



Vyfte uitgawe 2012

Koeda

Pretoria Bonsai Kai

• Pretoria Bonsai Kai bestuur:

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The word Koeda is Japanese and means: 'Graceful branch'. It is pronounced Ko-eda.

Van die redakteur.

Beste bonsai lid

Die hele bestaan gaan oor lewe en sterwe. So het ons dan ook die laaste twee jaar twee van ons geliefde bonsai vriende aan die dood afgestaan. Louis Nel is in April 2011 oorlede en ons het verlede maand afskeid geneem van Ben Kruger.

Wanneer 'n bonsai entoesias wegval bly sy of haar bome natuurlik agter. Louis se bome is, nadat Charles en Francois die bome versorg het, deur sy dogter na die Kaap geneem. Louis se dogter het van die bome oorgeneem, sommige is te koop aangebied en ander is in die Universiteit Stellenbosch se Botaniese tuin opgeneem. Op bladsy 6 kan gelees word oor die bonsai versameling, asook oor Louis se bome, in die botaniese tuin.

Louis was natuurlik vanaf 1975 lid van die Pretoria kai en was nooit lid by enige ander kai nie. Ons is dus dankbaar dat Louis se bome behoue

bly en ook trots dat van die bome opgeneem is in die botaniese tuin versameling.

Dit laat mens dink dat jou geliefdes of vriende moet weet wat om met jou bome te maak indien jy wegval.

Genoeg van die hartseer, geniet die reën en die somer groei.

Bonsai groete

Jaco

Enige idees, artikels of terugvoering rakende die nuusbrief kan gegee word aan Jaco Kriek by:

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Time is frequently described as our ally in bonsai, constantly aging and improving our trees.

Briewe Bus / Vra is Vry

The following is a series of correspondence where a non-member asks for information on a bonsai she bought:

To: 'info@bonsaitree.co.za'

Subject: Newsletter submission

Can you please help me. I NEED THE CARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR A RHUS BONSAI. I bought it for my daughter on the 7 OCTOBER. I am staying in the Eastrand Area.

With THANKS

Christa Nel

SARS- CUSTOMS
New Agents Building
1 st Floor

To: 'Christa Nel'

Cc: Org Exley

Subject: RE: Newsletter submission

Hello Christa, I would be prepared to go to great lengths to have a friend in SARS-customs ☺ However I am the wrong person to ask about this species. May I suggest that you contact Org who could either help you directly or can refer you to someone closer to you. I would highly recommend you join their Kai as then you and your daughter can learn about bonsai together.

Regards, Terry Erasmus. Web: www.bonsaitree.co.za

To: Christa Nel

Subject: FW: Newsletter submission

Hi Christa,
Which one of the Rhus species do you have?
Regards,
Org

To: Org Exley

Subject: RE: Newsletter submission

Thank you for coming back to me .
I don't know because on the container sticker is typed RHUS BONSAI. I have surfed on the internet and cant find the one I have. Mine got round like, small leaves. Christa. Continue on pg 3.



Briewe Bus / Vra is Vry

To: Christa Nel
Subject: RE: Newsletter submission

Can you maybe send me a photo of the tree and a close-up of the leaves.

Org.

Good Day

Thank you for supporting me. Herewith the pictures of the bonsai.
 Only one thing is bothering me how poisonous is the tree, because on the internet they said some of them are very poisonous.

THANK YOU
 Christa Nel



Hi Christa,
 Ek gaan die foto's uitstuur na die lede. Ek vermoed dat dit die gewone karee is, maar die stam is baie lig.
 Vrek die takke terug as jy hulle snoei?

Jaco,
 Kan jy dit asb uitstuur sodat ons kan vasstel watter een dit is en dan meer inligting kry oor die kweek van die spesifieke boom.

Groete,

Org Redaksie: **Kom ons hoor bietjie of iemand weet wat se boom dit is en gee Christa raad.**

Briewe Bus / Vra is Vry

Akasia's, moerasveen en pH

Tydens die BRAT byeenkoms in Rustenburg op 29 September 2012 het Barry Fourie gemeld dat hy moerasveen (peat moss) by sy besondere groeimediummengsel vir Akasia's voeg om die suurgehalte daarvan te vermeerder (die pH te verlaag). Hy het beweer dat Akasia's verkies om in suurder grond te groei. Hieruit blyk minstens twee argumente, te wete: Eerstens, verkies Akasia's suur grond en die tweede, of moerasveen dit kan verskaf. Hierdie vraag word gevra omdat Duncan Wiles beweer het dat Barry verkeerd is, naamlik dat Akasia's neutrale grond verkies en dat moerasveen nie suur is nie.



Wie was reg? Ek het vir Duncan ondersteun. Was ons reg? Of dalk nie? Het ek net 'n halwe waarheid geken? Ons het nodig om te weet. Of werk dit soos my eie vrou met resepte vir haar heerlike kos werk? Wat vir jou werk is al wat saakmaak.

Toe gaan soek ek die feite.

Maar dalk net eers om te verduidelik: pH is 'n afkorting vir die meting van die aktiwiteit van opgeloste waterstof-ione (H^+). Hierteenoor kan die aktiwiteit van waterstofoksied (OH^-) gestel word, te wete die pOH, wat weer die alkaliniteit vasstel, maar gewoonlik word bloot die pH gemeet. Teoreties is die waardes tussen 0 (ergste moontlike suur) en 14 (ergste moontlike alkali). 'n pH van 7 is in die middel en dus neutraal. Alle pH onder 7 is suur en bokant 7 is alkalies. Dis genoeg om te verstaan hoe ons wetenskapliker ouens praat oor suur en alkaliese metings.



'n Handvol Moerasveen.

Terug aarde toe en ons kry iets eienaardigs naamlik dat grond met pH-waardes tussen 6.6 en 7.3 as neutraal beskou word. Grond het 'n pH wat wissel tussen 4.0 (erg suur) en 10 (erg alkalies). Meeste tuinplante verkies 'n pH tussen neutraal en effens suur (gemiddeld 6.5).

