

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

January 2014



Contents:

Seasonal Celebration	2
VIBS Origins	3
January blues	4

2012 – 14 VIBS Officers

President: Mark Paterson
Vice President: Vacant
Treasurer: Larry Phillips
Secretary: Tibby Soloway
2014 Convention chair: Bob Taylor
Door & Raffle: Susan Vidal
Librarian: Kathi Morrison
Newsletter & Website: John Mitchell

Next Society meeting: Monday, January 20, 2014

Happy New Year Everyone !!!

Expert advice: There is a standing invitation to all members to bring in any tree that you would like an opinion or advice on – tap into several hundred years of collective bonsai experience.

Raffle table: Any contributions to the raffle table will be very much appreciated by all. It is a great fund raiser for the club and a very popular feature of our monthly meeting.

Memberships due: 2014 membership fees are due January 1st. In past years we have put up an incentive to be drawn from the names of those who have renewed their memberships by the January meeting. The “prize” may be a refund of your membership fee. There may be other incentives, too!

Club activities: Please give some thought to what you would like to see happening in the club this year. We will be looking for your opinions over the next couple of months and hope that a survey will indicate what the membership wants by way of bonsai-related activities.



The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

Annual Party/ Seasonal Celebration

Our December meeting was a wonderful opportunity to practice a little seasonal feasting before the big day! A lovely array of treats were laid out for our enjoyment, including a full turkey dinner, along with a trifle for desert, compliments of our new members Lisa and Mike. Many thanks to all who contributed and to those who attended and shared their Season's Greetings!



Some of the entries in the "Best Bonsai Christmas Tree" event and Barny - the proud winner - showing off his hard-won Tokoname bonsai pot prize! Congratulations Barny!

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

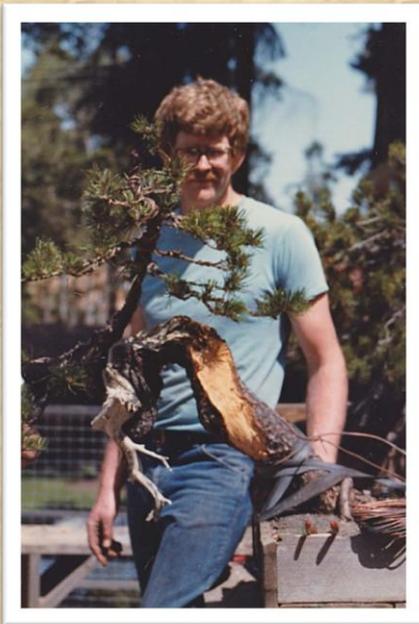
NEWSLETTER

The Origins of the Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

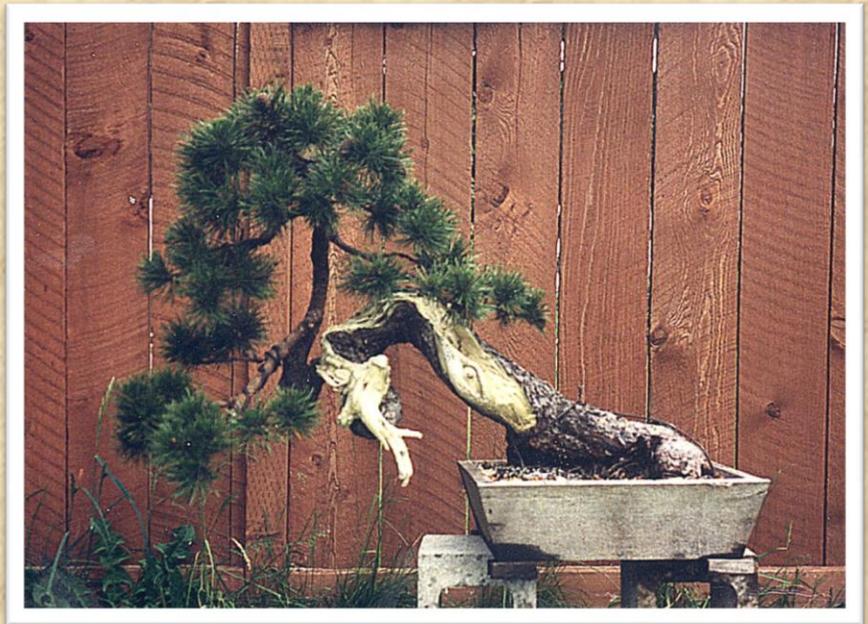
The actual date of the founding of this club seems to be lost, or at least well hidden, in the mists of time ... likely the late 1970s. Most people that I have spoken with seem to agree that Jack Sullivan started the club and, I'm told, early meetings were held at his home. Sadly, Jack died of cancer, apparently in the mid-to-late 1990s.

