



Eerste uitgawe -
2009

Gee my 'n naam!

Pretoria Bonsai Kai

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In hierdie uitgawe

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Van die Redakteur.

Beste Bonsai Vriende,

Pieter het by die vergadering van 7 Feb bekendgemaak dat ek aangebied het om 'n nuusbrieff (of liever koerantjie) vir die kai op die been te bring. Die eerste is natuurlik dat ek dink so 'n "koerantjie" 'n naam moet hê, en ek wil dit nie op myself neem om op 'n naam te besluit nie. Daarom het Pieter ook reeds by die vergadering gevra vir voorstelle vir 'n naam. Dink bietjie aan iets oorspronklik en stuur jou voorstel asb vir my of een van die bestuurslede. My kontak besonderhede is hier langsaaan. Ek vermoed dat ons, nadat ons genoeg tyd gegee het en genoeg voorstelle gekry het, by een van die vergaderings uit al die voorstelle sal stem vir 'n naam.

Die volgende aspek is natuurlik wat om in so 'n "koerantjie" te plaas. Julle sal uit hierdie uitgawe 'n idee kry van hoe ek voel: interessante artikels, 'n lede profiel, nou en dan dalk iets oor ons inheemse bome, 'n klip in die bos waar ek julle reaksie of idees vra oor iets, 'n briewe kolom waarin ek julle idees plaas oor my klip in die bos asook ander briewe wat ek ontvang, sommer bietjie bonsai raad ens, ens. Die ideaal sal natuurlik wees as ek artikels kan plaas wat deur ons eie lede geskryf is.

The kai comprises of some very dif-

ferent personalities, each at vastly different stages of this remarkably complex hobby. It is difficult for the kai to meet all of the needs of its members at all times and the same should be the case with this newsletter, to create something that represents the interests, needs, and intellect of the club as a whole. So, in the spirit of producing the highest quality that I am capable of, I am asking any and all of you to feel free to email me with your comments, critiques, and concerns. I'd be happy to try and include anything that I can.

Die sukses van hierdie "koerantjie" hang dus ook af van julle deelname en terugvoering. So, reageer asseblief op my eerste klip in die bos, asook voorstelle vir 'n naam. Ek sien uit om van julle te hoor.

Bonsai Groete

Jaco.



The best way to learn bonsai is using your own hands on your own trees. All the watching in the world will not make up for hands-on experience.

Lede profiel — Oom THEUNS ROOS



Was dit nou vir my 'n voorreg om as groentjie in hierdie bonsai kuns te kon kuier saam met 'n man met 40 jaar se bonsai ondervinding. Oom Theuns word 87 wanneer hy in Julie verjaar, maar mens sou dit nie sê uit sy opgewondenheid en entoesiasme

as hy oor bonsai praat nie.

Oom Theuns was as jong man in die weermag waarna hy in 1949 in die motorbedryf in Brits betrokke geraak het. Hy is sedert 1982 afgetree. Sy vrou is in 1995 oorlede en hulle het drie seuns asook vier kleinkinders. Oom Theuns sê dat die beoefening van bonsai hom verskriklik gehelp het teen die eensaamheid omdat bonsai bome elke dag versorging en aandag nodig het. Dit gee jou iets om te doen en jy moet die bome versorg en dit hou jou besig. Hy sal enige iemand wat alleen is aanmoedig om bonsai te doen, want dit gee jou 'n verpligting om na te kom.

Oom Theuns se belangstelling in bonsai is geprikkel nadat hy in April 1969 in die Readers Digest 'n artikel oor bonsai gelees het. Sy vrou was daardie tyd betrokke by blomme ranskikking en het hom vertel dat die Johannesburg bonsai klub by die Pretoria stadsaal 'n uitstalling hou saam met die blomme klub. Sy het oom Theuns saam genooi om te gaan kyk aangesien hy belangstel in bonsai en daar het hy kontak gemaak met mense in die bonsai kuns. Daar is toe besluit om 'n klub in Pretoria te stig wat toe in 'n tuin in Queenswood plaasgevind het. Oom Theuns was dus een van die stigters lede van die Pretoria Bonsai Kai.