Akasia's, volgens die bronne wat ek geraadpleeg het, verkies om te groei in grond met 'n pH van tussen 6.0 en 8.0. Dus effens (net effens) suur tot selfs effens alkalies. Ek sou dus aflei dat hulle neutrale pH verkies.

Ek het ook gelees dat grond wat goed dreineer (sanderig is!) en hoë reënval ondervind, suurder is en dat Akasia's hierdie suurheid kan verdra. Maar dit maak my net meer deurmekaar omdat sulke omstandighede uiters skaars is en Akasia's wydverspreid in die wêreld voorkom. Hoë reënval het beslis te make met laer pH. So ook staande water. Dit is dus verstaanbaar dat moerasveen suur gaan wees en dit is! Die pH is van 3.0 tot 3.5 volgens een bron, maar gemiddeld 4.0 volgens 'n Kanadese bron. Hoe dit ookal sy, dis suur!

Vervolg op bl 5.....

Briewe Bus / Vra is Vry



Nou begin die speletjie! Watter effek die middel wat jy wil aanwend het met die materiaal waarmee jy werk en ander omstandighede. Kom ons veronderstel dat jy reken dat Akasias suurder groeimedium verkies, gaan jy met een of ander groeimedium mengsel moet begin. Daardie mengsel gaan 'n gemiddelde pH hê. Wat is daardie meting? Hoe weet jy of jy dalk ietsie hierdie kant toe of daardie kant toe nodig het? Wat is die pH van dit waarmee jy werk? Ander omstandighede is die hoeveelheid en gereeldheid van die watertoediening, ook die wyse van toediening, want dit affekteer die uitloping van allerlei chemikalieë in die groeimedium. Gebruik jy kraanwater of boorgatwater, of dakwater? Wat is die pH daarvan? As jy moerasveen wil byvoeg (nadat jy bepaal het of jy dit nodig het), hoeveel daarvan en waar? Deur die hele mengsel groeimedium, of net bo-op, of onder?

En, moerasveen is iets wat uiters stadig en onder spesiale omstandighede en op besondere plekke vorm. Dis eintlik onvervangbaar! Behoort jy dit te gebruik as jy omgee oor die bestaan van die wêreld? Is daar alternatiewe? Gaan lees asseblief hieroor en besin voor jy gebruik!

Die gesprek by die BRAT-byeenkoms het my laat dink. Ek was beslis oningelig en het standpunt ingeneem sonder om die feite te weet. Ons het nie al die antwoorde nie en dis uiters goed om verskillende opinies te hoor. Jy moet met daardie inligting gaan werk en besin oor die standpunt wat jy inneem en die tegnieke en metodes wat jy gebruik.

Pieter Loubser

Hi Jaco

Ek onthou dat ek jou naam op die internet gesien het ivm die verdikking van die Burt davii se stamme – hoop ek is korrek???

Ek is mal oor die “vet lywe” van die plante!!! Ek is nog relatief nuut in bonsai en wil graag leer.

Wat is die beste manier om die verdikking van die stamme te kry?

Baie dankie en groete
Andre Greyling
Strand

Org Exley antwoord Andre as volg:

Soos met enige plant, as jy verdikking van die stam wil hê, moet die plant vrylik groei vir 'n tyd in 'n groot houder of in die grond. Wanneer die stam die verlangde dikte bereik het, sny jy dit af op die verlangde lengte. Jy kan die plant weer vrylik laat groei om sodoende ‘taper’ te bewerkstellig en beweging in die stam te kry.

Artikel in die Universiteit Stellenbosch se Boschtelegram

Bonsai-versameling in US se Botaniese Tuin kry amptelike naam

Met sowat 300 bonsai-boompies spog die Universiteit Stellenbosch se Botaniese Tuin waarskynlik met een van die grootste versamelings in die land. En die versameling, waarvan die oudste boom 72 jaar oud is, kry nou vir die eerste keer 'n amptelike naam: Die Wes-Kaapse Bonsai-Erfenisversameling. Die naam word by die Suid Afrikaanse Botaniese Vereniging geregistreer. "Die versameling bestaan uit uitheemse en inheemse bome en ons wou daaraan 'n identiteit gee deur 'n formele naam te registreer," sê mnr Fritz Joubert, 'n lid van die Bolandse Bonsai Kai. Die Kai het geruime tyd gelede al 'n ooreenkoms met die Botaniese Tuin aangegaan waarvolgens lede die Bonsai-versameling sal versorg. Joubert besoek die tuin sowat twee keer per week.

Regs: Een van die indrukwekkendste bome in die Bonsai-versameling in die US Botaniese Tuin. Die Koeniebos (*Rhus Undulata*) is in 1973 deur Louis Nel gevorm. (Foto: Stephanie Nieuwoudt). Dit bevat onder meer die uitgebreide denne- en sederboomversameling wat deur wyle Becky Lucas geskep is. Sy was die eerste vrou in Suid-Afrika wat Bonsai beoefen het. Die Bonsai-skeppings van ds Gerjo van der Merwe is ook in die versameling opgeneem en bestaan onder meer uit olienhoute, kei-appelbome en Chinese olms. Sedert Maart vanjaar het die bome van wyle Louis Nel van Pretoria die nuwe fokuspunt van die versameling geword. Nel, wat as die Buddleia-koning van Suid-Afrika bekend was, het die vorige jaar in 'n ongeluk gesterf. Daarna het sy dogter, Zonia, wat op Stellenbosch woon, die uitgebreide versameling op permanente bruikleen aan die Botaniese Tuin geskenk. "Die bome het 'n nuwe dimensie aan die versameling gegee. Van die bome het internasionale toekennings gekry," sê Joubert.



"'n Bonsai moet aan bepaalde estetiese vereistes voldoen. Dit is 'n lewende kunsvorm en die versorger moet weet hoe om die boompies korrek te snoei. Die boom se lyne moet vloeiend wees en dit moet lyk soos 'n miniatuurboom in die natuur. Dit moet nie soos 'n paal regop staan in die grond nie. Daar moet ritme in die stam en takkies wees en die stam moet van dik na dun gevorm wees. Daar moet harmonie wees." Die versorger moet ook bedag wees op allerlei insekte en siektes soos witvlieg, blaaspotjie, rooispinnekop en wortelvrot wat 'n bedreiging vir die boom inhou.

