

# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

September 2015



### Contents:

Last meeting	2
September tips	4
Fall colour	6
Coming events	7
Hal Seybold	8

### 2014 VIBS Officers

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, September 21st, 2015**  
**7:00 pm at Couvelier Pavilion, HCP**

**Please note new meeting location!**

**Scheduled:** Fall colour; Making concrete pots; prep for winter

**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.

**the August meeting**





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## NEWSLETTER

### Last Meeting:

Our August meeting was well attended and our themes – viewing stones and bring your favorite bonsai – offered a variety of delightful offerings. I was quite astonished at the number and quality of viewing stones that people brought for display and discussion. It was quite coincidental that our Viewing Stone theme coincided with the passing of Hal Seybold, the well-respected "grandfather" of Vancouver Island limestone "gongshi-style" scholars' rocks.

Our long-time member, Kevin R, presented a fascinating talk on Vancouver Island geology and described the tectonic journey, over hundreds of millions of years, that this island made from its origin south of the equator to its ultimate "docking", as it were, with what we know as the North American mainland. On this journey, over millennia, coral reefs were formed and incorporated into the geology and evidenced today by the enormous, often mountainous, deposits of limestone from which we now collect gongshi scholars' rocks. Thank you Kevin!

Several "favorite" bonsai made their appearance – a prematurely colourful Japanese maple from Maurice, a beautiful little hardy fuchsia from Lynn, Sarah's wee landscape and Randy's gorgeous Hawthorn.

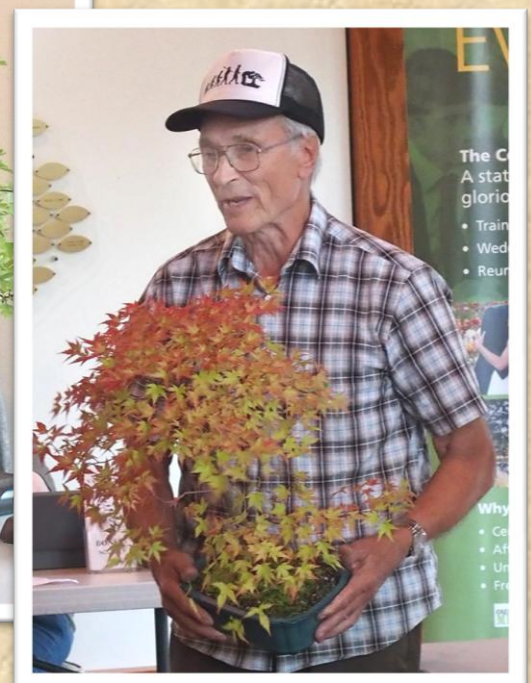


Above: Two past presidents, Bob (L) & Randy (R) offer commentary on viewing stones



Randy's Hawthorn

Below: Maurice with his prematurely Fall-coloured Japanese Maple (he blames the hot, dry summer!)





# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

### Last Meeting (cont'd):



The raffle table had some very generous donations and generated a great deal of interest . Greg managed to take home a bag of Akadama that a great many had their covetous eyes on ...



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## N E W S L E T T E R

A rather stately Hedge Maple bonsai donated by Jim M was auctioned toward the end of the evening and Sylvia, the successful bidder, then astonished all present by donating this beautiful tree to the Bonsai Garden. Thank you Sylvia for your generous gift and lovely gesture of support for the Garden.

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### September bonsai tips

This is the time of the year to start using a fertilizer with little or no nitrogen, although one of our members (Randy K) mentioned that certain bonsai experts recommend at least some N going into the fall, apparently dispelling the notion that Autumn N gives rise to fresh growth that doesn't then have time to harden off before frosty days are upon it. I would imagine that this advice pertains to evergreen species only since photosynthesis in deciduous species is in the process of shutting down – a function of day length – and has no ability to utilize the nitrogen. Because N transits quickly through proper bonsai soil as water drains, it isn't "banked" until spring like other, more complex compounds might be.

