

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

May 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 &
Library: Jim & Kathi Morrison
Newsletter & Website: John Mitchell
Also; Maurice / Bombezin,
Randy Kowalchuk

Next Society meeting: Monday, May 16th, 2016

7:00 pm at Couvelier Pavilion, HCP

Scheduled: Theme: Pots and colour theory

Show & Tell: Bonsai in special pots & seasonal beauty

Activity: Pot Swap & Sale - bring pots to sell or \$\$\$ to buy!

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 promises to be a very good year for special events.

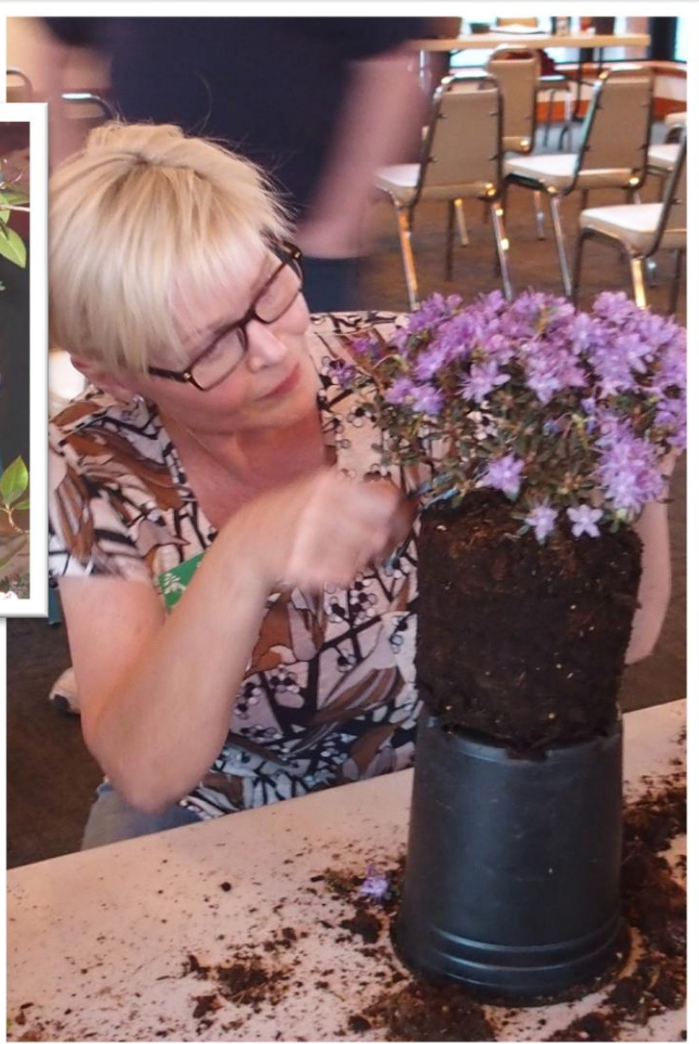


Last month ...

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Last month: Working on the Contribution project



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Pumice source: Borden Mercantile, Victoria



I use this product in mixing bonsai soil and know that other members do too.

It's about \$15 with tax for 28.3 liters (1 Cu. ft.) at Borden Mercantile in Victoria.

I use 3 parts pumice to 2 parts screened (1/8" - 1/4") red lava (my source is Integrity on Keating Crossroad) to 1 part SeaSoil or composted fir/hemlock bark mulch.

Others use additional additives like activated charcoal, Turface, coco coir and shredded sphagnum moss. Japanese soil components have become scarce, if not unobtainable.

David Whitaker of Nanaimo sent this photo of a Creeping Alpine Willow bonsai (*Salix nakamura* 'Yezoalpina'). This alpine willow, native to the mountains of Hokkaido, Japan where its low-growing habits especially adapts it to life on rocky, windswept slopes.



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N E W S L E T T E R

A Note from Maurice

The month of May is (in my view) the time when there is the most to say about bonsai – new growth is at it's best ... and how to deal with it ... many flowering displays ... problems with the onslaught of bugs ... and disease! Watering and fertilizing even late re-potting is possible ... as well as making early cuttings and more ...

