



# VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI SOCIETY

## March Newsletter

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**Our Next Two Meetings:**

**Monday Mar 19, 7:30 pm**  
**Monday Apr 16, 7:30 pm**

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

2011-12 VIBC Officers	
President	Bob Taylor
Past-Pres	Randy Kowalchuk
Treasurer	Judy Horsland
MallShow Coordinator	Mark Paterson

**Monday March 19, 2012 ...**

**Topic: Bonsai Techniques for Pines**  
 Bring in your pines for styling and pruning advice. We will be discussing styling techniques, needle plucking, pine care, and soils used.

We will also be holding the Society's Annual General Meeting and Elections of Board Members.

**Show & Tell:** All kinds of pines

**Raffle Table** - We will hold the usual raffle, please bring in your donation.

**Mall Show Coordinator**

The Society would like to advise that Mark Paterson has volunteered to be our 2012 Mall Show Coordinator. Thanks Mark.

**Upcoming Activities.....**

**March 17** - A tentative bus trip to Lower Mainland. A visit to China Pottery Trading Limited in Richmond and a trip out to White Rock to see Tak at Japan Bonsai. Costs, sign-up sheet, and details to be announced at our February meeting. This has been postponed to a later date as we did not have enough people sign up. We are looking possibly at June, stay tuned.

**March 17 and 18** - Society members will be giving demonstrations at the Gardenworks Garden Centres, between 11 am and 2 pm. This will be at the 1916 Oak Bay Ave. and 4290 Blenkinsop Rd. stores.

**April 13 and 14** - Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society annual spring show.

**April 15** - Our annual Field Day will be held out at Highcroft Farm. Details will follow in upcoming newsletter.

**May 11, 12, & 13** - Our annual Mother's Day Mall Show will be held at Hillside Shopping Centre

**Sept. 14 - 16** - PNBCA Convention 2012, Vancouver, Washington information at: [www.portlandbonsai.org/bonsai-conference-overview/](http://www.portlandbonsai.org/bonsai-conference-overview/)

## BLEACHING THE DEADWOOD ON BONSAI

As we go about preparing our trees for display you may wish to enhance any “deadwood” which is often done to create the effect of “old age”. Deadwood may be found on a branch, or part of a branch, a part of a root or a wound on the trunk. First you must remove any soft, crumbly material above the hard deadwood. The deadwood will take on a white colour if treated as described below with the lime- sulphur based material. **Avoid getting the mixture on live material.**

Mix together 2 oz. (1/4 cup) of lime sulphur, add 2 inches of white acrylic paint squeezed from a small tube usually obtainable from an art supply store and 3 drops of black India ink. Shake well on each occasion before applying to the deadwood with a small paintbrush. At first the wood will show a greenish tinge but overnight the treated wood will have become “dead white”.

We can expect to have supply of the bleaching compound at Highcroft Farm and there is usually a small amount of all ready mixed stuff for anyone who wants to give it a try on our Field Day on April 15th. I may even have enough of the ingredients if anyone wants to make a small batch of the formula to take home, but bring a small, clean bottle of your own..... George

## Bonsai Demonstration

Our Society has been asked to put on a demonstration Saturday March 17 and Sunday March 18 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at 2 of the local GardenWorks garden centre locations:

1916 Oak Bay Ave.  
4290 Blenkinsop Rd.

This is going to be an excellent opportunity for us to introduce gardeners to our wonderful hobby and perhaps sign up some new members.

## Sooke Potholes

Open House at the Sooke Potholes  
Sunday afternoons March 1—October 1  
“Where the pavement ends”

Bring the kids, lunch, & come enjoy the pools and talk bonsai with Bob.

## Annual Mall Show

We will be holding our annual Mall Show again this year at Hillside Mall, Friday thru Sunday, May 11 - 13, 2012. Mark Paterson is our coordinator this year. As the mall is under some renovations there will be some changes to our show layout, stay tuned for more information and please put aside some time to volunteer and help make this show a success. This is the Society’s major fundraiser of the year. Signup sheets will be at the upcoming meetings.

