



VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

September Newsletter

September 21, 2009

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Our Next Two Meetings:

Monday, Sept 21, 7:30 pm
Monday, Oct 19, 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

Monday September 21, 2009 ...

Show & Tell: Mame - According to Morten Albek, **Mame Bonsai** or bean-size bonsai are less than 10 centimetres/ 4 inches in height, as measured from the rim of the pot to the top of the tree. Although the exact measurements are disputed, it is agreed that mame can be held in the palm of the hand. Bring in your very small bonsai for Show and Tell. Our local experts, Chuck and Mark, will lead the discussion on the joys and challenges of growing mame bonsai.

As this will be our last meeting before the convention, there will be a question and answer session for convention volunteers (ie. everyone!)

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

Coming In

October 18 - Show & Tell: Convention workshop trees and finds, plus Convention reports, anecdotes, etc.

November 16 - Show & Tell: Fall colours (silent); Bring-Your-Own-Tree Hands-On-Workshop.



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Come Join The

Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association

20th Annual Convention
In beautiful Victoria, B.C.

Bonsai Without Borders

October 2 - 4, 2009

Featuring the artistry of:

Quinquang "Brook" Zhao - China
David Easterbrook - Montreal
Tak Yamaura - Vancouver
David Rowe - Vancouver Island

Contact: Vancouver Island Bonsai Club, PO Box 8674
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E-mail: luisandsue@shaw.ca
Visit our website at: www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca



Donations Needed

We still are accepting donations for the 2009 PNBCA Convention raffle table and silent auction which is being held at the beginning of October. If you have any bonsai or Asian themed articles you would like to donate, please bring them to the club meeting and give to Randy or Laurie. All donations big or small are being accepted. The raffles held during the convention are one of the biggest money makers for the Convention so please consider donating something to help make the convention a big success.

Volunteers Needed

The hosting of the Convention requires a lot of time by a lot of dedicated volunteers to make it a success. If you have not already done so, please let us know at the next meeting what you might be able to contribute in the way of time towards getting all the jobs done during the convention.

Chuck will have the sheets with time slots, duties, etc. at the next meeting.

We are also looking for some drivers to pick up the 2 out of town guest artists from the airport and perhaps provide some chauffer service for them to such places as Glendale Gardens, Pothole Bob's, and Maurice's place. See George or Chuck for more information if you are able to do this.

Here on Vancouver island we are not the only ones who puzzle over the wintertime loss of some trees. Though he lives in a very different climate, a serious collector and professional bonsai grower, Andy Smith of deadwood South Dakota, expresses a theory that may as well apply to Vancouver Island. His words read, "I don't think winter cold is the problem so much as temperature shifts...In the fall we often have very warm days followed by nights in the 20's. The local species drop their leaves the first sign of cold but most other trees are fooled by the warm days and don't go dormant before they freeze." He goes on to say that it is his belief that many species of trees cannot adjust to sudden changes in temperature.

As a Vancouver Islander I can report that last winter I had no losses from local trees such as pines, hemlock, the firs, oaks, etc. My losses were with Chinese elms, Trident maples, Bald cypress and several other species which had originally been found in other climates. I would love to make contact with any other member of our club who is willing to obtain the weather records for analysis such as we did after the winter of 1989 which was the last time we had serious bonsai losses.

.... Geroge h. <georgeheffel@shaw.ca>



Mame

By Mark Paterson

Mame are considered the smallest class of bonsai. Commonly mame means 7 to 20 cm. bonsai but “mame” is also used in the west as a catch phrase for this whole group of the tiniest bonsai. Those who are more specific use these terms: keshi-tsubu is the smallest, shito the next smallest, and mame is only “small” at 7 cm. Shohin is the next larger sized group at approximately 30 cm. Some confusion is caused by people saying mame and shohin are both “small enough to be held in one hand”.

Mame are the zen-est of all bonsai because they offer the least amount of material to work with. Although I used to think a large bonsai could be said to be a multitude of small bonsai it turns out that one can “cut corners” on styling large bonsai and one cannot on a mame. There is no hiding of scars, moving branches to hide holes in the canopy, no crossing branches where they won’t be seen. Everything on the mame must do its work or it will ruin the piece.

A mame is not a twig in a pot anymore then a shohin is a branch in a pot. All the rules of bonsai occur. One can have samurai style or literati mame bonsai. Pines work and Japanese maples do too. The first branch could be at one third the height of the plant. Negative space is just as important if not more important. The pot should be in proportion to the size of the trunk. Even if the trunk is one centimeter wide!

The appeal of a super small tree is offset by the difficulties in maintaining them. The biggest difficulty to having mame is keeping the tiny pot watered through the summer months. Green houses, wet sand immersion, and constant attention are a few tricks to keeping your mame healthy. Also consider appropriate species selection and soil mixes. Remember that shade does wonders to cool a plant.

The next difficulty is fertilization. To fertilize a mame enough to produce fruit but not to burn the plant can be a challenge. To fertilize a small plant enough for it to be healthy and vibrant can be a challenge. The large quantities of water used leach the nutrients out of the small pot at an astonishing rate. Fertilize often but weakly.

Finally, be more attentive then normal when styling or working on mame. The one centimeter rocking of a 15 cm wide trunk is different then the one centimeter rocking of a 2 cm wide trunk. The mame’s roots will tear and rip. A small slice of bark with the needle being ripped off your 60 cm tree is a shari on your mame that is now the design focus. What grows back in one season on a field grown tree will now take 2 years to repair.

Like all bonsai, mame have little personalities and appetites all their own. Lear your plant and it will only surprise you with good things.

Next Month... Mame Care



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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:

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Victoria, BC. V8W 3S2