The attached pictures were taken early this month...They are a Chinese Wisteria & grafted Hawthorn



Wisteria chinensis

Best regards,

Maurice



Grafted Hawthorn

Photos: Maurice B.

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

Kusamono Workshop with Young Choi by Tibby Solloway



It was an amazing weekend and workshop, I was so sorry for it to come to an end...

From Young's website and lecture:

Kusamono refers to a Japanese botanical art that developed alongside bonsai. Kusamono are potted arrangements of wild grasses and flowers in unique pots or trays selected to suggest a season or place.

The name is composed of two Japanese characters-- "**grass**" and "**thing**"—which together suggest humble, everyday plants. Originally, this name referred to the small, potted grasses displayed next to bonsai as accent plants. More recently, creating Kusamono has developed into an art form of its own. A well-chosen kusamono reflects the season in which it is displayed. Some compositions are designed to include plants that will look good in several seasons. Besides the season, a Kusamono should suggest a specific natural habitat—such as a wetland, meadow or woodland. Whether using a single plant or a group of plants, there are three basic styles of planting: moss-ball, out-of-pot, or in a container.

www.kusamonochoe.com/

Tibby attended this workshop presented by the West Coast Bonsai Society in Vancouver. Young Choi was on a workshop tour of American cities with Vancouver as her one Canadian stop. Hopefully, if she returns to the west coast, we won't miss the opportunity to present her workshop here on the Island – a workshop would likely be well-received, both within the bonsai community, and by others like the Ikebana group and garden-crafters who appreciate Asian arts.

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Kusamono (Cont'd)



Young Choi in the Bonsai Garden, HCP



Young Choi



Photos by Tibby and Young Choi

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The Cowichan Valley Garden Fair Saturday, April 30

This event came to my notice via Sue Klapwijk, an expert rhodo & azalea propagator from Vancouver. She has propagated some of Roger Low's azaleas from his bonsai collection. I sent a note to our club membership that must have been well received – she was sold out of Satsuki azaleas very quickly, as well as other rhodo & azalea species.



Sue Klapwijk



Mellor Hall, Duncan



The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

The Taguchi Bonsai Club presents their Annual Show & Sale at Van Dusen Gardens, Vancouver



THE 11TH ANNUAL
Bonsai & Bloom
Show
PRESENTED BY
The Metro Vancouver
Gardening Society

MAY 28-29 | SAT 11AM-9PM • SUN 11AM-7PM
CENTRAL ATRIUM

Show features include:

- An ancient 1000 year-old Hemlock bonsai tree
- An exquisite 40-year old Japanese Black Pine bonsai tree
- Over 150 bonsai and flowers including Satsuki Azalea, Ezo Spruce, Trident Maple, Chinese Orchids and traditional Lingnan School bonsai
- A precious collection of Scholar's Rocks, including Lingbi, Ying, Gobi & Taihu Rocks

FREE AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS • 1/F SOUTH HALLWAY

Tips for Orchids Cultivation
by Orchid Expert Chang Yi
MAY 28 • SAT • 1PM – 2:30PM

The Principle and Space Arrangement of Bonsai
by Bonsai Master Tak Yamaura
MAY 29 • SUN • 1PM – 2:30PM

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Field Day

Our Annual Field Day was held at HCP on Sunday, May 8th. A small group of bonsai nuts gathered and played with little trees at the Bonsai Garden.

Right: George - the bonsai-nut emeritus



Left: Lili & Bob/

Right: Some of the Field Day gang



The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

N E W S L E T T E R

Raffle note! If you plan on entering the draw, in order to avoid disappointment, please bring change or small bills. We have a very limited ability to make change for \$20 bills.

Membership cards will be available at the May meeting.

Last chance to sign up for Anton's pot-making workshop!

Pot Swap & Sale - bring your surplus pots (& other bonsai related stuff to sell

Coming events:

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.

May 28th – 29th Bonsai & Bloom Show by the Metro Vancouver Gardening Society (see the poster in this issue).

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**

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

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

N E W S L E T T E R

Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

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



Deciduous azalea