

# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

# NEWSLETTER

January 2015



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## 2014 VIBS Officers

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

**Next Society meeting: Monday, January 19th, 2015**  
**7:30 pm at Garth Homer Centre**

**Theme:** Traditional bonsai styles will be discussed. Members are invited to bring trees for display that illustrate the various types of bonsai. It's also a perfect time of year (Winter!) to bring in deciduous trees that show off an interesting silhouette. There may also be the occasional "January bloomer" making an appearance.

**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. The Activities Calendar on the VIBS webpage has been updated for 2015

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

**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.

**Last meeting:**



Lisa & Mike with their winning Decorated Christmas Bonsai

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**Greetings all** - I hope that everyone's year is off to a great beginning! We wound up 2014 with a very enjoyable get-together on our usual monthly meeting night and once again feasted on a wonderful assortment of goodies ranging from a full turkey dinner with all the fixins (thank you Lisa & Mike!) to sushi, spanakopita, mac'n' cheese, smoked salmon, salads and a great selection of delectable sweet treats (thank you everyone else!).

I think that I can probably rest assured that those of you that weren't within a sensible drive of Victoria probably had an equally high-calorie feast (or two) over the Holiday Season and enjoyed yourselves as much as we did.



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**January Meeting:** We will discuss the various traditional bonsai styles that have arisen out of the Japanese interpretation of the ancient Chinese practice of Pensai or Punsai (or other Anglicized variations of the translation). These styles can be found illustrated in most bonsai books but we will endeavour to show some local examples. The Japanese styles evolved under a variety of influences as practitioners incorporated the aesthetics of a unique culture in an artistic interpretation of their world.



**Formal Upright** -also known as **Chokkan**, these trees are the ones that have an upright and straight trunk. Its branches are thicker and long as they get close to the ground and shorter and small on the top. Formal Upright trees have strong and noticeable roots, which sometimes are seen above the soil.

**Informal Upright** - Also known as **Moyogi**, these trees have an upright trunk but have noticeable curbs, sometimes with the shape of a letter “s”. In every twirl branches appear, usually smaller at the top and bigger near de soil. The trunk is also thicker in the soil.



**Slanting** - also known as **Shakan**, is mostly a Formal Upright tree but with a small lean. Its trunk usually grows in one direction with an angle between 60 to 80 degrees to the ground.

**Broom** - Called **Hokidachi** in Japanese, Broom-style trees have a straight trunk that doesn't finish at the top of the tree but around the middle. After that, branches, all about the same size, form a ball-shaped crown. Broom trees can also be formal and informal, like the Upright tree, depending on the curves of the trunk.

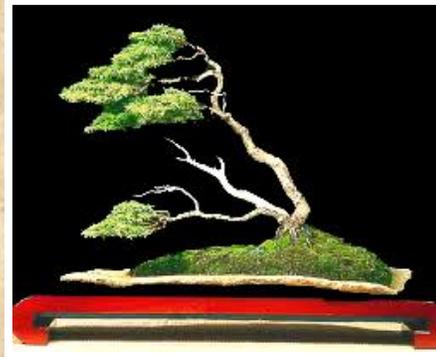


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**Cascade (Left)** - Also known as **Kengai**, Cascade trees are the ones that grow downward, below the base of the pot containing it. The trunk can be upright for a small part and then downward. There's also a Semi Cascade style, called Han-kengai, in which the peak of the tree reach at the level, or just beneath, the containing pot.



**Windswept** - Windswept miniature trees, or **Fukinagashi**, are the ones that look like have been affected by strong and constant winds. In this style the branches grow in one direction only. Photo: Art of Bonsai.com



**Literati**, or **Bunjin-gi (bunjin will suffice!)**, "The Bunjin style of bonsai is so free that it seems to violate all the principles of bonsai form. The indefinite style has no specific form and is difficult to describe, however its confirmation is simple, yet very expressive. No doubt its most obvious characteristics are those shapes formed by old age and extreme weather conditions."

... John Naka

**Multitrunk style - Kabudachi** - some trees have multiple trunks: From the **Sokan**, with **two**, to the **Kyukan**, that has **nine**. All trunks should be growing from the same root system. Usually the strongest trunk is the highest.



