

The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

August 2017



Water droplets on leaves
... Maurice B

2017 VIBS Executive

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, Silvia

Schmidt

Next Society meeting: Monday, August 21st, 2017

7:00 pm at the Bonsai Garden, HCP

Scheduled activity: Bring a tree or bonsai to work on. We will be meeting in the area north of the bonsai garden at HCP, accessed through Gate 3 on Quayle Road, Victoria

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 years of collective bonsai experience.

Club activities: Please share your thoughts on activities that you would like to see. Please check out the Activities Calendar on the VIBS webpage:

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

Raffle table: There will be no raffle table this month.



One of Maurice's Japanese Maples
(*Acer palmatum*)

Photo: Maurice B.

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August Greetings Everyone!

I've just returned from a week away, driving through smokey ol' BC to Alberta and back, arriving home to the happy discovery that under my daughter's care my wee trees were in better condition than when I left. I think she talks to them.

Last meeting, as we are about to do this month, we met in the north extension to the Bonsai Garden. Due to truly unusual circumstances, our regular complement of "bonsai advisors" weren't able to attend the meeting however those experienced members that were present carried the meeting effortlessly. Members enjoyed visiting and conferring with one another over various aspects of their trees.



Fran trimming her semi-cascade style
Juniperus procumbens

All-in-all, a lovely evening.



Bruno and John S at work on John's pine



Greg sharing his knowledge with new members. Sarah & Lili supervising

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Earlier this year I bought a hose nozzle at Dollarama because years of use and a frost or two had rendered one of my favourite Dramm nozzles quite useless. The price was right – silly, actually – \$3.50 + tax vs \$20 + tax for the pistol-grip model Dramm. It has all the settings common to this type of nozzle and seemed to be built to a standard that would appeal to a careful shopper. After a summer of daily use, I would say that I am favourably impressed with the quality and performance.



I have hand-watered all summer because of the cool and wet weather this Spring that saw fungal disease rampant in my area – my overhead irrigation keeps humidity too high. While my White/Engelmann spruce have prospered this year, some disease – likely fungal – was very hard on my dwarf Norway spruces. (*Picea abies* varieties) and cedar-apple rust affected Japanese Garden Juniper (*Juniper procumbens nana*). This disease hops from apple relatives (including pear and Asian pear) to cedars and junipers and back again. It won't spread from juniper to juniper or apple to apple. Spores are released from the fruiting bodies after which the fruiting bodies disappear leaving a pronounced swelling on the branch of the juniper or cedar.



Above: Spore-bearing Cedar Apple Rust fruiting bodies on Juniper species

I also had to throw a nice white pine on the burning pile this Spring because of White Pine Blister Rust. This disease hops from plants in the genus *Ribes* – gooseberries, currants, etc to white pines and back again. It hardly seems to affect *Ribes* species but kills white pines (of course). I am surrounded by currant farmers!



Right: Fruiting bodies of White Pine Blister Rust on a Western White Pine (*Pinus monticola*)

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If fungal disease has been a problem, one should be prepared to use a copper spray, like Bordo, this Fall, in order to put a damper on next Spring's flush of Wet Coast fungus. Bordo is a trade name for Bordeaux mixture – a mix of copper sulphate and slaked lime that will kill many of the spores that come into contact with the spray. Because of the copper content, this treatment can stain wood, ceramics, stucco, clothing, etc. so use carefully and always follow package directions. I usually set up a stand and make a "spray booth" from a large cardboard box. I cover the soil in the pot with foil to keep the mixture from affecting the beneficial mycorrhizal fungi that are incorporated in the root system (hopefully). Copper sprays are a preventative only, not a cure for plants already infected with fungal disease. Apply Bordeaux mixture to deciduous trees after leaf drop and be sure to compost the fallen leaves. If you know that the plant has had a fungal problem it is best to burn the leaves, if your local regulations allow.

Just a reminder ... I think it's been mentioned before but here it is again for anyone interested: Ryan Neil, world renown bonsai expert from St. Helen's, Oregon, has an interesting web site and is offering a newsletter and live streaming instructional bonsai videos. Some of the videos are offered at no charge at certain times. His site:

<https://live.bonsaimirai.com>



Another unique site is devoted to everything you ever wanted to know about Japanese bonsai pots ... and more. Michael Ryan Bell is one of the world experts on the art, craft & history of these bonsai containers and his blog virtually 'floweth over': <https://japanesebonsaipots.net>

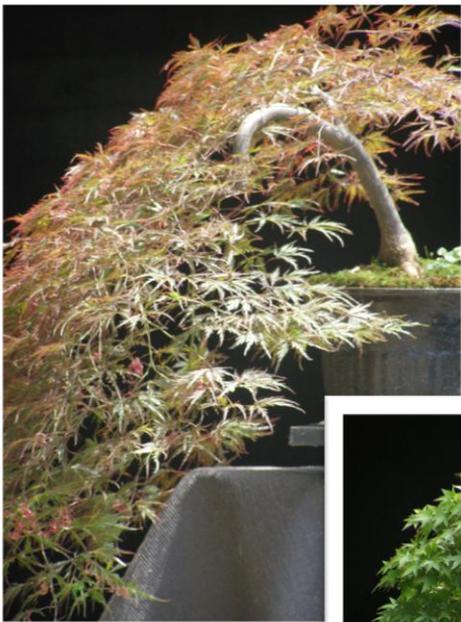


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Maurice's Bonsai Refuge

Here's a small sampling of what Maurice has found in his yard for our viewing pleasure ...