Daarna het oom Theuns vir die volgende 20 jaar elke maand vanaf Brits na Pretoria gery om die vergaderings by te woon. Oom Theuns sê dat hy in die 40 jaar as lid by die klub nog nooit 'n vergadering gemis het nie. Aan die begin het hy met alles wat hy in die hande kon kry geëksperimenteer. Hy het plante uit sy tuin gehaal en in potte geplant. Hy

het op 'n keer in Natal vakansie gehou en waar daar aan 'n nuwe pad gebou is het hy 'n klein Natal vy uit die wal sien groei. Hy het sy seuntjie op sy skouer getel om die boompie uit te trek en dit was sy eerste suksesvolle bonsai. En ja, hy het vandag nog daardie boom, 40 jaar later. Dit is die boom op die foto hier onder. Daar is al oor die wêreld afstammeling van hierdie boom soos wat oom Theuns steggies maak en vir mense gee. Onderandere in Australië en New Zeeland.

Oom Theuns sê dat hy van jongs af baie belanggestel het in bome maar dat die kuns om 'n boom te vorm soos wat jy wil vir hom baie plesier verskaf. Hy dink dat hy huidiglik so by die 100 bome het. Nie almal is egter skou gehalte nie, voeg hy by. Hy werk baie graag met Wilde vye omdat hulle vinnig groei en jy relatief gou resultate kry en omdat jy van die kleinste mame tot groot bome kan maak. Sy raad is dat 'n growwe groeimedium vir vye vinnige wortel groei gee. Hy het nie werklik 'n gunsteling styl nie maar hou van die natuurlike voorkoms van die Akasia spesies.

Oom Theuns sê dat die belangstelling by die kai en die vriende wat hy daar het hom inspireer om aan te hou. Dit is vir hom baie lekker om te kan raad gee en dat ander lede ook belangstel in sy bome. Hy dink dat hy bereik het in die kuns wat hy wou en geniet nou die versorging van sy versameling. ♣



Vergadering van 7 Februarie 2009

Skuinsstam:

Org Exley en Johan Els het vir ons 'n demonstrasie gedoen op 'n Juniper. Ek plaas nie al die goeie raad en inligting wat hulle met ons meegedeel het nie maar wys slegs die boom waaraan hulle gewerk het.



Die boom voordat daar aan hom gewerk is.....en nadat daar aan hom gewerk is.



The slanting style is always going up.....or is it to the sideor maybe down?

Do not take bonsai trees for granted. They require individual attention, each variety and specie, in its own way, require different care.

Motivering.

My bydra om julle bietjie te motiveer met geduld en toekomsvisie. Die foto regs is hoe 'n Olienhout gelyk het toe hy uit die grond gehaal is en in 'n pot geplant is. Ek weet ongelukkig nie watter jaar nie. Kyk bietjie op bladsy 6 wat van hom geword het na 'n paar jaar se versorging.



Indigenous Southern African trees suitable for Bonsai.

Ficus Sycomorus.



Afrikaanse naam: Gewone Trosvy

English common name: Common Cluster Fig

This is a large evergreen tree (10 – 25m in South Africa, but grow up to 45m in tropical Africa), with a spreading crown and a yellowish trunk that is usually buttressed. It is the largest indigenous fig in South Africa and is associated with a high water table, occurring along rivers and on seasonal floodplains throughout the subtropical and tropical regions of Africa. The figs are large (25-50mm in diameter), yellow to red when ripe and borne in large, branched bunches on the main trunk and older branches. They are great favorites with people living in the areas where they occur, as well as with many species of birds and mammals. Trees are used as nesting sites by birds and crocodiles have been known to take refuge underneath their roots. This is the sycomore of the Bible, and was used as a shade and avenue tree in ancient Egypt. The bark and milky latex are used medicinally against ringworm. The specific name “sycomorus” is believed to come from the Greek “sycomoros” meaning “fig mulberry”. This species makes an outstanding specimen tree for large gardens in warm areas with frost-free winters.

The Ficus species of South Africa is grouped as rock-splitters, stranglers and trees and although the Ficus Sycomorus is grouped under trees and there-

fore not as popular as the other two groups for training as bonsai it still produces a fine bonsai tree. The roots are not as strong as the stranglers and rock-splitters but it can be used as root over rock. The trunk is strong with a greenish color especially when young. With care an excellent taper can be achieved.

The leaves are large and although they reduce in size with the correct training over time, it is more suitable for larger trees.

The Sycomorus likes to be well watered especially in warm summer weather but more sparsely in winter. It is not frost hardy and should be protected in winter in areas receiving frost.

It is suited for more informal styles such as informal upright and also root over rock. This tree should be kept outside in full sun to semi shade. Repotting should take place every one to two years for young trees, and every three to four years for mature specimens. Medium to deep containers are preferred. Normal fertilizer should be applied at a regular interval. Heavy pruning should be done during the warm season when healing will be at its best.

