

The Durban Bonsai Society

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

Greetings, salutations and here's wishing all a happy, prosperous and healthy 2010 – I'm referring, of course, to your bonsai's! I also hope the same applies to you and yours.

The new year has been wet, wet, wet and although this means not having to water, it has also meant a plethora of weeds and extremely vigorous growth on bonsai's. This is the time of the year to keep the apexes of your trees well trimmed to prevent vigorous growth and subsequent thickening of the higher branches. Remember that the lower branches must be thicker than those higher up to give the trees a natural appearance.



The January meeting was an informal workshop with members working on various species and an enjoyable morning it was. Members, please try to always bring at least two trees to the meeting – whether mature or not – as this is always of interest, especially to newer members.

After many years, it was decided to increase the annual subs to R125 per annum for single members and R175 for family memberships. This is due largely to an increase in the clubs contributions to Kwanba of R20 p.a. per member – this

has only just increased after 15 years. Subs are due in February, so please try to bring them to the next meeting and pay Pat.

* "Popular Bonsai Species in KZN" continues with Rhus *

Neil Horree

Private vendors can now advertise bonsai-related material or services in this newsletter at a small fee: ¼ A4 page R100 for first insert then R20 per month; 1/8 A4 page R50 for first insert then R10 per month. Please include your email address. Interested parties please contact Mike Kahn.

NB! ABC3 in 2011 requires sponsorship – if anyone knows of a suitable sponsor, please contact them and feel them out for commitment – or put them in touch with a Kwanba committee member.



FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

If it looks like a meeting will be rained-out please contact Edwin on 084 625 8920 to get a local weather update.



Sunday, February 14th, 9am - Tropical Nursery The theme is for members to bring in any material that was worked on at the club during 2009 so that members can see the progress made on the tree.

Sunday, March 14th, 9am - Safari to Noray Babcock's at Illovo beach. Tea and coffee will be available, bring snacks if you like. Noray and Maureen have also offered use of a gas braai if members wish to have a small braai after the meeting.

At the end of March (probably 27th - 28th) **Louis Nel** will be down to headline the Kwanba Mini Convention to be held at Kengai in Shongweni. On the Saturday morning the 2011 ABC3 will be discussed, the afternoon will be a workshop. The main demonstration will be on Sunday. If members have any ideas or specific requests for Sunday, please discuss with Mike Kahn.

2011 September 23rd-25th - 3rd African Bonsai Convention (ABC3) at Elangeni Hotel, hosted by Kwanba, with 2 international experts in attendance: Robert Steven (Indonesia) and Bill Valvannis (USA, publisher of "International Bonsai" magazine). Check it out on www.abc3.co.za

Chairman : Mike Kahn
 Secretary : Edwin Borresen
 Treasurer : Pat Hall
 Scribe : Neil Holley 031-7670239 0825560233
 E-mailer : Scott Bredin 031-3034094 0834579906
 Postman : Shaun Murphy 031-4623836
 Committee : Pierre Naude, George Koetsos

mikekahn.consultancy@gmail.com
BorresenE@velavke.co.za
pat@concreteworkssa.co.za
holleyn@mweb.co.za
bredins@applyit.co.za

REPOTTING SCHEDULE

Species	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Young	Old
Acacia (before leaves unfurl)							X	X	X				3 - 5	3 - 5
Acer (Maple)							X	X					1 - 2	2 - 3
Azalea (Indica)													annual	
Azalea (Kurume)													annual	
Azalea (Satsuki)													annual	
Bambusa														
Baobab (when buds green)								X	X	X				
Bougainvillea			X	X					X	X			2	2 - 3
Buddleja				X										
Camelia									X	X	X		2 - 4	2 - 4
Cedrus (Cedar)			X	X					X	X			2 - 3	3 - 4
Celtis							X	X					1 - 2	2 - 3
Chamaecyparis													2 - 3	3 - 4
Citrus								X	X				2	3
Commiphora								X	X					
Cotonaster								X	X				2 - 3	3 - 4
Crassula								X	X	X			2 - 3	2 - 3
Dalbergia								X	X	X			1 - 2	2 - 3
Eugenia (Syzigium)		X	X	X					X	X	X		2 - 3	2 - 3
Ficus		X	X	X						X	X	X	1 - 2	2
Fuchsia								X	X				1 - 2	2 - 3
Greyvillia (Austr. Silver Oak)													annual	annual
Ilex (Holly)				X										
Jacaranda									X	X			1 - 2	1 - 2
Juniperus			X	X					X	X	X		2 - 4	4 - 6
Lantana									X	X			2	2
Ligustrum								X	X				annual	annual
Myrtus									X	X	X		1 - 2	1 - 2
Nandina								X	X	X			2	2
Olea (Olive)					X	X	X	X	X				2	5 - 7
Pinus			X	X				X	X				2 - 3	3 - 4
Punica (Pomegranate)									X	X	X		2	3 - 4
Pyracantha			X	X					X				2	2
Quercus (Deciduous Oaks)								X	X				2 - 3	3 - 4
Quercus (Evergreen Oaks)			X					X	X				2 - 3	3 - 4
Schotia								X	X	X			annual	3 - 5
Serissa	X	X	X					X	X	X		X	1 - 2	2
Taxodium						X	X	X					annual	2 - 3
Taxus									X	X			1 - 2	3 - 5
Ulmus							X	X					2	2 - 3
Coddia							X	X					1 - 2	2 - 3

Rhus

Most people think of a rhus as an alien tree (wax tree - *Toxicodendron succedaneum*) which is poisonous and can cause violent allergic reactions to most people. In this article we talk about the indigenous rhus family of trees which do not have these harmful properties.

There are 23 species of rhus in KZN, but only 2 or 3 have been successfully cultivated as bonsai. They are recognised by their trifoliate leaves (same as erythrina and commiphora), very small flowers in large branched inflorescences, and bunches of currant or raisin-like fruit. Often their braches and trunks have a brown, rough-looking and "pimply" surface.

The species used for bonsai are *R.pentheri* (common crow berry) which is widespread in KZN, and *R. rehmanniana* (blunt-leaved currant). The wood is very hard, and when grown as bonsai are susceptible to die-back, apparently for no reason. However, they do grow well and have attractive foliage and bark. Not much else is known about this species as a bonsai as it is not often grown by enthusiasts.

