chopstick and begin to loosen the soil round the edges of the root mass. Tease the roots out gently. You'll find once you have loosened all the round and underneath them, that the roots are not nearly so dense towards the middle of the container.
4. Rake the roots in a radial pattern, from the base of the trunk working outwards. Work deeper towards the outside of the root mass. Repeat this action on the underside of the root mass, too. Continue until you have removed half the total volume of soil—more if it is compacted.
5. Now for the alarming bit: Comb the roots so that they hang down loosely. With very sharp scissors, cut all the thick roots right back as far as you can. This will encourage the growth of more fine, feeder roots.
6. Cut back the fine roots until the remaining root mass fits comfortably into the pots with a clear margin all round.
7. Place a layer of fresh soil into the pot, not so much that the tree will be raised higher than it was originally (unless that is your intention). Make a small mound at the spot where the trunk will sit. Position the tree in the pot and twist it gently back and forth to settle it down. The mound of soil created will spread and work its way between the roots beneath the trunk. Bring the wires over the root mass and twist them together until the tree is firmly bedded and doesn't rock at all. This will prevent delicate new roots from being damaged as the tree is moved or it is exposed to strong wind.
8. Add more soil and work it between the roots with the chopstick. Don't poke it, push the stick into the soil and move it with a circular motion, just as if you were stirring coffee. Pay attention to this part of the operation, because if there are any empty spaces left, the roots in the affected area won't be able to function properly. Continue to add soil, working it between the roots until the pot is filled. Level the soil off but don't press it down, or it may become compacted which will damage the roots. Try to avoid mounding the soil up around the trunk, as the **nebari** should be evident.
9. Finally give the plant enough water to moisten it thoroughly. Allow the pot to drain for a few minutes, and water again. Keep the tree away from frost, rain and wind until it has re-established itself and started to grow again. Don't feed it at all for three weeks. Check often to make sure that the soil hasn't become dry but it is most important that you do not over water the repotted plant at this crucial stage.

When Selecting a pot:

When choosing a container, make sure the base doesn't bow upward in the center. This would cause water to collect in little pools in the corners. The roots of most bonsai trees hate being waterlogged.



2005 Board Of Directors

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Nineteenth-century nature writer John Muir was the first botanist to describe the Douglas-fir. He called it Douglas spruce, however, underscoring a problem with the nomenclature. The Douglas-fir is not a spruce or a pine, as it has been called. That is why Douglas-fir is hyphenated.

“... most trees, including Douglas-fir, have a central carrotlike taproot , more than 90% of a tree’s root system within a meter of the surface.” (And this is why when digging or repotting a tree for bonsai, we often sever a taproot but pay particular attention to maintaining the lateral roots, sometimes called the “feeder” roots—G.H.)

WORLD BONSAI CONVENTION

Bonsai and Viewing Stone enthusiasts worldwide are planning to attend the 5th World Bonsai Convention in Washington, DC, **May 28-31**. Full information can be found at <www.bonsai-wbff.org/wbc5/main.htm>.

PNBC XVI CONVENTION “BACK TO OUR ROOTS”

To be held 16-18 September, 2005, in Bremerton, Washington, sponsored by Evergreen Bonsai Club (www.EvergreenBonsaiClub.com). This is the event that our Club sponsored last year.

Registration (for Canadians) is \$167.00 each / \$322.00 for a family, in US funds , before 30 April; prices go up after this date. Printed copies of the information and registration forms will be available at our March meeting.

Workshops:

Dan Robinson - an all day workshop on a large specimen tree,
Stan Serbouski - Crabapple,
Jerry Meislik - Brazilian Leopard Tree,
Tak Yamaura - Shimpaku Juniper.
Yasuo Misuya - Sold out
Kathy Shaner - Sold out.

Hotel:- Hampton Inn at Bremerton (just opened); convention special price of \$85.00 US per night. Tel. 360 -405- 0200. When calling please ensure you designate your reservation at the above bonsai convention rate. If you are planning to attend, please do not leave it to the last minute as registrations go up in May and the workshops, as you can see, are filling up.
