



VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

November Newsletter

November 16, 2009

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Monday November 16, 2009 ...

Show & Tell: Silent - Please bring in your fall colours if you still have any trees with leaves or berries on them; otherwise bring in any tree which is still looking good.

Bring-In-Your-Tree Workshop - A hands-on workshop to provide the opportunity for each member to work on his or her own trees before winter sets in. Fall activities might include plucking needles, styling, wiring, etc. Expert advice will be available. Please remember to bring in your own tools, wire, or whatever else you might need.

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

December 21 - Christmas Party!

Our Next Two Meetings:

Monday, Nov 16, 7:30 pm
Monday, Dec 21, 7:30 pm

Garth Homer Society
Auditorium
813 Darwin Avenue
Victoria, BC

2009 VIBC Officers

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



LUIS MARTIN



We Will Miss Him

It is with great sadness that we announce the very sudden passing of a great friend and avid bonsai enthusiast, Luis Martin.

Luis was a member of the Vancouver Island Bonsai Club who was always one of the first to step forward and take on anything the club needed to have done from Mall-show coordinator, taking care of and updating our membership list, organizing beginner's courses, to looking after getting trees for the latest PNBCA convention and then to organize and arrange have our American friends get their workshop trees home across the border.



Every year we would try to find a new Mallshow coordinator but in the end it was usually Luis who was the driving force behind our annual show.

Luis was always generous and willing to offer up free advice on one's trees, whenever asked. He was always one of the first to extend a hand to welcome new members or visitors. We will all miss him so very much.





General Bonsai Care for Winter by Steven Cook

November is the last month of the autumn season and the final month of winter preparation. By now the colors of deciduous trees have peaked and branch ramification is displayed. This is another dramatic time in the presentation of bonsai. For some trees this period may prove to be the most beautiful of the year.

November Care:

Care of conifers is by and large less rigorous than care of deciduous. The damage of freezing and thawing and cold wind in November is negligible for conifers. Care this month is needle pruning and a sprinkling of bone meal if none has been applied yet this fall. Inspect wires for damage to the bark since conifers add caliper during the autumn. Use no nitrogen fertilizer until next spring.



Shelter, Air, and Temperature:

Now is the time to finalize decisions about winter storage areas for deciduous trees. An unheated shed with a north facing window is adequate. Under the display bench with a clear plastic apron as a windscreen is another. Darkened winter forest floor is the model to imitate. Next month they will require their new home so be ready. For deciduous trees frost is not to be avoided in general. This will help induce dormancy. Once the tree enters the dormant state at the end of this month, stable conditions are very important to the health of the tree.

The bane of all deciduous bonsai is cold wind. The process known as freeze-drying occurs when cold wind blows over and dehydrates any otherwise water-bearing object. In deciduous trees die back is the result. Many years of work on small branches can be lost in a short time. So, its cold, darkened, stable conditions and sheltering from wind.

Water:

The growing medium must be kept moist. Occasional flooding won't cause trouble but don't allow ongoing soggy conditions. Leave pots that are exposed to rain tipped so the water will run out. Where trees are sheltered from rain, water by hand on a weekly basis. I suggest leaving a bamboo skewer plunged into the heart of the root ball. Withdraw the skewer like a dipstick and test by touching the stick to your cheek or chin. The idea again is the forest floor. Damp is good. Soggy is not. Dry is not. Stay aware of the trees' circumstances during autumn and winter. Artists of all levels of accomplishments have stories of losing trees as a result of a lack of attention.



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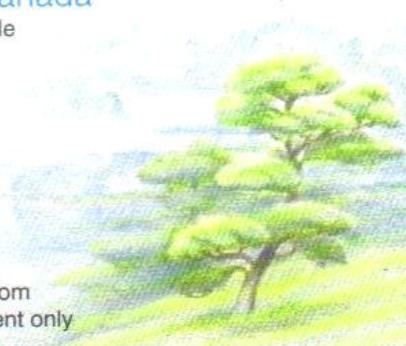
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Vancouver Island Bonsai Club

Membership Renewal /Application Form for 2010

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