

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER



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2012 – 13 VIBS Officers

President: Bob Taylor

Treasurer: Larry Phillips

Secretary: Tibby Solloway

Newsletter & Website:

John Mitchell

Mall Show Coordinator:

Mark Paterson

Next Society meeting: Monday, December 17th 2012

This month's theme: Christmas Party!



Bob Taylor demonstrated right-back-left pruning on a Dwarf Alberta spruce at the November meeting.

Photos by Larry Phillips

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Did you know The first issue of our Newsletter, Volume 1, Number 1, was published in September 1984 - 18 years ago. It was two pages in length and featured a short article on collecting interesting rocks from the east side of Hornby Island (honeycomb rocks) and reported on the International Bonsai Congress, held in Seattle earlier that year.

Our logo, the same one that graces the cover of this Newsletter and our website had just been conceived and, I'm informed, features a tree from the collection of the late Jack Sullivan. To the best of my knowledge, it was Jack who was the driving force behind the establishment of this club in the late 1970s. If anyone can provide me with any more information, or photos, of Jack and the club's earliest years, I will include the submissions in a future article.

If any members have copies of any of the original newsletters, we would appreciate your loaning them to us so that we can make a copy for the VIBS "archive".

The Geographic Range of the Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

The inclusive nature of our Society's name indicates that we are a bonsai group whose membership is comprised mainly of residents of Vancouver Island. Indeed, we have members from Sooke in the west, to Port Hardy in the north, Campbell River, Parksville, Nanaimo, Cobble Hill and Duncan in between and, of course, Victoria, Sidney and other points south.

At 460 km (290 miles) in length and about 80 km (50 miles) wide, it is the largest Pacific Island east of New Zealand. These facts make it not always convenient for some members to make it to our meetings, and likewise, for those near Victoria, to make the journey northward (about 5 hours to Port Hardy).

It was, therefore, a great delight to take the opportunity to make the 3½ hour journey to Campbell River with George Heffelfinger this fall. As reported in the November newsletter, we stopped in at Coombs and checked out bonsai pots

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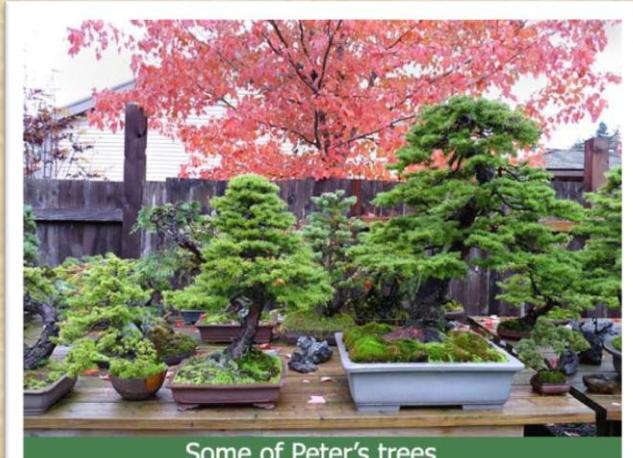
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and later found our way to Anton's to look over his incredible bonsai and "potensai" (potential bonsai) offerings.

While in Campbell River we also made a visit to the home of Peter Wilson, a friend to a number of club members, and an exceptionally talented bonsai artist. Peter spent many of his working years in the north island and knows the region intimately. He has done a bit of yamadori hunting in his time and has a few stunning examples of what might be found by way of Vancouver Island tree species with potential for bonsai. A modest man and an inspiration to us all.



Peter Wilson talking bonsai with George



Some of Peter's trees

Mall Show standards – Over the past 9 months the VIBS website has received several e-mail requests for advice on keeping Mall Show-purchased bonsai alive. Unfortunately, by the time people are writing to ask advice, their trees tend to be beyond help. The most common causes of failure would appear to be under watering and keeping outdoor trees indoors. Without seeing and examining the tree in person, it's hard to exclude other causes, but in some instances the reasons were obvious.

As planning for the 2013 Mall Show proceeds, a set of guidelines, or standards, will be published for club members wishing to sell trees and landscapes. A form naming the species and specific requirements for care will be made available to vendors. Verbal instructions at the point of sale clearly don't suffice when it comes to the specialized care of bonsai trees and landscapes.

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The last of the “lace rock”?

A favorite rock used by local bonsai practitioners in the creation of Saisei (Japanese miniature landscapes), Penjing (Chinese miniature landscapes) and the art of Japanese & Chinese stone appreciation (suiseki and gōngshi) might become harder to find locally.



Bill Thompson, the owner of Hillside Stone and Garden just south of Duncan on the Trans Canada, is of the opinion that the wonderful rhyolite or “lace rock”

that we have been using for quite a number of years is about to become a rather scarce commodity. Bill says that his sources have informed him that the mine that supplies Hillside is closing operations because of efforts to preserve an endangered frog that makes its home in the same area of Utah – near the Craters of the Moon National Monument.



Hillside still has a modest quantity of lace rock available but Bill wouldn't make any predictions about his ability to supply the rock in future. Rhyolite is found elsewhere in the world but finding a supplier might be difficult.

