

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

March 2016



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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
Also: Jim Morrison; Maurice Bombezin, Randy Kowalchuk

Next Society meeting: Monday, March 21st, 2016

7:00 pm at Couvelier Pavilion, HCP

Scheduled: Theme: How to purchase and Grow Bonsai stock.

Show & Tell: Bonsai awakening from 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. The Activities Calendar on the VIBS webpage has been updated for 2016

<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 and this year



Tak stylin'

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

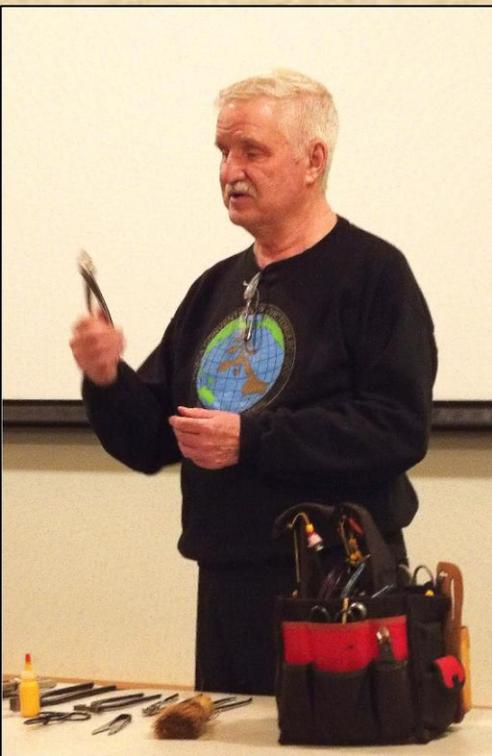
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Greetings all - this past very wet month has been somewhat frustrating for those of us anxious to start all of the Spring gardening rituals & bonsai maintenance chores that have been accumulating on our lists of Things To Do since last Fall.

A Highlight this month was **Tak Yamaura's bonsai-styling workshop** held on March 13th at the Couvelier Pavilion at HCP. Tak worked bonsai magic to transform the trees that participants brought with them in a workshop that provided a special insight into styling techniques and gave a special appreciation for how a bonsai artist of Tak's extraordinary ability can make a very challenging task seem, if not easy, then at least achievable. I think everyone found the exercise quite delightful. Thank you Tak!

Last Meeting

Tool Maintenance by Bob Taylor



Bob's many years in bonsai have instilled in him the importance of bonsai tool care. Bob discussed the care & sharpening of bonsai tools and the steps taken to keep them rust free and in excellent working order. In the discussion two products were recommended for rust prevention - Boeshield (a Boeing product available at Lee Valley & KMS Tools) and Fluid Film (Canadian Tire, Princess Auto & others) It's a lanolin-derived, non-toxic lubricant and rust preventative. Both are superior products!



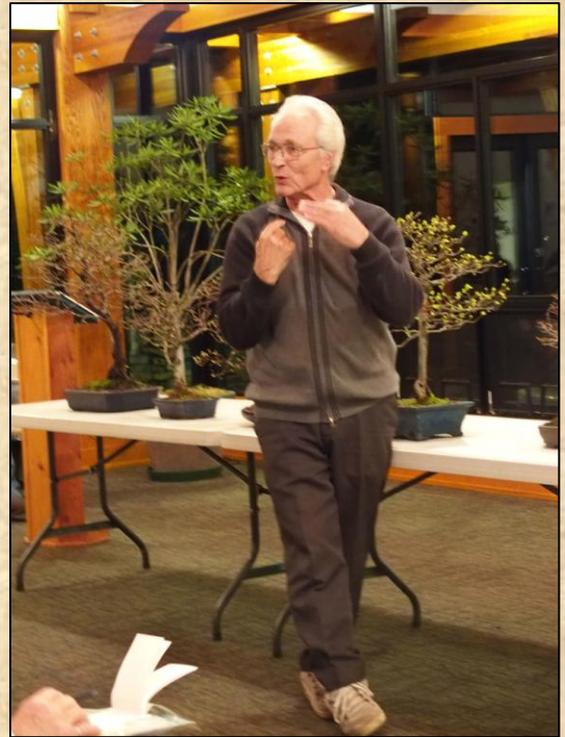
Not everyone has, or needs, the extensive range of specialized tools that Bob brought for the demo - a pair of branch cutters and thinning shears will serve most of us quite well for basic bonsai styling & maintenance. Lee Valley carries a nice selection of bonsai tools. Club member Randy Kowalchuk is a Lee Valley guy and he would be able to advise anyone on a good basic selection of tools.

