



Tweede uitgawe  
2017

# Koeda

## Pretoria Bonsai Kai

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

## Van die redakteur.

### Beste bonsai vriende

Ek gaan nie dikwels na film-teaters nie maar geniet dit wel nou en dan om 'n goeie flied saam met my vrou te gaan kyk. Ek gaan kyk meestal na kunselfilms.

Maar wat maak dat 'n flied 'n goeie flied is? Wie besluit dit?

So 'n tydjie gelede het ons na 'n flied gaan kyk wat my glad nie beïndruk het nie. Die toneelspel was vir my maar gewoon. Die storielyn nie juis boeiend nie. En toe, tot my verbasing en ontsteltenis, hoor ek dat die flied 'n hele paar Oscar toekennings gekry het.

Is dit 'n teken van my onkunde met toneelspel, of goeie storielyne, of wat 'n goeie flied is? Of was dit net nie my smaak nie.

En wat maak 'n goeie bonsai? Ons hoor altyd dat 'n bonsai balans moet hê, en die regte dimensies, en hy moet natuurlik lyk, met

mooi ramifikasie, n fokuspunt en en en....

Ek het al bome gesien wat aan al die vereistes voldoen en dan is hulle nie vir my so mooi soos ander wat dit nie het nie. Is dit 'n teken van my onkunde in bonsai, of net my smaak?

Bonsai groete

Jaco



**“The two most important elements that a bonsai must possess to reach the level of art are emotion and feeling.”**

**- Michele Andolfo**

## Briewebus / Vra is Vry

Hi Jaco

Dankie vir die Koeda Nuusbrief, ons geniet dit werklik baie.

Wil jy nie net noem dat die foto met die demonstreerder by wat Pieter gebruik het in sy bespreking oor hangende tak van **Juan Llaga**, is ook ons demonstreerder by ons Konvensie in November die jaar?



Dankie

Groete  
**Robbie de Witt**  
 PE



Red: Die konvensie waarvan Robbie praat is natuurlik die SABA konvensie wat op 17 tot 19 November deur 'EP Bonsai Society' aangebied word. Dit belooft om baie goed en leersaam te wees, so probeer gaan. Daar is reeds 'n "e-mail" uitgestuur met die inskrywingsvorm, program ens. As jy dit weer wil hê, vra maar.



2017 SOUTH AFRICAN BONSAI ASSOCIATION CONVENTION

17- 19 November 2017

Main Liner- Juan Llaga



## Bekende Kremetart val om

Artikel geneem uit Maroela -14 April 2017

Die bekende Kremetart in Modjadjiskloof (Duiwelskloof) in Limpopo het omgeval.

Die boom, wat bekend gestaan het as die grootste Kremetart in die wêreld het Donderdagoggend omstreeks 04:00 omgeval, het Doug en Heather van Heerden van Big Baobab bevestig.

“Ons sou nooit kon dink dat hierdie groot reus, wat al hierdie jare lank so stewig bly staan het, so tragies kon breek nie.”

Niemand is tydens die voorval beseer nie.

Deur middel van koolstofdatering is daar in een studie bepaal dat die boom nagenoeg 1060 jaar oud is. Ander studies het egter voorgestel dat die boom selfs ouer kan wees.

Sunland Baobab se omtrek was 46,8 meter en dit het selfs ’n kroeg aan die binnekant gehad. Toeriste van oor die wêreld heen het die boom kom besoek. ♣



Red: In die vierde uitgawe 2013 van die Koeda het Francois van As ’n artikel geskryf oor dieselfde boom. Daarin beweer hy dat koolstofdatering gewys het dat die boom 6000 jaar oud is. Die foto bo regs het Francois in Januarie 2013 geneem, toe die boom nog gestaan het.

## Algemene jaarvergadering 2017 – Voorsittersverslag

Nog 'n jaar het verby gevlieg. Weereens het die Kai 'n goeie jaar gehad. Die ledegetalle het konstant gebly en die bywoning van die vergaderings was baie goed. Dan is daar by al die vergaderings nuwe gesigte.

Ons het weereens 'n skou aangebied by Safari kwekery wat suksesvol was. Hier wil ek Jaques van Safari bedank dat hy hulle fasiliteite tot ons beskikking stel om ons bome te kan uitstal. Dit word waardeer. Dankie ook aan die lede wat gehelp het met die opstel van die lokaal en daarna die oppak van alles. Dankie ook aan die lede wat bome gebring het om uit te stal. Ek wil die ander lede aanmoedig om ook bome te bring.



Baie dankie aan die lede wat die BRAT-dae bywoon. Dit is altyd interessant en leersaam. Ek wil die lede wat nog nie 'n BRAT-dag bygewoon het nie aanmoedig om dit te doen as hulle kan.

Soos julle weet het ons besluit om ons eie winkel te begin wat potte, draad, gereedskap en ander goed gaan verkoop. Dankie aan Francois en Duvan wat dit vir ons gaan beheer. Laat weet hulle wat julle gaan nodig kry.