The Bonsai Garden at the Hort Center ... update

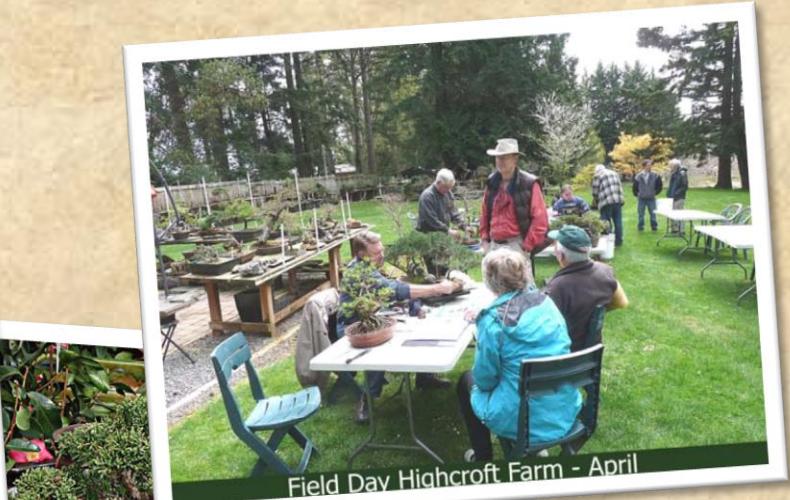
Jim and William are continuing their efforts by focusing on the construction of benches and stands so that, come spring, there will be something to display bonsai on. Donations are still welcome – a cheque to HCP specifying the Bonsai Garden as recipient would be most welcome. Tax receipts will be issued by HCP

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The Bonsai Year in Pictures

Here is a look at the year past:



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Mall Show People's Choice Award - Maurice B. (May)



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... and so it went!

Photos: John Mitchell

Christmas Party!

Come and join in the festive spirit with your bonsai buddies. Please bring finger foods, either savory or sweet, for pot-luck snacking. There will be tables set up for anyone wishing to sell or swap bonsai or Christmas-related items.

Show & Tell: Decorated Christmas bonsai contest. Let your imagination run wild in decorating your tree. (You could win a prize for the best tree).

Membership Renewal

– Remember membership renewal fees are due by the end of December. It is very convenient to pay while you are at the December meeting. Members who renew before the end of January will have their names entered in a draw. You might win something very nice; maybe one of those little trees you like so much. New memberships (from October 1st onward) will be good through 2013.

Please, please, please ... return any library books that are due! Sharon will thank you!

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In Memoriam:

Betty Lake was an avid supporter of the Vancouver Island Bonsai Club for many years until she moved to a senior's residence and had to part with her trees. It's people like Betty, whose sense of community and willingness to work tirelessly to achieve a goal, that make a club like ours successful.



LAKE, Frances Elizabeth Averil (Betty) (nee Wheatley) Died peacefully on November 7, 2012, in Victoria B.C. in her 94th year. Betty was born April 14, 1919, in Maple Creek, Sask. During the Depression, she lived with a great aunt in Oak Bay where she graduated from high school and trained as a secretary. Her husband and the love of her life, Richard (Dick) Lake, died in March, 2005. Survived by daughter, Liz (Michael) Graham; son, Peter (Andrea Wilhelm); granddaughters, Christina Harris (Kathryn Saunders), of Duncan, BC, Janna Harris Bakla (Hakan Bakla) of Vancouver, BC and Clara Lake, of Haida Gwaii, (who arrived just in time for Betty's 90th birthday); step-grandchildren, Flora (Alastair) Fyfe-Graham and Angus Graham and step-great-grandchild, Fraser Fyfe-Graham of London UK. Married November 14, 1946, in Vancouver, Betty, Dick and their two children, Elizabeth (Liz) and Peter, moved to Edmonton in 1958 for seven years. During five of those years Betty was an elected trustee and chair with the Jasper Place School Board where, during those baby boom years, half the town's population was in school. The Lake family moved back to Vancouver in 1965. Dick and Betty lived in Calgary from 1975 to 1979. Dick retired from PWA and they then moved to Ardmore in North Saanich. Betty was a proud member of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, where, as she said, she did the "holy laundry" for many years as a member of the altar guild. Betty was the family link for many nieces and nephews throughout Canada and the U.S. She kept them all close to her heart; always present for support, comfort and a birthday phone call. Betty overcame many serious health challenges, and her mantra until very recently was "You're stuck with me; I'm too ornery to quit." Betty was predeceased by her two older brothers, Gwynne and Keith, her older sister, Joan Rothman and her younger sister, Alison Newcomb. The family was deeply moved by the warmth and love shown to Betty by the staff community of Amica at Douglas House, where she lived for the past seven years. A Memorial Service will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 1st, 2012 at Holy Trinity Church, 1319 Mills Road, North Saanich. In lieu of flowers please make a donation to the charity of your choice. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.mccallbros.com.



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N E W S L E T T E R

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Membership Renewal / Application Form

I wish to renew my membership _____ or I wish to apply for membership _____ (new member)

Attached is \$25.00 for single membership _____ or attached is \$30.00 for family membership _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (Home) _____ Phone (Other) _____

Please provide your e-mail address for information about various activities and notification of the posting of the Newsletter to the website: _____

If you are mailing this form, please mail to:

Vancouver Island Bonsai Society
Membership Coordinator
PO Box 8674
Victoria, BC
V8W 3S2

