

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

November 2014



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2014 VIBS Officers

President: Mark Paterson
Vice President: Teague Griffin
Past President: Bob Taylor
Treasurer: Larry Phillips
Secretary: Tibby Solloway
Door & Raffle: Susan Vidal
Librarian: Kathi Morrison
Newsletter & Website: John Mitchell

Next Society meeting: Monday, November 17th, 2014
7:30 pm at Garth Homer Centre

Theme: Annual 50/50 auction. The auction will be the primary activity this evening - there won't be a raffle table or Show & Tell session (unless, of course, someone brings something to show!).

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.

Club activities: Please share your thoughts on activities that you would like to see. Feedback from the membership about what you would like by way of bonsai-related activities helps us structure our meetings.

Entering the building: Please be aware that the front door is the only entry/exit to the building. Security has become a significant issue for the Garth Homer administration and access to the building is now limited to the front door.

Library: Please return library books that you have borrowed so that others may enjoy them, too.

Last meeting (Fall colour *Cotinus coggygria*):



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Greetings all - Cold enough for you? Yes, it's that old phrase that passes for a greeting at this time of year in those parts of North America that typically experience four seasons. This rather chilly weather is cause for some concern as our bonsai (and trees destined for bonsai) hadn't really had an opportunity to see the dormancy-inducing process through before killing frosts enveloped the Victoria region. Those of us north of, say, Duncan - are probably better trained around the cold reality of November and, as a matter of seasonal routine, have likely tucked all of their wee trees into sheltered and/or mulched spots for winter (haven't you?).

The temperatures, lately falling to -2°C to -3°C overnight around my place, ordinarily wouldn't cause any real permanent damage to our more frost-tolerant species, if properly hardened off, but many of my deciduous trees hadn't even dropped their leaves when the cold weather, and cold, dry winds, hit. Some were still quite green and probably quite functional. It will be interesting to see if there follows an increased mortality observed next spring.

For the remainder of the winter the usual advice applies: bonsai, and trees destined for bonsai, are safer when stored, preferably under sheltering tables, benches or other cover and in contact with the ground. There is a critical heat gain from what would appear to be the "cold" earth as opposed to leaving bonsai above ground on stands and benches, where they are exposed to wind and where air circulation can make the difference of a few degrees colder. Cold greenhouses, poly houses and cold frames offer good protection and are a worthwhile investment to protect your bonsai.

The greatest culprit in the failure of bonsai to survive a winter on the west coast are the cold dry winds that accompany the intrusion of very cold Arctic air southward into that part of B.C. (and Canada) to the east of us, i.e. a cold front. Every year at this time I write about cold outflow winds that come roaring down the mainland river valleys, across the straits, and into our gardens. It's been interesting this past week to watch that same phenomenon bring clear sunny days and cold dry wind that can be an invigorating and quite enjoyable change from the usual seasonal "wet" ... as long as you've attended to your bonsai!

Watch & listen to weather broadcasts. Be alert for cold outflow warnings. Climate change is real and extreme weather events are a promise! In October 1962 (pre-climate change) Typhoon Freda brought 90 kph winds and gust of more than 180 kph to the Pacific Coast. The multiple trunks that grew from broken trees can be seen all around the southern Island today. The damage was enormous. Be prepared for anything!

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The display at the recent Convention was really spectacular and some outstanding bonsai were shown in a fine setting. An excellent write-up by Times Colonist GO Page editor, Pedro Arrais, was likely responsible for a better-than-usual turnout of an appreciative general public.



Cotoneaster



Japanese Maple Forest



Mountain Hemlock



Western Hemlock



Literati Shore Pine Forest



Mountain Hemlock

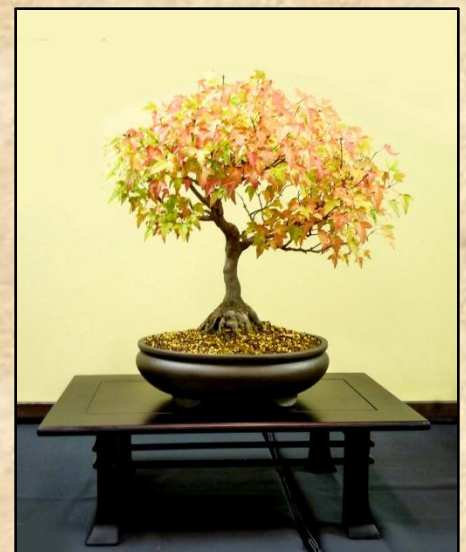


Twin-trunk Mountain Hemlock

... some of the 50 bonsai on display at the Convention.



Cascade-style Japanese Red Pine



Trident maple

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Annual 50/50 Auction


Our annual auction is always a popular event and for good reason: many good bonsai got their start here. On occasion, I have been pleasantly surprised to hear that a bonsai I have been admiring got its start as an auction purchase. Plan to attend and spend a ton of money - it benefits the club greatly! If you have quality bonsai that you would like to enter into the sale, and would be content to take home half of what they sell for, please plan to arrive early at the meeting so that items can be assessed and numbered.



the Auctioneer 2010



the Auctioneer 2011



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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
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Maurice's well-attended presentation on native species bonsai at the 2014 PNBCA Convention