



Vancouver Island Bonsai Club

Wednesday, January 5, 2005 . . .

Happy New Year! Happy Bonsai!

Pine grafting if the theme for demonstration.

Show and Tell... Bring those deciduous trees that show the "winter silhouettes" for show and tell.

December "Toonie" raffle—Won by Maxine, congratulations!!!

Announcement: Better Gnomes and Gardens is having a pre-Christmas sale where there will be no GST on all regularly priced items and 25% off on all bonsai and orchid pots. The sale is from now till they close Christmas Eve. Then when they open again on January 15 and anything that is left will likely be on sale again until 30th of January.

Our Next Two Meetings:

Wednesday, January 5, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, February 2, 7:30 pm

*Garth Homer Society Auditorium
813 Darwin Avenue, Victoria*



Recipe for "Fertilizer Cakes" Now that there not much happening with bonsai, it would be very practical to start preparing some slow release fertilizer to be ready for Spring.
(Taken from BCI magazine, Jan/Feb 1987)

Dry ingredients: 4 parts cottonseed meal, 2 part blood meal, 1 part bone meal, and a little powdered Sevin (an insecticide) and an animal repellent

Liquid ingredients: Some form of liquid fertilizer and trace elements.

Step 1--Mix all of the dry ingredients and set aside what you don't need at the moment. About 2/3 of a standard sized bucket of dry ingredients produces enough fertilizer for about 100 medium to large bonsai. Store leftover dry fertilizer in an airtight container for later use.

Step 2--Put the equivalent of a single application into a bucket, mix liquid fertilizer with the dry mixture, and stir until you have something with about the consistency of oatmeal cookies ready to cook.

Step 3--Use the melon baller to scoop the balls directly onto the bonsai soil surface. You need to apply a bit of pressure against the side of the bucket to get them to stick together. Or use rubber gloves and make 1" balls, flatten them a little bit so they will not roll away, and place them on the soil. Apply about once a month.

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)



WINTER BONSAI TIPS , by Alan Walker

Although your bonsai require very little attention this time of the year, don't neglect them in the rush of December. Root rot can become a big problem, if you haven't modified your watering procedure from the summer. Make sure that you water only when your bonsai soil has gotten on the dry side. Your deciduous trees are not transpiring when their leaves have fallen, and the cool temperatures do not promote much evaporation, so your trees are not using much water: if you've been collecting and had to prune your newly collected material, be sure to seal all the cuts. They won't really start to heal until dormancy ends and by the exposure to winter winds will draw moisture from the wounds faster than the traumatized root system can replenish it. Coat all the cut areas with Calsmate or some other sealant to give that new addition a chance to survive.

December is a good time to rewire, since the branches wont begin to swell with growth again until dormancy ends. Be careful with your deciduous material, though. Even though they are denuded and easier to wire, there is less sap in the branches now, making them more brittle.

(continued on page 4)

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

TAK YAMAURA
Owner/Consultant

16164 - 24th Ave.
S. Surrey, B.C.
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www.japanbonsai.com



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my bonsai,
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*with care and
attention!*

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RULES OF WIRING

by Marco Invernizzi

When Marco Invernizzi was here, he gave us these “Rules of Wiring” while he was working on his demo tree. Thanks to Jane and Randy for taking notes for us to print here. There are no excuses now for not wiring nor for having poor wiring! Start practicing!

1. The size of the wire (aluminum) must be 1/3 of the size of the branch. In case of the Kingsville boxwood the size of the wire could be 1/2 of the size of the branch.
2. Wire 2 branches of almost the same size with one piece of wire.
3. Wire 2 branches not too close or not too far from each other. Do not join branches opposite each other.
4. If there is only one branch left (odd number), join it with another branch or jin to anchor it
5. When the size of the branch changes, the size of the wire must change as per rule #1.
6. Do not leave any gaps between the wire and the branch; the wire must always touch the branch.
7. When you want to bend a branch downwards, the wire must pass from above the branch.
8. When you want to lift a branch, the wire must pass from underneath.
9. When you want to bend the branch to the front, the wire must pass from the back.
10. When you want to bend the branch to the back, the wire must pass from the front.

Note: In order to follow rules 7, 8, 9, and 10, you must know how you are going to bend a branch before you wire it!

11. The position of the branch, when you wire it, must be 45 degrees to your body.
12. When you wire a branch use the dominant hand to wrap the wire, and use the other hand to support the branch and ensure that the wire is in contact with the branch.
13. The end of the wire should end upwards (like a hook) in order to support the branch.

Membership Renewal... This is the time to renew your Club Membership. There are no changes to the fees from the previous year: \$20.00 per year for a single and \$25.00 per year for a family membership. Please complete the form at the back of this newsletter and bring it together with a cheque to the meeting, or if you cannot attend, please place it in the mail.



WINTER BONSAI TIPS (cont'd):

Your pines, junipers, and most other evergreens are still fairly pliable. As always, remember to use wire that is harder to bend than the branch is to train. That way you won't need to put your branches at risk from over bending in order to get the correct angle to stay. Also, the heavier wire will be less likely to scar the branch, if you don't notice the branch thickening in time.

Prepare soil now for the potting season. There are so many things to do in the early spring, that any early preparation done now will be appreciated then. Tag any trees which will need repotting. Now is the time to order pots, so they'll be there when you need them.

The slow winter season is a good time to photograph your bonsai. Your deciduous material is fully exposed, and there's nothing like a black and white photograph of a tree to reveal flaws in the branch arrangement. This can be your blue print for pruning in the spring. Your photographs may also reveal a better front or potting angle. Keep these photographs with your record book. It can be quite rewarding to look over your bonsai records and note how your trees have progressed over the years. Bring your records to one of our general workshops or the meeting to get suggestions from other members for shaping and design.

BONSAI PARADOXES by Ernie Kuo

1. To make them look big, you have to make them small.
2. They may be young, but you want them to look old.
3. They are in part man-made, but you want them to look like they were never touched by mankind.

VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB
 Membership Renewal / Application Form for 2005

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
 PO Box 8674
 Victoria, BC V8W 3S2