
Cape Bonsai Kai

✉ PO Box 226, Rondebosch, 7701 ☎ 797-8972

Newsletter

June 2010

From the President:

Yvonne Romyn

Hi everyone
I hope you all had an interesting club meeting. I had the best lesson on all the different styles of olives driving from Lisbon to the Algarve. Each and every Olive had its own character and they were very old and knarled. I was also surprised to see such huge leaves on the figs. The real live Saikeis were fantastic and I have been very grateful that Bonsai made it possible for me to see all these wonderful sights.
I am very pleased that there was a nice crowd for the workshop at Dorothy's house. Everyone learns so much from these workshops sometime not only Bonsai!!!

Thank you for all your suggestions of how to improve our club. The club meetings always have a theme so the workshops need to be free so that we can tackle any style or specie. We will have a special table for trees not in Bonsai pots but they will not be judged as they are only half the story. We will be available to advise anyone as to "what to do next" to take that next step. Don't forget Gail will be there from 7.30pm to help with any tree you need help with. If anyone hears of a legal place where we can do a dig in any Bonsai Species please let us know so we can arrange it. You can always feel free to contact your nearest Bonsai grower when in trouble or need advice at any time. At the club meetings there is a "help list" in which you can find details of the nearest person to you.
I am looking forward to being at the next meeting.

Yvonne
Email: yvonne@romyn.co.za
Tel: 021 7012749

Review of the last meeting:

Viky Petermann

In Yvonne's absence the meeting was opened and chaired by Dorothy. Dorothy then spoke on pruning in such a stimulating way that the members requested a copy of her talk. (Please find Dorothy's Pruning talk attached at the end of this newsletter!)

Viky followed with Bush to Bonsai and she did the initial design pruning on a Phoenix-graft Juniper. Tony was the judge for the evening and he singled out a beautiful Schottia belonging to Trevor.

Trevor took the floor then for the main talk. He presented an excellent talk on Indigenous trees which was very well researched. He brought along a large variety of Bonsai to illustrate his talk and he displayed his profound knowledge and love for the topic in a way that I am sure has motivated many members to try growing a greater variety of Indigenous trees.

What to do this month:

Viky Petermann

The weather is very unpredictable at the moment alternating between sunny hot days and cold winter storms with torrential rain. Please make sure your trees get enough water and that the pots are draining correctly so that the trees do not become water logged!
Our indigenous trees are growing well. Fertilize them so that they continue to grow vigorously during the winter months.
If you are trying to improve the ramification of deciduous trees do not neglect winter pruning. The trees are devoid of foliage now making it easy for you to see into the canopy and select which twigs to prune away and which to keep and, in this way directing the growth where it is needed and refining the branch structure of your trees.

Winter is also a great time to work on the dead wood areas of your Bonsai. Take your time to study sections of dead wood found in the ground and look at pictures of Bonsai with deadwood areas. Creating deadwood involves careful sculpting and a balancing between the live and deadwood sections of your trees. Studying how deadwood looks in nature will improve your confidence to either refine existing deadwood areas or to create new ones in your Bonsai.

Notices:

Tony Bent

Next monthly meeting: June 17th, 2010

Tree of the Month	Multi-trunk
Bush to Bonsai	Trevor Venables
How to choose good material	Adam Boshoff
Judge's Choice	Rudi Adam
Creating & developing a Multi-trunk	

- **Kai workshop**

Remember there is a workshop at Yvonne's house on Saturday June 26, from 1.30pm onwards. You can learn a lot at workshops not only from fellow members but also from Yvonne – who, as you know, has a vast amount of knowledge to hand down to you. So come along and join us. Her address is 3 Horeb Road, Kirstenhof, phone number 021 701 2749 - give her a ring if you need more information

- **Kai evaluation course – July 17**

Every few years we are very privileged to have Lionel Theron run an evaluation course for us. This year he has offered to run one on Saturday July 17, from 10am to 4pm, at the Buddhist Hall at Bishopsford in Hout Bay. Lionel writes: "The reason for evaluating bonsai is to enable growers to have a benchmark from which to develop aesthetically pleasing and healthy bonsai. This method also provides selection criteria for which bonsai are suitable for showing." This course is beneficial and rewarding for every kai member, no matter their status. Those who have done it before, always come back to do a refresher course. The fee is R25 for the day and registration forms will be available from Tony at the next meeting or contact him at tony@nanoson.com or 083 2305348. Registration deadline is July 12.