Dan het ons Kai weereens een van ons groot lede verloor. Met die afsterwe van Charles het daar 'n groot leemte in die Kai ontstaan en ons sal moet hard werk om dit te vul. Dan wil ek ook net vir Elsie dankie sê vir dit wat sy aan die Kai geskenk het, dit word waardeer.

Dan is daar ander lede wat ook geliefdes aan die dood afgestaan het, ons dink aan hulle.

Dan wil ek die volgende lede wat baie doen, bedank vir hulle werk.

Jaco vir die Koeda.

Duvan vir die webtuiste.

Christa vir alles wat sy doen.

Erika vir die biblioteek wat sy hanteer.

Daan wat soveel moeite doen met die finansies.

Vir Martin wat ons gebruik as ons dokumente moet opstel.

Pieter wat die lede help met hulle bome voor die vergaderings.

Aan al die ander lede wat altyd bereid is om te help wanneer nodig.

Die komitee vir hulle harde werk agter die skerms.

Die lede wat praatjies en demonstrasies doen, dankie, dit is altyd van hoogstaande gehalte.

Laaste maar nie die minste nie, dankie vir die lekker gees wat in die Kai heers, dit is altyd lekker om die vergaderings by te woon.

Dankie

**Org**

## Vergadering van 4 Maart 2017

### “Tip of the month” - deur Francois van As



**Life giving dust** (Article written by Irmela Reichardt, South African Gardening, April 2001, p66)

*Did you know that all plants receive their nourishment from rock dust?*

All plants receive their nourishment from billions of tons of dust, ground up and spread by whirling storms. For millions of years rocks have been eroded by wind, water and glacier ice, producing a fine dust. Wind and water carry this dust away and deposit it elsewhere. Rivers wash away this dust in the form of silt, and when they flood their banks, the dust remains behind. It is in this manner that, for millions of years, nature has fertilised the land.

Nature's slow process is fast-forwarded when man establishes quarries for industrial purposes. The by-product of fine dust produced in granite and basalt quarries is the 'River silt of modern man'. However, not all rock dust is the same. Depending on the parent rock, the content of lime, phosphorus and magnesium varies. What they all have in common is the richness of trace elements.

Rock dust, or rock phosphate, is not an instant, but slow acting fertiliser. Only after micro-organisms of a living soil have broken up the macro-nutrients content in the dust, will the nutrients contained be released and available to the plant roots. The finer the rock dust particles are ground, the sooner the nutrients will be released. This natural fertiliser improves the soil's capacity to store water and enriches the overall soil condition for the life in the soil. A pH-balanced soil, both in acid and alkaline soils, is the result.

#### **How to use rock dust**

Your best option is to incorporate rock dust into your compost heap: dust the various layers of compost with a handful of coarse rock dust, preferably from basalt rock. The decomposition process will be accelerated.

#### **Advantages of rock dust**

It is said that South African soils lack calcium-magnesium-carbonite.

For this reason, lime (a type of rock dust) containing these elements is needed. However, the use of rock dust from granite or basalt further intensifies the microbial activity in the soil, which results in a naturally rich, friable and pH balanced soil.

Rock dust can improve sandy soils – use a coarse, granulate basalt dust.

For heavy clay soil, use dust from granite rock. This will improve the soil structure over time and help the soil to become more friable.

Rock dust in your soil or compost will increase your plants' resistance to pests and fungal attacks.

#### **Where to find rock dust**

Your local nursery

A quarry near you

## Vergadering van 4 Maart 2017

### Bonsai 'NUT'!

Elke jaar, by die algemene jaarvergadering, word daar 'n Bonsai 'Nut' vir die jaar wat verloop het, aangewys. Die 'trofee' gaan aan die persoon wat die meeste entoesiasme in die Kai en in bonsai in die algemeen gewys het. Hierdie jaar het die komitee besluit om die 'trofee' aan Org Exley te gee.

Org is 'n man wat onbaatsugtige tyd aan die Kai asook aan BRAT en selfs ander kai's afstaan sonder enige vergoeding, en dikwels sonder enige dank. Org is nou al sedert 2010 die voorsitter van ons Kai en vyf jaar voorsitter van BRAT. En ons weet dat altwee organisasies glad hardloop. En ons praat nie eers van Org se pragbome en sy baie demonstrasies nie.

Baie geluk Org en baie dankie vir jou entoesiasme en alles wat jy doen vir bonsai in die algemeen en veral vir jou toegewydheid in die Kai! Soos die Ingelsman sê, "this is well overdue". ♣



Org ontvang sy 'trofee' van Francois van As.



Daan het vir ons, soos elke jaar, 'n baie volledige en duidelike verslag gegee oor die Kai se finansies. In kort is die finansie nog gesond. Ons het wel 'n klein bietjie begin delf in die reserwes en daarom is die ledegelde aan die begin van die jaar 'n klein bietjie verhoog. Indien iemand meer oor die finansies wil weet of die state nagana, is jy welkom om Daan of Org te kontak.

