



WAVERLEY BONSAI GROUP NEWSLETTER

Waverley Garden Club Bonsai Group
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and fax 03 5426 2448 for contributions, notes or getting added to the email list.

March 2009

Next Meeting (3rd Tuesday of each month)

Venue: rear hall, St John's Church, cnr Virginia & Alexander Streets, Mt Waverley (Melway ref 70 D1)

Date: Tuesday 17 March – 8.00 pm start

Presenter: Ali Hassan Ali:

Demonstration of his 'Unique styling of Bonsai'

DISPLAY TABLE THEME (novice, intermediate) + Ken's Choice

Tree of the Month: Junipers

Style: Cascade or Literati

&

Ken Woolven's/ Barry Butterworth's choice:

Any styles & any species

So, there are two categories:

1. **Tree of the month and the style** – bring in that type and style as your first alternative
2. **Ken's choice** – any other trees at all that you think might be worthy. No excuse for not bringing in something because anything is OK to display.

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE.

- **This month's tea room duties roster**
= Clare Sunderland & Shashi Varma

- The Bonsai Group donated \$300.00 to the Bush Fire appeal, thanks to all.
- Please give an indication of interest to the Secretary for Novice & Intermediate classes. Cost, dates, etc will be advised, depending on level of interest.
- Theatre night to lapse due to lack of interest.
- Two tickets available for Bendigo Bonsai Easter Show.

Events Calendars

- **WORKSHOPS-** at the Church Main Hall
 - SAT. APRIL 18 at 12 noon till 5pm-
 - SAT. JULY 4 at 12 noon till 5 pm-
 - SAT. OCTOBER 3 at 12 noon till 5pm

Programs & Exhibitions

Forthcoming:

- Field dig day combined with Bendigo Bonsai Group. Date is to be confirmed

- 11 or 12 April - Bus trip to visit an Arboretum or garden. Details to follow.

- Novice/ Intermediate classes – depends on registered interest.

Prizes to the Winners

Novice – Margaret Wong

Intermediate- Margaret Jenkins

Open – Ray Ashton

Perpetual – Ray Ashton



Ken Wolven, like a proud father of his charges, looks happy as the winners show off their awards that he judged over the previous year.

From Last Meeting:



Paul Paton gave an excellent presentation on screen and discussed the techniques of lighting, back-dropping and focus involved in the bonsai

photographs that previously looked easy to do. In particular Paul mentioned getting the photos at eye height and using side lighting to best effect.

Margaret Wong has been itching to talk about the N, P and K of fertiliser and so she did. For the technically minded, the Periodic Table shows where the Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P) and Potassium (K) sit. Margaret gave a lovely static and motion image show of molecules and essential elements making up the chemistry of matter. (and used more acronyms than we've heard in a long while!). She also discussed the uses of the ratios in determining the emphasis of growth, flowering and strength in the growing patterns and cycles.



Also: the difference between 1 unit of pH is a factor of 10 (not 100 as incorrectly reported in last month's newsletter article).

Los Alamos National Laboratory Chemistry Division

Periodic Table of the Elements

 A standard periodic table of elements. The elements Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), and Potassium (K) are circled in red. The table includes element symbols, atomic numbers, and names.

Margaret suggests that the rainwater will also vary in pH according to impurities gathered in tanks (dust, leaves, so be cautious in making generalisations there.

"I would expect that ultimately water in an aluminium tank would be 'basic' due to the formation of aluminium hydroxides. In a plastic tank it should be slightly acidic. Humus in soil is slightly acidic so I expect organic break down products to be as well. Therefore water with lots of leaves in it would be expected to be acidic. Soils are very variable, limestones are basic, clay pH depends largely on what impurities such as iron oxides are present but in general they are slightly alkaline. Sand in theory should have a pH of 7 but is affected by inclusions".

Margaret's separate pH article will come to members shortly - Editor.

Member Trees on the Display Table





Seasonal Notes – March/ “Autumn”

The 2009 Melbourne seasons are really a bit unpredictable – 40-48 degrees C followed by 20 degrees and rains a week or two later. The scorching effect gives way to root drowning, so keep vigilant!!

Check wires on all trees regularly as trunks and branches expand/grow rapidly at this time of year.

The best time to fertilize your bonsais is from early spring to late summer. Look for a fertilizer that has a low Nitrogen

content to feed to your tree year-round. Summer pruning is important. Prune for size control. Head back the new growth that has exceeded your preferred shape or size. Apples and pears, pip fruit, should be summer pruned to encourage the production of fruit spurs, carrying flower buds.

Pinch back new growth on shoots as early shoots start to grow and elongate. More frequent pinching and nipping will promote the development of fine branches and thicker foliage pads.

Maples grow rapidly and put out long shoots. Pinch back to first pair of leaves. Remove shoots with long internodes.

Repotting of natives should be completed by now.

