



# THE LEAFLET

## EASTERN PROVINCE BONSAI SOCIETY

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### Co-opted Trainee Committee Members.

ROBBIE DE WITT 083 699 4570, MARGAUX LABUSCHAGNE 072 391 4578, GRANT BERRINGTON 084 480 7502, KATHERINE DIX-PEEK 041 583 6006, CORNEL DE KONING 084 985 5659, CLIVE PROWSE 072 091 1163.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS REMINDERS - NOTICES:

- Next meeting 14 August 2010. See attached list.
- Visiting Demonstrator scheduled for 18 October 2010. Book now.
- Beginners and Intermediate courses are planned for September – please hand your names to Marie as soon as possible.
- Library. Fines increase. See below.

### BIRTHDAYS: SEPTEMBER.

4<sup>th</sup> Chris Vermeulen 0845153485, 5<sup>th</sup> Peter Nel 0829568851, 10<sup>th</sup> George Strydom 0413602712, Steph van Niekerk 0836607102, 12<sup>th</sup> Thaya Moodley 0731602409, 15<sup>th</sup> Richard West 0712680383, 17<sup>th</sup> Bruce Cowie 0824989335, 28<sup>th</sup> Nolan Flanagan 0834498907, 29<sup>th</sup> Lionel Owen 04136032306.

**God's richest blessing\*** from all in the society

Hi Bonsai friends,

Firstly, a warm word of welcome to our new member Gert Etsebeth from Despatch, who joined at the meeting in June. Gert, we hope you find our society as friendly as we believe it is and that you will feel at home with us. Our members are a talkative crowd, so if you want to know anything, just ask, and you will find willing members with answers.

Last month I told you about the new format for meetings. Well, at the last meeting, attendees divided up into three groups – Beginners, Intermediate and Seniors. Each of these groups was again divided into three groups – group 1, group 2 and group three, to make control easier.

No pressure was placed on the members, each one using his conscience as a guide, moved into the group that he felt most comfortable with. Once every one was in their group the names were recorded and seniors started helping the beginners and intermediates with their trees by giving advice. No senior will work on your tree. After receiving the advice, it is up to you to decide whether you want to follow that advice or not. Maybe you want a third opinion. Get it, it's your tree.

This workshop was followed by a tea break and then the seniors were guided on their trees by Clifton. Juniors and intermediates are expected to watch what is happening to the seniors trees because here again, you can gain valuable advice.

For those who were not at this meeting, start thinking which group you want to place yourself in before the next meeting. It will save valuable time if you are prepared.

To help members with what trees to bring to meetings, hereunder a list. Please remember that as a guide, one should not work on a tree till it starts budding. Once you see this new life starting, then you can repot, wire or prune your trees.

<b>14 August 2010</b>	<b>18 September 2010</b>	<b>9 October 2010</b>	<b>13 November 2010</b>	<b>11 December 2010</b>
Acacia	Acacia	Bougainvillea	Eugenia	Ficus
Maple	Bougainvillea	Cedar	Ficus	
Birch	Cedar	Spekboom	Juniper	
Celtis	Cotoneaster	Eugenia	Myrtle	
Cotoneaster	Spekboom	Ficus	Pomegranate	
Spekboom	Eugenia	Fuschia		
Privet	Fuchia	Tamarisk		
Kei Apple	Juniper	Juniper		
Olive	Karee	Karee		
Pine	Privet	Myrtle		
Oak	Myrtle	Kei Apple		
Boerboon	Kei Apple	Pomegranate		
Swamp Cypress	Olive	Firethorn		
Elm	Pine	Boerboon		
	Pomegranate	Honeysuckle		
	Firethorn	Salie		
	Oak			
	Boerboon			
	Coral Tree			
	Salie			
<b>8 January 2011</b>	<b>12 February 2011</b>	<b>12 March 2011</b>	<b>9 April 2011</b>	<b>14 May 2011</b>
Ficus	Eugenia	Bougainvillea	Bougainvillea	Annual
	Ficus	Cedar	Cedar	General
		Eugenia	Eugenia	Meeting
		Ficus	Ficus	
		Juniper	Juniper	
		Pine	Pine	
		Firethorn	Firethorn	

As this is giving you lots of notice, please try to have one of these trees ready for the meeting. Please remember to bring your tools as well, as you may/will be required to do some work on your tree. Remember, if you want to repot the tree, bring the new pot, soil etc. to the meeting. The same applies if you want to do wiring. Be prepared.

It is said that the number of members who came to the June meeting with trees was very encouraging. Maybe this is the start of big things for our monthly workshops. Once we start getting our hands dirty at meetings, the enthusiasm will grow and members will be reluctant to miss meetings.

