

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

April 2013



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2012 – 13 VIBS Officers

President: Randy Kowalchuk
Vice President: Mark Paterson
Past president: Bob Taylor
Treasurer: Larry Phillips
Secretary: Jim Haskins
Newsletter & Website: John Mitchell

Next Society meeting: Monday, April 15th 2013 (7:30)

Show & Tell: Bring in your maples – show off some of that fresh spring colour! We'll talk a little about pruning & general maple care.

Demonstration: Bring in your trees and work on them, with, or without advice from the "experts".

Raffle table: We will have the always popular raffle table – please bring in your donations to support the Society

Field Day April 21st Once again, the ever-popular Field Day returns to Highcroft Farm. Directions will be given at Monday's meeting.



... last meeting
pines and other
flowering bonsai!
Thank you again
Maurice ...

...this meeting maples
in their spring glory &
needing a little trim!



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A Trip to Japan Bonsai

On the morning February 27th four intrepid souls set off from the shores of this lovely, but isolated island paradise, headed for that fabled mainland Shangri-la, Japan Bonsai.

The purpose of the trip was to look for material suitable for our upcoming 2014 convention and to speak with the owner, Tak Yamaura, about his role as a workshop presenter at this event. Tak has been a truly remarkable source of support to our club over many years and continues to do whatever he can to accommodate us.

As usual, we were greeted warmly by Tak and were able to wander around taking in all of the marvelous offerings that are for sale at this unique bonsai nursery. We took the opportunity to ask questions specific to the care of certain bonsai and, as we always do, came away considerably better informed than when we arrived.

All-in-all a most productive and enjoyable day. We would heartily recommend a visit to any who haven't already been to Japan Bonsai. If the thought of a forty-year head start on a lovely bonsai tree is appealing, start saving your allowance now and plan a trip!

Here's the photographic evidence:



George posing with a 40 year-old Shimpaku
(They're nearly the same age!)



Tak beside a 900 year old collected Mt Hemlock

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A Trip to Japan Bonsai (cont'd)



George awash in a sea of Shimpaku



Larry wants that one!



The delegation learns from Tak



Bob & Tak examining a "Sumo" trident maple



JAPAN BONSAI
Garden Art

TAK YAMAURA
Owner

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Bonsai Garden Update

On March 24th we were able to spend a day with David DeGroot, curator of the Weyerhaeuser Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection in Federal Way, WA. The Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection is an outdoor museum of living art featuring outstanding bonsai elegantly displayed in a beautiful woodland setting. See: <http://www.weyerhaeuser.com/bonsai>

The Collection includes more than 100 bonsai from China, Canada, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and the United States. Sixty bonsai are displayed at a time, which allows for a variety of trees to be presented at the peak of beauty.

David has been curator of the Collection since it opened in 1989 and has been a bonsai practitioner since 1972. An award-winning designer and always in demand as a speaker and workshop presenter, David is exceedingly well qualified to offer advice on all aspects of bonsai gardens. We were pleased to take advantage of this special opportunity to get David's opinion and recommendations regarding the Bonsai Garden under development at the Hort Centre.

David thought that the location of the Garden was outstanding and that we were going in the right direction with the Garden's design. He made numerous observations and made suggestions that we will incorporate as we move toward an opening date early this summer.

Here are some photographs of David's visit ...



David & Larry in the Zen Garden



David confers with Francois & Roger Charles
(Roger is the Executive Director of HCP)

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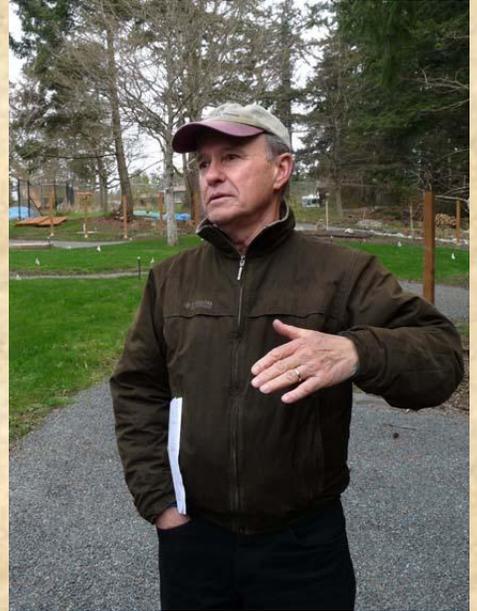
Bonsai Garden Update (cont'd)



David talks with Francois



... and with the group



... and in summary.