Regs bo: Oom Edwin het sy Buddleja wat hy by die vorige vergadering gewys het, weer kom wys. Die boom is nou in 'n bonsai bak. Regs onder: Jaco se Ficus Burtt-davyi wat in Feb 2008 van 'n stiggie begin is.



## Vergadering van 4 Maart 2017





## Vergadering van 4 Maart 2017

Die aanbieder van die vergadering sou Johan Els wees, maar Johan het 'n besering met "action cricket" opgedoen en daarom het Duvan op baie kort kennisgewing vir Johan ingestaan. Die tema van die vergadering was die wonderboom styl vir bonsai.



# Pretoria Bonsai Kai Wonderboom Styl

Deur

Duvan Horn



Wyle oom Ben Kruger se Wonderboom styl bonsai.

## Die Wonderboom (Miracle tree/Marvel tree/Tree of Wonder)

### Agtergrond:

Die naam kom van die ikoniese boom in die Wonderboom natuurresewaat aan die voet van die Magaliesberg aan die noordekant.

Hierdie boom is ontdek deur die Voortrekkers, gelei deur Hendrik Potgieter in 1836, wat ook die naam aan die boom gegee het.

Op sy grootste het dit skadu vir tot 'n 1000 mense gegee.

## Vergadering van 4 Maart 2017

Die boom is 'n *Ficus salicifolia* en is glo meer as 'n 1000 jaar oud. Dit is tans baie kleiner as wat dit oorspronklik was. Die boom het verklein in 1870 toe 'n groep jagters 'n vuur onder die boom gemaak het. Die boom was ook die laaste 20 jaar onder kwarantyn nadat dit deur parasiete aangeval is wat ook die groei belemmer het.

Die moederboom het 'n deursnee van 5,5 meter en is 25 meter hoog. In totaal is daar 13 stamme wat die boom vorm.

Daar is tans 3 generasies van dogterstamme. Die boom beslaan 'n area van 1,5 hektaar met 'n deursnee van 50 meter.

Die boom is 'n Nasionale Monument.

Onder is 'n paar huidige en ou fotos van die bekende Wonderboom:



## Vergadering van 4 Maart 2017

Regs: Oorlede Charles saam met Jerry Meislik se vrou in 2011 by die bekende boom.

Onder: Charles is die persoon wat die Wonderboom styl in bonsai bekendgestel het. Lees sy boek "Bonsai Styles of the World" vir meer inligting.



## Die wonderboom styl in Bonsai

Die styl se oorsprong kom dus van hierdie bekende boom. Die elumboog of wonderboom styl word gevorm deur die boom se takke wat lank uitgroei en dan afwaarts groei as gevolg van ouderdom en swaartekrag. Daar waar die takke die grond raak, vorm daar wortels en 'n nuwe boom vorm wat weer boontoe groei. Die nuwe boom vorm ook weer takke en die proses herhaal homself.

In bonsai gebruik ons die *Juniperus Procumbens nana* die meeste om hierdie styl uit te beeld maar ek is seker daar is ook ander spesies wat gebruik kan word. Enige voorstelle?



Bo: Dušan, met die hulp van lede, het die moontlikheid van twee bome bespreek vir die Wonderboom styl. Een 'n *Procumbens nana* en die ander 'n *Ficus Natalensis*.

## Hannes oefen vir Japan

Ons is almal bewus daarvan dat Hannes Fritz van Suikerbos (en Pretoria Kai) gekies is om Afrika te verteenwoordig by die 8ste Wêreld-bonsaikongres in Japan in April.

Daar was 'n televisiegroep uit Japan in Suid Afrika om van Hannes (en andere) opnames te maak vir die kongres. Hulle was op Saterdag 25 Maart by Hannes se huis net buite Heidelberg om opnames te maak terwyl Hannes aan bome gewerk het, om so bietjie voor 'n lewendige gehoor te 'oefen'. Hannes het aan die klubs van Gauteng 'n uitnodiging gerig dat 'n paar lede van elke klub (Kai) ook kan bywoon en 'n paar mooi bome neem vir 'n mini uitstalling .

Hannes het aan 'n 'Juniper' gewerk wat al baie oud is en wat aan Jonathan Cain behoort. Onder is fotos van die boom voor en na stylering.

Dit was 'n baie aangename dag en ons wens Hannes BAIE sterkte toe vir Japan en glo hy sal Suid Afrika se vlag hoog waai !!!



During the day every club in Gauteng that attended (and I think all where there) gave a short talk on their Kai. History, membership, what is done at meetings etc. It was interesting to hear about each club.

Because Hannes really represents ABA (African Bonsai Association), the current president of ABA, Jonathan Cain, gave a talk on the history of ABA, which is on the next page.



