



VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

Monday, January 19, 2009 . . .

Show & Tell: Winter silhouettes - Please bring in your winter trees so we can appreciate the ramification.

Panel on Pest Control and Dormant Spraying:

What you need to do now to protect your trees.

Pine Management: Demos and tips on needle plucking, wiring, and more. Bring in your pines for advice.

Also, as usual, please feel free to consult with our senior members about any of your trees.

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

Coming in -

February - Show & Tell: Trees and Pots in harmony.
Panel on potting and soils

March - Show & Tell: Trees with incredible movement.
Short talk on fertilizer - presented by your President
Step-by-step potting demos and the back of the room.

Our Next Two Meetings:

Monday, January 19, 7:30 pm

Monday, February 16, 7:30 pm

*Garth Homer Society Auditorium
813 Darwin Avenue, Victoria*

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 **254** days to
PNBCA XX Convention
"Bonsai Without Borders" - Victoria BC
Oct 2 - 4, 2009

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 -



Native Trees

In a reply to a question posted by a member of the ABS Forum, Bob Thatcher of shville NC says, "I have collected many native trees you wouldn't normally think of using for bonsai." He then describes his experience with Horse Chestnut, describing it as being one of the more successful native species he has tried. Since Horse Chestnut, *Aesculus Hippocampus*, is an ornamental species originating in Europe, and now common on Vancouver island, some members may want to give it a try. Here's what Bob has to say

"Some were collected, but some I just collected buckeyes (the nut-like seed), stuck them an inch or two in the ground and the next spring, bingo, I had baby chestnut trees.

I dug them up in the late summer and put them in one gallon black nursery pots. In the fall these produce tip buds that are very large and sticky. If you cut the large end buds off you will get at least two back buds that are smaller. Then in the spring let the two buds leaf out. In June I cut the large leaves off retaining the petiole just like you would for a maple. They will back bud with many smaller leaves. The bark on these will start to mature after only a few years.

In nature, buckeye has leaves about 12 inches across, with some leaflets 6 inches at least. I have some leaf reduction of up to 90%. It is really cool to see a five leaflet buckeye leaf that is completely miniaturized to only 1 inch across! If you cut off the big leaves, it continually re-buds with smaller leaves."





Mixing Time

Winter is not the best time of year to be working on your trees. So instead, attention might be given to getting ready for spring an important task being to lay in a supply of the ingredients for your planting mix.

All bonsai potting mixes are made up of a combination of organic and inorganic material. By type, the most readily available materials here on Vancouver island are:

- Inorganic: Poultry grit (usually #2), red volcanic rock, forestry sand, and a variety of expensive Japanese imports such as Akadama, Kanuma, and Kiryu. One occasionally finds a horticultural grade of fired clay similar to that used as cat litter. There are also such things as "Turface" and pumice available.
- Organic: Fir bark carefully screened to eliminate powdery "fines" and oversized particles.

The standard VIBC "club" mix has for years been 25% each of #2 poultry grit, forestry sand, red volcanic rock and screened fir bark. Recently there has been a tendency to use a higher proportion of inorganic than in the past.

In the text of his book, ***The Bonsai Workshop***, Oregon grower Herb Gustafson has given us the following guide to adjusting the organic/inorganic proportions to those best suited to the species being potted:

Group 1: 75% organic 25% inorganic.

Azalea, rhododendron, bald cypress, redwood, tropical foliage plants.

Group 2: 66% organic, 33% inorganic

Alder, birch, beech, hornbeam, elm, Zelkova, dogwood, and maple.

Group 3: 50% organic, 50% inorganic

Pyracantha, wisteria, quince, fig, Corokia, holly, boxwood, apple, cherry, plum, and Cotoneaster.

Group 4: 33% organic, 66% inorganic

Larch, ginkgo, fir, spruce, hemlock, cypress, Cryptomeria.

Group 5: 25% organic 75% inorganic

Oak, pine, juniper, alpine desert plants jade, eucalyptis.

Your objective will be to create a planting medium that drains excess water freely readily yet, thanks to the organic component, is capable of retaining enough moisture to suit the plant between waterings.... And, we are informed that recent research has shown that the old method of adding a special layer of coarser gravel at the bottom of the pot for drainage, may be doing the plant more harm than good. Most growers now agree that a homogenous planting mix from top to bottom with no change in particle size will provide the best drainage.

In The Greater Victoria area ingredients can be found at one or more of the following suppliers:

- Buckerfield's, 1970 Keating Cross Rd.– Poultry grit
- Home Hardware Building Centre, 2046 Keating Cross Rd. - Forestry sand
- Integrity Sales & Distributors, 2180 Keating Cross Rd. red volcanic rock, bark, etc.
- Peninsula Landscape Supplies, 2078 Henry Ave, Sidney Industrial park - red volcanic rock, bark, etc.




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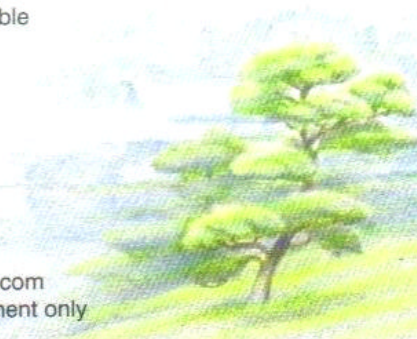
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Bonsai workshops
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Vancouver Island Bonsai Club

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