

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER



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2012 – 13 VIBS Officers
President: Bob Taylor

Treasurer: Larry Phillips
Secretary: Tibby Solloway
Newsletter: John Mitchell
Website: John Mitchell
Mall Show Coordinator:
Mark Paterson

Next Society meeting: Monday, October 15th 2012

Show & Tell: fall colours ... continuing the club's rich October tradition you are invited to bring your most colourful trees for display.



Demonstration: Phoenix grafts – bring your driftwood and “leggy” juniper, pine or ???

The Bonsai Garden at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific

This past spring, after incubating for a period of years, an idea came to fruition in the form of a bonsai garden at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific. Our Society is a major participant in its creation and we're very excited about developments to date and its potential for the future. See the story on page 2 ...

The drought ...

We are experiencing a record breaking drought. Be sure that your trees are receiving adequate water ... once or twice a day, while these very dry conditions persist!



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The Bonsai Garden at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific

Article by Jim Haskins ... Photos by John Mitchell

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society is participating in an exciting new venture at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific – the creation of a Bonsai “display and learning” garden near the existing, and ever popular, Takata Japanese Garden. This will be the first Bonsai Garden in Western Canada and the second in all of Canada.

This garden is being created by volunteers from both the Horticulture Centre and the Vancouver Island Bonsai Society and its initial development has been financially supported by a number of private donors and members of the Bonsai Society.



Pre-construction May 2012



Tak Yamaura & Larry Phillips May 2012

The Bonsai Garden was envisaged a number of years ago and has been a topic of discussion amongst a few club members for some time. Several years ago George Heffelfinger began discussing the placement of trees at the Centre with the Executive Director of the HCP. This resulted in George personally loaning 18 trees to the Centre for display in the Gardens. While several of these trees are on display in the main courtyard of the Gardens, most

can be seen along the main pathway of the Takata Garden with several wonderful specimens on display in the Zen Garden.

In the spring of 2012 a committee led by Larry Phillips with George Heffelfinger, John Mitchell, Jim Haskins together with Bob Clarke representing the HCP, began the detailed planning of the Bonsai Garden. This committee secured the participation of Francois & Catherine Frutiger (Sagitta Landscape Solutions) who completed the final design of the Garden. In addition, Kent Macleod contributed significant time and resources to help bring the dream to reality.



George H. enjoying the Zen Garden

After discussions with the Horticulture Centre, approximately an acre of land on the property was secured for the exclusive creation of the Bonsai Garden.

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In July of this year, with marking paint in hand, a small group of volunteers led by Francois and Catherine marked the locations of the paths, the display areas and most importantly the placement of the irrigation lines to bring water to all areas of the garden.



Kent & Francois working Aug 2012

Subsequent work parties under Francois' direction have seen the installation and testing of all the irrigation lines and the excavation and building of the pathways and display areas. The students of the Horticulture College of the Pacific have worked on the reestablishment of the lawns and William, one of the Takata Garden volunteers, is building the viewing shelter for the garden.

George has graciously offered to loan a number of trees to start the garden and Larry and his team anticipate that the first trees will be installed in the garden in the early spring. Other members of the "bonsai community" have also indicated that they will provide trees for the collection as the garden evolves.

Contributions of trees and potted landscapes from a number of artists and growers will be key to a diverse and successful garden that showcases the art and craft of miniature trees.

Throughout the world of bonsai, there are many examples of trees that have a provenance dating back several hundred years in cultivation; five to eight hundred years in a few rare cases. From these examples, and what we know about the lifespan of trees in the wild, there is good reason to plan for significant longevity of certain trees. A unique and intriguing aspect of the Garden will be to serve as a repository and venue for the continued care and display of select special trees, and tree landscapes, that are bequests from the estates of their owners. In the Garden, these trees will receive the long-term specialized treatment & care that might not be within the horticultural capabilities or interests of surviving family members.



Tamping pathways

The term "bonsai" is an internationally recognized term that describes small trees in pots. It is important to point out that the Bonsai Garden will have, in addition to the featured displays of

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bonsai, other genres of miniature trees and landscapes that will include the Chinese Pensai & Penjing as well as other Asiatic and Western styles.



This bonsai garden would not be possible without the many hours of volunteer time and effort dedicated to the planning and development of the garden and most importantly to the caring of all the trees loaned to the Garden. This is a significant effort and Larry and his team are looking for volunteers for work parties in the Garden and to help provide the ongoing care and maintenance of the trees.