- **Kai's 40th Anniversary Celebration on September 18 & 19**

Plans are forging ahead. We are so fortunate in having the services of Bonsai Master Budi Sulisty for our celebration – and the cost of this two day event will be only R100 for members (R250 for members of the public and other kais.) The programme and registration forms are being sent out at more or less the same time you receive this newsletter. Please remember we still need a few more prizes for raffles. If you have suitable prizes to donate or know of a business that can help us, please get in touch with Dorothy at 021 797 8972 or email her at dnfranz@gmail.com

- **Help needed in set up for meetings**

A few years ago we asked that younger members get to the hall early to help with the setting out of tables and chairs – however, this seems to have fallen by the wayside. We make the appeal again – could some of you please come early to help get things ready? Thank you

- **Guidance for growers**

Gail will be offering guidance and advice with trees, from 7.30 to 8pm. If you have a problem or two and would like some assistance, Gail will only too willing to help you – so bring your trees along with you!

- **Library**

We pride ourselves on our vast collection of books and magazines in our library – so please use it. Alastair will be manning the desk from 7.30pm onwards

- **Experienced growers to help you**

Should you need guidance with trees remember we have a host of advanced members that are on hand to help. These members live throughout the peninsula – from the Northern Suburbs down to Cape Point! Take a list from the attendance table at monthly meetings or ask for one from Tony

Pruning

By Dorothy Franz

Your first pruning starts with the initial design. After this, the main function of pruning is to:

1. correct faults
- 2 develop ramification
3. grooming to prevent overcrowding and allow light to filter through to the inner part so that there is not too much die back
4. direct energy to weaker parts to equalize strength.
5. shorten internodal distances.
6. maintain a balance between roots and foliage.

Pruning 101:

Prune back to buds facing the desired direction. If they come out in opposite pairs, you knock off the one you do not need.

Remove buds that grow downwards.

Buds growing upwards can be allowed to grow to 1 or 2 leaves just to give the branch a little height. Don't keep all of them, use judgement.

Cut at an angle downwards and seal. Try to cut underneath the branch so that it is hidden.

Only prune trees that are strong and healthy. Younger trees require pruning more often than older trees. If you fertilize a great deal you will need to prune more often.

Do not prune just to maintain a silhouette as the inside will die out. It will not receive enough light and air. This will also encourage pests and diseases.

When to prune: In Bonsai timing is everything.

The best time to prune is late autumn up to mid winter. If it is done too early in autumn, the tree may still be transporting food down to the roots for the winter and you will interrupt that flow. If you leave it to the end of winter you may dislodge buds that are starting to appear which are still a bit fragile.

One needs to be bold. If you are drastically pruning older trees, one may need to do it in stages as they do not have the ability to recover quickly and they usually only have one spurt of growth a year whereas young trees may have several.

Cutting off very heavy branches may require some gauging to make them look attractive. Try and make a long cut rather than a wide cut. Taper the cut downwards. Seal all wounds.

Pruning in early spring is not a good idea... The sap movement is very high and by pruning you could bleed the branch.

From mid spring to mid summer one can start pinching.

It will shorten internodal distance and result in more compact growth. It will also encourage leaf reduction.

Although in late summer the healing capacity is still high, pruning at this time has one disadvantage. The new growth encouraged by pruning may not have enough time to mature before winter or sudden cold snaps.

A weak branch should be left to extend for strength and thickening.

Many trees grow very vigorously at the top so this area will need harder pruning as it can become thick, ugly and dominant very quickly.

Allow time for recovery after severe pruning.

Evergreens do not store large amount of food so treat with a little caution.