



Suikerbos Bonsai Kai

Newsletter

Volume: 2023 Number: 9

Date: September 2023

Suikerbos Bonsai Kai

Committee:

Chairman:

Hannes Fritz (079 502 2972)

Vice- Chairman:

Stefann Pretorius (084 924 3820)

Treasurer:

Jeanine Diedericks (071 234 9836)

Members:

Guillaume Herbst (082 797 4758)

Lennard West (082 613 3024)

Location:

Farm Eendracht
R103 Heidelberg
26 26'58.0"S 28 19'19.9" E

Club Meeting Time:

Every 4th Saturday of the month
From 12:00 to 15:00 (3pm)

Club Fees:

Single membership – R300 pa
Family membership – R400 pa
Scholar/Student - No charge

September Meeting

The Club met on Saturday the 24 September, at the Fritz family farm in Heidelberg.

There was a fair turn-out for today's meeting.

The program for the day was set aside exclusively for the preparation of the BRAT Open Day on the 30 September.

After the formal welcoming by Hannes, the floor was handed over to Stefann, the Open Day Organiser. Stefann proceeded to lay out the plan for the upcoming event, allocating tasks and responsibilities to various members.

The program was discussed in depth and the time was utilised to iron out any possible problem areas.

Short Talk

In the absence of Hennie due to illness, Hannes presented today's short talk on "preparing your tree(s) for show". The areas that Hannes covered were:

- Pots. We were told to look at our pots, ensuring they were clean & polished, and in good condition.
- Accent. Hannes stated that to successfully display a tree in a Bonsai Show, it was necessary to have a complementary accent that will enhance your display.
- Display base. No tree should be placed directly on the table in a Bonsai Show. Trees and accents should be on display bases. The bases should also be cleaned and where necessary polished. These can be anything from the bamboo place mats to wood off cuts.

- Moss. Hannes, then discussed the need for moss in your display pot. This hides the unsightly view of your growing medium. If you do not want to use moss in your pots, you could use small stones. Preferably stone of natural colouring but stay away from using white stones or the coloured ones from fish tanks.
- Weeds. Before displaying your bonsai on the show table ensure that they are weed free. The presence of weeds will cause your tree to look unkept and will not be scored for award contention.
- Wiring. Wiring is allowed on show tree, just as long as it is neat and well placed.



Tomobola

We at Suikerbos do not like the idea of selling raffle tickets, we prefer holding a tombola where a number of prizes are on offer and is not time consuming when everything has to stop for the ticket draw. We were encouraged to bring along donations of items for the tombola. Judging by the tables set aside for the tombola, a lot of items were donated like trees, pots, books, tools and many other various goods.

Lunch

As per norm the September lunch was supplied by Brent, who treated us all to a braai consisting of ribs, Kudu russians and boerewors rolls. A big vote of appreciation is extended to Brent on the delicious lunch supplied, which was enjoyed by all.



Workshop

Every member in the Club was challenged to bring along at least 1 tree to today's meeting, which they thought worthy of displaying at the BRAT Open Day. Time was spent by Hannes and Stefann with each member's tree, giving them advise on how to improve the tree and assist in "fine tuning" the tree for displaying. This proved very successful not only for the upcoming Open Day but for future showing as well.



Club Fees

It was decided that the Club fees for 2023 will remain unchanged

- Single membership - R300,00 per annum
- Family membership - R400,00 per annum
- Scholars/Students - No charge

All members are hereby encouraged to pay their membership fees by the end of May. The fees to be paid vis EFT into the Club's bank account and proof of payment posted on the WhatsApp page. The banking details are posted on the Clubs WhatsApp page. Suikerbos has a commitment to pay a subscription to BRAT for every registered Club member. Your co-operation is highly appreciated.

BRAT Open Day

30 September 2023. The 3rd BRAT Open Day of 2023 was allocated and entrusted to Suikerbos Bonsai Kai. The BRAT Open Day working Committee consisting of Stefann Pretorius, Len West, Ida Pretorius and Josh West.

The event will be at the Village Garden Nursery, Brakpan. Once again Village Garden Nursery has been extremely helpful in accommodating us for the event. The Penquene Villa Coffee Shop will also be assisting by supplying coffee/tea and lunches on the day.

Suikerbos Members Being Honoured

South African Bonsai Convention

Stefann has been invited to the South African Bonsai Convention as one of the main Demonstrators in Durban during November this year. Well done Stefann, we know that you will do Suikerbos Bonsai proud.



Mobile Bonsai Store

As usual Andre from Bonsai Whisperers supplied us with his “mobile store”. He normally brings along a selection of pots, tools, wire and other bonsai related products for sale. He also offers a service by where you let him know what you are looking for, he will try to obtain the item and bring it along to the next meeting if you can't go and collect it from him.