'n Bonsai kan in hoogte wissel van mame (heel klein) wat enigiets van 7,5 tot 10 cm hoog kan wees tot shohi met 'n hoogte van 30 cm tot ongeveer 1 meter en chumono met 'n hoogte van 1 meter en meer.

Volgens me Viola Calitz, administratiewe beamppte en regterhand van die tuin, is die Bonsai-versameling 'n groot aantrekkingskrag vir besoekers.

"Mense hou van miniatuurvoorwerpe. Daarby is Bonsai ook 'n kunsvorm waardeur iets mooi geskep word." Benewens Suid-Afrikaanse besoekers, is die versameling ook gewild onder die Britte, Duitsers, Skandinawiërs en Nederlanders.

Volgens oorlewering is die oudste voorbeeld van 'n Japanse Bonsai sowat 1000 jaar oud.

"Dit getuig van toewyding van verskeie generasies van dieselfde familie," sê Calitz. "Ons Bonsai-versameling moet bewaar word sodat dit ook aan verskillende generasies plesier kan verskaf."

Joubert voeg by: "Die versameling wys waartoe Bonsai-kwekers in staat is. Daar is mense wat meen dit is die beste in die land, en ons is baie trots daarop." – STEPHANIE NIEUWOUTD

THE ARTIST AND BONSAI –by Dr Pieter Loubser.

Bonsai is like a drug. I cannot stop doing it. Why? What is it about this form of art that compels me to read, look, design, and think about it every day? It isn't that I'm not doing an ordinary job to make a living. No. I am a professional person, working many hours each day, but whenever I have a chance to see trees (real, or in my imagination) I do just that. I think about shapes, lines, contrasts, colours, weathering and much more. What is the story of the tree?

Why does it interest me? I don't know why!

Maybe we can get some answers in what other artists have to say.

Let's listen to them.

"Art! Who comprehends her? With whom can one consult concerning this great goddess?" were Ludwig von Beethoven's words.



This Ficus is a complex design and a larger tree (BonsaiBark), but is it less interesting than the tiny Buttonwood owned by Robert Kempinsky (BonsaiBark) shown below?

Is the soul of the artist reflected in these creations? Lucian Freud says that *"the character of the artist doesn't enter into the nature of the art"*, but MC Escher holds that *"my work is a game, a very serious game."* Of course it is serious. You expose yourself to varying opinions and the bad thing is that your art, your work is related to yourself as artist and can affect you as a person. This is not always easy to handle.

Kevyn Aucon, laconically remarks that he would "rather have huge success and huge failures than travel in the middle of the road." The artist will always be subject to the ups and downs, the highs and the lows of criticism even though it may be directed to the created designs only. Can you separate the artist and his/her work?



Continue on pg 8....

THE ARTIST AND BONSAI –by Dr Pieter Loubser.

There is a path of growth and development in all of this, same as with bonsai trees. Ralph Waldo Emerson stated it very simply that *“every artist was first an amateur”* and even when the amateur status has been shed, it happens that *“even a true artist does not always produce art”* according to Carroll O’Connor. But do not despair, Longus (in the third Century CE) stated that *“there never was any yet that wholly could escape love, and never shall there be any, never so long as beauty shall be, never so long as eyes can see”*. You hopefully see that *“Fine art is that in which the hand, the head, and the heart of man go together”* according to John Ruskin.

You cannot design bonsai without imagining some tree. You sit in front of this piece of raw plant-material and somewhere your mind flirts with images of some tree you have seen or think of as a possible tree. Then you start snipping away and the item is reduced to something very basic, or you can already see the imagined tree. This is why John Berger can say: *“The human imagination..... has great difficulty in living strictly within the confines of a materialist practice or philosophy. It dreams, like a dog in its basket, of hares in the open”*.

Today, 13 May 2012, It is turning winter and my Celtisses are losing their leaves, after first giving me a short view of the variations of yellow they so graciously share with us, before they stand bare, proudly showing their naked beauty. Let’s not forget the maples and surely not the Lagerstroemias!! We, as bonsai artists look at trees in nature and try and create miniatures that resemble those masterpieces. We act the way John Ciardi comments on with some humor: *“Modern art is what happens when painters stop looking at girls and persuade themselves that they have a better idea”*. We keep on thinking we can improve on nature. Can we?

Lucius Annaeus states that *“All art is but imitation of nature”*.

Look at this natural beauty I show in the next photograph. Naked rock? And it has been whisked away, never to be seen in its windblown, sandblasted majesty, ever again! Barring artists, of course! (Below)



I still don’t know why I love bonsai. Paul Cezanne was tormented by the same consideration when he asked: *“Tell me, do you think I’m going mad? I sometimes wonder, you know”*.

I have said my say. For now. Pieter Loubser

Polokwane ervaring - deur Johan Els

Dit was 'n baie matige wintersdag toe ek (Johan Els) en Org Exley vanaf Pretoria na Polokwane die pad aandurf. Op uitnodiging en baie gesoebat van my kant af het die Woensdag 2012-07-25 aangebreek. Met ons aankoms is ons hartlik verwelkom deur Derick Veldhuizen (oud Pta lid). Ons het afgepak en eers sy versameling bome aanskou. Ek was soos 'n kind in 'n lek-

Die aand het ons baie lekker gekuier en opgevang, maar so teen tien uur is ons gemaan om te gaan slaap want 'n wilde dag lê voor. Vyf uur die oggend is ons op en na 'n koppie koffie is ons in die pad oppad Levubu (anderkant Louis Trichard of Makhado soos hy nou bekend staan) toe, waar volgens Oom Derick 'n verrassing vir ons wag.



Met ons aankoms by Dawid Kruger is ek behoorlik verbaas en soos 'n kind in 'n lekkergoed fabriek! Daar is maklik seker 10 000 bome van 'n verskeidenheid van spesies, grotes en vorms. Derick lag en sê hy verstom hom altyd aan ons gesigte as ons die Bonsai PLAAS sien. Na nog 'n koppie koffie vertek ons na die plaas waar ons gaan graawe in die Soutpansberg tussen Makhado en Musina. Met die aankoms het ons die waterkanne vol gemaak en is die veld in.



