



# VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

**Monday, August 20, 2007 . . .**

**Show and Tell - Indoor Bonsai**

***Our Next Two Meetings:***

*Monday August 20, 7:30 pm*

*Monday, September 17, 7:30 pm*

*Garth Homer Society Auditorium  
813 Darwin Avenue, Victoria*

**Also** - Please bring in your trees that are not hardy enough to stay outdoors in our winter climate. Let's see how many different species our members are growing - just this once they don't have to be "exhibition quality"! Find out about the special challenges and rewards of growing indoor bonsai.

Special clinic on sharpening tools with Bob T.

Bring in your trees for advice from our experts.

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

## ***Coming in.....***

**September** - Show & Tell - Forest plantings.

Also demonstrations of Forest plantings; Fertilizing tips for flowering bonsai.

**October** - Show & Tell—Fall colours; also convention finds.

"Whack & chat" - Hands-on styling sessions for new members.

## **A LONG LOST FRIEND - Have you seen this Bonsai?**

Not to be found since our Annual Show in Hillside Mall, I collected this Sitka Spruce about five years ago along the outer coast beyond Port Alice. It is about 13" tall and 10" wide. It has an uncomplimentary flat lower trunk which has been camouflaged by a miniature native fern planted in front and a stone lodged behind the tree. This little bonsai may have been picked up by mistake when taking down the mall show on the Sunday evening. I'd love to get it back; it's a special friend .... George



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 - Wayne Swanson**



## Garden Works Midsummer Market Event Thursday August 16, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Gardenworks on Blenkinsop is having a garden market event and have invited a number of garden clubs to come and spend the day displaying and demonstrating their hobby. We will be having a table there and anyone interested in helping out should show up and help answer the plethora of questions we will surely have. It should be a lot of fun.

### Bonsai Auction

We will be auctioning off, at the next meeting, 2 lovely collected hemlocks which were donated to the club by Stu Moyers, and have been restyled and looked after by Maurice and a few volunteer club members. Good luck to all!





## Indoor Bonsai by Holly Tuokko

Technically there is no such thing as indoor bonsai. All material used as indoor bonsai grows outside where it originates, somewhere in the world. It becomes an indoor plant when relocated to a different climate region from its natural environment. The “trick” to caring for indoor bonsai, then, is to understand the climactic conditions of origin and provide the plant with these conditions.

Here on Vancouver Island, we live in a temperate climate. The plants grow well as outdoor bonsai are those used to distinct seasons and have a dormancy period requiring the temperature to drop to 5°C(41°F) or below. If they were to be grown in subtropical or tropical regions of the world, it would be necessary to keep the trees indoors at lower temperatures than experienced outdoors. They would be indoor bonsai in those regions.

The plants we grow here on Vancouver Island as indoor bonsai are those trees from tropical or subtropical regions (see Table below). In addition, some tender temperate trees (e.g., boxwood, cotoneaster) cannot tolerate extended periods of frost and need to be protected if our weather turns extremely cold or frost persists for more than a few days (a rarity on Vancouver Island, thank goodness!). This is also true for hardy trees that are growing over rocks with their roots exposed and trees grown as mame in very small or shallow pots. However, the temperature in the protected site should not exceed 10°C(50°F) (i.e., should not be brought into the house).

The care of tropical and subtropical trees differs with respect to preferred temperature and light. Tropical trees grow in warm temperatures all year with an optimum temperature between 15°C and 27°C. They require much more light than temperate or subtropical trees as the day length in their natural environment (i.e., equatorial regions) is 12 hours year round. This means supplementary lighting may be necessary in winter ( e.g., florescent aquarium and plant lights ), depending on the species of tree and the lighting conditions in your home. Although tropical plants enjoy long hours of light, most prefer filtered, as opposed to direct, sunlight which can be achieved by placing your tree near, but not in, windows that receive a lot of sunlight.

Subtropical trees grow further away from the equator than tropical trees and so require cooler temperatures with seasonal changes in both temperature and lighting. Many of the subtropical trees grown as indoor bonsai come from Mediterranean regions where summers are hot but temperatures drop dramatically in winter. The optimal temperature for subtropical trees is between 8°C and 22°C. Some subtropical trees prefer to experience the cooler temperature in this range in winter but not colder. Subtropical trees require less light in winter than tropical trees but those with variegated or very small leaves may require longer hours of light than others.