Jonathan Cain, President of ABA

## Origin of African Bonsai Association (ABA)

In the mid 1980's John Naka from the USA approached Derry Ralph to form the African Region under the World Bonsai Friendship Federation (WBFF). The WBFF's goal is to promote and actively exchange, Bonsai creativity, technology and information and the promoting of international friendship and goodwill.

In April 1987 the first steering committee from various countries around the world, convened in Osaka Japan to consider the establishment of a "World Bonsai Friendship Federation".

On 6 April, 1989, the inaugural meeting of the WBFF was held in Omiya Japan. 32 Countries participated. A draft Constitution was presented under an umbrella organisation known as African Bonsai Association and was accepted and Africa included as a WBFF founding member. Back home, the Draft Constitution Membership did not suit the organisational structure of Africa.

On July 4 1990, the WBFF AGM met in Honolulu, Hawaii, to discuss the WBFF's organisational Structure by encouraging Latin America and Africa to organise bonsai federations.

In 1991 the African Bonsai Association Constitution was redrafted to include only clubs. This was done because there were no other known countries in Africa doing bonsai, except for Zimbabwe.

In 1992 Pieter Visagie became the first President of ABA. South African Bonsai Association (SABA) and ABA functioned as the same administrative body.

An ABA convention was held in Durban by Durban Bonsai Society.

It was decided that every year a national Convention under the auspices of ABA/SABA was to be held, alternating between the coastal towns and the inland towns. Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) was also an active member.

IN 1993 Pieter Visagie attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Bonsai Friendship Federation AGM and the World Bonsai Convention in Orlando USA.

The annual convention was held in Johannesburg hosted by Eastern Bonsai Society. In 1994 the convention was held in Pretoria hosted by Pretoria Bonsai Kai.

In 1995 Pieter Visagie attended the World Bonsai Friendship Federation AGM in Sydney Australia.

An ABA Convention was run in November 1995 in Lady Brand.

Pieter Visagie then stepped down, due to ill health.

In 1996 Tommy Flaxman took over as 2<sup>nd</sup> President of ABA.

Pieter Visagie passed away on 17th January 1996.

Bloemfontein held the next Convention in 1996.

In 1997 the annual convention was held in Cape Town.

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## Origin of African Bonsai Association (ABA)

During 1997, Tommy Flaxman attended the Bonsai Clubs International (BCI) Convention in Canada and secured the rights to hold an ABA / BCI convention in 2002.

The 1998 the annual convention was held by the Border Bonsai Society in East London.

Eastern Bonsai Society hosted the 1999 convention. Tommy Flaxman remained president of ABA till he and his wife died in a tragic car accident in November 2000.

Bloemfontein hosted the convention in 2000.

In 2001 a group of South Africans travelled to the 4<sup>th</sup> World Bonsai Convention in Munich, Germany. Duncan Wiles, represented ABA. ABA was advised to split its administrative function from SABA and become more representative of Africa.

In 2002 ABA split from SABA, where the focus of SABA was only on bonsai in South Africa, and ABA was to make inroads into the rest of the African continent.

In 2002 BCI withdrew its hosting from South Africa and the 1<sup>st</sup> African Bonsai Convention 1 (ABC1) was held in Pretoria.

It was decided that an ABA Convention would be held every 4 years in line with the mother organisation of World Bonsai Friendship Federation. As SABA was the only Constitutionalised Organisation in Africa, SABA became the one and only member of ABA.

In Bloemfontein, 2004, Duncan Wiles became president of ABA.

In 2005 Charles Ceronio attended the 5<sup>th</sup> World Bonsai Convention in Washington DC, demonstrating "New" African Styles.

In 2006 Duncan Wiles attended the World Bonsai Friendship Federation AGM in China. Jonathan Cain accompanied as a consultant.

In 2006 The 2<sup>nd</sup> African Bonsai Convention (ABC2) was held at the VNA Waterfront in Cape Town.

In 2007 Duncan Wiles attended World Bonsai Friendship Federation AGM in Japan, with Lynne Theodorou and Louis Nel as consultants.

In 2009 Louis Nel attended the World Bonsai Friendship Federation AGM and 6<sup>th</sup> World Bonsai Convention, as the ABA consultant, in San Juan Puerto Rico. Representatives of over 35 countries attended this Convention.

2010 Louis Nel attended the World Bonsai Friendship Federation AGM as ABA consultant in Italy. In September 2011, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ABC was held in Durban. Main Head Liners were Bill Vilavanis from the USA and Robert Stevens from Indonesia.

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## Origin of African Bonsai Association (ABA)

In 2012 Jonathan Cain attended the World Bonsai Friendship Federation AGM in Taiwan as ABA consultant.

2013 Jonathan Cain became the next president of ABA.

2013 Jonathan attended the World Bonsai Friendship Federation AGM in China and 7<sup>th</sup> World Bonsai Convention.

In August 2014 Jonathan attended the World Bonsai Friendship Federation AGM in Brisbane Australia. He secured the next World Bonsai Friendship Federation AGM to be held at ABC4 in Stellenbosch, Cape Town, 2015. This would be the first official visit by the WBFF since its inception in 1989.

