



OYAMA BONSAI KAI

Club Newsletter - October 2011

President's Report

The last meeting was a workshop on Saikei and I think it was enjoyed by most people there. It was great to see all the interaction between members and Geoff gave a great introductory talk.

I had the good fortune to attend abc3 in Durban last month which I think was a great success. It was really inspirational watching Robert Steven creating a masterpiece! Bill Valavanis was the other headliner and he did some really interesting demonstrations. The difference between Bill's classical approach and Robert was really interesting. Amongst the delegates was Jerry Meislik (author of *The Exotic Bonsai*) from the USA which was a great surprise for those that chatted to him. There will be a report back at the November meeting by Cindy, Carl and myself.

We help our first workshop (for a while) last month and it was fairly well attended. This is a great place to gain experience and see other people's trees. Let's support this initiative. Thanks to Andrew for hosting. If anyone is willing to host subsequent one's then please let me know.

Due to a variety of reasons, there were no takers for the dig this weekend, but our thanks to Neil for offering and let's hope the opportunity arises again.

It has certainly been a really busy spring with lots of events. Let's hope this is a sign of what's to come.

At the next meeting, on Wednesday 13th October, the main talk and demonstration will be on Literati by Hennie and Carl. Peter will give a short report back on his tour of English bonsai nurseries and his discussions to some "Masters". All sounds very exciting.

Finally just some quick points:

1. Christmas party on the 3rd December. We are thinking of holding an auction in the afternoon, so it's a great opportunity to sell and buy all in one day. Hopefully after some wine and beer the prices should favour the sellers!



5-Needle Pine Literati - Qingquan Zhao

2. Catering; no takers yet, so we will put a roster together to help out. Len will buy the cakes, so any complaints/compliments directly to him please (especially Vicky)!
3. The sales cupboard will only be open from when Milly arrives at about 7-15 until about 7-55, before the meeting starts. So if you want to buy please get there early so Milly can partake in the evening.
4. There are still a few members that have not paid their subs for 2011. Last chance before we tar and feather you!
5. Please remember to return library books at each meeting. The good books seem to disappear for months at a time.
6. The photographic competitions have been extended until the end of November 2011. If anyone is interested see the attached entry forms.
7. I have attached the *Bonsai in South Africa* magazine for those who do not get it directly.

That's all for now.

See you all next Wednesday.

Phil

Len's What to do Monthly

I seem to be getting more and more trees in my EN in spite of trying to keep my collection manageable, it is mainly trees which other growers have given up on and I find I am running a home for a lot of Marginal Stock. Which I don't mind as I enjoy the challenge but I just hope I have enough years left in me to get them all done. One thing I have done is to resurrect my job list, using a list makes the work load easier to manage as there seems to be so much to do at this time of year and up to Xmas. I have used this line before but it is so very meaningful this year.

Well Spring started, stopped started and stopped again, the trees just don't know which end is up at the moment. Obviously it's potting time and I have two points for you, first Acacias are slow to replenish roots so go lightly when pruning roots and only pot when absolutely necessary.

Secondly listening to growers talking I found there seems to be a misunderstanding around siting of trees after repotting or collecting from nature. If a tree has no leaves on it after potting or collecting you should place in full sun. If the tree has some leaves after potting you should place in semi shade. The sun at this time of year is not as strong as full sun in mid summer and further to that full sun in spring will heat the pot up generating roots quicker.

It's interesting to note how the different suburbs of Cape Town are experiencing markedly different budding times for there trees. Growers in Durbanville reporting Stinkwood and Acacia's are only budding now whilst in the Southern Suburbs they have been budding for weeks. My Elms are very strong and any branches as well as roots cut during the potting procedure should be placed in river sand, even cuttings as large as 19 mm you may be lucky. With regard to some of those super Elms bought at Stone Lantern Nursery this year I would advise always trim top leaves more than bottom ones and use directional pruning. I always leave 4-6 pairs of leaves before pinching back to two, however I do allow the bottom branches/twigs to put out quite a few more pairs of leaves so to speed up branch thickening. You normally get so much foliage on Elms that Internodal length is not that much of a problem. As mentioned the trees in Southern Suburbs really are growing strongly and that includes Procumbense and Junipers and I am potting those species almost a month before I usually do.

Fertilizing is especially important now and I have been a proponent of Nuetrog but I am a little wary now as I have been finding those big fat white grubs in my Growing Medium so if you are using Nuetrog take care. Marco on his last visit stressed the point,

that it's important keep on top of your trees not only at this time of year but throughout the year as trees grow overnight and you can quickly lose the shape of your branches and subsequently the tree.

For those of you who enjoy experimenting Toby Kleynhans uses a general soil mix of 50% gravel 3-6mm and milled bark 3-6mm. You have to wire your trees in as the mix is very loose but Toby and his band of merry men swear by it. If you use it let me know the results please.

If you wired your trees in Autumn last year you had better check your wiring NOW or you may find major wire bite. I tend to put a marker on wired trees such as a piece of red wool or red tree labels just to jog my memory.

Snails and other insects are rampant at the moment so keep up your spray program. Remember for snails there is nothing like a size 9 Nike.

The Arbor day program which actually was a week long event was a tremendous success for Bonsai in the Cape, congratulations must go to Freddie, Hennie and Wally who pulled it all together, this event made me very proud of belonging to our Bonsai fraternity The event to those of you who slept through it was held at the company Gardens and featured mainly LARGE trees. I never knew there were so many big trees in the Cape. The event was widely publicized and even shown on the news. Amongst the smaller trees I noticed two trees a Cork Bark Elm and a paper Bark Acacia and they both had moss running up into and under the bark, actually lifting the bark off.

This is a practice I would strongly discourage as once the bark is lifted and it drops off it takes forever to restore itself if ever. Not only is it unsightly but it can also cause rotting of the trunk. Moss left on pots through Winter can stop your pot from drying out causing rotting so whilst it is really beautiful as a soil covering, it can be very detrimental to the health of your tree if not used correctly, so beware moss.

Watch your watering, even after showers, a tree with a full canopy may prevent the rain from penetrating the growing medium. On the other hand a blocked drainage hole may drown the tree. Trees need to be kept damp at this time as the new rootlets need moisture and a moments dryness can cause death of the tree. Enough but not too much should be your motto.

Enjoy your Bonsai at this time of year,

Regards Len.

Next Meeting

12th October

President's Report Phil

Main Theme
Literati

Beginner's Corner - 19:15 to 19:50
Design discuss and work on a small
Juniper with emphasis on basic
techniques. Will repot if time permits.