Na ons besoek by Dawid het ek en Org besluit om te konsentreer op al die inheemse bome wat ons nie het nie. Alle Olienhoute is oor die hoof gesien. Ek het begin met 'n massiewe stamvrug wat my behoorlik twee ure gevat het om uit te kry. (kantoor werk het my behoorlik laat les opsê) Na die boom uit was, was ek ook byna uit, maar het besluit om ten minste nog iets te graawe. Ek het toe twee klein Gardenia's gegraawe en sodoende weer energie en lus vir die grawery te kry.

Bo: Sommige van Derick Veldhuizen se bome.
Regs: Derick by een van sy Bome.

kergoed winkel, ek het nie geweet waar om te kyk nie, en moes self 'n paar keer weer en weer gaan kyk. Baie vra is gevra en tussen Derick en Org het ek waardevolle inligting verkry aangaande snoei, waarvan die spesie bome hou, die moets en moenies. Nodeloos om te sê het ek baie geleer en baie foute met die ontwerp en kweek van my eie bome geleer.



Vervolg op bl 10.....

Polokwane ervaring - deur Johan Els

Org het oudergewoonte nie sy ouderdom laat deurske-
mer nie en het onverpoos gegrawe. Ek het toe naby
waar hy met sy soveelste boom besig was my eerste
Laventel boom gegrawe en toe nog sommer nog `n
paar Laventel bome daar gekry. Met my poging om `n
Sekelbos te grawe het sy my teengesit en het ek die
wonde gehad om te wys van haar verset. Na al die
bome afgedra was en ek behoorlik poot uit was is
besluit om halt te roep en paar koues is genuttig (weet
nie of hulle my jammer gekry het nie want ek was be-
hoorlik gaar). Ons is weer terug na Dawid se Bonsai
Plaas. Daar het ons by hom ook `n paar Kremetarte en
seepnetels bekom. (ek raai almal aan om ook daar te
gaan draai om dit te ervaar of sommer net `n paar
uitstekende bome aan te skaf.) ons is daar weg in die
donker en arriveer tuis na agt. Ons het geet en die
stof afgewas en toe weens moegheid gaan inkruipe.



Saterdag oggend is ons darem later (08h00) op-
pad na Magoebas Kloof om die befaamde
“Cheerios” te besoek. Daar het ek die Wolkberg
en sy koue ervaar. Ons kon nie die Azaleas,
Crabapples of Blom Kersies grawe nie weens
die Kersie skou.



Die volgende dag is ons weer vyf uur op en na koffie
saam met Oom Manie Van Der Westhuizen (ook `n
oud Pta Lid) na `n plaas naby Dendron wat hy gereel
het. Daar aangekom het ons die allermooiste Kan-
niedood bome gekry. Party met groen bas en ander `n
vaal grysbruin. Albei is oortrek met dorings, maar die
gladdestam grysbruin tipe met minder dorings. Teen
9:30 was ons klaar gegrawe en gesny met groot
“cuttings” daarby. Org was die dag weer in die slag en
die “pyracantoidies” het hom laat bloei vir ons
moeite. Ons was terug in Polokwane so teen 11:30 en
het toe begin om die sleepwa te pak. Die aand het ons
weer lekker gekuier en na Oom Derrick se staaltjies
geluister(hy het n besondere lewe sover gely en was
keintyd glad nie so ‘n soet mannetjie nie).

Vervolg op bl 11.....

Polokwane ervaring - deur Johan Els

Daarnaby het Derrick ons na 'n kwekery gevat om 'n paar jong Crabapples, Azaleas en Maples te bekom. Oppad terug het ons sommer gou 'n Akkerboom met die kar uitgegrou en gelaai. Ons het ook besluit om volgende jaar na die skou tyd, die Azaleas ens te gaan graawe. Ons sou vier grawers gewees het maar weens omstandighede was dit toe net ek en Org, waarvoor ek in nadenke bly was want daar sou nie genoeg plek vir die ander se bome gewees het nie.

Met ons terugkeer by Derrick se huis het ons nog klippe en Zelkovas en ander geheime plante gekry. Na 'n besondere lekker kuier en graawe ekspediesie is ons terug na Pta met 'n kar en groot sleepwa vol bome, met die oog op nog 'n paar besoeke terug, vir kuier, bome en natuurlik mooi klippe. Net ten laaste 'n word van dank aan Derrick wat sy huis aan ons oop gestel het, asook al sy reëlins om dit 'n onvergeetlike ervaring te maak, ons waardeur dit opreg.

Nou lê PE voor!!!

Tot 'n volgende graawe en stories daaraan verbonde.

Johan Els



If the roots on your tree looks like the above....transplanting is long overdue!

Vergadering van 1 September.

“Tip of the month” - deur Eric den Hond

KROONVORMING:

Die wyse waarop ‘n boom se kroon so effektief gevorm kon word, was nog altyd vir my effens van ‘n raaisel. Ek kon nie verstaan hoe dit kon werk deur net die heeltyd te bly snoei aan die boom nie. Die relevansie tussen die digte kroon en die feit dat jy heeltyd moet terugsnou het nie heeltemal vir my sin gemaak nie, alhoewel dit telkemale by klasse of inligtingsessies beklemtoon word.

Die volgende inligting aangaande die hormoonvlakke in die takke en stamme van die bome het dit egter vir my baie duideliker gemaak. Die feit dat die boom as te ware al hoe meer OUKSIEN vervaardig of produseer as die takke lank uitgegroeï laat word en die feit dat die hormoon SITOKINIEN, wat die vorming van die kroon aanhelp en verkygbaar is in die groeipunte van die takke, het dit vir my logies in plek laat val. Hoe meer die takke teruggesnou word hoeveel te meer sal die boom die vrystelling van die hormoon SITOKINIEN aanmoedig. Die logiese gevolg is dan dat daar al hoe meer takke gevorm sal word, blaargroei sal gestimuleer word en het die gevolg van ‘n digte kroon. Met behulp van effektiewe snoeiwerk sal die ronding van die kroon dan outomaties beïnvloed word en die estiek van die boom na persoonlike gelang gevorm kan word.



