



Web: www.sydneycitybonsai.org.au
Club Meetings 2nd Wed every month

Email: info@sydneycitybonsai.org.au
Committee Meetings 1st Wed every month

PRESIDENT'S PATCH

Welcome all,

The Sydney City Bonsai Club was on the verge of folding at the recent Annual General Meeting, with the President, Secretary and Newsletter Editor all standing down. Fortunately, thanks to those enthusiastic people who put up their hands for committee positions the club has been saved!

Many thanks to those dedicated people, because they are the ones that make it all happen!

The Club is been revamped! Please let us know what you love and what you hate about the club, so we can make it better for you! Contact Marika by email marika@sydneycitybonsai.org.au, on 0407 573 419 or at the next meeting!



CLUB NEWS

MORE WORKSHOPS

A survey was done to find out what members wanted and the overwhelming response was "more workshops"! So come and get your hands dirty or watch others get their hands dirty at these next 3 meetings! For more info on what to bring, see the article by Lee Wilson on helpful hints for workshops.

7pm Wednesday 14 September 2005

Repotting & Root Pruning Deciduous
Trees Workshop

7pm Wednesday 12 October 2005

Wiring & Styling Workshop

7pm Wednesday 9 November 2005

Repotting & Root Pruning Figs & Oils
Workshop.

FREE EMAIL FOR MEMBERS

Get your own free personalised email address

"yourname@sydneycitybonsai.org.au" with 10MB of storage! Available for all Sydney City Bonsai Club members - speak to Marika at your next club meeting, call 0407 573 419 or email marika@sydneycitybonsai.org.au with your preferred email address.

NEWSLETTER

Thanks to Anick, who has put in a lot of hard work, the newsletter goes on. You'll be able to read about latest news and events in your local bonsai community and find out what's happening at the club meetings.

SYDNEY IN BLOOM EXHIBITION

Come and visit us at the "Sydney in Bloom" exhibition at the Domain on 21-25th September. We'll be at the AIH Hothouse and would love to see you there!

Coming Up...

- * **10 Sept** Freeform Bonsai Pot Workshop @ The Clayhouse, 1 Casula Rd, Casula
Download the flyer on the our website for more info
- * **16-18 Sept** *HARMONY in the World of Bonsai*
Bonsai Society of Australia, Baulkham Hills Council Chambers
(Showground Rd, Castle Hill) Demos, Exhibition & Sales
- * **17-18 Sept** Open Day @ The Golden Wheel Buddhist Community Gardens Galston
(see article further)
- * **21-25 Sept** Sydney in Bloom Festival @ The Domain, Sydney
(SCBC is planning to have a stand there, come and join us!)
- * **1-2 Oct** Goulburn Bonsai Society Show (Wesley Centre, Goldsmith St)
- * **8-9 Oct** Canberra Bonsai Society Show, ACT
- * **15-16 Oct** School of Bonsai Show, Ray Nesci's Nursery (26 Sagars Rd, Kenthurst)
- * **16 Oct** Nepean Bonsai Society, St.Mary's
- * **1-13 Nov** Urimbirra Bonsai Society, Figtree Community Hall, Figtree
- * **4-6 Nov** Newcastle Bonsai Society (Club Macquarie, Argenton)
- * **18-20 Nov** All Australian Native Bonsai Show (National Botanic Gardens, Canberra)
- * **19-20 Nov** Central Coast Bonsai Show (East Gosford Arts centre, Gosford)

18th National Convention

Only a few weeks ago, the 18th Australian Associated bonsai Clubs Convention attracted hundreds of bonsai enthusiasts from across the country. It was a successful weekend of presentations, discussions and of course demonstrations by local and international artists. Amongst them, the world renown bonsai Master Mr Kimura. The master managed to transform ordinary stock plants into beautiful bonsai potential. See it for yourself!



Before...



After...

The weekend was also a great occasion to admire a stunning collection of bonsai on display. Here are only a few examples of the rich variety of trees found at the convention... Enjoy!



The ***Golden Wheel Buddhist Community*** at Galston, 35 kms north of Sydney, is having an open day on 17-18 September! (9:30 am - 4:30 pm)

The magnificently landscaped gardens include many flowering trees and shrubs at their spring peak. Hundreds of bonsai and potted plants line pathways.

A golden statue of the Goddess of Mercy, Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva, surrounded by orchids overlooks a stunning, waist high pool filled with large, brilliantly coloured Koi carps.

Spend a calming couple of hours wandering these beautiful gardens during one of their rare open days. Entry is \$4.

Lee Wilson gave a very interesting demonstration on elm root cuttings at the August Club Meeting. Elms are tough as old boots and ideal trees for beginners -or for any enthusiast. You can repot them practically any time of the year and with good aftercare, they respond well. They are also one of the few trees that will grow from root cuttings.