The Bonsai Garden Committee will have photographs and a detailed plan view on display at the October meeting, and will likely have updated photos and displays at future meetings. Jim Haskins may bring in one of the bonsai plant stands to show members at this meeting.

Anyone wanting to be a part of the Bonsai Garden project may volunteer by speaking to Larry Phillips at our meetings or contacting the webmaster at: <http://www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca>

“Arts and Music in the Garden” at the Hort Centre

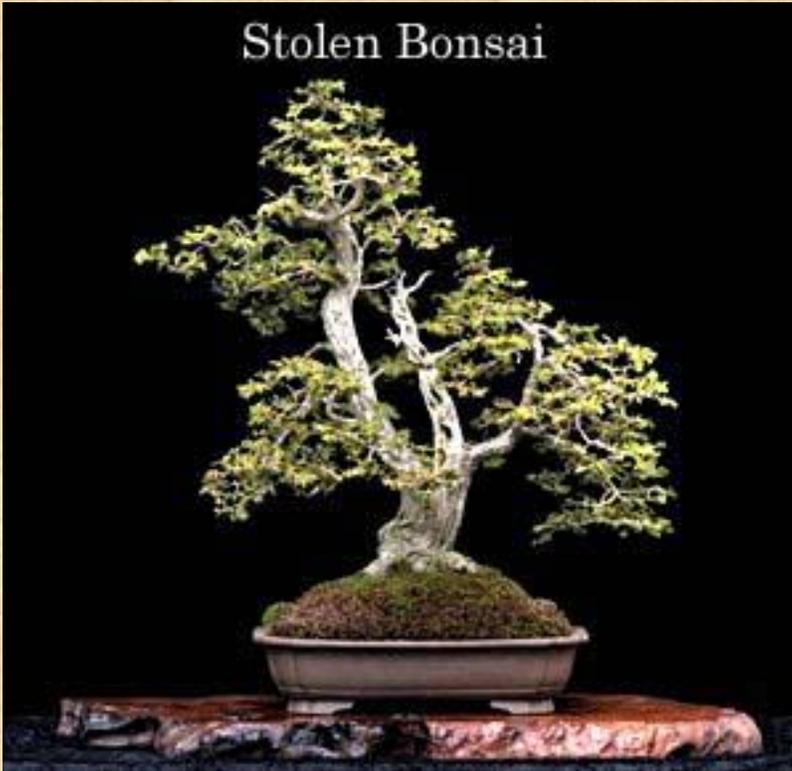
Every year, for a number of years, some of the members of the club participate in this event by setting up tables and putting bonsai on display while answering queries from the very appreciative public. The event itself is a not-to-be-missed occasion with an eclectic array of artists in various media and musicians of all types in one of the most stunning garden settings in the region.



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Stolen Bonsai



The well-known Seattle area bonsai artist, **Dan Robinson**, suffered a significant loss this past June at his renowned Elandan Gardens on the shores of Puget Sound. He and George Heffelfinger had just returned from the **ABS/BCI Bonsai in the Rockies** convention in Denver, and were touring Dan's garden when they came upon a bonsai stand that was quite obviously missing its most important feature – a gorgeous, 57-year-old Dwarf Hinoki Cypress. Dan had been working on the tree since 1991 – watering it, fertilizing it and shaping it, throughout the year

for 21 years until it became the lovely specimen pictured here. The tree is about 4 feet (1.22 m) tall with a 5" (13 cm) diameter trunk and Dan places its value at \$20,000 US.

Several years ago, members of this club had trees stolen from their homes. It was thought that recent publication of their names and addresses in the newsletter allowed thieves to easily target them. Since that unfortunate event it is our policy not to publish member's addresses, other than in circumstances previously approved by the owners.

The Drought of 2012

This extended period of warm, dry weather is sure to bode very poorly for various life forms in our region – salmon (and other fish), both migrating and resident in streams, landscape plantings and other non-native vegetation (watch those recently planted cedar hedges & semi-dwarf apples!) and, of course, our wee trees, if not regularly watered. Experienced bonsai-ists will know how to handle these conditions but for those new to the hobby, please don't underestimate how quickly your trees can dry out, especially on breezy days.

One thing to take advantage of in this extended Mediterranean summer is that, with river levels at their lowest point in years, there's a major opportunity to gather special stones for suiseki and gongshi. Try the Chemainus, Nanaimo, Sooke or any other river on the Island.