Die somer is hier! Ons bome loop uit en daar is heerlik aan bome gewerk voor die vergadering. En weereens was daar ‘n paar nuwe lede/belangstellendes!



Vervolg op bl 13.....

Vergadering van 1 September - vervolg



The theme of the meeting was “Flowering trees for bonsai”. Charles Ceronio brought along the “Swarthaak” below to show its beautiful flowers.



Above: ‘Swarthaak’
Right: Close-up of flowers.



Continue on pg 14....

Vergadering van 1 September - vervolg



Christa Vermaak gave a talk on how she grows her Azalea bonsai. She said that she is a flower girl and therefore loves flowering trees, and the Azalea is one of the best flowering trees to grow as bonsai.

Christa gets most of her Azalea from Cheerio nursery in Magoebaskloof. She also buys Azalea from Woolworths when they are in bloom and she can see the colour of the flowers. The stem take long to thicken but does so eventually. She takes the plant out of the pot or bag and shakes off nearly all soil, or use water to wash the soil off. She takes great care not to damage the sensitive roots. If there are any mycorrhizae she retains some. The plants are then planted in a acid soil mix. She has not experienced that her Azalea dies from transplanting.

She has previously used 'Malans seuns' acid mix but are lately using 'Earth to Earth' which has a finer mix. Her soil mix consists of about 40% soil and 60% drainage material.

Her experience is that the roots of Azalea easily makes a root ball and does not grow into the new soil. She doesn't cut a lot of the roots off when she transplants. Her plants are kept in a cool place, mostly on her veranda. The ideal is, if you can, keep the roots in

the shade and the leaves in the sun.

Azaleas loves feeding. Christa uses mostly Nitrosol to feed her trees. She also feeds with Neutrog and Hydrangea feed. She has read on the internet that they also do well if you feed them bone meal and blood meal. You can also tear open tea bags and put the leafs on the soil, or use tea water to water your trees. Tea is from the Camellia family which is acid loving.

Christa transplants her Azalea every two to three years. She loosens the roots slightly. She then places the plant in water to absorb enough water. She keeps her trees in the shade, often inside, for a while after transplanting. They should not be kept inside for long period at a time. She does not feed for about four weeks after transplanting. The flowers does not like sun or wind.

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Vergadering van 1 September - vervolg

Christa do make new plants from cuttings. She uses cuttings of 5 –6 cm which she put in water first and then in river sand. Some strike very easily. One must be very careful when transplanting as the roots are very brittle.

On mature trees Christa sometimes removes all the leaves. This stunts growth and keeps her trees in check and in the style they are in.



After flowering she removes all ovary except one at each flower point. When trees are very small or young she does not allow them to flower. This helps them to grow strong. Azalea flowers from middle September, so be careful when pruning not to cut off flowering buds. Azalea often grow multi stems as they are strong growers from the bottom. On trees that make multi flower points, she removes one or two at each point. They flower better if

slightly root bound. Christa prunes right after flowering and then not again until after the next flowering.

Azalea likes plenty of water and humidity but must be well ventilated.

After Christa's very informative and interesting talk on Azalea, Erika Köhler gave a talk on some flowering plants that she has found to be suitable for bonsai. Some are mentioned below.

Tree Fuchsia, Halleria Lucida: This is an indigenous evergreen tree or large shrub with glossy bright green leaves. Flowers are orange and black edible berries forms after the flowers.

Crabapple, Malus: There are numerous hybrid cultivars. The flowering crabapple should be used as bonsai. Because of the plentiful flowers that are pink to red and small apples the crabapple is popular for use as bonsai.



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Vergadering van 1 September - vervolg

Cross Berry, *Grewia Occidentalis*: Indigenous to South Africa. It is a scrambling scrub or small tree up to 3m in height. It has purple star-shaped flowers, followed by four lobed fruits. Fruits turn shiny reddish-brown to light purple when ripe. Erika says that the wood is very hard and branches should be bent before pencil thickness. They are dominate at the base. Cuts callous over well and should be cut deep enough.

Baneberry, *Actaea*: Exotic plant. Purple to red berries. Flowers and berries at the same time.

Tea bush, *Leptospermum*: Exotic. Easy to grow but difficult to transplant. Does not like root disturbance. Easy to prune back. There are lots of colours.

Honey-bell bush, *Freylinia tropica*: indigenous. White or purple flowers. Flowers all year. Doesn't like to be wired down. Very easy to grow. Also fast growing. Widely available. Makes a thick crown.

Erica: 660 species endemic to South Africa. Transplanting must be done with care and roots should not be cut a lot. Likes acid soil. Lovely for small bonsai. Lots of different colours.



Above: Erika showed this *Bauhinia Tomentosa*, Yellow *Bauhinia* and cut it back to a basic form, picture right.



Indian Hawthorn, *Raphiolepis Indica*: Easy to grow. A number of cultivars. Flowers are white or various shades of pink. Bloom profusely in late winter or spring.

Num-Num, *Carissa*: Indigenous. White flowers and edible purple fruit. Has sharp long thorns. Not always that easy as die back sometimes occurs. Cascade style very suitable.

Confetti bush or Cape May, *Coleonema album*: Indigenous. Small scrub with beautiful small white or pink flowers. Flowers covers the entire plant end last for a long time. Should be 'hedge clipped' as they are bushy. ♣



BRAT meeting of 29 September 2012

The BRAT meeting was hosted by the Rustenburg Bonsai Kai in Rustenburg. The turnout was really good, considering the distance that the other clubs had to travel. The venue was great, the coffee tee and lunch tasty and the whole days organisation was excellent. And, there were MANY trees on display as part of the top ten competition. It was really inspiring and motivating to see so many high standard and beautiful trees. O yes, there was also a lot of items on the raffle.

The theme for the day was 'AMAZING FICUS'.