September 2014 ABA was invited to hold a bonsai exhibition at 21<sup>st</sup> World Orchid Show at the Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg.

Zambia and Mauritius were appointed as consultants to ABA and World Bonsai Friendship Federation. In Oct 2014 Jonathan Cain attended the Bonsai Euro Top 30, in Mulhouse France, representing ABA from the continent of Africa to build a World Forest of Peace.

In 2015 Madagascar, Reunion and Egypt were appointed as consultants to ABA for their regions.

2015 ABC4 is held in Stellenbosch Western Cape hosting the WBFF AGM. Headliners Francois Jeker – France, Ryan Neil – USA, Tony Tickle – UK and as a special demonstration, Hiroshi Takeyama – Japan.

2016 Kenya and Israel were appointed as International Consultants to ABA.

## Jonathan Cain

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## Vyftigste uitgawe !

Hierdie is die 50 ste uitgawe van die Koeda !

'n Woord van dank aan elke lid wat die afgelope agt jaar bygedra het d.m.v artikels, ondersteuning, kommentaar, kritiek, demonstrasies, *tip of the month* ens. dat die Koeda sy 50ste uitgawe kon haal.

Sonder julle sou die Koeda nie kon bestaan nie.

**JACO**



## Ledeprofiel: Kobus Erwee

Kobus en sy gesin is baie bekende gesigte by die Kai. Kobus se vrou, Mariaan, is natuurlik ook die Kai se sekretaresse. En hulle jongste, Ianné, is die Kai se jongste lid omdat hulle almal lede is as deel van hul familie lidmaatskap.

Kobus werk in die IT-bedryf en wel in “data base administration”. Hy is al dertig jaar by SITA.

Kobus en Mariaan is al 25 jaar getroud en het drie kinders. Hulle het die baie groot hartseer gehad so 'n paar jaar gelede toe hul oudste seun in 'n motorfietsongeluk oorlede is.

Kobus vertel dat hy al omtrent 16 jaar lid is van die Kai maar nooit regtig baie betrokke was nie, hy het maar vir Mariaan ondersteun. Hy sê dat hy net aan die “fun” goed deelgeneem het, soos potte maak en saamgaan na ‘digs’.

In 2013 het die gogga hom egter gebyt en het hy ernstig begin bonsai. Van toe af werk Kobus en Mariaan saam aan hulle bome, waarvan hulle omtrent 30 het. Kobus is nou so ernstig dat hy al by Coega buite PE op een van ‘digs’ was. Hy het 'n prag Olien met 'n fantastiese basis wat mooi uitloop en wat beloop om 'n baie mooi boom te word in die toekoms. Sien foto.

Kobus sê dat bonsai hom geduld geleer het. Hy hou daarvan om vinning resultate te sien as hy iets doen, wat natuurlik nie by bonsai so is nie. Aan die begin was hy gefrustreerd dat vordering met sy bome stadig is maar nou is hy meer geduldig. Om aan sy bome te werk, kalmeer hom ook.

Kobus werk graag met Wildevye asook Wilde Olien. Dan oefen hy op Spekbome omdat hulle so maklik is en maklik herstel as mens foute maak. Hy hou die meeste van natuurlike en informele style. As ‘tip’ sê hy dat hy op 'n Vy waarin draad ingesny het, die merke met 'n skalpel uitgesny het, toe groeihormoon opgesit het en dat die merke daarna omtrent heeltemal herstel het. Kobus en Mariaan gebruik ook toiletrolletjies om steggies in te groei. Hulle plant die hele rolletjie in die grond want hy ontbind later en die wortels van die plantjie word nie versteur nie.

Kobus wil graag meer oor al die style leer. Hy sê dat die ervare lede by die Kai hom inspireer en vind ook inspirasie as hy mooi bome by die uitstallings sien.

Kobus stel ook belang in motorsport en is dikwels 'n amptenaar by wedrenne. Dan doen hy ook graag fotografie. Kobus sê hy geniet dit baie by die Kai. Hy geniet die werk aan bome voor die vergadering maar sou graag meer praktiese sessies wou hê waarin almal kan deelneem, soos die ‘root over rock’ en klippe maak-sessies wat daar al was. ♣





# Vergadering van 1 April 2017

Foto's deur Esther van Aarde.



Wat wil jy nog afsny Pieter? Party mense werk hulle uit hul skoene



Somtyds moet jy braaf wees.....



Jy sê die Volstruis styl Org?



## Vergadering van 1 April 2017



## MAME BONSAI—DEUR HENNIE REYNEKE



Hennie Reyneke is van Midway bonsai klub. Hennie het die notas op die volgende bladsye oor sy praatjie verskaf.

(Al die foto's is deur Esther van Aarde geneem.)



## Vergadering van 1 April 2017

The smallest size bonsai is known as *Mame* and it is pronounced “ma-mey”.