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Early Spring Bonsai Considerations - Maurice Bombezin

Signs of an early spring were everywhere on the South Island. Much as they were last year, deciduous bonsai were bursting into leaf and flower – catkins were everywhere. Maurice brought several examples of bonsai in need of immediate attention and discussed the pertinent considerations for those trees he brought in. If someone had been keeping notes over his many seminars we could have the manuscript for a new best selling bonsai book! You have been keeping notes ... haven't you?



Some photos from Tak's workshop ...



Kent keeps a close eye on the master

Working on a JBP



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Tak's Styling Workshop (cont'd)

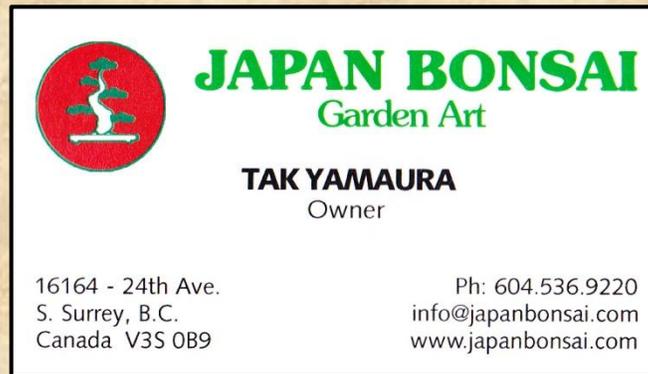


Scenes from a workshop

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Tak is still conducting business from his long-established location in Surrey. Hours are somewhat reduced – call first.



Coming events:

Vancouver Island Rock & Alpine Garden Society (VIRAGS) Spring Show Friday, April 8th - 1PM – 8PM. Saturday April 9th 9AM – 3PM

March 26th – April 24th Stone Images VII at the Pacific Bonsai Museum, Federal Way, WA
Viewing stones, large and small, collected by PSBA members in Washington State rivers will go on display at the [Pacific Bonsai Museum](#) in Federal Way starting March 26 in the Viewing Stone Interest Group's annual exhibit.

The show will run from March 26 to April 24 with the final two days being held in conjunction with Puget Sound Bonsai Association's spring show.

The show, Stone Images VII, is the seventh annual exhibit staged by the group at the museum and the group's 10th show since it was founded in 2006. The Viewing Stone Interest Group is a study group affiliated with PSBA.

Viewing stones have a long tradition in Asia where they are called suiseki in Japan, gongshi in China and suseok in Korea. The stones are often displayed with bonsai but also can be exhibited by themselves. This year's exhibit features a number of stones collected in 2015 when record low water levels caused by last year's drought exposed river stones that had not been exposed for decades. <http://www.psba.us/home/march-26-april-24-stone-images-vii-at-pacific-bonsai-museum.html>

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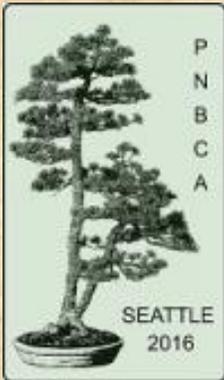
May 8th Annual Bonsai Club Field Day at the Bonsai Garden at HCP 10AM until 4PM March.

May 28th Workshop Introduction to and Care of Bonsai presented by **Maurice Bombezin**
Time: 8:30 AM – 12:30PM Classroom at HCP. Free to bonsai club members. Limited to 12 participants. There will be no "silent observers" at this event. Bring your own tree.