When you are root pruning an elm it is standard practice to cut off the heavy roots, leaving only the fine feeder roots. Heavy roots take up pot space needed for feeder root growth and they are not needed for stabilisation in a bonsai pot. But don't throw them away. Because roots grow in weird and wonderful ways you can get an unusual trunk with curves and bends you can't duplicate if you wire.

Save the cut off roots and pot them up in good growing soil with some root above the soil line. Be sure to pot them right way up as they will not grow

if potted upside down. With some trees, like willow, it doesn't matter, but elm sap flows one way only and to pot upside down will kill the root. You don't have to seal the cuts as the

ELMS (*Ulmus Parvifolia*)

roots quickly produce a jelly like substance

at the cut ends that self seals. Put the potted root cuttings in a sunny spot and in a couple of weeks buds will start to swell and growth will bloom from the cut end. Let the plant(s) grow feral for a season to allow new feeder roots to develop before you start shaping. This method will give you more chance to get something different from the standard bonsai styling.

Elms make good root over rock subjects but elm roots remain rounded and will not flatten and cling to a rock the way trident maples and privets will. You have to take care when repotting to keep the roots and rock firmly together as you replant. Good luck with your experimentations!



WORKSHOPS

The workshop season is here and whether you are green as a sapling or mature as an aged oak, you can pick up a lot of expertise by attending workshops. For newer enthusiasts a workshop offers the opportunity to get expert styling help on your trees. For more advanced enthusiasts, a workshop offers the opportunity to pick up more skills and refine your trees. Remember the only finished bonsai is a dead one.

LEE WILSON, a nationally known bonsai master offers the following tips for workshop participants. Some are plain common sense, others are voiced from the frustration of a tutor confronted with a tree that has barely passed the first leaf stage.

GROUND RULES: BRING...

TOOLS: absolutely essential are a pair of bonsai side cutters and a reasonable pair of scissors. Other tools you can make do from what you might have at home (standard wire cutters instead of dedicated bonsai ones. chopsticks, etc.)

TREES: bring 1 or 2 trees and choose decent stock that has several years growth at least. No tutor can work with a seedling. If you are paying for a workshop you should take advantage of the opportunity and buy a couple of good stock plants.

TURNTABLE: You can pick these up from discount shops, from the home wares section of many stores or make one of your own. It is far easier to work on styling a tree when you can spin it around easily- especially if it is larger than a mini.

WIRE: don't front up to a workshop with 2 or 3 cut strands of wire and expect to do a proper wiring job. Bring a selection of gauges and enough wire to do more than do your tree. If you get some from another participant, they could run short. It is better to have too much than too little.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE REPOTTING...

SOIL: proper bonsai soil and more than enough to fill the pots you are bringing.

CONTAINER: to put the old soil in and keep the work area tidy

POTS: for each tree, bring 2 or more pots. Once you get the tree root pruned you could discover that it no longer suits the pot you selected for it or a different style is proposed that suits the tree and the pot not at all.

MESH: be sure to include sufficient mesh to cover the holes in your pots

WATER SPRAY: good to keep the root moist during repotting

STRING/TWINE: to tie the tree in the pot.

WEDGE: necessary to alter the tree's alignment before repotting to get a better idea of the best position/alignment for the correct planting. Even if you are not repotting, the tutor can still use a wedge to show you're a better planting angle.

TOWEL: any scrappy towel, useful for wiping down a pot, mopping up water or cleaning your hands

STATIONARY: pen/paper to take notes, waterproof marking pen to write on tags the date you repotted the tree.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO DO A ROCK PLANTING...

SEVERAL ROCKS: until the trees are pruned you have no way of knowing if the rock you have chosen will be suitable. Better to have a selection. It is better to use smaller rocks than a very large one.

MUCK: to protect the roots against the rock- and why not prepare a couple of balls of muck at home before the workshop. If you don't, then bring a container to

the workshop to mix your dry muck and water.

RUBBER GLOVES: disposable variety, useful when working with muck and almost obligatory when working with soil for your own protection

KNEAD-IT: to provide a sturdy base so the uneven base of the rock will stay in the desired position.

MOSS: sphagnum and green moss

AND AS IMPORTANT AS ALL THE OTHERS...

IDEAS: study your trees and try to have an idea of how you think the tree should be styled. And if you have absolutely no idea (let's face it- that's probably why you brought it to the workshop in the first place) don't be ashamed to admit because you are probably like a lot of the other participants.

The tutor is there to advise you and to plumb the depths of his/her far

greater experience to enhance the growth of yours. He/she is NOT there to wire your tree for you. So don't expect it. And learn how to root prune.

And the last pieces of advice from Wilson San: Do not expect miracles and clean up your own mess.



Sydney City Bonsai Club Inc. Sydney, Australia

Patron: Dorothy Koreshoff

President: Marika Kahle

Vice president: Sue Brennan

Secretary: William Hay

Treasurer: Neville Althaus

Public Officer: Max Blanco

Librarian: Philip Bell

Newsletter Editor: Anick Daneault

Committee: Michael Zanetti, Lee Wright, Gary Graham