Suikerbos Bonsai Kai Merchandise

- **Club-short sleeve shirts:** I still have a few of the shirts ordered late last year available at a cost of R245 per shirt. These are the black shirt with green trimming. You can which are available on the Clubs WhatsApp page
 - 1 Lady (Large)
 - 1 Men (Large)
 - 2 Men (XX Large)
- **Club Beanies:** I have 4 black beanies with the Clubs logo embroidered on it at R110 per beanie.
- **Planned merchandise:**
 - **Caps:** Black baseball caps with Club logo embroidered. Estimated cost +/- R100.
 - **Long-sleeve shirts:** Black long-sleeved shirts with embroidered Club logo. Estimated cost +/- R200.
 - **Dry-Macks:** With embroidered Club logo. Estimated cost TBC.

Please give me an indication if you would be interested in purchasing any of the above.

Village Garden Nursery and Penquene Villa Coffee Shop

Over the past few years Suikerbos and Village Garden Nursery have built strong ties and support for each other. They are a family owned organisation and supply quality products and plants/trees at very affordable prices. It is recommended that you visit them for all your gardening needs.

Bonsai Whisperers

Andre provides Suikerbos with a mobile bonsai supply service. He brings along a range of pots, wire and tools for sale to very meeting. Should you have a specific bonsai requirement that you are looking for, you can contact Andre directly on Suikerbos WhatsApp page or Bonsai Whisperers and

make arrangement we him. Should he be able to find what you are looking for, he will bring it to the next meeting.

Notice Board

Next meeting

- Date: Saturday 25 October, at 12:00
- Theme: Short talk on Ficus, by Hennie.
Ficus festival – to be confirmed.
- Lunch: Wraps by Charney

Suikerbos Bonsai Kai

Suikerbos Bonsai Kai is a dynamic and relevant club that is made up of a diverse group of members. With membership ranging from all walks of society from seniors through right down to the youth. Here one finds the serious bonsai enthusiast, the hobby enthusiast, the casual enthusiast and the beginners – but, yet all are of equal importance. It is a place where knowledge and experience is readily shared and passed on, the “experts” are willing to share their knowledge and expertise. But most important of all – it is a place where like minded people can gather together and have fun.

This year Suikerbos is 10 years old as a Club. The monthly meeting we see anything from 15 to 25 members gathering, with some even coming from Witbank, Pretoria and Sukunda to name a few. Our resident experts are Hannes Fritz, Stefann Pretorius, with a number of others who are also experts some aspects of bonsai.

Gallery



BRAT Open Day: 30 September

Suikerbos Bonsai Kai was entrusted with the presentation of the BRAT Open Day on 30 September 2023. This Open Day would be a busy day with the TOP TEN Trees, the New Talent Competition and the Inaugural Stefann Pretorius Artisans Competition.

The first Open Day meeting took place at Village Garden Nursery in August, and discussions were held between (the top members then became the Open Day working committee):

Stefann Pretorius.

Len West.

Ida Pretorius.

Josh West.

Village Garden Nursery.

Penquene Villa Coffee Shop.

Issues that were discussed included

- Venue facilities: Once again Reinhardt (Village Garden Nursery) came to the party and did everything possible to accommodate Suikerbos. Village Garden Nursery donated a R1000 gift vouchers as prizes.
- Coffee/tea and lunch: The Penquene Villa Coffee Shop would provide the coffee/tea/cooldrinks as well as a set menu for the day.
- Registration.
- Sound system.
- Pamphlets: After a collaboration between Dylan, Thelmarie and Myself we put together a pamphlet for the event.
- Photographer. Thank you to Tyrese for the photographs.
- Competitions: This Open Day would be unusually busy, as there would be 3 competitions running through the day:
 - a. TOP TEN Trees.
 - b. New Talent Competition.
 - c. Artisans Competition.
- Tree display: Tables would be set up on either side of the Nursery's driveway. Trees under 300mm will be on one side with trees over 300mm on the other
- Tombola: Suikerbos does not like the idea of raffles, because we feel that it takes up too much of the time with the ticket draws. So a Tombola was suggested and organised. Thank you to all the members who supplied items for the tombola.
- Judging: Stefann would arrange for the judges of the various competitions. Only the New Talent would be solely adjudicated by Judges. The Artisans Competition and the TOP TEN Trees would be adjudicated by means of the public and judges casting votes, with the tallies added together.

Right up until the last week before the Open Day, it seemed as if nothing was coming together and that caused a few sleepless nights for the Committee. **BUT, on the day** it all fell into place and the Event was a great success. Thank you to Hannes for allowing Stefann and Myself the freedom and the latitude to run the Open day.

Stefann and I, want to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of Suikerbos Bonsai Club for their contributions and assistance in making this BRAT Open Day the success it was. We have always said that it is you the members that are Suikerbos Bonsai Kai, and this went to prove it.

