



VANCOUVER ISLAND BONSAI CLUB

Newsletter

October 18, 2010

Newsletter Highlight

Meeting Programs	1
Marco Invernizzi Workshop	1
Now Is The Time	2
Nikkei Society Cultural Fair	3
Kingsville Boxwood	3
Advertisers	4

Monday October 18, 2010 ...

October 18 – Show & Tell: Fall Colors.

Topic - Wiring—presentation of wiring techniques along with hands on practice by all.

Raffle Table: We will have our usual raffle please bring your donations.

Coming In.....

November 15 - Show & Tell - Cascade Style.

Topic - Discussion and styling tips on creating semi - and full cascades led by Maurice and Mark.

December 20 - Annual Christmas Party - Member's sale and swap, Show & Tell: decorated bonsai contest, and Food and Refreshments!

Our Next Two Meetings:

Monday Oct 18, 7:30 pm
Monday Nov 15, 7:30 pm

Garth Homer Society Auditorium
813 Darwin Avenue
Victoria, BC

2010 VIBC Officers

President	Bob Taylor
Past-Pres	Randy Kowalchuk
Treasurer	Judy Horsland
MallShow Coordinator	Vacant

Marco Invernizzi Workshop

We have booked Marco Invernizzi for a full day workshop on Sunday November 28.

The workshop will be open to 8 people at a cost of \$100. Plus bring your own tree.

Silent observers will be permitted.

Exact time and location will be announced in the November newsletter.

Signup sheet for the workshop will be at the October meeting.



Now Is The Time...

By Ken Wassum published in Puget Sound Bonsai Association Newsletter

If you blinked once too often in the past couple of months you may have missed summer. (But don't worry it will be back in about 7 months or so.....) It was cool and wet, with just enough hot spells to confuse plant cells. For sun-loving trees, like pines, most everyone in the Northwest is reporting rather weak growth. My Mountain Hemlocks loved it, but not my pines. At any rate, now is the time to start preparing your trees for winter. Here are some suggestions:

Feeding & Thinning: This is a good time to feed your trees to make them strong for Spring. Once you pull or cut needles on pines to let in extra light and stimulate dormant buds, feeding will help the tree develop. If you candle pruned this year your new needles have probably grown as much as they are going to so there is little concern about overly long needles. Thinning holds true for Junipers as well. Thin these by removing old interior growth that has not developed over the summer will let in light to help make your tree strong and vibrant in 2011. Lastly, now is the time to make sure that you are feeding your deciduous trees. Once they drop their leaves later this fall, you can remove the fertilizer.

Soil Maintenance: Before the rains come in earnest, it is a good idea to scrape off the top 1/2 inch of soil. Doing this will help your tree drain much better during the wet fall and winter months. Here is how I do it: I use bent-nose tweezers and start at the base of the tree and scrape out towards the edge of the pot. Be gentle so as not to damage roots. If you move around the tree scraping out towards the edge of the pot you will not hurt roots. Once you removed about 1/2 inch of soil take a pair of sharp scissors and cut any little rootlets that are sticking up. Then add back about 1/2 inch of new soil. It is a good idea to do this again in the Spring on trees you are not repotting. Remember, healthy roots are the key to a healthy bonsai.

Soil Preparation: Now is also a good time to make sure you have your soil mix sifted and prepared for repotting in the Spring. The mix needs to be dry so that the fines do not clog the mix. I put mine in 5 gallon buckets so they are ready to go when I need them. If you need soil mix products now is a good time to buy them since they can be in short supply in the Spring when everyone is frantically looking for mix.

Winter Protection: Since we never really know what kind of winter we will get it is good to have a plan for cold weather. While most of the trees we grow are cold hardy at the coldest temps we get in the Pacific NW, this is not true for trees in pots. They are much more susceptible to damage or death due to very cold weather. This is especially true if the cold hits us quickly without time for the trees to adjust. Smaller trees (Mame & Shohin sizes) are especially vulnerable. Mulching them in a good cold frame is one way to help protect them. Setting trees on the ground up against the foundation of the house during sub-freezing weather also helps to protect them. I always avoid bringing trees into the house unless it is just overnight and I have a completely unheated space to put them in.

There is never any shortage of work to do to have healthy, beautiful bonsai.... Just a shortage of time. I try to do a little every day. Have fun!

The Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society presents a
Japanese Cultural Fair

10 am - 4 pm
Saturday, October 23

Esquimalt Recreation Centre
527 Fraser Street

FREE ADMISSION



Enjoy traditional and non traditional food, arts & crafts, Japanese tea, and live entertainment:

Japanese Tea Ceremony
Delicious Sushi and Manju
Ikebana Demonstration
Bonsai Display
Martial Arts Demo
Traditional Arts & Crafts
Children's Activity Area
Taiko Drumming
Japanese Dance Performances
Koto Music
...and much more!
Visit our Website:
www.vnics.ca



Kingsville Boxwood Grouping

Tray is 39 inches long, 3 trees, the largest being about 25 years old, and bamboo rock from China.





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