**From VIBS Newsletter Sept 2004:** Transplanting is permissible at this time of year, specifically for boxwood, conifers (pines), hornbeams, cotoneaster, privets, pyracantha, wisteria, willows, and most varieties of deciduous trees. **The key to safe repotting is to minimize any root disturbance and to exclude any severe pruning of any kind.** Trees can be transferred into larger or different containers. If in doubt wait until spring to repot. Remove any tightening wire. This is a particularly good time to apply some new wire since the trees have shed the mantle of leaves which have hidden the branches. Now they are exposed for a proper redesign. Do not do any severe pruning, however, since the slow down of winter growth will not permit the tree to recover from any trauma. Pines should be trimmed by removing old, dead needles and reducing candle sizes. Trim all deciduous trees to remove long internodes of summer growth. It is also the time to keep trees free of accumulated debris which could be the home for winterizing insects and fungus. Keep all trees open, airy and exposed to the light.

**From VIBS Newsletter Sept 2006 (somewhat technical!):**

### Late Summer Through Fall Fertilizing

At this time of year, focus on preparing your outdoor hardy and semi-hardy bonsai for the hardships of winter. While there is no doubt that well fertilized bonsai have a survival advantage over poorly fertilized trees, the application of 20 N (nitrogen), 20 P (phosphorus),

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## NEWSLETTER

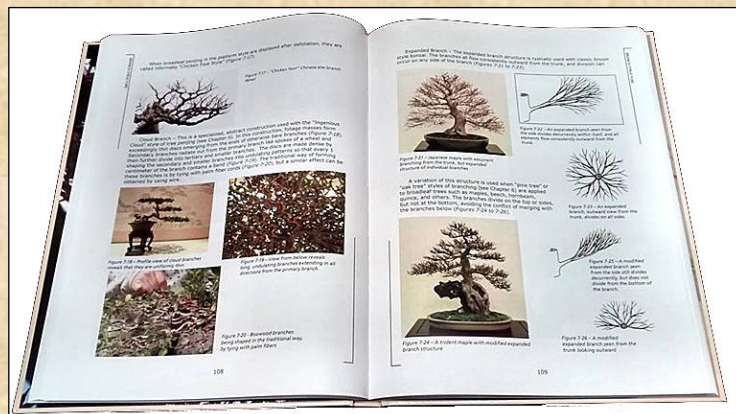
### September Tips (cont'd)

20 K (potassium) fertilizers should be reduced and high phosphoric acid (P component) fertilizers increased during the months of September and October. A 10-52-10 or equivalent fertilizer should be applied once every 10 - 14 days at half strength to fuel the cold hardiness process. Increasing the phosphorous (P) fertilization is explained by Jim Grob, tree physiology researcher for Weyerhaeuser Company and member of the IBC as follows: "All the living cells in a tree have a membrane inside their cell wall. This membrane encloses and maintains the chemistry required to sustain life functions and is composed of phospholipid bi-layer as well as proteins which exist in an essentially fluid state. During active growth, which is maintained by heavy applications of nitrogen (N), the phospholipid bi-layer consists largely of saturated phospholipids, but during the fall and winter there is a change to the unsaturated phospholipids. Importantly, the change to unsaturated phospholipids maintains the fluid membrane structure during the cooling and freezing. Without this change, saturated phospholipids would otherwise turn crystalline, rupturing the essentially fluid nature of the membranes and destroying or damaging the entire cell. During the winterizing process, the application of a high phosphorous (P) with an equally high nitrogen (N) and potassium (K) fertilizer may delay the development of unsaturated phospholipids later in the season. This is the type of late season feeding which interferes with the winterization process. It must be mentioned, also, that proteins and enzymes containing nitrogen are created in the fall, and these are directly involved in the cold hardiness development".

Reference: BONSAI TODAY, Volume 47

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Anyone wishing to purchase **David DeGroot's** new book ***Principles of Bonsai Design*** please sign the sheet at the meeting and arrange to prepay \$30US. When payment is made we will add an individuals' name to the order. David will bring the books with him in October.





# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

September meeting theme: Fall Colour



Above: a maple and a Hornbeam(?) – photo by Maurice

Below: Acer rubrum – photo by Judy Horsland



Above: Maples Photo: Maurice

Below: Euonymus

Photo: Maurice





# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

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**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. See Bob at the meetings!



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### Coming Events:

**Saturday, September 26th: Rock collecting with Mark Paterson** Mark has organised a trip collecting viewing stones in the Cowichan Lake area. His instructions for getting there have been emailed out to members. The long range forecast today (Sept 20) is for "clouds & sun" but come prepared for damp conditions, especially underfoot.