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**Forest** - Also known as **Yose-ue**, this style is created by planting many trees in the same pot. It's like the Multi-Trunk style but they don't rely on the same root system; they are all different trees.

Most miniature forests are formed by the same species. The trees are usually of many sizes and are not planted in a straight line but in a spread out pattern.



**Driftwood** style - In Japanese known as **Sharamiki**, is a miniature tree with an important part of its trunk devoid of bark and filled with deadwood. A small strip of live trunk has to connect the leaves and living branches to the roots to carry nutrients. Driftwood trees look old and aged.

**Clinging-to-Rock** - This style, also known as **Ishi-tsuki**, consists of a miniature tree that grows in the cracks and holes of a rock placed in the containing pot. There's also **Root-Over-Rock** trees, or **Sekijoju**, which consist of the same principle, only that in this case the root surrounds the rock in which the tree grows ending in the soil.



**Raft** Style- In nature, sometimes a tree falls with its roots still anchored. After some time branches will grow upward a forest will grow upward out of the trunk. All trees that were born in the process will be in the line of the original trunk. This style emulates that procedure in a miniature scale.

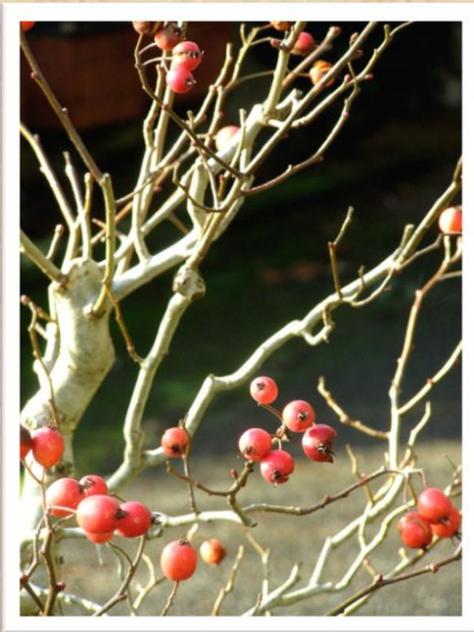
In future issues of this Newsletter we will discuss the growing of miniature trees in the specialized styles of other countries like Korea, Vietnam and the Philippines. North America & Europe are also evolving distinct styles, too.

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## Maurice's Corner

It is indeed the time to display "winter silhouettes" for bonsai, also sometimes things left over on some trees make them interesting, such as berries and even dead leaves that remain on the tree waiting for spring before they fall off...

To me January is the month to experiment with the making of new pots ... also the winter sun allows me to enjoy a few winter silhouettes in addition to flowers on Winter Jasmine (normal at this time of year), berries on cotoneasters and haws on (Lavallee) Hawthorns .Witness also the earliest signs of spring on Potentillas! Here are a few sights from around the yard this week



See you all at the meeting ... Maurice!

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**Announcements:**

Our Secretary, Tibby Solloway, has stepped down as a member of the executive in order to spend time closer to her Cobble Hill home. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Tibby for the tremendous amount of work that she has done in supporting and promoting this club over many years. We hope to see you as a frequent visitor, Tibby!

Jim Haskins has offered to take on the role of Secretary and has demonstrated his exceptional ability in this position on past occasions. Thank you Jim!

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**Bonsai Tools and Wire**

I would like to remind everyone that Bob Taylor has a selection of bonsai tools and wire for club members wishing to purchase these supplies. Bob's prices are as reasonable as you will find anywhere locally, I believe. Bob started bringing tools over from Vancouver as a convenience to members who didn't have the opportunity to make the trip themselves. I hope to be able to add some photos to a regular announcement, starting in February. See Bob at the meetings!

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**Bonsai Pots** - the club has a selection of very good quality bonsai pots for sale. I will be bringing in some representative samples as of the January meeting and, again, hope to be able to post a few photos in February, in time for "potting season".

Potting and re-potting is a subject coming up in February (Pot Swap!) and again in March (Repotting techniques and making concrete pots).

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Remember - **membership renewals are now due**. I've heard rumours that rates will increase soon! This meeting may be your last opportunity for a bargain rate!

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Kathi says: Please return library books that you have borrowed so that others may enjoy them!

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## Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

Membership Renewal / Application Form 2015

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

