



Vyfde uitgawe -
2009

Koeda

Pretoria Bonsai Kai

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

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Van die Redakteur.

Beste Bonsai Vriende,

Soos met meeste mense gaan dit hierdie tyd van die jaar op 'n vinnige galop om als klaar te kry wat moet klaar en als afgesluit te kry wat afgesluit moet word. Soms wonder ek waarom ons als moet afsluit om maar net weer vroeg volgende van nuut te begin. Seker ook maar goed so, om amptelik af te sluit en met liggaam en gees te kan ontspan.

Een ding wat ons egter nie kan afsluit nie is die versorging van ons bome. Veral in hierdie tyd van warm somer sonskyn weer moet ons baie patent wees op die toediening van water. Sommige mense het outomatiese besproeiing en baie ander gee met die hand water. Vir elke manier is daar seker voor en nadele.

O ja, terug by die besige tyd van die jaar. Ek wou graag hierdie uitgawe van Koeda uitkry maar kon net nie my draaie kry om 'n lid te besoek vir 'n lede profiel nie. Daarom het ek maar besluit om hom sonder 'n lede profiel uit te stuur. Ek hoop om met die volgende uitgawe weer 'n lede profiel in te sluit. Ek doen eintlik net verslag oor die vergaderings wat plaasgevind het en hierdie uitgawe is bietjie lig in leersame artikels.

Ek kon tot my groot spyt nie die konvensie bywoon nie en het ook versuim om iemand te vra om 'n verslag te doen vir Koeda. Soos wat ek verstaan was dit 'n baie suksesvolle en leersame konvensie en almal wat dit bygewoon het het dit baie geniet. Indien iemand steeds bereid sal wees om 'n verslag te skryf sal ek baie bly wees en dit met graagte plaas.

Iets wat ek gelukkig was om by die laaste twee geleenthede te kon bywoon was die BRAT byeenkomste. By albei geleenthede was daar egter baie min van ons lede teenwoordig en ek het gewonder waarom dit so is.

Stuur asb steeds artikels of ander nuus wat ek kan plaas.

Bonsai Groete

Jaco.



Hierdie was een van die bome wat by die konvensie uitstalling was.

Good bonsai requires three essential elements: patience, skill and vision.

Meeting of 5 September.

Erika Köhler and Org Exley discussed the use of Maples in bonsai. Both the Japanese Maple (*Acer Palmatum*) as well as the Chinese Maple (*Acer Buergerianum*) are excellent for bonsai.

The Japanese maple is often called the lace leaf maple, due to its delicate five fingered leaf. There is a wide variety of Japanese maple, not all are equally suitable for bonsai. There are some with very small delicate leaves. Some with very light green leaves. Some with Red leaves which stay red during summer. Some with yellowish leaves. Some with green leaves and red stems. Japanese maple can have spectacular autumn colours.

The Chinese maple has a three finger leaf. It is a very fast grower and very suitable for bonsai.

Maples should ideally be kept in semi shade, as the delicate leafs can easily burn in hot sun shine weather. Morning sun with afternoon shade is ideal. Maples are sensitive to frost and should be protected during winter. During the growing season they should be fed with a high nitrogen fertiliser after leafs have emerged. Young trees should be repotted every two years and older trees as and when they become root bound.

During the growing season the growing tips must continually be nipped out, or the tree will grow long stems with long internodes. Erika said that on some of her Maples she has to nip out the growing tips twice a day, they grow so fast. If you want the tree to grow large you should not prune or cut back. Plant in growing beds and let them grow. You can do basic work to achieve an initial style.



Maples are apical dominant and the apex should be carefully controlled and regularly cut back. Defoliation can be done on healthy trees. This should not be done in the same year that transplanting was done. When drastic pruning is done in the wrong time of the year, the tree can bleed to death.

The roots of the tree should first be cut back before branch pruning is done. This limits bleeding of the branches. This should be done just before leafs emerge. Wiring should be done during winter. Branches are very brittle and wiring must be done with care. Branches fuse easily and a couple of cuttings can be tied together and will fuse to make one thick branch.

Maples can be propagated from seed, air layering and cuttings. Hard wood cuttings can be taken during winter and soft wood cuttings during summer. They can be grown in a variety of styles. Maples require lots of water. They only flower when fairly old. ♣



Lede se belangstelling by vergaderings.