These tiny trees, which can be between 2.5 and 7.5 cm in height, create a fascinating image, but they are not easy to create and care for because they are so small.

To create true tree-like images are quite difficult because of the small size. However, the advantage is, that because of their small size, they are easy to move around.

The next size is known as *Shohin* and is pronounced “soo-hin” and can be between 15 and 30 cm. Because they are larger than *Mame* it means that more detail can be incorporated in the design of the tree and therefore a more tree-like form can be achieved and again they are also easy to move around. For both *Mame* and *Shohin* this is particularly useful if you are intending to show your trees.

The care and styling of miniature bonsai require more time and dedication, not because of the fact that they are better or worse than larger bonsai trees, but because additional problems inevitably arise due to their small proportions. For many growers, miniatures are the most fascinating trees in bonsai art, being almost like a bonsai of a bonsai. There is a special kind of magic about them though, as many examples display an achievement that seems impossible in horticultural terms e.g. a small tree bearing more fruit than it has soil in the pot.

### Suitable varieties for miniature bonsai

With miniatures, the size scale is of extreme importance because of the size of the flowers, fruit, leaves, needles, branches and internodes should remain small. Some varieties with large leaves or longish needles will reduce in size through the use of bonsai techniques and others will not.

Trees available that are suitable for miniatures are the following: Maples, Stinkwoods, Ficus, Azaleas, Cotoneaster, Pyracantha, Buxux, Procumbens nana, Pines and Lonicera to name but a few. Remember that flowers and fruit will not reduce in size during bonsai training techniques. However, should you choose varieties with flowers and



fruit that are naturally small, you will have no trouble. It will also help if the tree has a fine rather than coarse root system as this will help the tree to obtain maximum nourishment from the tiny pot.

The above is a guide to produce an aged-like tree. Apart from the disadvantages and difficulties involved, there are still advantages in growing miniature bonsai.

Suitable stock is available from certain nurseries.

A tree of ordinary thickness and age can be pruned to produce an aged effect.

## Vergadering van 1 April 2017

Another advantage is that because of the small size, more trees may be kept in a certain area. This allows you to enjoy many different varieties and styles in a small area. However you need will power not to be tempted to create too many new miniature trees. It is better to have a few well-cared for trees than a large number of mediocre trees.

Even though they are small they still need the same care of trimming, watering, fertilizing and repotting. They will sometimes need attention more frequently than their bigger brothers.

### Methods of propagation

#### Growing from seed

This has certain advantages because it gives you better control over the styling process which will result in a tapered balanced tree with no heavy cuts and damage to the trunk. The result will be that the miniature tree will have a natural tapering of the trunk and branches, as well as fine ramification of the secondary and tertiary branches. This also helps to develop taper and fine branching on a tiny scale, providing the seedlings are grown in shallow containers.

Another advantage is that many varieties show favorable quality when grown from seed, particularly if they are grown for the broom style. The trees produce finer and more symmetrical branching, as well as a nice taper and spreading root system. Also, fig varieties develop a thick buttress base if grown from seed. Whereas a cutting does not always do so and might need extra techniques applied to develop such a base.

Finally, seed is sometimes the only method of propagating a certain variety. Unusual varieties may also be obtained this way. The disadvantage of this method is that it is slow and some people become disheartened and lose interest in growing these trees. However the process can be hastened considerably by planting the tree in a bigger container, but then you must ensure that you prune it regularly to keep it small and in shape.

#### Producing miniature trees from thick cuttings or aerial layering

“Neglected cuttings and small trees in growing pots in your forgotten corner makes nice *mames*”



This has the advantage of gaining an aged appearance quite quickly. It should also be remembered that the tree grown from a cutting will in most cases have the same characteristics as the parent tree. Thus, if the parent is at a flowering and fruiting age the cutting will flower immediately.

Always take a cutting from a branch that flowers well or has other interesting characteristics. These will be transmitted to the propagated material. Finally, miniature bonsai may be created from cutting down collected trees or nursery stock. Beautiful results can be obtained almost immediately providing you made a cutting from where the trunk tapers from the base to the new apex.



## Vergadering van 1 April 2017



### Pots for miniature bonsai

As for big trees the pots for miniature trees are important. A variety of beautiful colored and finely decorated pots are available and some of them are ornamental in themselves.

Remember that earthenware pots drain better than stone ware and a glazed pot will retain water the longest. Pots that don't drain quickly enough can be turned on their sides for a while after watering to drain the excess water out of the pot.

### Care of miniature bonsai

The difficulty of growing miniature bonsai is the horticultural requirements of keeping trees in such small pots healthy.

### Watering

This is the most difficult aspect of care. Trees either die due to rapid drying out or over watering, which is responsible for fatalities. In very cold weather don't water before 10 in the morning. You can also plant your tree pot and all in a larger container to prevent freezing. In summer you can put it in a shallow tray with river sand or gravel, which will collect water and the trees can soak up moisture from the shallow tray. It will also provide extra humidity for the trees.

