

# VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

## February Newsletter

February 21, 2011

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### Our Next Two Meetings:

**Monday Feb 21, 7:30 pm**  
**Monday Mar 21, 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 February 21, 2011 ...

#### Show & Tell - Deciduous Trees

**Topic** - Winter Clean-up; deciduous pruning, bring in a deciduous tree that you would like help with.

**Coming In March** - bring in bus trip treasures. Building stone bases for the duplicarver.

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

### 2011 Membership Dues

2011 membership fees are now due. There is an application/renewal form on page 3 of the newsletters. Fees have not changed for this year, they remain at \$20.00 single or \$25.00 family.

### Upcoming Activities .....

Saturday March 19th - Bus Trip to Vancouver. We will be visiting China pottery Trading Ltd. In Richmond and Japan Bonsai in White Rock. Cost is \$60.00 per person.

Sunday April 10th - Annual Club Field Day.

Friday May 13th to Sunday May 15th - Annual Club Mallshow on at Hillside Mall.

Saturday Sept. 3rd to Monday Sept 5th - Pacific Northwest Clubs Association Convention XXII "Elegance In The Emerald City in Seattle, Wa.

## Call For Participants Suiseki Of The Pacific Northwest

The 2011 PNBBCA Convention in Seattle will showcase a display of fine Northwest suiseki. The committee organizing the display is now soliciting stones for the display from members of all PNBBCA club members.

To be eligible all stones must have been collected in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, or British Columbia. Stones must be displayed in a traditional manner in a daiza, suiban, doban, or suitable bonsai pot. Stones for the display will be selected by a panel of members from the Suiseki Interest Group of the Puget Sound Bonsai Association.

If you are not a member of Puget Sound Bonsai Association and want to have a stone considered for the show, please send a color image of the stone by e-mail to Joel Scharwz at [joels@u.washington.edu](mailto:joels@u.washington.edu) and Rick Stiles at [stiles.re@comcast.net](mailto:stiles.re@comcast.net) along with the following information by May 2, 2011:

- English classification name (mountain stone, plateau stone, etc.)
- Japanese classification name (I.e. yamagata ishi, doha ishi, etc.)
- Dimensions (length, width, height)
- Origin of stone (I.e. Snoqualmie River)
- Year collected
- Owner of stone

Stones for the show will be judged in mid May. All suiseki selected for exhibit must be mailed/shipped to Rick Stiles at 18501 NW Montreux, Issaquah, WA, 98027 by June 18 so they can be photographed for a show catalog. Stones will be returned to their owners by mid September.

We welcome your participation. If you have any questions please e-mail Joel or Rick at addresses listed above.

### Don't Miss It

That means a visit to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria to see their new exhibit: Serenity: The Asian garden. Why? If for no other reason than to see Port Hardy's most famous Viewing Stone beautifully displayed.

Nearly three feet high and 140 pounds, Hal Seybold dug this beautiful piece of natural limestone from his north island mineral claim in 2004 giving it then the name, "In This Stone The Spirits Sing". Some may have seen this stone before as it was shown two years ago when we hosted the Pacific Northwest Bonsai convention. Being shown now on an eye-level stand against a snappy reddish wall finish gives us a whole new understanding of this wondrous art form. (Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, 11040 Moss St, Victoria, BC. Until July 2, 2011)



## Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> Field Trip to Mainland Bonsai Nurseries and Shops

We had a successful start to registration (24) at the January meeting. There are several spots remaining for the V.I.B.C. field trip to greater Vancouver on Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sign-up sheet at the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. All participants must be signed up and paid by February 21<sup>st</sup> so that we can confirm the reservations. The cost is \$60.00, which includes the chartered 47 passenger bus, ferry fare and parking. I few can get 40 or more people to come along, the executive have agreed to refund a percentage back to the members. So let's fill the bus!

I will be at the February meeting early for registration and to collect your money. Please bring exact change or a cheque payable to the Vancouver Island Bonsai Club. You can also contact me (Sharon) at 250.389.6069 (after 5:00 pm on week days) to register. Special arrangements can be made if you are not able to attend the February meeting BUT you must call me.