After the opening and welcoming by Lennard le Roux, chairperson of Rustenburg, Dr Barry Fourie gave a talk on 3/multi trunk styling of ficus. Barry showed and discussed a multi trunk Natalensis of him.



Barry said that a multi trunk should still portray a single impression. The curvature and overall foliage should portray a single unit. Although the multi trunks are joint at the base, the whole impression should be that of a single tree.

An important principle is to repeat rhythm in the trunks and branches by repeating similar shapes. There should however be different heights between the trunks.

Barry said that if you want the trunk of a fig to fatten up, you must restrict the pot size it is in. This sounds strange but actually works. The roots can be allowed to grow through the pot into the ground. The upper trunk will get really thick.

This was what happened on the demonstration tree Barry used. The tree was in a smallish black bag for six years. The roots grew through the bag into the ground. The trunk, or trunks, really got big.

The tree is a *Ficus rubiginosa*, or Port Jackson fig. They are native to eastern Australia. In nature the leaves are as big, and bigger, as a mans hand. Barry showed the tree below as an example of what can be achieved when used as bonsai. The leaves can reduce dramatically.



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BRAT meeting of 29 September 2012

Barry said that the *Ficus rubiginosa* is a hardy tree, it can develop a very nice sturdy base. They are however frost sensitive and must be placed in a cold protected position during winter.

The tree on the previous page that Barry showed was his very first tree that he planted into a bonsai pot. The demonstration tree (below) is a cutting from this tree.



Barry said that you must use thick enough wire for bending branches. You must decide how you want to bend a branch and bend only once. The worst thing you could do was to bend in one direction and then change your mind and bend in another direction. Every time you bend the feeding channels in a branch are damaged. The more you manipulate a branch the better the chances are that the food channels are damaged. Barry also doesn't grow low branches which prevent you from seeing the trunk/s of his tree. After styling Barry planted his tree in a big pot so that top growth can grow which will be used for future styling.

Barry said that the first thing to do was to get rid of branches he knows he doesn't want. The second is to decide on the size he wants the tree to be. Barry decided to take off the very big side branch, as well as all low growing and fine branches. The roots, which couldn't be seen at this stage, will determine if the tree can be viewed as a single tree in future. Barry says that branches must point in the direction of another level. Lower branches must droop, to give the impression of age, with the top branches appearing younger. The natural growth of figs are in a type of broom style.



BRAT meeting of 29 September 2012

Next on the program was Mac Boshoff, assisted by Tricia Fourie, who talked on the Strangler style. Mac has written a book on the strangler style. The strangler style is common in nature and is when a strangler tree, normally a fig, grows on and eventually over a host tree.

Mac said that there are three phases in a strangler scenario in nature which can be copied in bonsai. The first is the Invader phase. In this phase the strangler (fig) has started to grow on the host and therefore the host tree still has a lot of foliage of its own. The ratio is about one third of the host covered with roots and two thirds with its own leaves.

The second phase is the strangler phase where the strangler is starting to take over the host. In this phase the host is covered with about two thirds roots of the strangler and one third of its own foliage. The host is starting to deteriorate and therefore there could be some jins and shari on the host.

The third phase is the Victor phase. The strangler has completely taken over the host and the host has probably died because of it. Only the skeleton of the host can be recognised with a definite contrast between the strangler and the host. Deadwood are used as host for this phase.

Tricia demonstrated with a *Ficus Tomentosa* which she placed on top of a piece of dead wood.



The dead wood that Tricia used as host.

After placing the roots of the fig on top of the deadwood, Tricia covered them with peat moss and netting. The netting is to hold the roots in place until they have attached to the deadwood. Tricia left all dead branches to show 'what was and what is now happening.'



The final creation by Tricia.

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BRAT meeting of 29 September 2012

Mac said that in the Victor phase the problem is that the host (deadwood) often rots due to the watering. You can protect, and extend the longevity of the host, by applying grip seal, deck seal, linseed oil varnish or wood glue to the host.

The composition, in any of the phases, must tell a story. Mac prepared his strangler by growing it in a piece of pipe, so the roots could be long. He grows roots up to one meter long. The longer, the more you can do with them. Roots must be long but flexible.



Mac also said that he attempts to create contrast between the host and the strangler. The strangler used (figs) were four plants which Mac used together. He said that you can place each tree (strangler) separately onto the host, each time tying the roots to the host. Or, like he did for this demonstration, use all four together simultaneously. Mac used Rose budding tape to tie the roots of the strangler to the host. The roots must be spaced onto the trunk of the host in a netting effect. The tape is placed from the top, overlapping like roof tiles, and must be tied very tight.

The roots must be tight onto the trunk of the host and eventually become 'flat'. As you move down you place the roots in a netting pattern. Mac said that the tape is left for one growing season after which he removes it to inspect the roots. You can then rearrange some of the roots if you want.



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BRAT meeting of 29 September 2012



A plastic tube made from a 2 liter cool drink bottle was then placed over the root area.

Mac requested everybody who does the strangler style, to keep record of things they do and the development of projects, in the form of photographs etc, so that everybody can learn from it in the future. He also requested photos of the strangler style that you see in nature.

Na 'n heerlike middag ete was dit die beurt van die manne van Rustenburg. Lennard, Koos en Mervin het gelyktydig die 'vy saam met rots' styl demonstreer. Lennard het vertel dat hy sy rotse met 'n produk met die naam "Rockset" vasplak op 'n basis wat hy of van dieselfde produk maak of op leiklip. Wanneer hy die basis ook van "Rockset" maak maak hy die hele struktuur, rots en basis, as 'n geheel. Die hele struktuur is dan stewig en val nie maklik om nie.

Lennard het ook gesê dat hy 'n alternatief van 'gladrap' gesoek het om die wortels van sy vy aan die rots vas te hou. Hy het met "Styrofoam" 'n rok gemaak wat om die rots pas. Hy plaas die rots plat op sand, sit nat koerant op die rots, en spuit dan die "Styrofoam" op. Die "Styrofoam" neem dan die vorm van die rots aan. Nadat die wortels van die vy aan die rots vasgemaak is met 'cable ties' plaas Lennard die rok bo-oor en gooi dan grond in. Hy hou die rok so groeiseisoen aan. Gewoonlik het die wortels geheg na een groeiseisoen.