### Soil mixture

Good drainage is important. I use Philip Kotze's soil mixture that drains well. I use the same mix for all my trees because I tend to give to much water.

### Repotting, root pruning, fertilizer and pests

Repotting should be done annually and try to remove most of the large roots. This will encourage the development of new fine roots that can use the soil in the pot more effectively. Every few years you can plant the trees in a larger pot for a year to boost their vigor. Pruning must be done regularly to keep the tree in shape. I use Seagro, Nitosol, Bounce Back and carbon enriched rose fertilizer to fertilize my trees.



The normal pests will attack the miniature trees. I spray with chlorpyrifos and Koinor in the soil and it seems to control about all the pests that attack these trees.

Hennie encouraged the meeting to go home and create a few small trees because it is therapeutic and does not break your back when working with them.



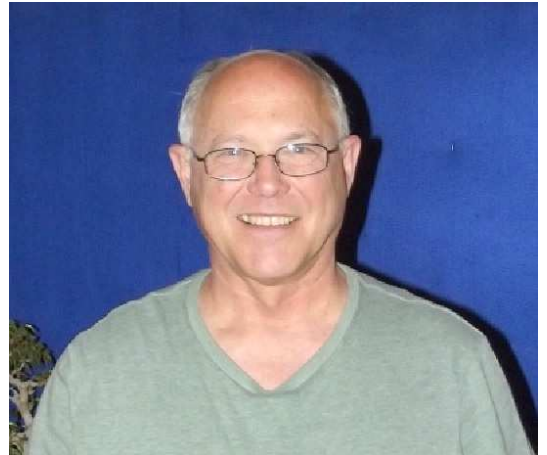
## MEER BOOM OF MINDER BOOM? - Deur Dr Pieter Loubser

Ek het min te sê, of dalk meer. Ek hou van voller bonsai. Ek glo nie aldag aan “*die voëls moet tussen die takke kan deurvlieg*“ nie. Dis nie heeltemal wat ek meer as dertig jaar gelede geleer is nie. Toe was die een-derde reël baie belangrik en takke moes daardie magiese een derde uitmekaar wees. Ek was self ‘n verslaafde daaraan. Tans? Queen Latifah sê: “*Ek het besluite geneem waaroor ek jammer is en ek het dit gesien as leerondervindings. Ek is menslik, nie perfek nie, nes enigiemand anders*”.

Ek het my opinie verander. Dr Carl Morrow het jare gelede aangemoedig dat ons eerder met meer takke as nodig begin en later kan uitdun indien nodig.

Ek hou van bonsai wat nie perfek is nie. Bonsai moet natuurlik wees in my opinie (nie vir die eerste keer nie). Op ‘n verwronde manier stem Michael Strachan saam as hy sê “*Ek is nie perfek nie en het nooit so beweer nie en wil dit ook nie wees nie. Hoeveel plesier kan jy uit perfeksionisme put?*”.

Voëls tussen die takke deur? Natuur? Of net nog in vroeë stadium van ontwikkeling? En as jy die eerste takke te ver uitmekaar gemaak het? Hoe kry jy die boom voller?



## MEER BOOM OF MINDER BOOM? - Deur Dr Pieter Loubser



Die twee bome hierbo is vanaf die Internet gekry. Onbekende eienaars. As jy begin met minder takke eindig jy met bome soos hierbo. Baie mense sal gaande wees daaroor. 'Is dit natuurlik?' is my vraag. Beide het pragtige stamme, maar die hantering van die loof hinder my. Skiet my maar oor my opinie.



Die Celtis hierbo is gestileer sodat dit 'n voller kroon het, maar dis eie aan die besemstyl. Ek werk al bykans 25 jaar aan hierdie boom en tans moet ek teruggesterfde dele herbou, maar dit vorder weer na 'n skaflike bonsai.

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## MEER BOOM OF MINDER BOOM? - Deur Dr Pieter Loubser



Moeilik om te wys, maar ek het verskeie entings gedoen om hierdie vy meer kompak te maak. Naderings-ente (met eie takke en steggies van dieselfde boom in potjies) en ryg-ente. Die boom begin nou 'n geheel vorm. Kyk na die vroeë stadium hieronder. Dit lyk soos 'n vlooiemark! Bietjie hier, bietjie daar.



Maar ... perfeksionisme of anders wees? Nie altyd die stroom volg nie? Carson Kressley beweer: “*Dis belangrik om die idee te deel dat om anders te voel soos 'n probleem mag voel, maar uiteindelik is meningsverskille 'n krag'*”.

Elders op die internet het ek die gedagte teëgekem dat “*die hand van die ontwerper nie sigbaar moet wees vir die toeskouer nie*”. En dit is een van my strewes met bonsai.

Ek neem die Celtis-bome as voorbeeld. Hulle neig tot ongeorganiseerde groei. Hoekom dit nie toelaat nie? Moenie 'n Celtis soos met vormsnoei behandel nie. Laat dit toe om bietjie wilde groei te wys.