Propagation is easily done by cuttings and truncheons. ♣



Ficus Sycomorus by Charles Ceronio

I grow bonsai for myself, if others enjoy them that's a bonus.

Apical dominance.

Apical dominance is the tendency some trees have to grow much stronger on the upper and outer parts of the crown. This tendency makes a tree a tree versus a shrub, which is basal dominant. A simple way of looking at it is apical buds vs lateral and dormant buds. The apical buds or dominant buds, almost always the buds at the very tip of the branch, produce a hormone called auxin. This hormone runs down the branch and inhibits or restricts the growth of the laterals and dormant buds. As soon as the dominant bud is removed, that restriction is removed from the laterals and dormant buds directly below the dominant bud that was removed, and the laterals start to grow.

As the buds below the removed dominant bud begin to grow they start to once again produce auxin and start to inhibit growth of laterals along their stem. In general, the faster the dominant bud grows the more auxin it produces and the more and the greater its dominance.

In spring, when all the buds of a bonsai are dormant, dominance will not be established until shortly after the growth has started on some of the buds. This is the reason why a bonsai or any other plant branches so much at the beginning of the growing season in temperate climates. Furthermore, when the dominant buds stop growing in late summer, the laterals sometimes grow.

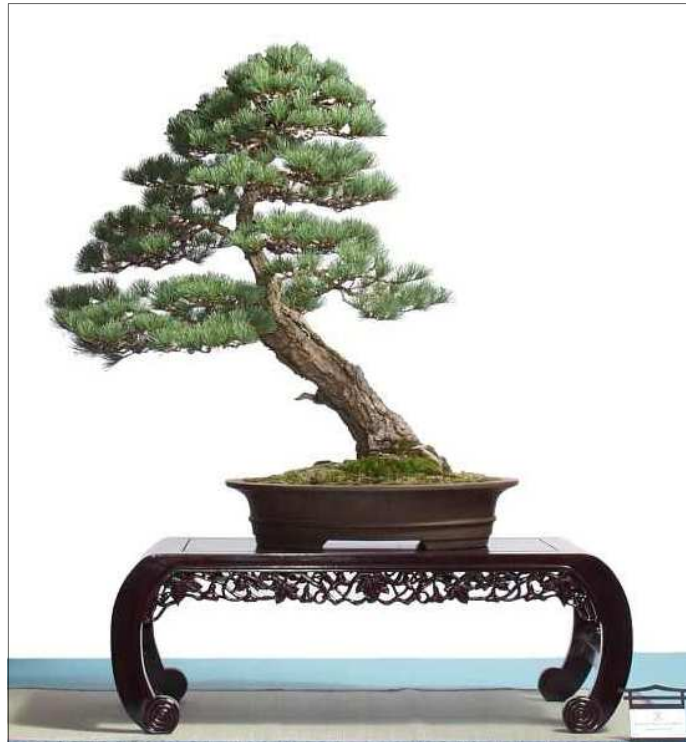
This apical dominance stuff has a lot of implications for controlling growth in bonsai. A lot of which we just take for granted. Take two branches that are forked and are of equal length. If you cut one of them shorter than the other the longer one becomes dominant. Bend a branch tip down and it becomes less dominant.

Simply cutting and pinching the top buds sometimes isn't enough to control their apical dominance. Sometimes removing whole branches at the top of the tree is the only way to control them in the long run.

A mall tree in a pot will not change genetically and always strive to become a much larger tree. Therefore one has to fight this natural tendency in order to get good proportions on a bonsai. The trick is basically simple: weaken the tree where it

has a tendency to be strong and strengthen it where it has a tendency to be weak.

How does one weaken or strengthen? Weakening is mainly done by reducing growth. One takes out buds, cuts back new growth very soon after appearance, defoliates fully or partially in the strong spots. Strengthening is just the opposite. One leaves lots of buds and lets these grow freely for a long time.



It has to be understood well that branches and trunks thicken ONLY when they get energy. Energy ONLY comes from assimilation. The flow of energy is ONLY from the top down and from the outside in. It is just the contrary of what common sense tries to tell us. Energy is ONLY created in the assimilation parts of the tree, in the foliage. The more foliage the more energy, the more thickening. The less foliage, the less energy, the less thickening.

If you do nothing to apical dominance the upper branches will get thicker and the lower branches will stay thin.



Snippets.....

