



VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

Monday, November 19, 2007 . . .

Show and Tell - Bring in your Chinese-inspired trees and landscapes.

Penjing - We are fortunate to be hosting

Coming in.....

November - Penjing. We are fortunate to be hosting two members of the Chinese Penjing Society of Canada, who will give a presentation on the ancient art of Penjing.
Show & Tell - Bring in your Chinese-inspired trees and landscapes.

December - Christmas party. Bring your favorite party snack and enjoy the festivities.

We will have a decorated bonsai tree contest. There will also be tables set up for anyone to sell or swap Christmas or bonsai related goods.

We will have our usual raffle and also a few items in a silent auction such as a collected mountain hemlock.

Our Next Two Meetings:

Monday November 19, 7:30 pm

Monday, December 17, 7:30 pm

*Garth Homer Society Auditorium
 813 Darwin Avenue, Victoria*

Island Wide

Bonsai has taken off on Vancouver Island as there are now four clubs serving the various regions. The Cowichan Bonsai Club serving the Duncan area, the Mt. Arrowsmith Bonsai Society in the Nanaimo/Parksville area and the North Island Bonsai Club centered in Port Hardy reaching bonsai friends in Port Alice and Port McNeill. As a service to us all, we plan to include news from all the clubs together with information on the day, time, and place of meetings. We would also encourage articles on some of the unique features of these neighbourhoods. Immediately coming to mind because we live in such a mild and mountainous part of Canada, is the unique diversity of plant material. We are still discovering wild species suitable for bonsai and tray landscapes. Most of us are familiar already with the always popular Pines, Hemlocks, and Firs. But how many of us have tried our hand at Bitter Cherry (*Prunus marginata*) or the Douglas maple (*Acer glabrum*)? Recently we have found that the tiny Maiden Hair Spleenwort (*Asplenium viride*) can add an artistic touch to a group planting. And don't forget the stones, here on Vancouver Island we are blessed with wonderful limestone deposits, which, if carefully chosen, can be displayed as Viewing Stones for us all to enjoy. We solicit written stories on these and other topics to help us know our art, hobby, and home island better.

The VIBC website is now familiar and available to most bonsai addicts. Just seek the site at www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca then click on "Newsletter"

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 -



Cork Bark Chinese Elm



This is a photo of a cork bark chinese elm which I am presently working on. I dug it out of the ground 2 years ago and performed a trunk chop. I removed most of the branches and was left with basically a stump.

New branches readily grow from the old wood and I am now at the point where I have begun refining the branch selection and ramification of the finer branching.

When it is complete I will move it to a less bulky pot and hopefully in the not too distant future it will be a fine example of a formal upright.

Enhance Your Bonsai by Stress-carving Deadwood

For heavy carving tasks on large bonsai, the use of a die grinder to shape and stress deadwood is an important tool. Anyone who has seen and admired Dan Robinson's work will be familiar with the process. The Makita **Die Grinder Model 906** is the recommended tool. The popular grinding tip is the 3/8" Round Nose bit but for finer work a 1/4" bit also does the job well. This tool is not so easy to find these days but your local hardware store may be willing to order one in if this model is not in stock. In Victoria we know the 906 is available at Island Saw and Tool, 2920 Bridge St. at about \$185. But shop around, as recently it appeared in a House of Tools flyer (1652 Island Highway) as being on sale for \$179.99. Cutting bits run at about \$25 each and can be re-sharpened when necessary at Island Saw and Tool for \$12.

For fine work, especially for smaller trees, many will prefer the lighter Dremel which is easier to find at most dealers and hobby shops at prices under \$100 depending on the model chosen. The single speed unit which runs at 35,000 rpm is around \$70 whereas the variable speed model will be in the \$90 range. Kits are also offered to include some of the drills, burrs, and polishers. Watch for a Dremel 75th Anniversary "package" priced at \$90 as it includes a number of extra items.

Happy Carving!!!!!!



Urban Collecting

While not everyone wants to be scrambling up mountains or wading through swamps to obtain potential bonsai material, in addition to keeping a weather eye on what is being offered by commercial nurseries, there is interesting plant material being removed from time to time right within our cities, towns, and villages. Do you know a neighbour or landscaper removing shrubs or trees from their yard? Or, with the building of new houses and condos these days, do you watch for opportunities on land being redeveloped? Before digging, however, be sure to get permission and if the job looks too big, make sure your bonsai buddies are brought into the dig.

You're apt to see almost any species being discarded from urban land. Nice old Boxwoods and Junipers are common but a generation ago, previous owners may have spent big bucks at a nursery obtaining very special material that has become even more special with age. We were made aware recently of the removal from property being developed for a new residence and trashed. Thus the community has lost a magnificent dwarf Hinoki cypress and a creeping Deodar cedar, both of which were certainly over 50 years old!

Weather Warning...

Its only a sober warning but some of us remember bonsai chaos brought on by extremely cold weather in the winter of 1989. Minimum temperatures for February ranged from 11.8 to -0.6 C during the month. It was the coldest February on record with an average mean temperature of -0.1 C, breaking the previous low mean of -2.1 C. To make matters worse, there were specific record lows for the six days from the 5th through the 10th with no snow to protect plants from high winds accompanying the devastatingly low temperatures! What to do when the forecast threatens these conditions? You better have at least a sheltering garage in mind. The species least damaged that year were the conifers—pines, firs, and spruces - as well as Zelkova, Shimpaku, Ash, and the native juniper.

More Winter Works...

Plan ahead to dormant spray your trees with lime sulphur and dormant oil. Remove landscape leaves as they fall onto the bonsai and the bonsai leaves themselves. Up to three sprayings and monthly intervals are suggested during the winter of deciduous bonsai (definitely not your conifers). The preparation will kill fungus and control insects and their eggs on your trees often hiding in the bark. Spray branches and the trunk but try not to get much on the soil. *Laters Dormant Spray Kit* is available at most home and garden centres for around \$10.



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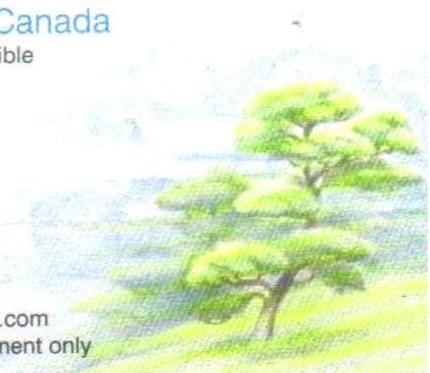
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Vancouver Island Bonsai Club

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
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Victoria, BC. V8W 3S2