## MEER BOOM OF MINDER BOOM? - Deur Dr Pieter Loubser



Die Celtis hierbo is die eerste boom wat ek in 'n plastiese sak by 'n kwekery gekoop en ontwerp het. 1982! Die toppunt is per ongeluk afgebreek toe ek dit in my motor se kattedak gelaai het, maar ek probeer dit herstel en ook die takke voller kry. Jare se werk! Tel self! 35 jaar!

Hopelik gaan ek oor 'n jaar of twee tydelik tevrede wees.

Hou moed met bonsai.

Groete,

Pieter Loubser

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**When a tree has reached a mature stage, it's the right time to plant it in a suitable pot that will respect and value it. Your tree and it's pot should be thought of as a couple harmonizing with one another.**

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## Bonsai Kalender – Deur Dr Francois van As

### Wat doen ons in Mei?

Dit is laat herfs en die boompies maak gereed om in 'n dormante stadium te gaan. Verminder watertoediening maar let daarop dat die boompies nie uitdroog nie. Te veel water kan wortelvrot en/of swamsiektes tot gevolg hê. Bemesting is nie nodig nie. Verwyder alle vrugte, bessies en blare wat nog aan bladwisselende bome sit aangesien dit die boom gedurende die wintermaande verswak. Indien jy nog vars saad het wat jy wil plant kan dit nog vroeg Mei gedoen word. Dit is ook die laaste geleentheid om 'n boom of twee te verplant (sonder wortelsnoei) voordat die winter begin. Aangesien moontlike ryptoestande op pad is, is dit nou die tyd om koue-sensitiewe bome te beskerm.



### Wat doen ons in Junie?

Alle boompies behoort nou dormant te wees. In koue toestande moet watertoediening verkieslik nie laatmiddag of in die aand gedoen word nie. Watertoediening in die oggend laat genoeg tyd gedurende die dag toe om te dreineer. Gedurende baie koue nagte kan oortollige water veroorsaak dat die wortels vrot. Indien jy verveeld begin raak kan jy gerus jou gereedskapkas nader trek en jou gereedskap begin skoonmaak.

### Hoe lyk Pretoria se klimaat hierdie tyd van die jaar?

Pretoria het 'n gematigde savanne (grasvlakte) klimaat met warm, nat somers en droë winters. Van Mei tot September reën dit selde en wanneer wel, is dit maar min.

Maand	Gemiddelde maksimum temperatuur (°C)	Gemiddelde minimum temperatuur (°C)	Gemiddelde ure sonskyn per dag	Gemiddelde aantal dae neerslag per maand	Gemiddelde mm neerslag per maand
Mei	22	8	9	3	6-30mm
Junie	19	5	9	1	6-30mm

Bron: <http://www.whatstheweatherlike.org/southafrica/pretoria.htm>

Bonsai-groete

**Francois**

## Terugvoering oor demonstrasie / werkwinkel bome.

At the meeting of 3 Augusts 2013 Pieter du Plessis demonstrated an air layer technique where he did not remove the whole ring around the stem but only portions. He demonstrated on a small White Stinkwood. Pieter treated the area where he removed the bark with rooting hormone. He then wrapped clear plastic around the stem and filled it with bonsai soil mix. Pieter then wrapped black plastic around, as he believes that roots do not grow when they reach the clear plastic, hence he cannot see if roots have developed. He can open up the black plastic every now and then to see if there are roots present.

Pieter said that the stem was far too long and that he would never get a good bonsai from the plant. He wanted to shorten the distance from the roots to the branches. The photos below were published in the fourth edition of Koeda 2013 of Pieter's work.



*When asked about the tree, Pieter sent the following photos and explained as follows:*

Hallo Jaco, ek het nog die boom.

Die eerste foto is geneem in Augustus 2016 toe hy oorgeplant is, Die volgende twee is geneem in Desember nadat die boom vir 4 maande oor 'n teël gegroei het. Dit moet 'n besemstyl word.



It is clear that Pieter has achieved his goal to get the branches closer to the surface and not have such a long trunk as before the air layer. It is three and a half years since the demonstration. ♣

## Snippets

### Our Environment.

A big source of air pollution that has led to global warming is emissions from cars, trucks, planes and other vehicles. The transportation of food, whether by road or air, therefore contributes not only to the cost of the item but also to air pollution. If you can use and buy local produce from your area you'll be doing a lot to help save the planet.

### Look at Labels

If you are shopping at a regular grocery store, look for stickers and signage that tell you where your produce is from before you buy and try to buy local.



## Inspirasie uit die natuur

Hi Jaco,

Ek stuur 'n paar fotos van 'n boom wat ek onlangs naby Satara geneem het. Dit lyk soos 'n dooie Hardekool en 'n Wildevy wat teen hom groei en later 'n kroon vorm tussen die takke van die Hardekool. Persoonlik het ek dit baie interessant gevind.

Groete

**Louis vd Walt**