Bonsai Fallacy – Jerry Meislik

However you wire, its wrong!

Bonsai journals and books are full of advice on wiring. You must do this and that. You must use copper or aluminum or else. You must wire or unwire at this time of year or your branches will die. You must not cross wires. You must wire the tree neatly.

I personally believe that you can wire with anything that will hold and shape the branch properly.

Whether this is copper or aluminum or anything else is irrelevant. Neatness does not count unless you want a neat tree or unless you intend to show your tree in its wired state. Time of year doesn't matter to the tree, (exception – do not wire a frozen tree). Leaving wire on all winter does not hurt the branches. Here are some wiring recommendations that I think are helpful.

Wire when you have time. Wire the branches with loops at 45 degree angles for best holding power.

Wire your trees often and you will have better trees.

Move the branch the absolute minimum number of times to get the position right. Do not wire the branch and then keep bending it back and forth to get the right shape as this will damage the branch with each bend back and forth.

If you need to redo the shape wait several months until the branch has healed from its first wiring insult.

Its ok to cross wires, but remember a crossed wire cuts in faster than the uncrossed – so be watchful!

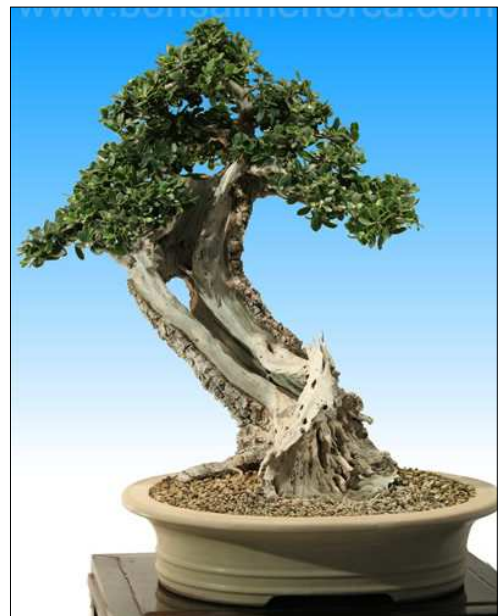
Thin wire will cut in before thick wire so watch those thin wires carefully.

Klip in die bos

Ek het die foto hier onder op die internet gevind en wil graag weet wat julle van die 'bak' wat gebruik is dink. Sou jy self so 'n bak gebruik? Is dit 'n bonsai bak?



So lyk dieselfde Olienhout van bladsy 3 na 'n klompie jaar se versorging.



When the flowers on any blooming tree wilt, they've produced fruit and /or seed. This takes a huge amount of energy out of the plant. If you allow this to happen you will probably not get bloom the next year. The flower removal, called 'deadheading' must be done immediately when the blooms begin to wilt.

Ten Commandments of Bonsai - Bill Will

Thou shalt devise thine own potting mix. Thou mayest seek advise and help from others but must formulate thine own mix according to thine own microenvironment and watering and fertilizing regiment.

Thou shalt determine the ph of thine own water and adjust it to slightly acidic.

Thou shalt immediately, or as soon as possible, remove any new plant from its original potting mix and place it in thine own.

Thou shalt abhor, despise, detest and hate all vermin that might destroy thou bonsai.

Thou shalt take care of thy bonsai as though they were thine own children. Thou shalt water them, feed them, groom them, love them and keep them from all harm.

Thou shalt do thine own repotting and trimming. Thou mayest seek advice and assistance but must do the actual work thine own self.

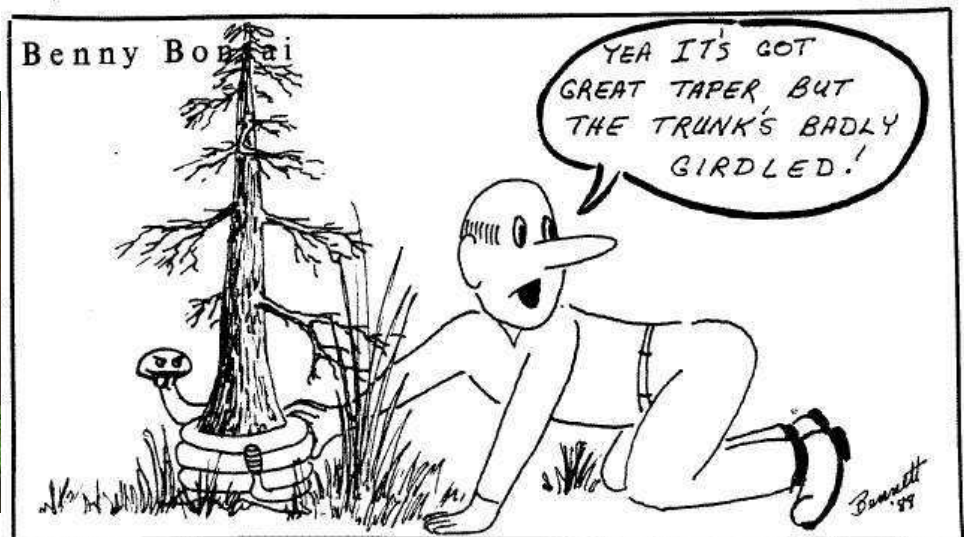
Thou shalt not bow down and worship "The Rules" of bonsai and shalt recognize that they are naught but "guidelines" - albeit excellent guidelines. Thou should learn them and abide by them - when applicable and possible.

