



VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

Monday, August 18, 2008 . . .

Show & Tell: Good trees, Do you have a tree that you are generally satisfied with? A tree that has reached a good stage in its training - one that pleases you? Please don't be modest - bring in your best trees for an expert critique. David Rowe will discuss the trees, pointing out refinements in styling or presentation that could make a good tree even better.

We will also have our usual raffle - please bring in your donations.

Coming In ...

September - Show & Tell: Native plants suitable for bonsai: also tips on collecting trees in the wild.

October - Show & Tell (silent): Fall colours
Bring -Your-Own-Tree Workshop (part 1) - The whole meeting will be devoted to each member working on his or her own tree, with expert guidance available.

November - Show & Tell (silent): Late fall colours
Bring-In-Your-Own-Tree (part 2) - More time to work on your trees before winter sets in.

Our Next Two Meetings:

Monday, August 18, 7:30 pm

Monday, September 16, 7:30 pm

*Garth Homer Society Auditorium
813 Darwin Avenue, Victoria*

Trees are superior survival mechanisms.

They live longer, grow taller, and become more massive than any organism to inhabit the earth. Trees do demand some respect. This means trees have dignity.

Dr. Shigo



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

Chuck Hickman (President) **Judy Horsland** (Treasurer)

Randy Kowalchuk (Past President)

MallShow Coordinator -



It Takes Time to Make a Great Bonsai...

There is a little story written by Cheryl Manning in the newsletter of the National Bonsai Foundation in Washington DC. It concerns a Blue Atlas Cedar in the collection of John Naka. It goes something like this:

Nurseries are often the first place a bonsai aficionado will look for material. John Naka spent many hours stalking his local nurseries seeking overgrown, neglected trees that had been sitting around a nursery for a while. On one such trip in 1950, he spotted several Blue Atlas cedars in five gallon containers. They were grafted onto Deodora cedars and most of them had ugly graft lines. But one tree was grafted so low that the scar was nearly invisible. It wasn't the nicest looking tree of the group but it was only \$2.50 so he took it home.

First the tree was placed in the ground. When trees are field grown, the increase in size is accelerated, more branches will develop and scars will heal faster. But to develop hidden beauty (shibue), the tree needs also to grow slowly in a pot. This is the time to detail work and focus on the refinement of branches. For about 20 years this cedar moved between the ground and a container. Eventually, when John was satisfied with its size, the tree found a permanent home in a pot.

John loved the silvery-blue foliage of the cedar. And he thought the powerful branches gave the impression of the fabulous wings of a super bird. Therefore, Gimpo - Japanese for "Silver Phoenix" seemed the perfect name for such a majestic tree. A full sized picture in color of this remarkable bonsai can be found as Plate #7 in John's book, *Bonsai Techniques*, in the club library.





Bonsai Aesthetics

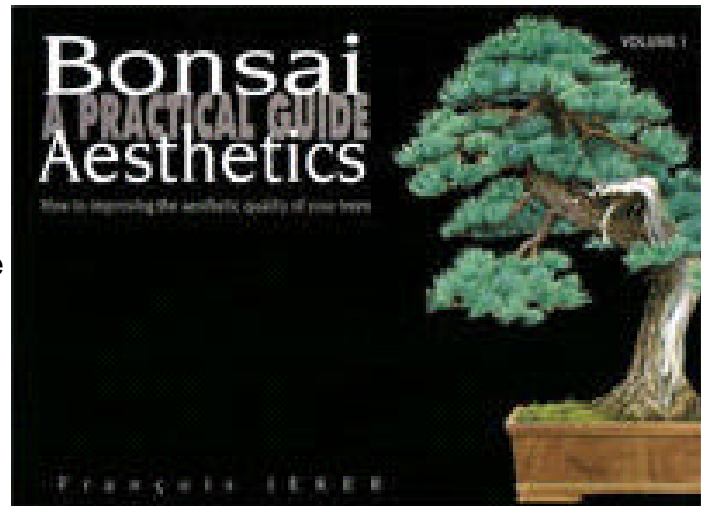
A Practical Guide - Volume 1

How to improve the aesthetic quality of your trees by Francois Jeker.

Bonsai Aesthetics is the first book dedicated exclusively to the major principles of Japanese aesthetics as applied to bonsai. It is practical and simple, yet full of ideas which will inspire and challenge your bonsai skills and understanding.

The author, in addition to being an enormously accomplished bonsai artist - and dead-wood master- is a skilled illustrator, painter, garden designer, photographer, and set designer for television and theater.

Available at www.stonelantern.com



What Makes It A Good Bonsai?

The uninitiated have many ideas, some correct, others less so, of what makes a plant into a bonsai. Here are some thoughts adapted from an article in the newsletter of Prairie State Bonsai of Glen Ellyn, IL.....

A true bonsai needs to resemble a tree that can be found growing somewhere in nature. It is smaller and simplified in its design but that design should be inspired by natural tree forms. There are five basic design elements working together in every bonsai: trunk, roots, branches, foliage, and later the container. The design may be powerful and dramatic or softer and more lyrical. It is usually, but not always asymmetrical. The naturalness and simplicity of the bonsai make it easier to understand and enjoy as opposed to the larger, more complicated trees in nature.

A bonsai should always have a look of age. Even a young tree can be made to look old by using specific techniques - natural or imposed by you - the artist. All scars and wear can tell the story of a long life and give a certain beauty and character to the tree.



The 19th annual PNBCA Convention will be held at the Red Lion 'Inn at the Park' in beautiful downtown Spokane.

We have an exceptional group of guest artists lined up for this year's Convention, which will emphasize education. We all want to improve our bonsai, and the artists we have lined up for the convention are ready to help you achieve that goal.

First a few words about our guest artists. We have Walter Pall in our lineup. Walter is in demand as a demonstrator and educator all over the world. This convention will be a great opportunity for you to learn from one of Europe's top artists. Next we present Kathy Shaner, one of the most respected artists and demonstrators in the U.S. We have Dennis Makishima on the program. Dennis is limiting his engagements these days, but has graciously consented to be part of our convention. Dennis is an excellent teacher, and his workshops and classes always fill up fast. Next we have David Rowe. Most of you know David from his time as editor of the ABS Journal, as well as from his appearances at various conventions; his workshops are always in demand. And last, but not least, we have Jerry Meislik on the program. Jerry is nationally known as an expert in keeping ficus and other tropical trees indoors; as well as his work with native temperate species.

See our website for more info and registration:

www.inlandbonsai.com/convention/



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GARDEN ART

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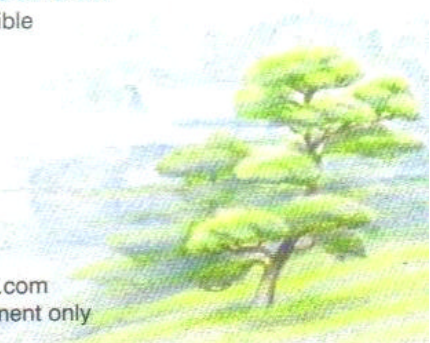
making bonsai accessible

Mark Paterson

owner

- Bonsai and stock
- Bonsai workshops
- Bonsai maintenance

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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:

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 PO Box 8674
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