

# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

July 2017



### 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, July 17th, 2017**

**7:00 pm at Couvelier Pavilion, HCP**

**Scheduled activity:** Bring a tree or bonsai to work on

**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.

**Left:** "Flower" of Hop Hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*) at Bruno's. This is technically an infructescence - a fruit/seed-bearing inflorescence or flower cluster. Google told me so.



Chinese punsai pots at Coombs market

# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

### Moss Street Paint-in Review

by Silvia Schmidt, VIBS Executive Board member

Hello Everyone,

Thousands of people flocked to Moss Street for the 30th annual TD Art Gallery Paint-In on Saturday, July 15 where the Vancouver Island Bonsai Society display made its successful debut. Hundreds of people of all ages stopped by to visit our display, to ask questions and admire the plants displayed by Mark and Bruno. Our location near the Moss Street Farmers Market and two blocks from the Art Gallery ensured a high volume of passersby.



There was great interest both in the trees and the Society and we ran out of flyers by 2:00 p.m.

Given the many unknowns with our entry into this Festival, the interest generated was amazing. We were able to attract interest in new members as well as direct potential purchasers of bonsai to the Arts and Music in the Gardens event at the HCP.



We were pleasantly surprised at the number of people who have bonsai at home but are unaware of the club. Likewise, many asked where they could acquire bonsai and learn how to maintain them. We were equally surprised how many parents took the time to share, admire and explain this living art form to their children.

We also spoke with bonsai owners who bought their trees at our Hillside Mall display several years ago and were maintaining them but wanted to learn more. (They were invited to join the club and attend the August HCP event).

# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

### **Moss Street Paint-in Review (cont'd)**

**Most importantly, we gained experience about the great potential that a properly planned and well executed participation can have for our club next year.**

The site was larger than anticipated and we had room to not only add additional tables for more displays but also share knowledge and potentially attract more members.

In speaking with a former board member of the Art Gallery, he indicated that this event started slowly as a “Awareness Event” for the Art Gallery and grew annually as improvements were added and the event improved from member feedback and suggestions. It has now become one of a few events that define Victoria and in addition to art awareness contributes thousands of dollars to the Art Gallery annually.

The lesson we can take away from the successful Moss Street event is that the development of a club is similar to the development of a gathered shore pine and turning it into a spectacular bonsai specimen. Bonsai do not develop on their own. It takes planning, dedication, perseverance and a vision to arrive at a desired result. Likewise, our membership will not grow on its own. Our club has a lot to offer its current members and potential new members. We have skilled senior members with both expertise and the willingness to share their knowledge.

I suggest our next step will be to agree on our vision going forward. Like the Victoria Art Gallery, we can start humbly and build awareness and grow annually by learning from our successes and building upon them.

To fully capitalize on next year's event, we will require advance planning and many more volunteers to take advantage of the great potential this event offers.

A special thank you to the following Club members:

- Mark P. - for initiating entrance into this event, organizing the set up of tables, volunteers, etc.
- Bruno B. - for spending the entire day at the event educating about the art of bonsai, handing out brochures and in the take down and clean up after the event.
- Gordon L. - for his time spent at our venue.
- David A. and Lili L. - who stopped by and supported the team in place.
- John M. - for visiting and lending his support.

... Silvia Schmidt

# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

### A Visit to Bruno's

Long-time bonsai club member, Bruno B. is well known as an enthusiastic participant in many of our club's activities and many of us know well his intriguing Shimpaku 'phoenix grafts' that have appeared consistently on sales tables over the years.

I had the opportunity recently to visit Bruno and marvel at his wonderful bonsai collection that he has created over the past thirty or more years or more. A great many of Bruno's bonsai were started from cuttings and it is very obvious that he has a special talent for success with this method of propagation. Many of his thick-trunked, nicely tapered and well formed bonsai started as tiny two or three centimeter slips taken from trees that he has encountered along the way and meticulously nurtured over decades. I was struck by the fact that the bonsai appeared very healthy and that the branches were well ramified. I also noted that the majority were deciduous species – quite unusual, I thought, for the conifer-inclined West Coast hobby.