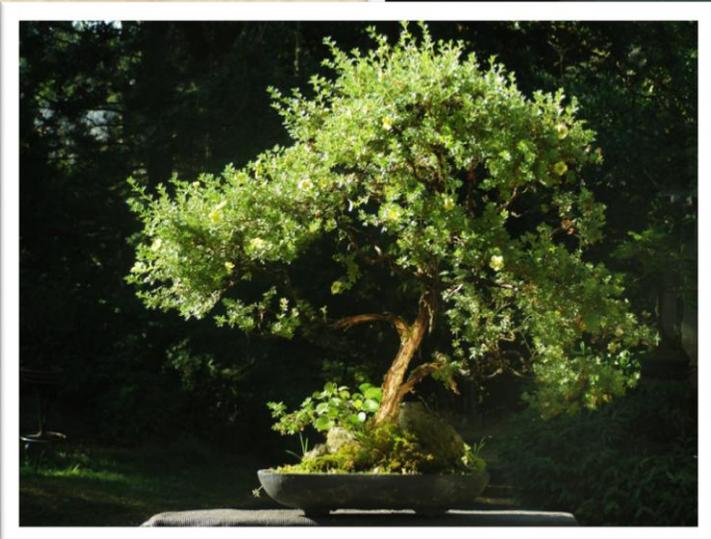
Left: A beautiful cascade-style Japanese Maple

Right: Grewia species Grewia is a tropical genus grown indoors here.

Below: A shapely Japanese maple bonsai

Bottom L: *Potentilla*

Bottom R: *Abelia* in bloom



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Coming Events

August 21 Meeting:

- Will be held in the grassy area next to the Bonsai Garden at the HCP
- Gate 3 will be opened at 6:45 PM and will be closed/locked at 8:30 PM
- Angle parking is available along the south side of Quayle Road
- There will NOT be a raffle table at this meeting
- Tables will be provided for members to work on their own trees and to seek advice/guidance from their fellow members.
- This is a good opportunity to get your specific bonsai questions answered by club “experts”
- Members are reminded that the HCP Bonsai trees are NOT to be worked on without permission and guidance of the HCP Curator.

August 26 & August 27 - Arts & Music In the Garden – Bonsai Show & Sale

- We need a number of volunteers to support the Bonsai Society Show & Sale, Volunteers are needed to help with:
 - set up at 8:30 AM on Saturday
 - supervising the sales tables & answering questions
 - supporting the cash desk where people pay for their purchases
 - take down/closing at 4 PM on Sunday August 27
 - Shifts are 10 AM to 1 PM and 1 PM to 4 PM on both Saturday & Sunday
 - We are required to register all volunteers so that they can get a gate pass for their shifts.
 - Please send your name to Jim at: secretary@victoriabonsai.bc.ca to register as a volunteer or speak to Jim at either the July or the August meeting.
- Show and Sale opens at 10 AM and closes at 4 PM each day
- Gate 3 will be opened at 8:30 am on Saturday August 26 so you can drop off your trees for sale and will be locked at 10 AM
- Gate 3 will re-open at 4 PM on Sunday August 27 so you can pick up any unsold trees and will be locked at 5 PM
- As with last year, the sale price split will be 80% Member and 20% to the Society
- No parking is available inside the grounds of the HCP

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September 18 Meeting

- Will be held in the usual place (Couvelier Pavilion) at the usual time
- Program will be in 2 parts:
 - Discussion on what members would like to see in the program for 2018 – YOUR INPUT IS CRITICAL to program planning for all meetings and events in 2018 as well as the future of our Society
 - Presentation by Club “experts” on Fall & Winter care of your bonsai trees
 - There will be a Raffle Table.

David de Groot Workshop (September 24) - CANCELLED

- As nobody has registered the workshop is cancelled.
- We thank the 3 people who signed up to observe but without anyone taking the workshop there will not be much to observe

October 16 Meeting

- Annual Club Tree and Bonsai Auction – more details to follow
- There will not be a raffle table at this meeting

November 20 - Meeting

- A “new” program is being planned for this meeting
- Details to follow.

December 18 - Meeting

- Annual Christmas Social (Pot Luck Format)
Best Decorated Tree competition.



A Pomegranate bonsai flower

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Membership Renewal / Application Form 2017

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: _____

Date:

If you are mailing this form, please mail to:

Vancouver Island Bonsai Society
Membership Coordinator
PO Box 8674
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 3S2

