



VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

February Newsletter

February 16, 2009

Newsletter Highlights:

Meeting Programs	1
Early Spring Work	
Larch	2
Prunus Mume	2
Bonsai Pot Selection	3
Interesting Bonsai Web Sites	3
Membership Form	4



2009 VIBC Officers

President	Chuck Hickman
Past-Pres.	Randy Kowalchuk
Treasurer	Judy Horsland
MallShow Coordinator	Vacant
2009 PNBCA Convention Chair	Bob Taylor

Monday, February 16, 2009 . . .

Show & Tell: Trees and pots in harmony

Panel on Potting: Discussion of soils, pot selection, and where to buy pots. Panel members: Chuck, Luis, and Bob
If you have any unusual , interesting or just plain nice pots, bring them to show.

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

Coming in -

March 16 - Show & tell (silent): Trees with incredible movement
Talk on fertilizers - Chuck
Two step-by-step repotting demos at the back of the room by George and Luis.

April 20 - Show & tell : Mall show exhibit trees
Discussion on preparation for the Mall show - tips on exhibiting and selling trees.
Kent will tell anecdotes from past Mall shows and provide ideas on how to recruit new members.

Planning for 2009

Already there has been good sign for the convention now just 290 days into the future. In case you haven't noticed, the 20th annual convention of the Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association will take place at the Harbour Towers Hotel right here in Victoria for three days beginning October 2, 2009. Quite an honour for our club to be hosting "Bonsai Without Borders". Needless to say there will be work for us all on that Friday thru Sunday weekend.

Here is the first challenge. We will require several trays of fine quality moss for the tray landscapes to be done at the workshops of our guest from China, Quinquan "Brook" Zhao. Who is to be the moss expert? If you are the one talk to our chairman, Bob Taylor.

Only **228** days to
PNBCA XX Convention
"Bonsai Without Borders" - Victoria BC

Early Spring Work on Your Trees



Japanese Larch



European Larch



Prunus Mume

The Art of Bonsai
January 1999
By Craig Coussins

Larch (*Larix Spp*)

Now is a good time to cut back hard to the new set of last year's growth. This forces the branches into shorter and finer internodal growth and will result in better ramification in the branches, making them look more natural. Wire smaller branches at the sides of the tree but not to the tips or at the top of the bonsai. Spring growth will quickly expand the branches and the wire will bite into the bark. These will soon grow out as long as they are slight.

Remove all dead needles and cones as that mulch might harbor pests. If the bark is deeply fissured, check to see if there are any pests in there and delicately remove with tweezers, being sure not to damage the bark.

If you are planning to repot this spring, this should be done as soon as the risk of frost is past and before the new buds open.

Apricot (*Prunus Mume*)

A very nice tree to grow because of the scented flowers and in old trees the unusual trunk and bark. Grown usually from cuttings, grafts, or collected from old gardens, it is best in a literati style or, depending on trunk shape, in a short heavy style.

Repot before flowering and then let it grow bushy until September before pruning back to shape. Avoid spring frosts after repotting and feed after flowering every two weeks. Apricots need feeding at half strength—once a week for young trees and once a month after flowering for older trees or you can use organic pellets.

How to Chop *Prunus Mume*

In order to quickly increase the size of your apricot, plant in the ground in spring because they can get triple the trunk growth than they can by being planted in any size pot. The branches grow as long as you can let them, then cut them back in the fall, dig up and prune the roots. Remove all upward and downward growing vertical roots and heel them in for the winter. You will cut the growth about 2/3 the final height you want your tree. Use the pruning bits for new cuttings. Cut straight across, not at an angle. Second fall, you will cut one of the top vertical branches as your new trunk line about 1/2 to 3/4 inches higher than the first cut. The distance can vary depending on what look you want. This measure is for massive taper. All the other branches will be long, cut them off also horizontally. Don't worry about what's left, that will be carved when the time is right. Each year let the tree grow by feeding heavily, each fall prune back hard and do your root work to promote a spreading nebari.

When you get the trunk to the size and taper you want, then you will begin making branches, and not before. What is true of all bonsai, is especially true of *Prunus mume*: you can work on the trunk or the branches, but not on both at the same time. Working on branches and keeping them in proportion requires that the tree be grown in a pot. They get too big and can't be wired properly in the ground.

Bonsai Pot Selection



The Bonsai News
Of Lake Charles Louisiana
February 2006
By Alan Walker

Size is only one consideration in choosing a bonsai container. There are also matters of color, shape, design features, type of tree, style of bonsai, complimentary fruit or foliage features, etc. But size is a good place to start.

In most cases, the length of the pot should be a little more than 2/3 the height of the tree. If the height of the tree is shorter than its width, the length of the pot is determined by measuring a little more than 2/3 of the width or the spread of the tree.

The depth of the pot should match the trunk size, except in a cascade or multiple trunk style. The width of the pot should be little more than the spread of the longest branches on both sides. Once the length is selected, the width is already determined by the potter.

There are tried and true guidelines from John Naka's book *Bonsai Techniques 1*. It has a chapter on "Selecting the Pot" between pages 82-87 which I suggest you consult. You may, of course, deviate from these guidelines. Your results may be wonderful or disastrous, but sticking with these guidelines will consistently achieve a pleasing result.

Note from George:

Bonsai pots are not easy to find on Vancouver Island but carrying a shopping list of what is wanted in your memory can give challenging edge to the bonsai experience. Just last summer I found what I believe is the "right" pot for a rangy Boxwood I acquired four years ago at our last PNBCA convention! The same applies, of course, to finding just the right plant for whatever you may have in mind.

Watch for just the right pot at:

- The raffle table of our very own club meetings
- Seattle Bonsai Northwest
- Vancouver Sunny Bonsai
 3309 E. Broadway
- Richmond China Pottery
 1900 Bridgeport Rd.
 Garden in Gardens
 4080 No. 6 Rd.
 Shung Lai ong
 6280 No. 5 Rd.
 Naturise Ltd.
 6711 No. 5 Rd.
- Surrey Japan Bonsai
 16164 24th Ave.
- Coombs The Old Country Market
- Vendors at our Convention in Oct 2-4, 2009

Interesting Bonsai Web Sites

Www.bonsaioutlet.com
Www.naturalbonsai.com



JAPAN BONSAI
GARDEN ART

TAK YAMAURA
Owner/Consultant

16164 - 24th Ave.
S. Surrey, B.C.
V4P 2S3 Canada

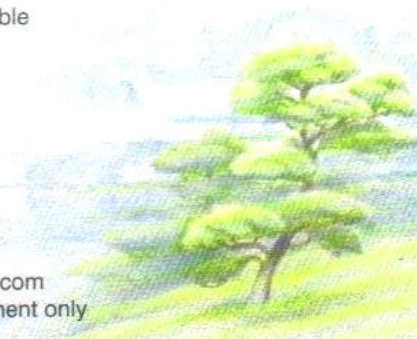
Phone: (604) 536-9220
Fax: (604) 536-8799
www.japanbonsai.com

Nebari Bonsai Canada
making bonsai accessible

Mark Paterson
owner

Bonsai and stock
Bonsai workshops
Bonsai maintenance

250-661-9514
itsmarkp@gmail.com
itsmarkp.googlepages.com
retail sales by appointment only



Vancouver Island Bonsai Club

Membership Renewal /Application Form for 2009

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