### MARY RUNCIMAN

It was with deep regret that we learnt of the death of Mary Runciman on 26 June 2010. Mary was an active member of the society for many years and for her dedicated work regarding society matters she was made an Honorary member. A few years back, Mary moved to Cape Town to be closer to her son and lived at the Serenity Home, Diep River till her death.

I remember my first visit to the Bonsai Society, round about 1986 at Cliftons House. Mary was in charge of the finances and when I arrived and walked into the back area where Clifton and others were going to do the days demo, I heard a voice call, "You haven't paid your visitors fee!" I quickly paid the fee and turned around to walk away when I heard her call again, "You don't have a tree, you have to pay a fine"! In those days, you had to bring a tree to the meeting or pay a fine.

I recall seeing that she was the editor of the newsletter in the early days as well, all in cursive, no typewriter or computer. Newsletters were interesting and very often a hand drawn picture would appear next to her articles. I also believe that she was with the society from its earliest days, maybe one of the founding members.

Often you hear someone ask – How big should a bonsai be? Well, I found one of Mary's drawings which answers that question and I will try to cut and paste it into this newsletter.

Sorry. I have tried all things imaginable, but I just cannot get the picture to appear here. So here goes, I said I tried all things imaginable and it did not work so I leave it to you. Now you use all your imagination to see what I was going to paste here. Firstly, imagine a large tree, it is so large that it fills the rest of this page. Next, under the tree are two men standing, one holding a spade, looking up into the branches of the tree. [This of course is all hand drawn by Mary, no computer imaging, no photoshopping etc or whatever it is called].

The one guy looking up into the tree says to the other – "How big should a Bonsai be?" The other replies – "Only as big as the space available in the car in which you have to transport it!"

Now I know that some guys have weird and wonderful imaginations and will soon figure out what the picture looks like. For those of you who cannot see the picture in your mind's eye, maybe a peek into the library newsletters especially the one dated January 1997 will enlighten you.

I don't think her husband, Derrick, was involved with bonsai, but I do remember that, if you wanted to have your bonsai tools sharpened, Derrick was the person to take them to. He was a master at this exercise.

Among other things, Mary was also very involved in genealogical matters, having done much research into the 1820 settlers and others families around this area and aiding with the monumental inscriptions of cemeteries in and around the 1820 settler country in the Eastern Cape as well as running genealogy training courses. I understand that her works in this regard will be housed at the University of Cape Town.

To her family and friends our deepest sympathies.

As we are fast approaching our growing season, I thought it may be a good idea to place this article on fertilizers to help you.

FERTILISING MADE SIMPLE. By Bernard Barker - Treeview.

Fertiliser make-up.

N	NITROGEN	Boosts foliage and stem growth. Promotes greenery
P	PHOSPHORUS	Provides a sturdy root system
K	POTASSIUM, aka potash or liquid sunshine.	Ripens wood – Helps in the formation of buds. Gives increased depth of colour

WHAT LEAVES COULD BE TELLING (WARNING) YOU. By Pieter Loubser from Treeview Vol. 23 No. 4 October 2001.

- (i) A stunted plant indicates that it needs water and major nutrients, being nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. These are not the only signs of a deficiency in the major nutrients.
- (ii) When the root tips die, the top dies back or the new shoots are deformed, it possibly needs Boron.
- (iii) If new growth is spindly or distorted, it needs Calcium because the cells are not holding together well (they do not cling together with enough strength).
- (iv) Green veins on yellow leaves show an iron deficiency. It usually occurs in alkaline soils.
- (v) Dark yellow leaves or even red leaves, especially on the undersides near the top of the tree indicate a Magnesium shortage. You could also see dead patches of tissue between the veins.
- (vi) Small dark green leaves with a purple or bronze tinge show a Phosphorous deficiency.
- (vii) If only a section of a leaf turns yellow you may suspect that that particular section is in the shadow of the leaf above it and probably very close to it. Yellow leaves all over indicate too little sunshine or too little Nitrogen.
- (viii) Mildew causes a powdery layer, varying in colour, on the surface of the leaf.
- (ix) Red spider mite causes a leaf to simply lose the intensity of its colour, seen as dulling or greying and leaves drop prematurely.
- (x) Rust causes spots of varying colour in the leaf and is permanent until the leaf drops or is removed. Rust can also be seen as small red-brown pustules on the undersides of leaves or yellow spots on the surface. Scaly insects cause spots on the leaves similar to rust.
- (xi) Wilting leaves indicate a shortage of water either through excessive loss or inadequate supply.
- (xii) Dead tips of branches especially in the top of the tree may indicate rotting roots or a pest affecting roots (like nematodes).