The purpose of a bonsai kai is to exchange knowledge.



Indigenous Southern African trees suitable for Bonsai: *Buddleja Saligna*.

Common names: False Olive (English), Witolien (Afrikaans).

The False Olive is a tree up to 10m in warm moist areas but usually 4 to 5m in Highveld areas. Older stems and trunks are creamy or grey to dark brown and fluted with the bark peeling in longitudinal strips. The leaves are long and narrow, the upper surface is hairless and dark green, the underside is whitish. The flowers are tiny, creamy white and borne in dense sprays usually at the ends of branches.

The false olive is widespread from the Western Cape through to Zimbabwe. The habitats are very varied. It is found growing on dry hillsides, in mixed scrub, wooded valleys, forest margins, along streams and in coastal bush. The tree is fast growing and makes an excellent, quick screen plant or clipped hedge. It is evergreen, frost hardy and drought resistant. *Buddleja Saligna* is easily grown from seed or cuttings.

Rudi Adams says the following about the False Olive as bonsai:

Trunks grow in an upright manner, either single or twin. A trunk will not increase in girth to any great degree when planted in a container, and should be grown in a planting bed until the desired girth is achieved.

All styles are attainable using this material, although the more upright styles are preferred. They require a great amount of light and sun although the younger tree may be able to tolerate semi-shade conditions.

Primary branches grow in an upright position. Secondary branches grow in a more horizontal plane, forming a tall and slender tree.



Leaves reduces dramatically with the correct care. No autumn coloration is observed.

Growing medium. Several types of soil may be used although the usual mix is:

2 parts compost
2 parts loam
3 parts stone or sand (with additives)

Good drainage is essential.

Fertilizer.

Seagrow, 3:2:1 and 2:3:2 are among the most common fertilizer used. Occasionally, diluted blood or blood meal may be applied and will benefit those trees with less intense leaf coloration.

This species has a long growing period and requires frequent trimming or pruning which should be carried out whenever necessary. Retaining some of the long growing shoots may promote the thickening of specific branches.



Wiring primary and secondary branches is essential for proper placement. Thereafter, the clip and grow method is adequate.

Red spider mite may be a problem in confined, semi-shade, dry areas. Aphids are usually attracted to young shoots, as are caterpillars and a variety of beetles. All may be treated with appropriate insecticide. ♣

Bonsai success is when healthy bonsai improves each year.

Snippets.



“Amazing how they grow it in that little shallow pot”.

Bonsai is often defined as an art of illusion, where images are created that suggest immensity in spite of their tiny forms. - Hare-Yama Ryu

The following is an extract from an article that appeared in “The Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Trade” Vol.25 No. 290, **August 1870**.

“Dwarf Trees” from The Horticulturist.

A foreign correspondent of the Boston Traveler relates with how much curiosity he witnessed some remarkably successful specimens of dwarf trees in Japan.

I have seen in the gardens, more especially those about Owari, a maple, a pine, a peach and a camphor tree, all grew from a box not a foot square, and not one were over two feet high. The trunks looked like old trees, and the limbs were gnarled and rugged as the mountain tree of the same kind. The owner told me that these trees would grow no larger for fifty years. In one garden there was a complete fruit orchard in a box four feet long and two feet wide. Pears, peaches, plums, apples, oranges, lemons, olives, bananas and cherries, represented by perfect trees, the tallest of which was not over three feet. Whether these ever bear fruit I failed to ascertain; neither could I learn the process by which the tree is kept so small. But I am satisfied that it is done by killing a large tree and keeping a sprig, which starts from the old root for the dwarf. The climate and soil favors this torturing process, for a root will not die as long as it remains undisturbed in some localities..... ♣

Vergadering van 3 Oktober.

Louis Nel en Otto Koekemoer het met ons gepraat oor Naaldbome en meer spesifiek die “Juniper”. Otto het begin om vir ons ’n aanbieding op die skerm te wys oor allerhande interessantheide, en ook fotos uit die natuur, van Naaldbome. Daarna het Louis en Otto elk aan ’n Juniper gewerk terwyl veral Louis ons een en ander van Junipers en hulle versorging as bonsai vertel het. Louis het ook ’n paar van sy pragtige Junipers as voorbeelde gewys.