I would like to develop a bit of a biography on Jack over the next few months and to that end I hope that anyone with recollections of Jack in the early years of the club will make a point of speaking with me at meetings or email me. I have attempted, without success, to contact his family, so I am depending on the ability of our longer-term members to cast their minds back "to those thrilling days of yesteryear ..." in order to help me complete this project.

Our club logo is the artistic representation of a Shore Pine (*Pinus contorta contorta*) that Jack collected near Port Alberni about 1980. The tree didn't survive the winter of 1989 (a particularly cold February) after having been displayed at the ABS Symposium in Montreal in the summer of 1988.



Jack Sullivan Spring 1993



The Shore Pine that became the VIBS logo tree

This article will be updated, as information about this local bonsai pioneer becomes available.

[Do you ever wonder how people maintain those meticulous Zen gardens ... ?](#)

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER



... I always wondered.

January blues ...

It would seem that things in the bonsai world slow right down in January ... at least that appears to be what my mind is trying to trick me into now that I've packed away Sumo-equivalent calories over Christmas and New Year's. I thought what I needed was a little sleep. Nice try! Thankfully, I was awakened last week upon reading an article in an old club newsletter (January 1985) that was a reprint of an article by Dr Bert Bruenner of the Puget Sound Bonsai Association, published in January 1984. I think that the advice offered is as sound today as it was then:

“Get ready for the busiest time of the year. This will include transplanting, wiring, grafting and reassessment of the design of your trees. In January, your tasks are at a minimum, so this is the time to be sure you have soil mixtures, the right pots, sharp tools, drainage wire (mesh) and plenty of copper & aluminum wire. For repotting, start with those trees most needing it: the ones with poor drainage, the ones rising out of their pots, the ones with roots going round and round, the older trees you have put off for several years. Some trees are in bloom already (early January) and will be repotted soon after blooming, but will not be exposed to frost until after the danger is over. Other deciduous material should wait until the buds begin to swell. And remember: prune but do not wire deciduous material until you can see the buds swelling; and then, do not wait – it's much easier if done before the buds come out. (it is also much easier to correct the design if a tree is bare).

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

Evergreens and conifers can wait 'til late March or early April for transplanting but may be wired during winter."

After reading the article and looking around my benches, I realised that there was significant work awaiting me just in repotting alone, if the timing aspect is to be given the importance it deserves. I often push repotting season into the early summer, knowing that, for most trees, the survival potential is being compromised.

Looking over those same benches, I see that the -10° C temperature has had an effect on some trees. Several pots of tall heather are obviously deceased (and they seemed such a bargain, on sale just a few months ago). I've never seen the Boxwood so bronze, either a result of conditions last fall, or the cold. Beneath the bronze, though, are plenty of green leaves, so I'm expecting that the bronze will revert to green when Spring arrives. Even the conifers seem to have an unusually "dusty" look to them – I think it's the winter drought!

I can't help but think that it may be time to build a cold frame. Might be a good project for next August. Certainly not now - I'm suddenly busy!



VANCOUVER ISLAND
BONSAI SOCIETY

PNBCA - 2014 October 3-5, 2014
Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association
Harbour Towers Hotel, Victoria, B.C.

Single Full Registration\$265
Received before July 1st, 2014

Family Full Registration \$470
Received before July 1st, 2014

25th ANNIVERSARY!
1989 - 2014

PNBCA Bonsai Convention 2014:
Colin Lewis Michael Hagedorn John Romano Tak Yamaura

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

Membership Renewal / Application Form 2014

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