- (xiii) A Potassium shortage shows in leaves when it is severe and may be seen as the tips or edges of leaves forming dots or yellow spots, where after they turn brown or red-brown simulating leaf burn. The edges are papery.
- (xiv) A lack of Iron or Manganese turns leaves yellow or white. They look much the same.
- (xv) Leaves appearing scorched may be due to too strong fertilizer being used.
- (xvi) If the surfaces of the leaves facing the sun are yellow or brown and appear to have a nice texture and are not dry, they are suffering from solarization (sun burn) which is a breakdown of chlorophyll.
- (xvii) Leaves that are a golden colour and appear dry, are suffering from desiccation or drying out.
- (xviii) Leaves that show blackening of the leaf tips or edges indicate root damage. This may, amongst other reasons, be caused by over-heating of the pot wall or growing medium. At 40 degrees Celsius root damage occurs.
- (xix) Nitrogen deficiency causes older leaves to turn light green to yellow and growth is poor.
- (xx) Hail damage is seen as spots of dead tissue on the leaf surface.

We have decided to subscribe to an International magazine to enable members to get an insight into what overseas folk are doing regarding bonsai. These magazines are very informative and should help you with the styling and growing of your trees.

As we envisage that there will be a strong demand for these magazines, it has been decided that, as a library book, they will only be allowed out for one month. Failure to return them after one month will result in a heavy fine being imposed on the borrower. To make members more aware of the need to return books promptly, it was decided to increase the fine from R2-00 per month to R10-00 per month per book. You will not be allowed to phone in or send a message requesting extension of time for the new magazines. They must be returned to avoid the fine. The increased fine is for all library books.

Please, if you have a library book that is long outstanding, make arrangements to get it back at the next meeting. It is not fair for one person to sit on a book for months while other members may be waiting to see the same book. Library books are lent out on a monthly basis.

We are arranging for a demonstrator to visit us. Tobie Kleinhans from George has agreed to help us, and he will be able to visit us in October. Our date is the 18<sup>th</sup> and we are hoping to make it a full day workshop.

In the meantime our plans are that members attending the workshop to listen to the advice given by Tobie will be charged R20. However, Tobie will need members to bring trees for him to advise on. Our fee for this will be R50 per tree. If you want advice on what to do with your tree and guidance while working on it, you need to get your name to Marie Strydom urgently. We will only allow a limited number of trees [I think 20 max.] and it will be on a first come first taken basis. You will have to pay when booking.

Please, please don't let this opportunity slip past you. Tobie is a master in this field and you will be able to gain valuable knowledge from his tuition.

The Chairman has asked that all members who have dug trees from 2007 onwards bring at least one tree to the August meeting for display and for others to see how the trees have progressed. Make a note.

I remind you of my swops column. To date I have received no response to this request. Surely there must be someone out there with something to sell or swop.

The above two lines I typed the other day and I was hardly finished when the first of the swops came in.

Here are the details of swops/sales items. Please contact the owners direct.

<u>OWNER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
<u>SALE ITEMS</u>				
Bob Monroe	Wild olive	+ -12 years	R500	0413642466
Bob Monroe	Black monkey thorn	+ -3 years	R200	0413642466
Roland Therond	Various trees			0828956435
		Quantity		
Lionel Owen - ex	Worm compost	10litre bag	R40	0834593375
Graceland	Worm tea	2litre bottle	R30	0834593375
Graceland	Worm boxes	3 tier + 1000 worms	R450	0834593375
Graceland	Worms loose	1000 worms	R250	0834593375
<u>LOOKING FOR</u>				
George Strydom	Cherry Guava	Cutting or seedling		0413602712

Yours in Bonsai

*Lionel*

*There are only two certainties in this life. Taxes and death.*

*It is rumoured that many years back, a greengrocer in Port Elizabeth instructed his assistant to go to the market to buy the days requirements. It was not long before the assistant came running back white and trembling. The greengrocer asked him what was wrong and he explained that when he got to the market looking at the vegetables, someone jostled him. When he looked around he saw that it was death that jostled him. He looked at me and made a threatening gesture.*

*The assistant asked the greengrocer to lend him his horse so that he could race away as fast as he could to Uitenhage where death would not find him. The greengrocer agreed and the assistant sped off on his horse.*

*As the greengrocer needed supplies urgently he set off for the market and on arriving there saw death standing in the crowd. He walked over and asked Death why he had made a threatening gesture to his assistant when he saw him that morning.*

*That was not a threatening gesture, death said. It was only a start of surprise. I was astonished to see him in Port Elizabeth, for I have an appointment with him tonight in Uitenhage.*