Louis het gesê dat ons westerlinge gewoonlik ons Junipers te netjies wil hê. Die dele van Junipers wat ons in die natuur beindruk is gewoonlik die dooie hout, en daarom word die blare skaarser gehou as ander bome. Die boom raak baie gou te “swaar”, het Louis gesê, en hy bedoel daarmee die optiese gewig. Wanneer jy met Junipers werk het jy baie werk om hom ‘lig’ te hou. Een van die lekkerste spesies om mee te werk is die *Juniperus procumbens nana*.

Louis het gesê dat as jy ’n Juniper se tak wil buig moet jy seker maak hoe jy hom wil buig en dit dan net een keer doen. As jy terug buig en weer in ’n ander posisie buig kan die tak vrek. Daar moet altyd groei punte aan die blare gelos word, moet nooit al die puntjies afsny nie. Daar is auxin in die groei punte van die blare wat die boodskap aan die wortels oordra om kos te vervaardig. Jy moet verkieslik die groei punte met die fingers uitknip. Jy kan dit snoei maar dit raak dan bruin.

Junipers hou van vol son, voeding en water. Hulle word ± elke 3 jaar oorge-



plant en kan met min grond klaarkom. Hulle hou van ’n growwe grondmengsel.

Jy kan die wortels redelik straf terug snoei met oorplant. Moet egter nie oorplant dieselfde jaar as wat jy aan die boom gestyl en takke gebuig het nie. Louis sê dat hy al die grond van die wortels afskud met oorplant. Hy meng egter ’n bietjie van die ou grond met die nuwe grond. Die beste tyd vir oorplant is einde September. Dit kan egter ook in Januarie gedoen word. Junipers groei maklik van steggies. Die takke en stam leen hulle daartoe om baie te kan buig. Die “spider mite” kan ’n probleem wees en moet beheer word. Louis sê dat hy sy Junipers elke twee weke voeding gee gedurende die groei seisoen. Hy gebruik vloeibare voeding asook korrels.



BRAT meeting of 30 October.

The BRAT meeting was held in Alberton and hosted by Southern Bonsai Kai. It was really an enjoyable day of learning and spending time with fellow bonsai enthusiasts. The top ten competition was also held on the day. Org Exley won the silver with his Olive. There were very few of the Pretoria kai members, probably due to the fact that the Currie cup final was played in Pretoria.

After a start with a very nice brunch the morning session entailed that clubs had to style a tree to represent their club logo. Org Exley demonstrated our logo and the final styled tree really looked a lot like our logo. I hope we can show this tree after a year or two to see its development. It was really interesting to hear the history of all the clubs logos and how they were decided on and how old they are, and it was most enjoyable to see all the styling by the different clubs. A total of twelve clubs talked and demonstrated their logos. What gave me (and I'm sure some other people as well) goose bumps, was when Koos Robertson styled the Rustenburg bonsai kai logo. Koos is blind and it was just amazing to see him feeling his way through the tree, cutting it and in the end coming up with a tree that really represented the logo excellently well. Compare the logo on his shirt with the tree he styled. Koos is really an inspiration for all of us.

In the second session a representative from Neutrog talked to us about the different fertilizing products that Neutrog has on the market. It was inspiring to hear about all the benefits of the different products and quite a few people informed us that they use the products very successfully with bonsai. Every person present received a sample of each of the products.

After breaking for some sandwiches a talk was given by Dereck Veldhuizen on the use of the Soap Nettle as bonsai. This was also very informative and I'm sure a lot of people are going to start with a Soap nettle or two.



This "Kanniedood" received bronze in the top ten competition



This Maple received Gold in the top ten competition



This Wild Olive by Org received silver in the top ten competition



BRAT meeting of 30 October continue.



Koos Robbertson styling his tree, and the end product.

Don't be surprised if bonsai becomes an obsession. If you get three bonsai and can keep them alive, your hooked! - Jerry Oseland



Org Exley with his tree representing the Pretoria bonsai kai.



Above: Ryno van der Spuy showing his attempt at Southern Bonsai Society's logo trees.



Left: The logo tree by East Rand Bonsai Kai.

Right: Dereck discussing the Soap Nettle as bonsai material.

