

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

December 2015



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2015 VIBS Board Members

President: Mark Paterson
Vice President: Vacant
Past President: Bob Taylor
Treasurer: Larry Phillips
Secretary: Jim Haskins
Door & Raffle: Susan Vidal
Librarian: Kathi Morrison
Newsletter & Website: John Mitchell
Board member "without portfolio" Jim Morrison

Next Society meeting: Monday, December 21st, 2015
7:00 pm at Couvelier Pavilion, HCP

Scheduled: A Seasonal Celebration and Pot Luck Feast!

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. See the Activities Calendar:

<http://www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca/bonsaiCalendar.htm>

Raffle table: Please consider bringing an item for the raffle table - it is a good fund-raiser for club events.

A Request for scent-free meetings: People sensitive to scents can come down with severe headaches and feel quite unwell after exposure. Out of consideration for our fellow members, we would ask that our meetings be scent-free.



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Last meeting:

Our Annual Auction was, by all reports, a resounding success! There were some very nice bonsai and potential bonsai consigned, as well as pots, books and a lovely Japanese scroll.



The Club would like to extend a sincere "Thank you" to all who consigned items and to all who 'dug deep' to purchase their chosen treasures. President Mark Paterson really rose to the occasion in his role as auctioneer. Well done Mark!



Photos: JM



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This month's meeting is our "Seasonal Celebration" This event is always fun and this year we can look forward to the warm and inviting Couvelier Pavilion's cozy ambience as a venue for our get-together. As usual, there will be a **contest for the best decorated bonsai tree** - the prize will be the usual widespread acclaim and hearty applause from the assembled celebrants!

This is a pot-luck, bring-a-snack-and-eat-and-visit meeting – club members are encouraged to bring favorite snacks and "finger-food" to share.

Looking back over "Twenty Fifteen"



Photos: John Mitchell

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Speaking of pot luck ...

In my experience, the best source of Chinese bonsai pots in B.C. is **China Pottery Trading Ltd.** in Richmond. They have been supplying the bonsai community with pots for many years. Vancouver Islanders in Vancouver - shopping or on business - would be wise to stop in and fill their bonsai pot needs from this quite amazing warehouse. They also stock every conceivable Chinese decorative or cookware-related item imaginable and ship to Chinatowns across Canada. **Fan & Jasper Zheng** are always pleased to see bonsai hobbyists from the Island and will happily guide you through their wares. There's a new container load just in and the prices are great! Just remember that it's very expensive to get on and off this island - a cost that adds to the cost of your pots (it helps to buy lots!).

<http://www.china-pottery.ca/workmanship/Bonsai>

Below: Greg examines some of the larger pots. Right: Bob checking out a cascade-style pot. Right (lower): some of the many bonsai pots.

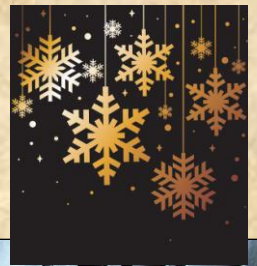


A true warehouse shopping experience!

Photos: John M

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N E W S L E T T E R



If it's a selection of round mica pots you're after, then we may be able to put you in touch with a another Vancouver vendor who has a few lying around ...



Photos: John M

Japan Bonsai is still open by appointment. It is my understanding Tuesdays and Thursdays are often "open days". Anyone travelling any distance is advised to call first. Tak can be contacted at (604) 536-9220

Please remember that 2016 membership fees will be due as of our January meeting. Single memberships \$30 Family memberships \$35

Keep in mind that it is time to make plans for the growing season ahead. If you plan on repotting be sure to have on hand a suitable soil mix that is dry (so that you can work the soil mix well into the spaces around the roots). Mid to late winter is a good time to begin this activity. Be sure that your repotted tree is firmly wired into the pot - a loosely positioned tree wont establish new roots successfully. Be sure to water your newly repotted tree. There is a great deal of information on repotting in almost any bonsai book.

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Remembering ... Sharon Muth



Photo: John Mitchell

On April 2nd this year, the national bonsai community lost – to cancer – a friend, mentor and talented bonsai artist.

Sharon was one of the founding members of the Puget Sound Bonsai Association and a past-president of that club. Many of the long-term members of our club will remember Sharon over the past thirty years or so as the owner of Bonsai Northwest, in the south Seattle area and now owned and operated by her son John.

Sharon is remembered as a bold and brilliant bonsai pioneer, who knew the Asian bonsai pottery import business inside-out and who successfully rose to the challenge of importing bonsai, bonsai pots and accessories for sale to appreciative hobbyists in the U.S. and Canada.

Sharon's career in bonsai began as a potter, supplying pots to local club members. Today, her pots from those early years are a sought-after bonsai collectable. Her passion for bonsai grew and Sharon began offering bonsai, and bonsai lessons, creating a business tradition that continues to be a significant bonsai resource and teaching venue. As well as Sharon & John sharing their own extensive knowledge, some of the most notable names in bonsai have appeared as guest artists at Bonsai Northwest. We would encourage our members to visit this remarkable business, online and in person. <http://www.bonsainw.com/> Our deepest condolences go out to Sharon's friends & family - she will be deeply missed and long remembered.

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Membership Renewal / Application Form 2016

I wish to renew my membership _____ or I wish to apply for membership _____ (new member)

Attached is \$30.00 for single membership _____ or attached is \$35.00 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, B.C.
V8W 3S2