Mervin

Vervolg op bl 22....

BRAT meeting of 29 September 2012



Bo links en regs: Lennard met sy rots en nadat die boom op die rots geplaas is.

Links onder: Lennard se 'Styrofoam' rok om die rots.

Onder: Koos



Vergadering van 6 Oktober 2012

“Tip of the month” - deur Una de Wet



Una het gesê dat dit gebeur dat haar potte somtyds breek of in die winter kraak. Omdat dit duur is om gereeld potte te koop het hy sy en haar man, Thys, 'n manier gesoek om die potte steeds te kan gebruik, al is dit net vir groei potte of tydelike potte.

Thys het op 'n produk by sy hardeware winkel afgekom met die naam Sikadur. Dit is 'n “All purpose epoxy adhesive used for concrete, brick or wood.”



Una en Thys het toe die gebreekte potte daarmee 'geplak' en siedaar, hulle kon die potte steeds gebruik. Una gebruik dit ook om 'chips' aan haar potte mee te herstel. Hulle 'plak' ook rotse op plat basisse vas om te help dat die rots nie omval nie. Una het ook gewys dat sy, wanneer daar 'n goot stuk uit die kant van 'n pot gebreek het en nie teruggeplak kan word nie, 'n klip daarin plak. Sy het ook 'n pragtige skepping gewys waar sy dele van 'n stukkende pot op 'n basis (slate) geplak het. Regtig innoverend!

Una sê sy kom verder met geld en haar pot voorrade vandat sy 'stukkende' potte steeds kan gebruik.

NS. Una sê dat Sikadur ongelukkig nie gebreekte takke kan heg sodat dit weer groei nie.



Vergadering van 6 Oktober 2012



Crouch.....touch.....pause.....engage.....



Meeting of 6 October 2012

Hannes Fritz talked about the 'Juniper'. He said that although it is not one of his favorite species for bonsai, he does have a couple in his collection.

Hannes started off by showing the tree below. It was a tree he had to style when he participated in his first new talent competition. The tree had a pencil thin stem at that stage. After the competition, which Hannes won, he planted the tree in a growing pot and just left it to grow. This is how the tree is after 5 years of growth. Hannes says that one should be careful and control the growth as top growth can take all the energy and cause bottom branches to stagnate or die. If there is vigorous and dense growth, die back of inner branches and needles can also occur.



Hannes then did basic styling on the tree, which the photo below shows.



If a branch is cut back there must always be some growth left on the branch or it will die back completely. He cut most branches back to at least one healthy shoot. Hannes says that Junipers take a lot of time and effort before they are show quality. He will now let this tree grow for another two years without doing anything to it. They like full sun all day, as well as plenty of water and fertilizer. Hannes uses Nitrosol, seagrow and earthworm tea, the latter which he makes himself. Hannes also sprays the leaves with fertilizer.

This specie is the *Juniperus chinensis*, and not particularly suited for bonsai, as branches are floppy and does not easily stay in place when wire is taken off. Hannes says that he leave wire on the branches, even if they cut in, as they are completely covered with growth later on. Junipers are also susceptible to aphids and must be regularly sprayed. Hannes prefers a systemic insecticide.

Junipers has juvenile as well as adult foliage. The juvenile foliage is spiky. Every time that foliage is cut hard they grow back as juvenile foliage. What Hannes does is to cut back hard, wait for the adult foliage and then after winter prune slightly, so that juvenile foliage does not grow back. One can nip foliage with your fingers to avoid brown tips of the foliage when they are cut with scissors.

Leaves are actually small branches. With regular nipping of foliage one can achieve dense foliage pads after some time. When nipping regularly juvenile foliage does not grow back and you will always have adult foliage.

The *Juniperus sargentii* is a better and preferred species for bonsai. The foliage grow much slower but make much nicer and dense pads. They are however hard to find.

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Meeting of 6 October 2012



Hannes showed the tree above as a next step in the process of growing Junipers. This tree has mostly adult foliage and very few juvenile foliage. He will prune only lightly to avoid juvenile foliage to grow again. The photo below is a further step where styling are now done more seriously. The structure is achieved and work on the foliage pads are now done.



The well known *Juniperus Procumbens nana* is also very popular and suitable for bonsai, and is easily available at most nurseries. One must plug the inner growth regularly, to clean the inside, as inner growth always grow back vigorously. Hannes plugs growth every two months, even once a month.

All Junipers need wiring and branches are easy to bend and very flexible. Use thick enough wire, at least one third the thickness of the branch to be bend. Wire bite into branches quickly.

Hannes uses a soil mixture of 50/50 grid and organic material. He also mixes some blood meal and bone meal into the soil mix. He says that they can be transplanted any time of the year but he transplants mostly in August. He transplants young trees every two years and older trees every four to five years and removes about two thirds of the roots.

Thanks to Hannes for a very informative and enjoyable afternoon. ♣



SABA mini konvensie in Bloemfontein - deur Esther van Aarde.

Die naweek van 21—23 September het 'n paar van ons die voorreg gehad om die SABA mini konvensie in Bloemfontein by te woon. Die bonsai vereniging daar het 'n groot sukses van die geleentheid gemaak. Ons groepie, naamlik Org Exley, Hannes Fritz en sy vrou Thelmarie, Christa Vermaak, Erika en Fred Köhler en myself, het soos familie gevoel daar in die Vrystaat.

Die Pretoria Bonsai Kai het ook aktief deelgeneem aan die verrigtinge. Org en Hannes het elk 'n praatjie en demonstrasie gelewer en ons baie trots gemaak met hul formidabele talente. Die “new talent” kompetisie is ook deur Org behartig en Erika was een van die beoordelaars. Sondag is die naweek afgesluit met 'n ‘dig’ op 'n plaas net buite die stad. Dit was voorwaar 'n heerlike en leersame naweek. ♣



Ter nagedagtenis aan Ben Kruger.