With the warmer weather here ensure your plants are obtaining sufficient water...remember to water thoroughly and regularly.

Regularly check plants for pests and diseases.

Remember that deciduous trees come from cooler climate area and therefore will need shelter from the hot burning rays of the summer sun.

Use a tomato plant fertilizer as it has the correct blend of ingredients to thicken and harden trunks and improve fruit and berries on trees

For pines, allow the soil to dry out between watering as this reduces the size of the pine needles.

Get ready for cuttings of semi-hard wood in Autumn when the tree vitality is good. Use the pruning offcuts – up to 100mm max in length to let the roots form in a propagating mix and good sheltered cover.

Seasonal Notes – April/ Autumn

Remember to water thoroughly. Regularly check plants for pests and diseases. Aphids love the young Camellia and Maple leaves.

As it has the correct blend of ingredients to thicken and harden trunks and improve fruit and berries on tree, use a tomato plant fertilizer or use a fertilizer with lower N, but higher P & K.

Kill star weed and liverwort with brown vinegar (apply with cotton bud or a fine paint brush

Start to prepare a garden bed, in readiness for when you can plant some of your trees in the ground in a few months time

You should be starting to enjoy some touches of autumn colour, colourful berries and small fruit on your trees. If you don't have any of these trees in your collection, it is a good time to scout around the nurseries and buy one.

Remove dead needles on your pines, clean them up generally and cut off any dead wood, this allows more light and air to circulate around your tree.

Figs and cedars could be repotted by late February

Attend the coming bonsai shows to seek more inspiration.

As for last month, the semi-hard wood cuttings are done in Autumn when the tree vitality is good. Use the pruning offcuts – up to 100mm max in length to let the roots form in a propagating mix and good sheltered cover. Plant them quickly or in water if there's a delay involved.



WAVERLEY BONSAI GROUP - PROGRAMME 2009

Month	Cultural Notes- 15 mins	First Demonstrator	Second Demonstrator	Supper 15mins	Advice Topics [if time]	Display Trees	Display tree Style
January 20	Discuss Show Bench	Craig Wilson: From Gentiana Nursery 'Australian Natives as Bonsai.'		After Demo.	Cut & Paste with Natives	Natives +My Choice	Australian Style
February 17	Accent Plants	Paul Paton : Demonstration – 'How to PHOTOGRAPH your Bonsai' & PRESENTATION NIGHT	Margaret Wong Talk/Demonstration 'N.P.K.'	9.00pm	Use of Library – keeping records	Figs +My Choice	Exposed Roots
March 17	Use of Driftwood	Ali Hassan Ali: Demonstration of his 'Unique styling of Bonsai'		9.00pm	Penjing - Literati	Junipers +My Choice	Cascade or Literati
April 21	Autumn Pruning Tips	Brendan Curtis: Head Curator of the Japanese Garden at the Melb. Zoo. 'Power-point Presentation & Talk of his recent Garden Study trip to Japan'		After Talk	Care of Bonsai Tools	Autumn Colour + My Choice	Informal Upright
May 19	Making Muck	Brian Sampson: Demonstration by one of Australia's top Masters of Bonsai. 'Creative - Surprise Topic'		9.00pm	Critique - Display trees	Evergreen +My Choice	Saikai- or Group Planting
June 16	Trees & Stands- Prepare for Show	Sally Christmas: Talk 'Camellias for Bonsai'	Short Demonstration – 'Re-style an old Cedar'	9.00pm	Re-potting/ Root Pruning	Camellias/ Cedars + My Choice	Flowering/ Slanting
July 21	Suiseki- Viewing Stones	Victor Liew: Demonstration 'Improving Nebari on Maples'	Aerial Layering of Trees	9.00pm	Proper names of trees	Deciduous +My Choice	Multi-trunk
August 18	President's Report	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Election of Club Committee	Michael Simonetta: 'How to GRAFT - Conifers	Birthday Supper	Show Report	Pines +My Choice	Windswept
September 15	Styles; Size of Bonsai	Mary Wilkinson - from Bendigo Bonsai Club; Talk/Demonstration 'Growing Flowering Malus and Prunus for Bonsai' Styling & Pruning		After Talk	Use of Potash	Crab Apples - Prunus + My Choice	Flowering
October 20	Taking cuttings	Trevor Wicks: Power Point Presentation 'Ramification of BONSAI Trees'		9.00pm	Reduce needles on Pines	Elm Species + My Choice	Broom
November 17	Some Project Trees	AABC Demonstrator to be announced OR Guest Demonstrator	Creation of a 'Raft' Style from a Chinese Elm	9.00pm	De-foliation of Trees	Satsuki Azaleas +My Choice	Minis + Suiseki
December 15	Bonsai Quiz	Question & Answer Ask Panel of Club Experts	Bonsai DVD	Xmas Supper - 9.30pm	Summer care	Beech, Liquidambar +My Choice	Formal Upright