



VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

Wednesday, Apr 05, 2006 . . .

Show and Tell... Flowering Trees. We're going to try this again and hopefully there are more trees blooming this month. Also bring in any of the special finds you got during the recent nursery crawl.

Our Next Two Meetings:

Wednesday, Apr 05, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, May 03, 7:30 pm

*Garth Homer Society Auditorium
813 Darwin Avenue, Victoria*

We are going to have a discussion and demo of a boxwood styling by Chuck. With the cuttings, we will then have Steven give a presentation on the preparation, media, etc. on how to strike successful cuttings.

We will introduce the new officers of the club for the upcoming year.

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

Coming in.....

May - How to prepare your tree for exhibit.
Show and tell of Mall show exhibit trees.
Pine candle pruning.

June - Azalea show and tell
Azalea care and training.

July - Show and tell for maples
Summer pruning of deciduous trees

Field Day

Field day has been scheduled for Sunday, April 9th out at the farm starting around 1:00 pm.

For those who have never attended, it is a chance to get together for members to get together outside and work on trees which need potting, styling, or other help.

It is also a time to buy and sell trees, pots, etc. from fellow members and buy and screen bark mulch and other material we need for the year.

Maps and directions to the farms will be available at the next meeting.

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

Randy Kowalchuk (President) **Judy Horsland** (Treasurer)

Bob Taylor (Past President)

MallShow Coordinator - Steven C.



Board of Directors - Officers for 2006

The Board of Directors would like to announce the selection of our Club Officers for 2006:

President - Randy Kowalchuk
Past - President - Bob Taylor
Vice - President - TBA
Treasurer - Judy Horsland
Secretary - Tibby Solloway
Memberships - Luis Martin
Newsletter/Webmaster - Randy Kowalchuk
Mallshow Co-ordinator - Steven Cook

We look forward to another wonderful and active year and please if you have any ideas or suggestions, let us know, we are here for you!!

Port Hardy Field Trip

We are in the planning stages of taking another trip up to Port Hardy in mid-August in conjunction with some club members from Washington State. There are some bonsai enthusiasts located in the northern portion of the island who are looking at forming a bonsai club and we would be going up to help promote this.

Details will be following as they are brought on line. Stay Tuned!!!

Retiring Officers

For 9 years Tom Burley has been our treasurer and has helped see this club into a very financially sound and stable one. Tom is turning over the reigns to Judy Horsland who is certainly going to have some very big shoes to fill. Tom will remain on the Board of Directors and will be a valuable resource as we continue to provide services and programs for the club. On behalf of all the members a BIG THANK-YOU!! Tom for all your contributions.

Bob Taylor has been the president for 3 years and has finally decided to give up his seat!! Yah right!! Bob will continue on as Past-President providing valuable resources and input to the Board in the upcoming year. THANK-YOU Bob for your hard work and dedication to the cause!

It is people like these who help the club continue to operate and grow. Please let them know how they are appreciated and hopefully we can convince more of you to become more involved and perhaps fill in vacancies in the future.



2006 Mall Show and Sale May 12, 13, and 14

Time is approaching for our annual mall show and sale which is being held May 12, 13, and 14 at Hillside Mall. Setup is going to happen the evening of May 11th.

Volunteers are needed for various duties and shifts which are 4 hours long. Signup sheets will be at the upcoming monthly meetings. Please be sure you support this major club activity. If you are planning to sell trees at the show you are required to signup for at least 1 shift. Details regarding this will be forthcoming.

Also begin to plan which tree or trees you would like to bring for the show.



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Nursery Crawl *By Helen Ayers*

The first field trip of 2006 for club members took place on a day that promised a great new season for the 17 or more intrepid travellers who ventured out. We are especially fortunate here on the lower island because there is a wealth of garden centres for us to explore. It is good to find those ideal specimens for that part of our collection that needs filling and to be able to do so in the company of experts who are always willing to share their knowledge. The tour of just six of the nurseries out on the Saanich Peninsula had been planned for Sunday March 21st and a better day could not have been chosen. There was not a cloud in the sky as we met up at 10am and our able tour organizer, Mark, ensured that everyone not only had a vehicle with ample space for purchases but also had a route map to follow. An added bonus was a list of fine examples of fully grown heritage trees that we passed along the way - inspiration for all. If you couldn't make the crawl but would like the list just let one of the executive know.

For those who are beginning a lifetime passion for our addictive hobby Fred Starke's Peninsula Nursery at 8512 West Saanich Rd. is a fine place to visit. Here you can browse through many ready to care for bonsai that have a good start or find varieties of suitable stock to get trained in that style that has you inspired. Members of the club were seen leaving with assorted evergreens, some noteworthy Pieris Japonica, Taxus Baccata Washingtonii, and some new pots.

On to Meadow Oak Nursery, 1070 Wain Rd., where a steady lineup at the checkout had a couple of members going back to pick up their own Corokia Cotoneaster - wire netting bush - for a small leaf grey shrub with contorted branches that should cause lots of questions at the show and tell table.

Next we went down the road to Russell Nursery at 1370 Wain Rd, where Brian had prepared some new plants from this year's catalogue to inspire us. Of special interest were Carpinus Laxiflora, a Hornbeam with pendulous flower, and Poncirus Trifoliata, a hardy orange often used as root stock for other citrus. There were small Japanese Maples ready for group planting and Styra Japonica - Japanese Snowbell—ready for styling.

By now we were ready for lunch and we trooped off to The Roost next to the Four Seasons Nursery, 9100 East Saanich Rd. This farm bakery had a varied menu that well suited our need for nourishment. We enjoyed our meal in the converted school bus alongside amidst much laughter. It did seem that we had picked up a couple of stragglers at this point and there was lots of discussion on what to do with our purchases. The visit to the nursery allowed us to digest our lunch and spend more time discussing the merits of a good selection of suitable specimens.

There was consensus that as we were so close to Marigold Nursery at 7874 Lochside Drive that an extra side trip could be included. It was busy with Sunday afternoon shoppers out enjoying this fine day and we could barely resist the display of early spring bedding plants.

Our last stop was at Cannor Nursery, 4660 Elk Lake Drive, where the Potentilla varieties could not be resisted. A new tangerine coloured one as well as the yellow, pink, and white varieties that are familiar were examined for good trunk formation and even the staff were fascinated by our enthusiastic discussion of what to look for. We just may have some new members at the next meeting.

The day came to an end around 4pm and we headed home having spent time in good company with each other sharing our ideas and questions. Our resident cameraman - Don Chaput - did some videotaping and there will be a broadcast on our activities by Shaw before the Mall show in mid May. Our special thanks to Mark for organizing us and thanks to the nurseries who hosted our invasion. Recognition is due to the nursery staff who helped us search for specimens, answered our questions, and made time to find elusive answers in their reference books. As always we acknowledge the time and effort given by our own expert club members who so willingly share their experience and advice - it is with them that the real value of the day can be truly appreciated.