

# The Vancouver Island Bonsai Society

## NEWSLETTER

September 2017



**Fall is in the air!**

### 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

**Also:** Maurice Bombezin,

Randy Kowalchuk, Silvia

Schmidt

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Newsletter & Website: John  
Mitchell

**Next Society meeting: Monday, September 18th, 2017**  
**7:00 pm at the Couvelier Pavilion, HCP**

### **Scheduled activity:**

- 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 experienced Club members on Fall & Winter care of your bonsai trees

**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.

**Raffle table:** There will be a raffle table this month.



On offer at Art & Music in the Gardens ...



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

### Autumn Greetings Everyone!

I thought I smelled rain! It would appear that our dry spell is over, finally, and some quite welcome rain has fallen and more is in the short-term forecast. The warm and very dry summer – typical for our south-of-Duncan Mediterranean climate – necessitated keeping a very close eye on our little trees.

The **Arts & Music in the Gardens** event held at the Hort Centre on August 26 & 27 was a welcome venue for our members to speak with the public about our fascinating hobby and to buy and/or sell bonsai and related items in a garden setting on a lovely late summer day. There were some very nice bonsai, bonsai stock and pots available for sale.

At this (south) end of Vancouver Island, the **Saanich Fair** is a highlight of the Labour Day weekend. Many thousands attend this three-day agricultural fair (in its 149th year!) and midway to take in the rides, music, livestock and the bountiful exhibits of domestic and horticultural subjects. As it turns out, in the horticultural classifications for judging there is, in "Section F - Potted Plants", a category called " Bonsai specimen". Although I didn't see it myself, my wife Janet came across a very nice 'bonsai specimen' and had the presence of mind to bring home a photo of the winning bonsai.

Late August – early September is the time of year that we usually advise members to fertilize with a N-P-K ratio of 0-10-10 so that we don't stimulate a Nitrogen growth spurt that will result in a flush of tender buds that would likely be lost to winter frosts. Ordinarily, this 'rule' applies to deciduous trees that within the next month or so would be losing their leaves. In this rather moderate climate zone, evergreen conifers can continue to grow slowly over the winter and are able to make use of some nitrogen. Some growers I know of continue to 'water weakly, weekly' well into the winter months (their conifers, that is).

Our **annual auction** is upon us next month. This will be an excellent opportunity to acquire bonsai and stock to keep one out of mischief in the coming year. There is usually quite an assortment available. Some advice for some of the newer members of our club – nursery stock is usually good material to work with and use to practice techniques that you become aware of as you continue to enjoy this hobby. All of us have nursery trees and other trees from a variety of sources but the best way to 'kick it up a notch' is to consider purchasing a 'collected' tree. They can bring much bonsai joy! They may seem expensive – \$100 and up is not uncommon – but these specimens have been collected, usually by someone expending a great deal of time and effort in the bush, risking vehicular misadventure on bad roads in remote country. It can be difficult, labour-intensive work followed by several years of special care allowing the roots to recover. Such a deal awaits you at the annual auction!



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### Arts & Music in the Gardens

Here are a few photos of this year's event. I attended on the Saturday and spent most of the day near the sales table enjoying conversations with various club members and talking about bonsai with people who found their way to the Bonsai Garden as they toured the HCP grounds.



David and June chatting with Bob & Gary

A few scenes around the Bonsai Garden  
at Art & Music in the Gardens



Some of the visitors admiring bonsai at the sales table.





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### Bonsai at the Saanich Fair

The Saanich Fair always has a fascinating bounty of fruits, flowers and vegetables on display in the main exhibition building with entries being judged and prize ribbons awarded for the best examples in various categories. The "Potted Plant" section had a "Bonsai specimen" category and the First Prize ribbons were awarded to **Peter Woodland**, a former member of our club and a talented landscaper and bonsai artist. Peter's winning entry was a beautiful collected Mountain Hemlock. Mountain Hemlock are trees of the Pacific Coast and typically grow at an altitude of 4000 feet and higher. You will have to look closely at this photo to make out the details of this bonsai as there are many flowers and plants on display, creating a very colourful visual feast but not a situation conducive to appreciating the finer points of a bonsai display. Peter's bonsai took **First Prize in the Bonsai specimen category**, as well as a Blue Ribbon for **Best Exhibit in Potted Plant Division in Show** and a Blue Ribbon for **Convenor's Choice**. Very nicely done, Peter. **Congratulations!**



Photo: Janet Mitchell

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A sure sign of Fall – red berries on Pyracantha



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# NEWSLETTER



The **Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society** presents the 18th 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, and various martial arts.

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

**日本文化祭**

**10 am - 4 pm**  
**Saturday, October 21st, 2017**  
**Esquimalt Recreation Centre**  
**527 Fraser Street**

**A Free Family Friendly Event**  
**With Kids Activity Area**



**VICTORIA NEWS** **Knowledge of ESQUIMALT**

**Monday MAGAZINE** **Fujiya JAPANESE FOODS** **bento SUSHI** **fū do**

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

The 18th Annual Nikkei Fall Fair is coming to the Esquimalt Recreation Centre on October 21st from 10am until 4pm. Several club members will be attending to a table and display of bonsai as we have done for many years. President Mark P will be demonstrating bonsai techniques. This demo has a specific time but I haven't been able to determine when it starts. Mark will likely announce the time at this month's meeting. Admission: FREE!



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### Maurice says ...

Our long hot and dry Summer made some of my trees behave a bit out of "phase". Attached are some photos that show what I am talking about. A Katsura, a Viburnum (Opulus) and a Vine Maple. The question could be ... Is it early Fall or Stress...? Perhaps a little bit of both...?



The Vine Maple (above) shows a reddening of the leaves more reminiscent of Fall coloration.



The Katsura (Left) has a mix of green healthy-looking leaves and pale, washed out leaves. The Viburnum to its Right is showing a reddening of the leaves from the leaf margins inwards.

Photos: Maurice B

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Drought-affected leaves



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### Coming Events ...

#### 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.

#### 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.

The Big Bonsai  
Event of 2018 ...  
another Convention  
in Portland!



This will be one not  
to miss!

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

### 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



An other-worldly red sun, with crows. Did the quality of the light affect photosynthesis?