Mark Paterson reports that David used a light meter to measure Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR) – a measurement of light energy with significance to the relative placement of trees in an outdoor setting. Apparently, Dave found a wide variation in light intensity at the Garden, getting higher than expected readings in full sunlight. We expect that this bodes well for the sun-lovers like pine & cryptomeria (we do have open and deep shade too – a little something for everyone!).

April Bonsai Care (ABCs)

Things are really starting to take off now that April showers and warmer weather (well, slightly warmer than mid-winter, at least) are here. Oaks and beech will be slowly coming to life ... maples will be changing every few hours (it seems).

Finish repotting deciduous early this month ... begin to fertilize (weak solution of fast-acting liquid combined with a small amount of slow release) if you haven't already done so (Holding back fertilizer for pines can keep their needles shorter) ... keep an eye out for insects (they become very active this month) ... begin new wiring where needed & check old wiring to make sure it isn't cutting into the bark ... Allow new deciduous growth to extend to 3 leaves or leaf pairs, and then cut back to 1-2 leaves or leaf pairs. Continue through summer ... propagate by air layering once leaves have fully emerged ... if watering isn't automated, watch your pots!

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GardenWorks demonstration



Sarah, Mark and Barney – a few of the crew at the GardenWorks demo

On the 23rd of March, VIBS member Barney Hiney and a dedicated gathering of volunteers exhibited bonsai and gave demonstrations of their favorite craft to an appreciative gardening crowd.

Nice work folks! It's great to take advantage of these opportunities to meet other gardeners and get the word about bonsai out to the public.

The Library

The position of Librarian is still open. Sharon MacDonald, our former librarian, would be pleased to orient someone to this important club responsibility. If we are unable to find someone to take over from Sharon we may have no other alternative than to close the library, which would be most unfortunate, indeed. Anyone willing to take on this most honorable, but least contested of club positions, is encouraged to let us know by email or in person at the next meeting.

While we're on the topic ...

There are still a number of books and magazines that have been out for a long time. If you have these books at home, please return them ... others are waiting.

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Field Day 2013

We will give directions to Highcroft Farm at the April meeting and send out another notice with directions during the week.

For those who have not attended before, this is an informal social event where members can bring their trees to pot, prune and wire. More experienced members are always available for consultation. There will be a sales table.

We will try to have at least a limited supply of bonsai soil ingredients on hand (you may have to screen your own – it's a good workout!).

In past years:



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Russell Nursery presentation April 13th

Russell Nursery (1370 Wain Road, North Saanich) is one of the local nurseries who go that "extra mile" to encourage people in the bonsai hobby. Every year they bring in some of the bonsai classic species in a variety of sizes. These are species that are often difficult to find elsewhere at Vancouver Island nurseries. See: <http://www.russellnursery.com/>

The Society put on a Beginning Bonsai workshop on Saturday, April 13th. It was all about how to turn nursery stock into bonsai. This was an opportunity to get assistance in choosing nursery stock for bonsai and then help in styling a selection in a workshop setting.

Bob Taylor presented the workshop with able assistance from Randy K, Larry P and others. The participants were pleased, as were Brian Russell and his staff.



A reminder from Mark Paterson, Vice President

The Bonsai Garden is shaping up into a really remarkable project. Larry, Jim and the rest of the crew would really appreciate more volunteers as the opening date draws near. Volunteer days at HCP are Wednesdays and Saturdays – the most important day being Wednesday. If you can dedicate Wednesdays to lending a hand out there your efforts would be much appreciated and you will have the satisfaction of being a part of a unique project that is sure to draw accolades from far & wide. See Larry Phillips at the April meeting & get involved with the Bonsai Garden!

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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

