



# VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

## February Newsletter

February 15, 2010

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### Our Next Two Meetings:

**Monday Feb 15, 7:30 pm**  
**Monday Mar 15, 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

### Monday February 15, 2010 ...

#### **Show & Tell:** Viewing stones and stands.

Topic: Using the Club's new Duplicarver for creating stands for your own stones.

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

Also, as always, feel free to bring in your trees for advice from our local experts.

#### **Coming in.....**

**March 15** - Maples!

### Special Guest

A special guest will be at our next meeting on February 15th. We will welcome Joan Greenway, a member of the Oshawa Bonsai Club, who will be coming to see us as a member of the board of directors of BCI - Bonsai Clubs International. A world-wide organization, BCI is best known to us as the quarterly publisher of **Bonsai and Stone Appreciation Magazine** which is always available to our members through the library service. She will tell of the recent convention in New Orleans and of the organizations work generally.

You can visit their website at [www.bonsai-bci.com](http://www.bonsai-bci.com)

### Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society

This year's Rock and Alpine Spring Show will take place on March 26th and 27th.

Location: Cadboro Bay United Church  
2625 Arbutus Rd., Victoria, B.C.

Admission is by donation

Friday - 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
Saturday - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Time to start thinking about displaying your bonsai or landscapes at the show. Details to follow.



Vancouver Island Limestone



Vancouver Island Limestone



Vancouver Island Limestone



Lingbi Stone - China



Suiseki—Glacier Mountain

Our loyal and most far flung member Roger Case, Roger and Judy have lived for a long while in Albuquerque NM, are moving to Oregon. They have regularly attended the Pacific Northwest conventions in recent years and so have many friends in this region.

Roger recently was quoted as saying this most valuable comment on bonsai. "The only way to learn the horticultural art of bonsai is by hands-on work and study - with great emphasis on the 'hands-on' part"

Welcome to the pacific Northwest Roger and Judy!

The monthly newsletter of Ohio's Columbus Bonsai Society produced a story on Fir trees as bonsai written by their member Ken Schultz. A common genus in most parts of temperate North America, we should take special interest here on Vancouver Island we have no less than three native species. Not often collected for bonsai but by far the most suitable is *Abies lasiocarpa*, the Alpine Fir. Common on our mountains usually at about the 3000' elevation or higher, this species is capable of becoming a fine bonsai.

"Recommendations on re-potting are every three years in early spring. A mixture that is 60% soil, 10% peat and 30% coarse sand is advisable. New shoots should be pinched by 2/3s their length" Our local mix containing fir bark and poultry grit should fit into the mix patterns suggested. Also, the writer calls for a little Miracid fertilizer occasionally and suggest that one go cautiously with root reduction as the firs adapt to pot culture slowly.

Ken Schoenfeld also of the Columbus Bonsai Society recommends the book, *100 Tree Myths* by Dr. Alex Shigo. This text gives focus to "how trees respond to injury." The writer reports Shigo having said several years ago at an ABS convention that, "the biggest myth is that fertilizer is food, plants make their own food from sunlight via photosynthesis... We should think of fertilizer as a vitamin which helps our plants to become more efficient at making their own food". Some of the subjects appearing in the book as "Trees do not heal, they compartmentalize.", "Wound dressings do not stop rot." and "Here's another truth most bonsaiists ignore - When removing branches leave a collar (as) this helps the tree to compartmentalize more efficiently. Flush cuts injure the trunk both above and below the cut."

Note: Dr. Shigo is widely known for his knowledge on bonsai and pot growing management so we will order this book for our library.

## Guest Artist Coming - John Thompson, San Jose, CA

This distinguished California bonsai artist - JT, as he is known to students and friends across North America - will be a special guest of the Vancouver Island Bonsai Club (VIBC) and Glendale Gardens and Woodland (GG&W) on the weekend of March 20th and 21st, 2010.

### Saturday March 20th

Though members of VIBC, GG&W, and designated visitors are welcome to drop in at any time to watch the process as "silent observers", JT will be coaching bonsai members all that day on the design of their own trees. Some of the trees will be new material collected on Vancouver Island. This session has 8 openings for members of VIBC. The cost of the workshop is \$100.00 plus bring your own tree. Sign-up sheet will be available at the next 2 meetings and fee is payable at sign-up. This workshop session will take place in the Glass House at Glendale Gardens, 505 Qualye Rd. beginning at 9:30 AM. There will be no charge for members.\*

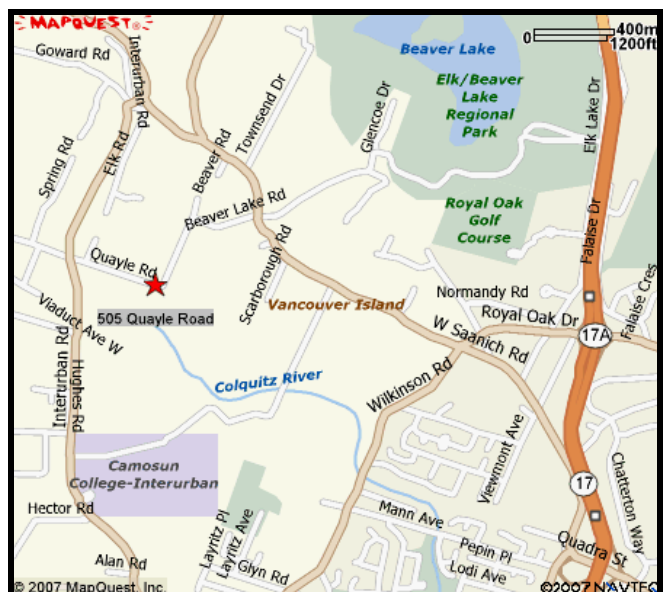


### Sunday March 21st

Starting at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, JT will give a demonstration on the creation of a bonsai. He will be working with a wild Mountain hemlock, *Tsuga Mertensiana*, collected several years ago from the 4000' elevation on a Vancouver Island mountain.

Members\* of the VIBC look forward to joining with GG&W friends and others, many of whom may be attending a demonstration of this art form for the first time by a world class teacher.

\* Members will include those holding membership cards of the VIBC and GGW but also other island clubs, namely, The Cowichan Bonsai Club, The Mt. Arrowsmith Bonsai Society, and The North Island Bonsai Club.







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