Thou shalt seek diligently for potential bonsai, they being available whence and where found.

Thou shalt not covet they neighbor's bonsai, nor his pots, nor his tools - lest ye be willing to pay him at least 10 times its maximum value.

Thou shalt do everything in they power to promote the Art of Bonsai.

Bonsai wiring, like driving a car, is not an activity one becomes comfortable with by watching someone else do it. - Jack Wikle



Your Bonsai has feelings. By Charlie White.

We are quite aware that when our fig tree is moved to a new location this tree might lose a lot of its leaves until it adjusts to its new environment. A fig is usually sensitive to drafts, warm or cool, change of light and a host of other stressors on its personality.

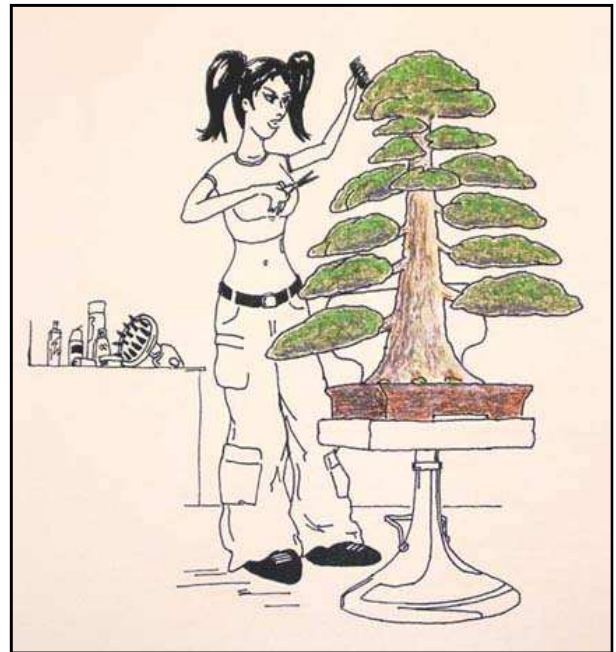
In the last number of years there has been a remarkable amount of study devoted to the plants we share this earth with. Without green plants we would neither breathe nor eat, as they provide oxygen and food for life.

In 1966 Cleve Backster using a galvanometer attached electrodes to the leaf of his house plant, the *Dra-caena*, the tropical plant similar to a palm tree (known as the Dragon Tree). Backster was curious to see if the leaf would be affected by water poured on its roots and, if so, how and how soon. As the plant thirstily sucked water up its stem, the galvanometer reacted with a lot of saw tooth motion on the graph paper. Could the plant be displaying emotion? Backster wondered if the plant would also react to an injury. He would burn the leaf with a match. The instant he got the picture in his mind, there was a dramatic tracing pattern on the graph. Could the plant have been reading his mind?

Backster felt like running into the street and shouting to the world, "Plants can think!" Instead he plunged into the most meticulous investigation of the phenomena. To discover what his plants could sense or feel, Backster and his students found that plants reacted not only to threats from human beings, but to unformulated threats, such as the sudden appearance of a dog in the room or a person who did not wish them well.

Today, because Backster's experiments are so easy to duplicate, botanists have discovered phenomena of plants that are staggering to most of us, such as trees of the same species that apparently communicate with each other with vibrations through the soil to one another. The Chinese have long related that the Master's Bonsai may go into deep shock at the passing of its devoted care giver.

You might remember as you tend your bonsai that there is ongoing scientific proof that your tree can read your mind and has feelings too.



The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Pretoria Bonsai Kai.