



VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

Wednesday, August 3, 2005 . . .

Show and Tell... Bring in your tree which needs trimming. Free advice to be given.

We will be having a panel discussion with Steven, Chuck, and Luis on bonsai soil mixes and their variations. Questions will also be answered.

Luis will be performing a separation on a a hornbeam which was air-layered last year and is now rooted enough to be cut off.

There will be a sign-up sheet for the Vancouver—Japan Bonsai field trip.

We will also be holding our usual raffle, please bring donations.

Our Next Two Meetings:

Wednesday, August 3, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, Sept 7, 7:30 pm

*Garth Homer Society Auditorium
813 Darwin Avenue, Victoria*

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 May 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.
 Glenn Gardner - Literati Black Pine

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.

The club has decided to subsidize the registration cost for all convention goers by \$100.00.

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)



August 20th—Field Trip to Vancouver

A few spots remain for the club Field Trip to Vancouver on August 20th. There will be a sign-up sheet at the August 3rd meeting— all participants must be signed up and paid by August 3rd so we can make reservations. The cost is \$40. per person which includes the charter bus, ferry fare, and parking. Contact person is Jane P. : 598-5381.

We are planning a full and exciting day:

6:30 am—Gather at meeting place and board bus by 6:40 to catch the 8 am ferry.

(For directions to meeting place see below)

6:55 am—Brief stop at Waddling Dog to pick up Saanich members.

10:30 am—Arrive at Sunny Bonsai garden centre (E. Broadway, Vancouver). There will be a selection of trees, pots, tools, and books available to us at a discount.

Coffee will be served.

12:00 noon—Arrive at Japan Bonsai, Surrey. Tak is generously providing a BBQ lunch and will do a bonsai demonstration for us. We will have plenty of time to browse among Tak's huge selection of bonsai and pre-bonsai, as well as pots, tools, soil mixes, etc.

4:00 pm—Arrive at Young's Plants, Delta. This nursery has a selection of indoor and outdoor bonsai as well as orchids.

We will catch the 6:00 pm ferry back and return to the meeting place at about 8:15 pm.

Directions to Meeting Place :

We will meet at 6:30 am at the Robbins parking lot on Seymour Place (behind the large BC Government building)., near the northeast corner of Blanshard and Cloverdale. Turn off Cloverdale on to Seymour Place and immediately turn right to enter the Visitor Parking Lot. You will be given an all day parking pass, which you must place on your dashboard, and then board the waiting bus.

See you there!!!!!!!!!!!!



JAPAN BONSAI
GARDEN ART

TAK YAMAURA
Owner/Consultant

16164 - 24th Ave.
S. Surrey, B.C.
V4P 2S3 Canada

Phone: (604) 536-9220
Fax: (604) 536-8799
www.japanbonsai.com



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A Bonsai Lesson



Most Bonsai artists will tell you that *Less is More*. This is a hard principle to grasp and not always the happiest!!

TABLE OF BROAD LEAVED TREES WHICH AIR LAYER EASILY

Common Name	Best Time to Commence Layering	Time Taken to Root	Recommended Method
Alder	early summer	6 weeks	ring bark
Beech	early summer	3 months	ring bark/tourniquet
Boxwood	late spring	3 months	sliver/tourniquet
Elm	early summer	6 weeks	ring bark
Hornbeam	early summer	4-5 months	ring bark or bridge
Ivy	early spring	2-3 months	ring bark
Japanese or Mountain Maple	early summer	6-8 weeks	ring bark
Trident Maple	early summer	2-3 months	ring bark or sliver
Willow	early summer/early fall	4-6 weeks	ring bark
Zelkova	early summer	6-8 weeks	ring bark



Note:

The ability to 'see' or visualise what the unstyled tree can become is directly related to your repertoire of skills as a bonsai artist. If you are not able to wire the tree meticulously, command the positioning of old branches by using raffia and wiring strategies, or carve a trunk wonderfully to create the illusion of age, you will 'see' substantially less potential in any tree than the individual who can. As a bonsai artist, your ability to 'see' the ultimate design is directly related to your ability to execute the design precisely using sound techniques.



Potted specimen ready for detailed pruning and wiring

I am forever amazed at how the right pot can immediately bring out the best qualities in a tree — even in a tree that is only halfway through the styling activity. This pot, created by Master Potter Ron Lang in the US, was wheel thrown with a white stoneware clay. It was fired raw, without glaze, in a wood kiln. Variegations and flashing effects to the clay body are the results of the ash deposits and salt added during firing. The pot style is 'dish' form. The dish shape presents a delicate profile with a narrow foot spreading out to a generous lip.



Wiring primary branches

Given the delicate nature of Kingsville branches, aluminium instead of copper should be used to wire the branches. With Kingsville, it is possible to leave the wires in place for up to 2 years; however, if you decide to feed the tree aggressively to generate desirable growth, you will need to monitor the biting in of the wires.



a & b Typical secondary and tertiary branches

Before pruning and wiring; after pruning and wiring
Rather than performing finer pruning before wiring, my preference is to prune away undesirable growth while wiring the secondary and tertiary branches. This approach ensures that I do not cut away small yet important branch elements thoughtlessly.



The hidden beauty of the tree begins to emerge

At last, the tree has begun to emerge from behind a canopy of wild growth, but the true beauty will only emerge after many more hours of detailed wiring, refinement pruning, and then three



Final thoughts

This Kingsville has the potential to release increasing beauty over its lifetime. During the subsequent years, the tree will be refined based on my evolving vision of what I believe it can become. Clearly, my skills as an artist will play a primary role in what I can hope to achieve with not only this Kingsville, but with any potential bonsai that I encounter. In our quest for bonsai perfection, we will constantly be challenged to elevate our knowledge and execution of technique in ways that directly impact our ability to 'see' and release the beauty hidden in our trees. □

The styled Kingsville box

I am pleased with the outcome of this work. The tree as presented imparts a sense of tranquility and almost haunting beauty. The pot that so nicely frames this bonsai creation softens the composition and lightens the overall effect. It is deep enough to house a sufficient root pad and shallow enough to emphasise what is now a broad and majestic canopy. This Kingsville now begins its life as a bonsai.



About the Artist.

Michael Persiano is one of America's premier bonsai artists. His creations reflect the traditional and contemporary in bonsai design and frequently appear in a number of bonsai magazines, miscellaneous books, and organisational bonsai literature published throughout the world.

His website is one of the most frequently visited bonsai venues on the Web and can be accessed at <http://members.aol.com/tisnob>.

Michael and the Publishers of Bonsai Today will be releasing a new book called Masters Techniques for Japanese White and Black Pine, which features content by Masahiko Kimura, Michael Persiano, and others. It is expected to be released during 2005.