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Japanese Cultural Fair in Victoria

10 am - 4 pm
Saturday, October 20th, 2012
Esquimalt Recreation Centre
527 Fraser Street

Savour the wonderful tastes of Japan (including delicious sushi, bento boxes and sweet manju desserts). Experience demonstrations of Ikebana, tea ceremony, bonsai, shodo, sumi-e, kendo and aikido. Enjoy performances by Uminari Taiko, the Furusato Dancers, Satomi Edwards (Koto), the VJHLSS Children's Dance Group and Choir and many more!

A Free Family Friendly Event
With Kids Activity Area

For more information visit
www.vncs.ca or [facebook.com/vncs.ca](https://www.facebook.com/vncs.ca)

日本文化祭

On Saturday, October 20th, the Japanese Cultural Fair returns to Esquimalt and once again we are looking forward to enjoying traditional and non-traditional food, arts and crafts, Japanese tea and live entertainment, Japanese Tea Ceremony, Delicious Sushi and Manju, Ikebana Demonstration, Bonsai Display, Traditional Arts & Crafts, Children's Activity Area, Taiko Drumming, Japanese Calligraphy, Koto Music . . . and more!

As in previous years, the Vancouver Island Bonsai Society will have a display table and likely even a demonstration of bonsai techniques. This is a much anticipated and colourful event that we are very pleased to be a part of.

Although I didn't see it advertised, I am assured that the popular silent auction will be back and that our Society will be donating a tree, in fact ... a most lovely little tree. Come on down and have a look, enter a bid ... maybe win a bonsai!

Phoenix grafts - When done well, driftwood style bonsai convey the very essence of antiquity, with shari and jin contributing to the impression of an ages-long struggle to weather the elements. A metaphor for the human condition, some say. To take a bit of a shortcut in creating such a style is to create a tanuki, or phoenix graft. At our October meeting, we will explain the meaning of these terms and work on a couple of demonstration pieces. The process involves melding a leggy or spindly tree, usually a conifer, to a piece of suitably appropriate driftwood mounted in a pot. Please feel free to bring examples to the meeting.

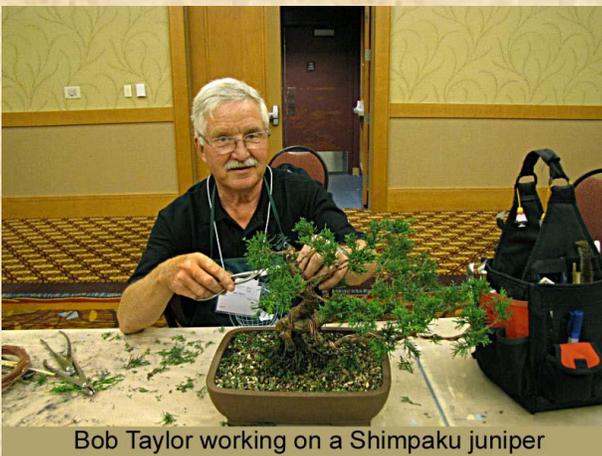
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The Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association (PNBCA) Conference in Portland, Oregon

Well, actually, the PNBCA Conference in Vancouver, Washington is a more accurate term. The Bonsai Society of Portland hosted the 2012 (Sept 14 to 16) Conference in Vancouver, WA – just across the Columbia River Interstate Bridge from Portland. From all accounts and from what I have read online, this was a most enjoyable conference with first-rate workshop instructors and some wonderful bonsai material – Engelmann spruce, Junipers (procumbens, Shimpaku, Rocky Mountain), Limber, Pinyon & Black pine, Japanese flowering quince, Cork-bark elm shohin, Japanese maple groups ... the list goes on!

Quite remarkably, only three people (that I'm aware of) from our club attended: George H, Bob T, and Tibby S – congratulations you three – your passion for this wonderful hobby is made obvious by your efforts. Here are a few pics from Bob (Thank you Bob!) ... we will see if we can find a few more for the next issue:



Bob Taylor working on a Shimpaku juniper



Karen Fincel (Oregon) & Ted Matson (Instructor) & maples



Apple bonsai with full-sized fruit

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A final note: Our Newsletter is in a state of transition. For this edition it wasn't possible to obtain the various files that pertain to our usual advertisers. Our apologies ... they'll be back.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!