



# VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

**Monday, December 17, 2007 . . .**

**Show and Tell - Decorated Christmas Bonsai contest**

Christmas party. Bring your favourite party snack and enjoy the festivities. There will also be tables set up for anyone to sell or swap Christmas or bonsai related goods.

Sign up for your 2008 membership at the next meeting and get a chance to win a bonsai. Draw will be held during the meeting in December.

We will have our usual raffle and also a few items in a silent auction such as a collected Mountain hemlock, donated to the club by Judy H.

**Coming in.....**

**January**– Show and tell will be winter silhouettes. Bonsai nurseries in Japan - Holly and Don will present a video on their recent trip to Japan. We will also have the usual raffle.

***Our Next Two Meetings:***

*Monday, December 17, 7:30 pm*

*Monday, January 21, 7:30 pm*

*Garth Homer Society Auditorium  
813 Darwin Avenue, Victoria*

## Penjing and Bonsai

Since we have recently enjoyed a presentation on penjing presented by Mr. Chiu Lee of the Chinese Penjing Society of Canada, members may find the following abridged from definitions found in Wikipedia ...

BONSAI in Japanese, literally “potted plant”, is the art of aesthetic miniaturization of trees growing them in containers. Having originated in China, the Japanese developed the localization of techniques and aesthetics after its introduction to Japan by imperial embassies returning from China in the 9th century. In Western culture the word “bonsai” is commonly used as an umbrella term for all miniature trees.

PENJING in China translates literally to “tray scenery” also known as “tray landscape”, “potted scenery”, “potted landscape”, and “miniature trees and rockery”. It is the ancient Chinese art of growing trees and plants, kept small by skilled pruning and formed to create an aesthetic shape and the complex illusion of age. While penjing is similar to Japanese bonsai, there are differences as it generally falls into one of three categories depending on the subject matter. These categories are “Tree Penjing”, (essentially bonsai in form) “Landscape Penjing” and “Water and Land Penjing”.

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 -**



## Penjing Demonstration in October

We would like to sincerely thank the Chinese Penjing Society of Canada for the wonderful demonstration they gave us at our October meeting. I am sure everyone who attended learned some valuable lessons and quite thoroughly enjoyed the program. We look forward to visiting the Penjing Society in Vancouver in May 2008 for their annual show.





## If winter comes...

The newsletter of the Bonsai Society of Upstate New York carries as seasonal article written by noted North American bonsai artist Bill Valavanis. In his December column he warns, "if you have not put your bonsai away for the winter yet, don't bother. It's probably too late. You will not have to worry about transplanting or pruning next spring either. But you can start all over with a new bonsai collection..."

Happily, this is not quite so apt to happen here on Vancouver Island unless you are totally fool hardy. Pines are pretty tough in this climate and require very little special care. Most other trees should be placed on the ground, sheltered perhaps by your benches, overhanging eaves or a garden shrub. Snow is a friend so order plenty of it. The insulation provided by snow and close association with the ground can normally be expected to save your collection from the reasonable winter weather we have here... but then, there was that winter of 1989!

## Tips from Scott...

The Columbus Bonsai Society of Ohio report that Keith Scott, drawing on some 50 years on bonsai experience, offered advice on wiring to members during and October session. He is reported as having said:

1. We wire because it speeds up the process of making a tree look older.
2. Always plan to wire two branches at the same time.
3. The length of wire you will need should be about 1 1/2 times the distance to the ends of the two branches being wired.
4. It is important to wire branches all the way to the end but only put wire on branches that need it.
5. The only time when wire crossing wire is permitted is when wiring three smaller branches on a main branch. Then a 90 degrees cross is permitted.

## Some Comments on Penjing

"Bonsai as done by the Japanese often seems to be pre-occupied with the rules, for example, a triangular shaping, the elimination of bar branching and a branch design of #1, #2, #3, etc. Chinese penjing on the other hand, is more especially concerned with a design that reflects spirit, philosophy and feeling".

...*Jim Hughes, Assistant Curator of Bonsai at the National Arboretum, Washington, DC (paraphrased)*

"Penjing is like a horse running in the wind".

... *Vaughn Banting, bonsai professional of Louisiana*

Penjing makes use of "the natural aspects of the species".

... *Dr. Wu Yee Sun, from his book "Man Lung Penjing"*



The Chinese art of growing trees, properly called penjing, seeks to capture the essence and spirit of nature through contrasts... Penjing puts less emphasis on technical perfection and the art is not so rigidly categorized as that of Japanese bonsai. Such things as tangled roots or pruning scars (which are against the bonsai aesthetes) are allowed in penjing if they fit into the overall design. Miniature images placed next to a miniature tree (such as a small pagoda or a tiny man with a fishing rod) belong strictly in the realm of penjing and are an anathema to the realm of bonsai. It can also be observed that Chinese penjing often includes the use of natural rock which the Japanese seldom use in crafting bonsai.



**JAPAN BONSAI**  
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## Vancouver Island Bonsai Club

### Membership Renewal /Application Form for 2008

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