Bonsai on benches



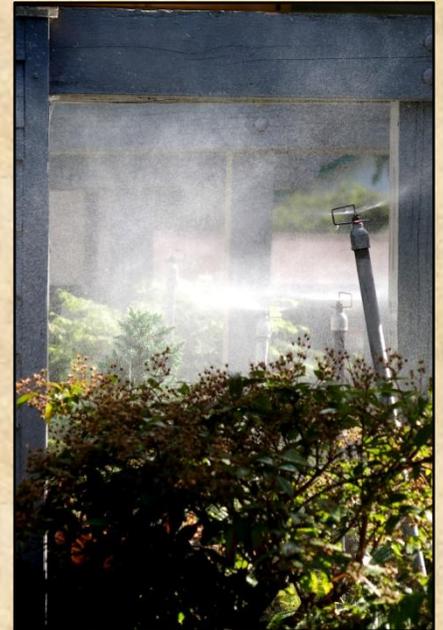
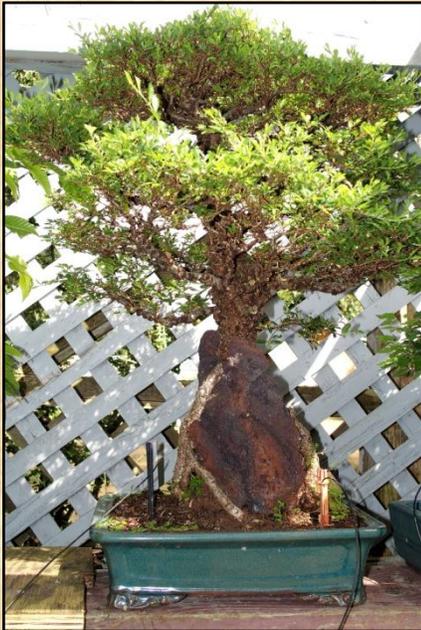
Bruno in bonsai-land



'very old' spruce

# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER



At Bruno's Left & Middle: Root-over-rock style Right: the mist system keeps the humidity up.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Odd bits



**Azalea leaf gall infection** on Kurume azalea. Azalea leaf gall is caused by a wind-borne fungus and can be especially common in wet, cool Springs such as we have just experienced. The leaf enlarges & begins to look spongy at first, then white (as above) as it matures. The gall eventually dries to black and falls to the ground. Plants in deep shade and areas of poor air circulation suffer most. While very unsightly, the disease doesn't do long-term damage. Infected leaves should be picked off and disposed of immediately by burning or in the garbage. Do not compost, most composters don't get hot enough to kill fungal spores. Prune to open up dense plants for better air circulation and/or change location. I've seen it everywhere this season.

JM

# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

**From Jim Haskins, Club Secretary:**

### **Coming Events**

#### **July 17 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 without permission and guidance of the HCP Curator.

#### **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

# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

- 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](mailto: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

### September 18 Meeting

- Will be held in the usual place 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 Auction – more details to follow
- There will not be a raffle table at this meeting

### November 20 - Meeting

# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

- 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.

### **Another visit to Coombs**

On a trip to Horne Lake Caves last weekend my son and I stopped in at the mad-house known as Coombs Market. Coombs changes a great deal from year-to-year but is always busy. I wanted to see if, as 'promised', they were no longer selling Chinese bonsai pots (or what I have come to know as Chinese pots).



I'm happy to report that they are indeed selling Chinese bonsai pots. For several years there were reports that it was getting more difficult to find a source of these pots but that would now not appear to be the case. It's nice to have an Island source.

# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

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

\*\*\*\*\*

Once again ... Our club could really benefit from the volunteer services of an individual with excellent organizational abilities to help coordinate club activities such as bus trips, Field Days, car pools, and other seasonal activities. Please look Mark P up at a meeting or speak with any member of the executive. Extensive bonsai knowledge isn't required but the opportunities for learning could be great!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

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



Gnarly roots