**We are planning a full and varied day.**

**7:35 am** – gather at the meeting place and board bus by 7:45 (sharp) to catch the 9:00 am ferry.

**11:00 am** -- Arrive at China Pottery Trading Ltd, Richmond ~1- 1 ½ hour. You will have time to explore the store for the various pots suitable for Bonsai. Lots of pots at very reasonable prices! Better discounts if you pay by cash. Check out their web site [www.china-pottery.ca](http://www.china-pottery.ca) Owner will be updating the site soon with bonsai pot selection.

**1:00 pm** – Arrive at Japan Bonsai, Surrey. Tak is once again generously providing a BBQ lunch. We will have plenty of time to browse among Tak's huge selection of indoor and outdoor bonsai and pre-bonsai as well as pots, tools, soil mixes, etc.

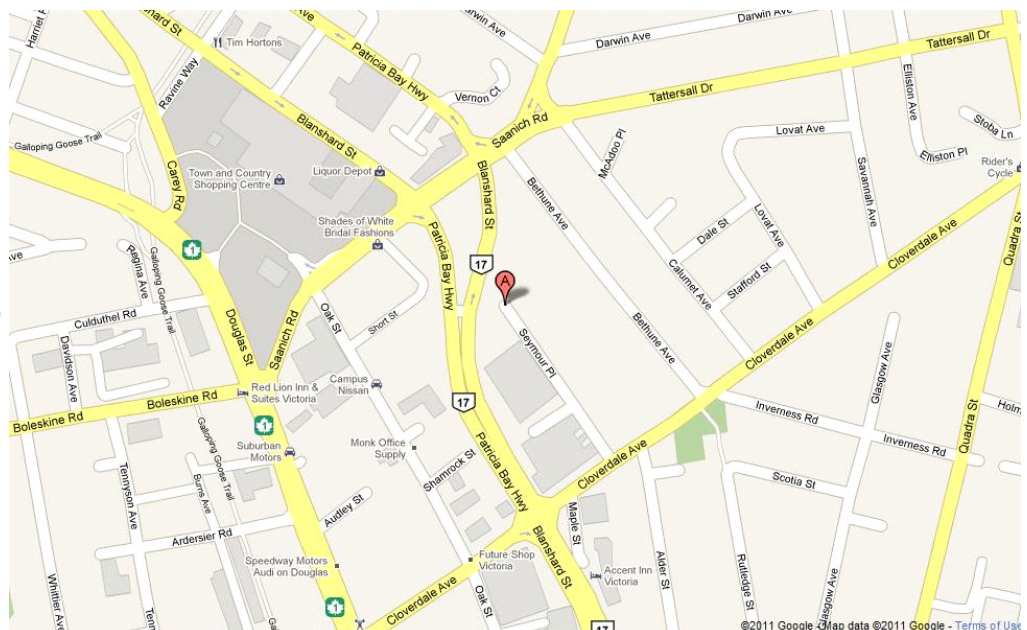
**3:50 pm** -- leave to catch the 5:00 pm ferry back and return to the meeting place at approximately 7:15 pm

Please contact Sharon if you have any questions at 250.389.6069 (after 5:00 pm on week days).

### Direction to the meeting places:

We will at 7:35 am at the Robbins Parking lot on 4000 Seymour Place, near the north-east corner of Blanshard and Cloverdale.

Turn off Cloverdale onto Seymour Place and park in the 'staff' area of the parking lot (look for the bus). You will be given an all-day parking pass, which you must place on your vehicle dashboard, and then board the waiting bus.



## Viewing Stones and How to Display Them

**Gonshi**, sometimes called *Scholars' Stones*, are displayed in the traditional Chinese manner, usually uncut and upright then fixed in a wooden base or stand.

**Suiseki**, are stones displayed in the traditional Japanese manner, often cut to show a mountain ge profile or a single mountain "floating" on sand in a shallow ceramic dish or tray called a *suiban*.

**Miniature Landscapes**, Stones for display are often found in a tray described as belonging to or another of the national systems. It is increasingly popular to display one rock or more with a bonsai and/or other plants in a pot or shallow tray as a miniature landscape: in Japan this is called a *sakei*.

**Stone**, Natural stone can be found everywhere on Vancouver Island - wade the beaches, walk the trails, climb some peaks. Just keep your eyes open wherever you may be. Be surprised when that lovely piece turns up...