**Saturday, October 17th:** Internationally renowned bonsai artist **David DeGroot** will be presenting two workshops at HCP - one from 8am until noon and one from 1pm until 5pm. The workshops are now fully subscribed. A limited number of "silent observers" will be admitted to the workshops at a cost of \$10 per person. Silent observers are a tradition in bonsai workshops and the "silent" aspect will be rigorously enforced!

**Saturday, October 24th: the 16th Annual Japanese Cultural Fair:** at the Esquimalt Rec Centre (See poster below) Mark Paterson will give a styling demonstration and there will be two trees on the silent auction table - a Savin Juniper bonsai and a Japanese Black Pine from Japan Bonsai. In addition tons of Japanese cultural events and food, too.

**October Bonsai Meeting Theme:** Fall care for Pines and more "getting ready for Winter"!

Early in the new year **Tak Yamaura** from Japan Bonsai will present a **forest planting demonstration at HCP**. This event will be open to members of the HCP and VIBS and the forest planting will be auctioned.

**Next Spring** Maurice will present a styling demonstration open to Club and HCP members. Date yet to be fixed and the tree will be auctioned.



# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

**More about our friend Hal Seybold** "... a creative, kind and gentle man."

Hal passed away on Wednesday, August 12th. He was born in Eugene, Oregon September 5, 1933 but spent the early part of his life in the San Francisco Bay area. He went on to receive his BA and MA in education and administration with minors in Psychology and Music from San Jose State University. In 1955 Hal was stationed in Taiwan as part of the Military Advisory Corp.

After his tour of duty Hal returned home and had teaching and administrative positions in Santa Clara and Monterey.

In 1972, with wife Willis, settled in the north island community of Port Hardy where, until retirement, they followed careers in teaching and public school administration.

Their time in Taiwan in the mid-1950s had introduced them to the Chinese culture where they became aware of the use of limestone in Asian literature, art and in garden displays.

Examination of the stone being imported from China to build the Sun Yat-Sen Gardens in Vancouver, connected them with similarity to stone seen on Vancouver Island.

Following conversations with the Scholars' Rock specialist Richard Rosenblum, their study led them to explore further for island limestone resources. Eventually, they filed a claim to extract stone from the Quatsino formation on northern part of Vancouver Island.

Since then many elegant pieces of limestone have been collected to be mounted as "viewing stones" or for use in bonsai/penjing tray landscapes.



Hal's hobbies were fishing, classical piano, opera and his scholars' rocks,

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Willis Lee (Swain) Seybold, married September 11, 1954 and their two children, Paul Harold Seybold and Janet Kristan Seybold of Vancouver.

Left: Hal with a massive limestone scholars' rock - Northern Vancouver Island (the ones we collect are a little smaller!) Photo: Peter Wilson

Last month's newsletter carried the initial news of Hal's passing. He was known to many older club members ... we will miss that good man.



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## NEWSLETTER

The Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society presents the 16th annual

# Japanese Cultural Fair

Savour the wonderful tastes of Japan  
(including delicious sushi, bento boxes  
and sweet manju desserts).

Experience demonstrations of  
ikebana, tea ceremony, bonsai,  
shodo, various martial arts, with  
a special anime presentation by  
Tsukino-Con.

Enjoy performances by  
Uminari Taiko, the Furusato  
Dancers, Satomi Edwards (Koto), the  
VJHLSS Children's Dance Group and  
Choir and many more!

**VICTORIANNEWS** **ESQUIMALT** **Fujiya** **Monday**  
JAPANESE FOODS MAGAZINE

**10 am - 4 pm**  
**Saturday, October 24th, 2015**  
**Esquimalt Recreation Centre**  
**527 Fraser Street**  
**A Free Family Friendly Event**  
**With Kids Activity Area**

**For more information visit**  
**[www.vncs.ca](http://www.vncs.ca) or [facebook.com/vncs.ca](https://www.facebook.com/vncs.ca)**



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Greg N is looking for a shallow oval bonsai tray or pot, 24" in length, suitable for landscape style. If you have one that is surplus to your needs, Greg N would like to hear from you. Greg will be at the September, October and November meetings. Any member of the Executive will be able to point Greg out to you — or email details to me at [victoriabonsaiclub@gmail.com](mailto:victoriabonsaiclub@gmail.com)



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## NEWSLETTER

### 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



Summer sun through the smoke 2015

Photo by Maurice