A work party gathered from 14:30 on Friday the 29th and set up the event. We eventually left the Nursery at 19:30 after everything was in place. The work party consisted of Louise, Andre, Pierre, Stefann, Josh, Hannes, Thelmarie, Myself, Huntley and we were joined by Costa and Tyrese.

The morning of the 30th dawned and we got off to an early start, with the final setup and putting everything into place. The Registration table was setup and the Ladies (Ans, Christie and Thelmarie) sprang into work as people started to arrive and need their tree numbers. The show trees were set up and luckily, we had some spare tables handy as more trees than we expected arrived. Great care was taken by all in placing their tree(s), all hoping to make the cut for the TOP TEN trees.

A large number of Suikerbos members turned out and were very noticeable in their Club colours and the perspiration on their brows from working to have everything in place. I am not going to name anyone, for the fear for forgetting to mention a member. You all know who you are that came out and PLEASE ACCEPT THE APPRECIATION AND THANKS FROM THE SUIKERBOS COMMITTEE, you all made us proud.

New Talent Competition.

The first event that kicked off was the New Talent. The contestants were all taken to the competition area and briefed with the rules and info given as to what they could and could not use.



The contestants were:-

1. Huntley Smith – Suikerbos Bonsai Kai.
2. Andre van Niekerk – Suikerbos Bonsai Kai.
3. Hardus Scheepers – Midway Bonsai Society.
4. Heinrich Crystal – Midway Bonsai Society.
5. Shale Tinkler – Urban Bonsai Society.
6. Colet Swiegers – Urban Bonsai Society.
7. Danie Jansen – Pretoria Bonsai Kai.
8. Armand Koekemoer – Pretoria Bonsai Kai.
9. Gary Stephens – Eastern Bonsai Society.

10. Nilesh Patel – Eastern Bonsai Society.
11. Mike Dlamini – Nelspruit Bonsai Kai.
12. Sean Gomersall – Nelspruit Bonsai Kai.

After a 3-hour intense competition where each contestant could express their own talent and artistic skill, the judging took place with designated judges.

The winners were announced as follows:

- 1st place, Andre van Niekerk.
- 2nd place, Hardus Scheepers.
- 3rd place, Heinrich Crystal.

The contestants to represent BRAT at the National New Talent Competition in Durban over the 4-5 November are Andre van Niekerk and Hardus Scheepers, with Heinrich Crystal standing by should Andre or Hardus not be able to attend.

Show Trees

The Show Trees were available the whole day for viewing by the public and BRAT members attending the Open Day. With this being the TOP TEN Trees Competition (trees under 300mm and trees over 300mm), the trees on display were some of the creme de la creme in the Gauteng Region, if not South Africa. There were some awesome trees on display.

After the lunch break everyone who attended the Open Day was given a voting form and asked to select their top 5 trees under 300mm and their top 5 trees over 300mm. The totals were tallied together and the top 5 trees in each category was identified.

Louis Crombrink's trees were declared the winner of both categories. Congratulations Louis, your tree were awesome.



Inaugural Steffann Pretorius Artisans Competition

The Steffann Pretorius Artisans Competition for bonsai artisans with 10 years or more, was held for the first time. The competition kicked off, where each contestant was given 5 minutes to explain what their goal was for their creation. They were then given 3 hours in which to achieve that goal. The Village Garden Nursery donated R1000 in gift vouchers, to shared as follows 1st place R500, 2nd place R300 and 3rd place R200.

The Contestants were:

1. Richard Wright – Suikerbos Bonsai Kai.
2. Hannes Fritz – Suikerbos Bonsai Kai.
3. Hennie Reynecke – Midway Bonsai Society (withdrew from competition).
4. Jonathan Cain – Midway Bonsai Society.
5. Fred Oudmayer – Eastern Bonsai Society.
6. Lynn Renyolds – Eastern Bonsai Society.
7. Brandon Rode – Pretoria Bonsai Kai.
8. Johan Els – Pretoria Bonsai Kai.

The judging for the Artisans Competition would be done up public vote (50% of total vote) and designated judges (the remaining 50% of the vote). The total votes were tallied together to get the total vote.

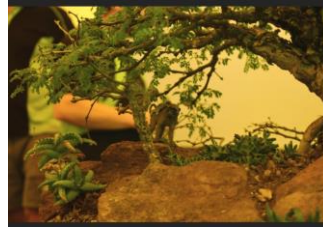
The winners were announce as follows:

- 1st Place, Richard Wright – Suikerbos Bonsai Kai.
 2nd Place, (Shared jointly by)
 Jonathan Cain – Midway Bonsai Society
 Hannes Fritz – Suikerbos Bonsai Kai.

Steffann's Demonstration

Steffann's demo was a repotting of a large Black monkey thorn forest





TAKE NOTE!

I am busy drafting a BRAT Newsletter and will place all the photographs of the awesome trees, other contestants in there. Keep your eyes open for that publication.