Op 16 September is ons vriend Ben van ons weggeneem deur die dood. Ons gaan sy vriendskap, kennis en teenwoordigheid by die bonsai gemeenskap baie mis. Ben was vir ongeveer 16 jaar lid van die Pretoria Bonsai Kai en het ook op die bestuur gedien. Ben se vrou, Daliena, het die volgende oor Ben getuig:

Ben los ons inderdaad met baie. Dinge wat geld nie kan koop nie en ook nie kan opraak nie. Ons eer hom vandag daarvoor.

“Hou jou lewe skoon, loop ’n reguit pad en dien die Here.” Dit was nie noodwendig gesê nie, maar wel uitgeleef. Inderdaad het ons ’n voordeel omdat ons hom geken het.

Sy hande het vir niks verkeerd gestaan nie. Hy het ons geleer om ’n spyker in te kap, ’n saag vas te hou en het ’n boormasjien baie goed verstaan. Om skot-telgoed te was was nooit vir hom moeite nie. Min mense kan ’n kar skoonmaak en ook skoon hou soos hy. Ben was verseker ’n Goddelike rentmeester van al sy besittings, seker daar dat hy ook as rekenmeester vir baie jare gedien het.

Hy het God gedien met eerbied en respek, die bybel was sy lewenshandboek. Dit was sy leefwyse en inspirasie en hy het as diener geleef, altyd bereid om sy medemens te help met liefde.

Hy was nie net vir sy eie kinders en kleinkinders ’n pa en oupa nie, maar ook vir baie ander. Sy invloed is oneindig. Sy vrou het hy baie lief gehad en sy kinders geleer om dieselfde te doen. Hy het ons ’n liefde geleer vir die land en al sy mooi plekke. Hy was baie lief vir die see en kon ure daarin swem (een keer amper verdrink).

Selfs sy be-oefening van sy stokperdjie was ’n inspirasie vir baie. Tot sy einde was sy “as jy ’n ding wil doen, doen dit reg,” duidelik sigbaar. Selfs sy voorbereiding op die operasie was vir ons ’n voorbeeld. Alles 100% gereël, sou hy dalk nie terug kom.

Een ding het ons geleer in die hospital. Of die Here jou, soos Hiskia, vyftien jaar bygee of een dag, dit bly ’n wonderwerk!

Dankie vir jou nalatenskap, Ben Kruger, en ons dank en eer die Here vir die tyd wat jy by ons was!

A BLESSED LIFE

“To have a family that loves you and friends that will take a bullet for you.” - Bill Johnson.



Bonsai Kalender – Deur Francois van As

Wat doen ons in November?

Die terugsnoui van bome is nou aan die orde van die dag.

Vervolgens word die hantering van 'n aantal inheemse sowel as uitheemse plantspesies beskryf.

By die Witstinkhout veroorsaak die voortdurende terugpluk van groeipunte die bevordering van verfyningsgroei en blare verklein ook aansienlik.

Moet nie Akasias toelaat om lang lote te groei nie, pluk nuwe groei vroegtydig terug. Indien lote lank groei raak die afstande tussen die blare onooglik groot.

Vye met groot blare kan van nou tot en met Januarie ontblaar word. Dit word gedoen deur die blaarstam in die helfte te knip. Hierdie tegniek veroorsaak 'n tweede lentegroei maar met die uitkoms van die ontwikkeling van kleiner blare.

Moet nie 'n snoeiskêr gebruik om Konivere se nuwe groei te knip nie, dit sal veroorsaak dat takkies op die punte vrek en lelik vertoon. Gebruik die vingerpunte om nuwe groei te pluk.

Asaleas en ander blomdraende plante, wat klaar geblom het, moes nou al uitgeplant gewees het. Hierdie boompies moet nou ook vir die volgende paar maande voortdurend teruggesnoei word deur tussen die blare te knip.

Probeer om in beheer van die snoei van jou Esdorings (Maples) te bly, aangesien die verwaarlosing daarvan die vertakking van takke in die wiele sal ry. Wanneer twee nuwe blare verskyn moet die gepunte ongeopende blaar (oksil) tussen die twee afgekny word. Dit sal die boompie mooi dig en in vorm hou.

Enige nuwe uitspruitsels op denneboompies moet verwyder word, behalwe die twee aan die kante van die groeipunt. Sodra die groeipunte tot kerse ontwikkel kan dit tot die helfte teruggekny word. Hierdie proses verhoed dat die internodes tussen takkies te lank raak.

Wat doen ons in Desember?

Desember is die warmste tyd van die jaar wat beteken dat die grond in ons Bonsaipotte vinnig uitdroog. Om die vogbalans in die sisteem in stand te hou moet daar konstant genoeg vog in die grond teenwoordig wees. Watertoediening is dus uiters belangrik en wanneer dit baie droog is moet tweemaal per dag water gegee word, die beste tye is vroeg in die môre en laat in die aand.



Alle Bonsai moet gedurende die groeiseisoen gevoed word. Bome wat nie voldoende voeding kry nie, is ellendig en geneig om terug te sterf. Daar word van 'n boom, wat vasgevang is in 'n beperkte ruimte, verwag om sy welstand te handhaaf, veral wanneer dit voortdurend aan snoei- en styleringsaktiwiteit blootgestel word. Voeding speel dus 'n baie belangrike rol in die lewenskragtigheid van elke Bonsai. Gevestigde Bonsai kan egter minder gevoed word as ontwikkelende bome.

Bome wat kwaai teruggesnoei word moet vir 'n geruime tyd in die skadu geplaas word om dit teen die son te beskerm.

Warm, vogtige toestande bevorder peste, hou dus dop en behandel vroegtydig. ♣

Snippets

Our Environment.

When an appliance is plugged into a socket, even if you are not using the appliance - whether it's the kettle, cell phone, TV, radio - the item is still drawing power that you are paying for! Unplug your appliances when you are not using them and save yourself some money and contribute so saving the environment.



Inspiration from nature

Diet von Broembsen took this photo of a beautiful landscape in Naukluft Namibia.

Generally we strive to create bonsai that looks old and full of character. In this landscape the focal point is two young trees, or maybe a twin trunk tree. If a young tree can be so beautiful in nature, surely we can copy that in bonsai?