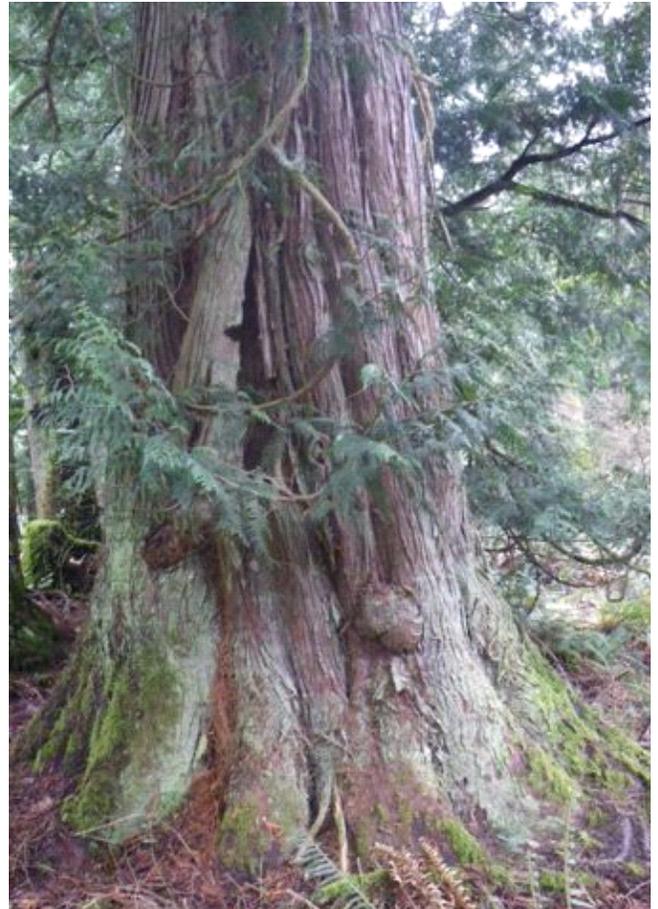
## Bonsai Inspiration Photo Contest

There are many things that inspire us when we are creating a bonsai, from other bonsai we have seen, roots on a boulevard tree, trees in the forest or on the golf course, yes just about anywhere a tree might grow. Mother Nature is the master of all bonsai masters.

Over the next 3 months, as we head into spring, we will be holding a photo contest of images which inspire you to create. Samples of the submitted photos will be posted in the newsletter as we receive them and they will also be posted to our website. The judging of these photos will be based not only on the quality of the composition of the photo but also on what the image inspires in you.

You can submit as many entries as you like. Please enter the following information on the back of the photo: your name, where the photo was taken, when the photo was taken, name of the tree or trees in the photo, and finally what about this image inspires you.

We look forward to many entries and the final judging will be done at our June meeting. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.



## Bonsai Soil Ingredients

Experiments last year on both Vancouver Island and in the Seattle area have satisfied us that a bonsai mix containing horticultural grade pumice is as good, even better, than some of the mixes we have used in the past. While alternative materials are available, most people today prefer the use of an absorbent and light-weight pumice in their mix. Sharon Muth, the long time proprietor of Bonsai Northwest in Seattle, is especially happy with the results she gets with this formula:

3 parts pumice  
2 parts red lava rock  
1 part screened bark

For our members when mixing this formula for yourselves, we suggest that you recognise this formula is composed of six parts. Use a one litre measuring cup several of which can be found in the bins next to the studio at Highcroft Farm. Scoop into your take-home container 3 litres of pumice, 2 litres of red volcanic rock, and finally, a litre of bark ... You will then have in your container 6 litres of bonsai mix with a cost of \$2.00 which should end up in the glass money jar for each 6 litre unit you take with you.

For your information, these ingredients are available to the Vancouver Island Bonsai Society by special arrangement from Gardenworks on Blenkinsop and the red lava rock from Integrity Sales on Keating X Rd.



*Imagine  
& Create*

**PNBCA Bonsai Convention 2012**

September 14th-16th  
Vancouver, Washington

Hosted by  
**The Bonsai Society of Portland**  
[www.portlandbonsai.org](http://www.portlandbonsai.org)



**Charles Robert (Chuck) SMART**

SMART, Charles (Chuck) Robert April 24, 1928 February 29, 2012 Chuck was born in Seattle, W A. With a great appreciation of the beauty of flowers and limited work opportunities, he apprenticed in floral design. During World War Two he served as a Medic in the US Navy in San Diego. After his service he returned to the floral industry, achieving many awards in floral design and serving as a florist to several Hollywood stars in Beverly Hills, CA. Chuck eventually returned to Seattle where he met and married Patricia, his wife of 31 years. In 1991 they moved to the Glenora district in Duncan, BC where Chuck was actively involved in the community association and was an area Emergency Services Manager. In 2000 they moved to Victoria where Chuck became active in the VHWSG (weaving) and the VIBC (bonsai) groups and an active supporter of the Island Breaststokers dragon boat team. In 2007 he discovered the joys of travel, falling in love with Italy and cruising. Chuck leaves his brother Arthur (Seattle); sister Doris (Cottage Grove, OR); wife, Patricia; son Loren; daughters-in-law, Barbara, Brenda, Gail. Grandchildren, Kenton, Aaron, Carmen; great-grandchildren, Connor, Nahanni and Emelia and many nieces and nephews and loving friends. Special thanks go to Dr. David Barry and his assistant, Judy and all the Palliative Care staff who cared for Chuck during his final battle with cancer. A great man~fond memories~forever in our hearts. Memorial service to be held March 10 at 2:00 p.m. at First Memorial Funeral Services, Falaise Drive. Donations in his memory may be made to Victoria Hospice

**Vancouver Island Bonsai Society**

Membership Renewal /Application Form for 2012

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 Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

If you are mailing this form, please mail to:

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



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

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