



VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

March Newsletter

March 15, 2010

Newsletter Highlight

Meeting Programs	1
Sooke Potholes	1
VIRAGS	1
Glendale Garden Project	2
John Thompson Work Shop & Demonstration	3
My Florida Vacation	4
Advertisers	5

Our Next Two Meetings:

Monday Mar 15, 7:30 pm
Monday Apr 19, 7:30 pm

**Garth Homer Society
Auditorium
813 Darwin Avenue
Victoria, BC**

2010 VIBC Officers

President	Bob Taylor
Past-Pres	Randy Kowalchuk
Treasurer	Judy Horsland
MallShow Coordinator	Vacant

Monday March 15, 2010 ...

Show & Tell: Maples

Topic: Please bring in your maples of all varieties, including Japanese, trident, field, etc. We know that most members have at least one maple — this was the most popular species found in members' collections according to a survey done a couple of years ago.

Demonstrations using maples - Chuck and mark will offer "round robin" demonstrations of root-over-rock and air layering.

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.....

April 19 - Show & Tell: Flowering trees and Mall Show trees (silent)
Potting and Repotting (hands on)

Sooke Potholes

There is an open house at Bob's at the Sooke Potholes every Sunday afternoon. Go to the 2nd parking lot and ask attendant.

Bring the kids, snacks, come swimming, and talk bonsai. Look for the white mailbox.

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

Proposed Glendale Gardens Project

Following several months of informal discussion at the executive level, Glendale Gardens and Woodland (GGW) and the Vancouver Island Bonsai Club (VIBC) announce that both boards of directors have given their support to a study which is expected to lead to the establishment of a permanent display of bonsai to be located on the GGW property.

Glendale Gardens and Woodland is 44 hectares of gardens and woodlands only 12 km from downtown Victoria. A garden of gardens, it seeks to provide a complete educational experience on all aspects of gardening to the people and communities both local and nationally. For Glendale Gardens, it is the opportunity to cooperate with the Vancouver Island Bonsai Club to offer the broader community the subtleties of a Bonsai Garden as a learning experience.

It is proposed that the new Bonsai Garden will be located between Takata Japanese Gardens and the planned classroom facilities for Glendale's Pacific Horticultural College. The VIBC have indicated a need for; 1) a plan to house an outdoor display of up to 50 finished bonsai on suitable stands or benches; 2) a spacious paved outdoor working patio large enough for participating members to work on trees and where visitors can watch the magic of bonsai creation; 3) a weather-proof indoor studio for off season work, small group teaching sessions or seminars; 4) a poly house for winter storage of some specimens; 5) a small garden plot for propagating and as a "recovery space" for ailing bonsai; 6) secure fencing and/or a security system to avoid theft ; 7) water and a suitable watering system.....Given the Tanaka Garden to one side and a down- hill view to the lake on another, the proposed location is excitingly scenic.

While extensive discussion to bring about this Bonsai Garden is yet to take place, we have examined a listing titled "Twenty-two Public Bonsai and Penjing Displays" describing many such gardens which are scattered across North America. Study of the operating patterns of those of moderate size is helpful in coming to decisions for a Victoria location.. We know, as a club, we will be responsible for tending an expanding collection of top quality bonsai. Also, as active members, we would have a place "to hang out", to learn from each other while working with our own trees and those belonging to the Bonsai Garden collection.

Bonsai can be very long lived very often capable of a healthy life spanning several human generations. It is said, for instance that our local Yellow cedar is known to require some 200 years to reach marketable size. Some of our collected trees already exceed 300 years of age! This fact, it is hoped, will motivate the gifting or making of wills providing for a testamentary bequest. The GGW, following professional appraisal procedures, will issue a receipt suitable for tax purposes.

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.*

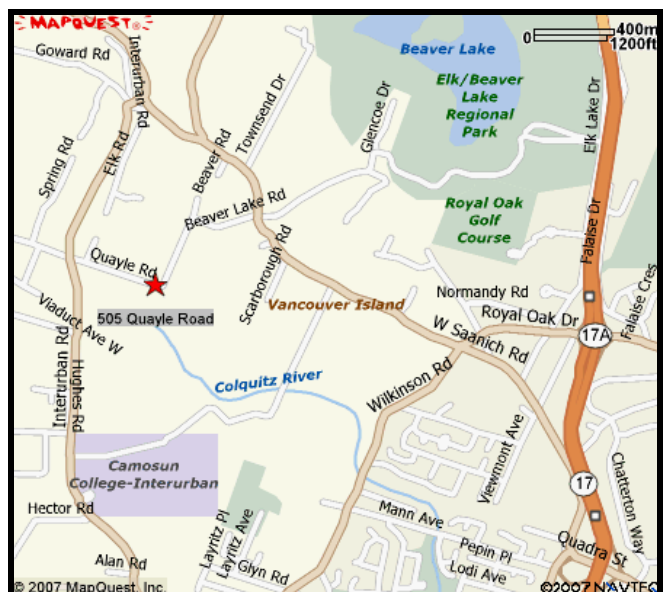


Sunday March 21st

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.



My Florida Vacation

By Mark Paterson

No vacation is complete without some sort of bonsai excursion. Florida provided more than just fantastic pines and cypress, more than mangroves and figs. Florida is home to a few bonsai societies and notably the Sho-fu Bonsai Society of Sarasota on the west coast of Florida. It is in about the middle of the state.

I met the president of the Sho-fu Bonsai Society as soon as I showed up to the bonsai show. The society was having a show much like our annual mall show at the time I spent with them. The show was at the Mary Selby Gardens where the society maintains a bonsai collection like we do at the Moss Street Art Gallery. The president was quite busy but was able to introduce me to more members of the club before she hurried to engage more guests to the show.

I spent most of my time with Mike and with Mary who is renowned for her work with buttonwoods and watching Hal, a Long Island Bonsai artist who had been brought in to do a demonstration.

The Sho-fu Society's bonsai are very nice. Their show quality trees are quite similar to ours in technical skill, but they are all different in one respect - they are all tropical. Translate that: they are all "indoors" according to our criteria. Of course I bought a tree from the vendors' table. It is a willow leaf fig. I have seen them in Victoria and I have some experience with them. The advice the attendant member gave to me is to use a grow light on the plant when indoors. Also ensure the light is no further away than 8 inches.





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