One of the greatest assets of tropical and subtropical indoor bonsai is that pruning and shaping can be carried out at any time during the year. Similarly, propagation can take place throughout the year but best results are achieved in spring. Repotting, like for other bonsai, is recommended in the spring just before new growth appears. I have been successful at growing tropical trees (e.g., ficus, schefflera) and some subtropical trees (e.g., olive, eugenia, jade) inside my home at room temperature. The subtropical trees are situated in cooler places (e.g., garden window) than the tropical trees. Many other subtropical trees (e.g., serissa foetida, myrtus communis, punica granatum, bougainvillia) winter in a greenhouse where the temperature does not drop below 10-12°C and a shade cloth protects them from direct sunlight. The subtropical trees enjoy summer outdoors in a sheltered, partially-shaded location. It takes a bit of extra work and research to be able to provide indoor bonsai with the proper climactic conditions but having them indoors to enjoy all year makes it well worth the effort!

Table: Selected commonly available species of indoor bonsai (next page)....



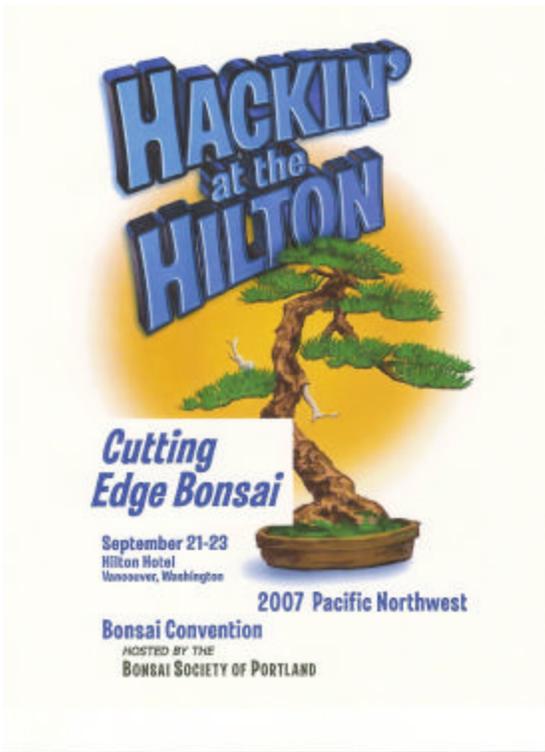
Table: Selected commonly available species of indoor bonsai

Tropical	Subtropical	Tender Temperate
<i>Bucida spinosa</i> (Black olive)	<i>Acacia dealbata</i> (Mimosa)	<i>Buxus</i> (Boxwood)
<i>Carmona microphylla</i> or <i>Ehretia buxifolia</i>	<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>	Cotoneaster
<i>Cycas revoluta</i>	Citrus (orange, lemon, lime, grapefruit)	<i>Fuchsia fulgens hybrida</i>
<i>Eugenia myrtilifolia</i> (Bush cherry)	<i>Crassula arborescens</i> (Jade)	<i>Hedera</i> (Ivy)
<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i> (Umbrella tree)	<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i> (Gardenia)	<i>Pyracantha</i> (Firethorn)
<i>Serissa foetida</i> 'Kyoto'	<i>Grewia</i>	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> or <i>Zelkova sinica</i> (Chinese elm)
	<i>Leptospermum</i> (Tea tree)	
	<i>Myrtus communis</i> (Myrtle)	
	<i>Olea europaea</i> (Olive)	
	<i>Podocarpus macrophyllus</i> (Chinese yew)	
	<i>Punica granatum</i> (Pomegranate)	
	<i>Serissa foetida</i> (Tree of a thousand stars)	

Note: Source differ with respect to placement of species in categories

**Club Books on Indoor Bonsai** (available through our club library at monthly meetings):

The Art of Indoor Bonsai: Cultivating tropical, subtropical and tender bonsai. (John Ainsworth)  
 Indoor Bonsai (John Ainsworth)  
 Indoor Bonsai (Paul Lesniewicz)  
 Indoor Bonsai: Beginner's Step-by-Step Guide (David Pike)  
 Bonsai for Indoors: How to train and care of them (Brooklyn Botanical Gardens)  
 Bonsai: For the Home and Garden (Leonard Webber)



## Vancouver Island Bonsai Club

### Membership Renewal /Application Form for 2007

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate whether you would like to receive the Club Newsletter by Regular mail\_\_\_\_ or by email notification of posting to the club website\_\_\_\_\_

If you are mailing this form, please mail to:

Vancouver Island Bonsai Club  
PO Box 8674  
Victoria, BC. V8W 3S2