— As we all know, the finest Island rocks are the limestone pieces extracted by Hal Seybold especially from his mineral claim near Port Hardy. Tel. 250/949 7020 or, [widhal@cablerocket.com](mailto:widhal@cablerocket.com). Just remember that his black limestone will bleach out becoming grey in colour if kept outside. Hal's best pieces should always remain undercover.

— Hillside Stone and Garden is a commercial supplier of rock and gravel. It is located along the west side of the main highway just a mile or two south of Duncan, that is to your left if driving up from Victoria. Tel. 250/746 5548 or [www.hillsidestone.org](http://www.hillsidestone.org). They also carry some interesting "decorative" stone from far away places.

### **Wooden Boxes**,

— Castle Building Supply Centre on Cook St. usually have available a box full of nicely bevelled plywood pieces left over from the making of furniture. Called "Miscellaneous Pine Pieces" they average 12" square and sell for a dollar or two each. With only minimal carpentry skills after being stained or painted, a good show stand can emerge. You may have to ask persistently to find the elusive box in their busy store.

— Inexpensive decorative wooden bases can be found in many Chinatown stores. Watch also for any form of thin, flat slabs.

**Ceramic Bases**, Suiban trays should be about an inch deep, no holes in the bottom and either rectangular or oval in shape. Not easy to find but seek the internet for a source of information and supply. Here is a good location that will take you to a useful site called "Displaying Suiseki"  
<http://suiseki.com/display/index.html>

### **Other Supplies**,

— For books: on miniature landscapes, Peter Adams' [Bonsai Landscapes](#) is a good text as is [Sakei and Art: Miniature Landscapes](#) by Lew Butler, [Miniature Living Landscapes](#) by Her Gustafson and [Sakei: Living Landscapes in Miniature](#) by Toshio Kawamoto. Used copies of such books can often be found at [AbeBooks.com](http://AbeBooks.com) or new ones from [Stonelantern.com](http://Stonelantern.com), [Haskilcreek.com](http://Haskilcreek.com), and perhaps other suppliers.

— A handy item readily available at Canadian Tire is a small roll carrying the name "Interior/Exterior Crack Seal". A chunk of this is initially malleable but grows firmer with time. It is especially useful when anchoring a stone to a slab or bottom of a pot.

### Winter on Vancouver Island

Be mindful of species that grow just fine here during the summer months but may be risky in the winter... Experienced growers here mention that special care may be required with Coastal Redwood, *Sequoia sempervivens*, and Olive, *Olea europea*. Normally capable of surviving our kind of cold weather simply when placed in a protected spot on the ground under a display bench. It is much safer, really, to seek a winter home of an unheated glass or ply-house if temperatures drop seriously below zero as happened here just before Christmas.

### Elegance In The Emerald City

The Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association's annual convention takes place in Seattle this year on September 3, 4, and 5. At the downtown Fairmont Olympic Hotel, it will feature demonstrations and workshops by notable artists Michael Hagedorn, Boon Mankitivipart, Ryan Neil, and Suthin Sukosolvi-part. Of course, there will be exhibits, critiques, a sales area and lots of bonsai friends many of whom attended the Victoria convention when we hosted in 2009. Get all the information at:

[www.pnbca.com/PNBICA2011.htm](http://www.pnbca.com/PNBICA2011.htm)

## Vancouver Island Bonsai Club

Membership Renewal /Application Form for 2011

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



**JAPAN BONSAI**  
**GARDEN ART**

**TAK YAMAURA**  
Owner/Consultant

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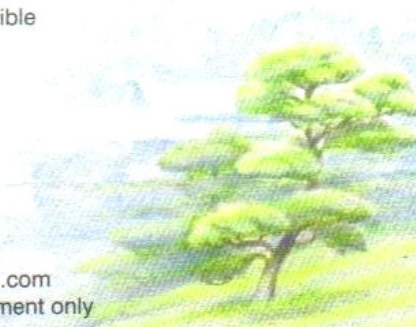
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**Please call us at 250-477-4143 for a consultation**

- Robert J. Salmond
- Derek E. Ashurst
- Victoria Pitt
- Jill McCarthy