June 11th Bonsai pot and slab workshop. **Anton Nijhuis** from Campbell River will present an all-day workshop on building bonsai pots and slabs using a variety of cement mixtures and wire 'armatures'. Participants will be able to learn techniques and take home a bonsai pot or slab to use for your bonsai or landscape groups. All materials supplied.

September 25th David DeGroot Shaping & Advanced Styling 2 Sessions 8AM and 1PM Each session limited to 6 participants & 12 "silent observers". Bring Your Own Tree Participant fee: \$150 Observer fee: \$20

October 13 – 16 Puget Sound Bonsai Association will be hosting the **PNBCA Bonsai Convention**



October 13-16, 2016 **(It's All About The Trees)** at the beautiful Red Lion Olympia Hotel located at 2300 Evergreen Park Drive SW in Olympia, WA 98502. Call (360) 943-4000 for reservations. Event co-chairs Linda Breeden and Doug Bradley have been busy collecting workshop trees and plan to offer a number of workshops for beginners and advanced students. Special emphasis will be on shohin and collected material. There will also be special programs on viewing stones and antique pots. **The Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association (PNBCA) includes clubs from British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Its purpose is to share information**

among member organizations. PNBCA annual conventions draw attendees from the Pacific Northwest as well as international registrants. Bonsai enthusiasts benefit from exceptional workshops and critiques by local and international guest artists and cameo artists. Conventions are a great way to share skills, stories and friendship with many accomplished and aspiring bonsai artists.

More information and Registration: <http://www.psba.us/pnbca-2016/>

For a complete list of events please see the Activities Calendar on our website: <http://www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca/bonsaiCalendar.htm>

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Bonsai events coming in May

Field Day May 8th The Bonsai Garden at HCP will provide a spectacular setting for Field Day. This event continues a long-established tradition in this club and provides an opportunity to get together and talk with others with an interest in bonsai and to sell or purchase bonsai and related items. Members are encouraged to bring trees/ bonsai to work on. There will be a limited supply of bonsai soil available for sale. This is always a most enjoyable activity.

May 28th Workshop Introduction to and Care of Bonsai presented by **Maurice Bombezin** Time: 8:30 AM – 12:30PM Classroom at HCP. **Free to bonsai club members. Limited to 12 participants so sign up soon!** There will be no "silent observers" at this event. **Bring your own tree. This is a super opportunity for those new to bonsai to get individualized instruction and advice from one of the local bonsai greats!**

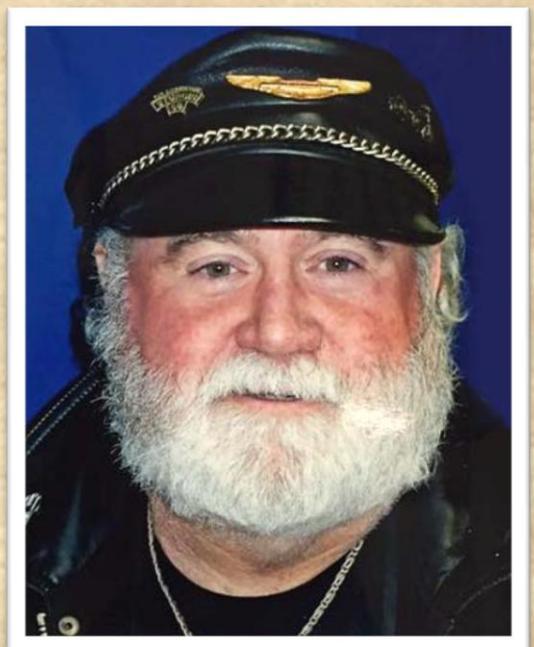
Remembering ...

Bob Sheridan 1953 – 2016

Bob was a long time member of our club with a great enthusiasm for bonsai. I was alerted to his recent passing by club member John Simpson, who remembers him as a mentor when John was new to the hobby.

I was unable to discover further details but if anything comes to light, I'll post it in a future edition.

Our condolences go out to Bob's friends & family



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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



Spring Sprung Early - February 15th