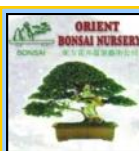




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**Supporting Our
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YVBS



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**The YVBS meets on the
second Tuesday of each
month now at Morrisons
(Morrison House)
Old Hereford Road,
Mount Evelyn**

Informal 'Review & Overview'
sessions begin at 7:00pm with
a call to order at 7:30.



118 B8

Saturday Workshops are 2-
5pm on the **LAST** Saturday of
the month, at the same venue
as monthlies!

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The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Newsletter

Highlights from July & August 2012

The July meeting featured a demonstration by Joe Morgan-Paylor a member of BSV and a registered demonstrator under the AABC Visiting Tutor Program.

Joe gave a very informative talk on Japanese Black Pines and a demonstration on heavy branch bending on a pine.

The August meeting involved a presentation and demonstration by Quentin Valentine from BSV. Quentin started the session by showing the small group planting which he worked on during his last visit to our club - always nice to see a follow up to prove that trees are still living after the heavy work is completed!

Quentin then moved on to the subject of collected olives, first of all demonstrating how a saw cut through the lignotuber of the olive is all that is needed to kick-start the future olive bonsai. He then moved on to a collected olive which had been growing in a pot for 12 months after collection, and performed the first real styling on the tree..

A very informative and inspiring session - all members will now be on the lookout for olive trees to dig up!

Above— Joe Morgan-Paylor putting some heavy stress on a thick Black Pine branch, at the July meeting.

Below — Quentin Valentine displaying the juniper group, 12 months after working on it at a 2011 YVBS meeting.

Continued on Page 2



Calendar Dates:

- 1 September (Saturday) YVBS-sponsored Nursery Crawl #3—The Deep South.
- 11 September (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:00pm Morrisons.
- 15 September (Saturday) Special Workshop with Quentin Valentine. 1:30pm to 4:30pm Morrisons.
- 29 September (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm Morrisons.
- 6 and 7 October (Saturday & Sunday) Bonsai Society of Vic. Exhibition, Box Hill Town Hall.
- 9 October (Tuesday) YVBS Monthly Meeting. 7:00pm Morrisons.
- 20 October (Saturday) YVBS Show. 10:00am to 4:00pm, Montrose Town Centre Hall.
- 29 October (Saturday) "Last Saturday of the Month" Workshop. 2:00pm Morrisons.

See also the Events Calendar on our website: www.yarravalleybonsai.org.au

Highlights from June and July - Continued from Page 1

Below - Quentin demonstrates the correct method of taking a chain-saw to the lignotuber of a collected olive, prior to potting up the top half. Thanks Quentin for donating this tree for our raffle table on the night.



Above - Initial styling on a collected olive after being in a pot for a year

Hirotoishi Saitoh Workshops

Japanese master Hirotoishi Saitoh visited Australia in July under the sponsorship of BSV and BFA for a series of demonstrations, critiques, and workshops. Many YVBS members attended the various sessions to take advantage of his expert tutelage. Hiro is a true gentleman and imparted his wisdom with sensitivity and humility, as well as a touch of humour. His sessions were enjoyed by all who attended.



Above—Hiro's tree critique session. Good advice was received on many trees, but just as importantly, a few trees were presented that Hiro considered "perfect" as they were.

Left - YVBS member Jarrod receives design advice on an old mugo pine.

Below Left: Tree styling at Hiro's demonstration.

Below Right: Hiro fine-tuning a demonstration tree.



Changes at Imagination Tree

There have been some changes at Bonsai The Imagination Trees retail nursery over the past month. Club member Chris Sirre has left to pursue his own business interests, and the gallery and shop have been cleaned out and are being prepared for a new nursery to take over.

Chojo Feature Trees will open at the Mt. Evelyn site in mid September and will offer quality bonsai products including bonsai stock, pots, tools, potting mediums and all the accessories a bonsai enthusiast could want. Workshops, lessons and demonstrations will commence in the new year. The gallery will be renovated over the course of a few weeks and restocked with advance bonsais and feature trees as well as timber sculptures by Melbourne artist, Mike Nicholls.

August 31st to September 1-2 will be your last chance to pick up a deal from the stock that Imagination Tree is liquidating. Home of Garden Lovers Nursery and Bonsai The Imagination Tree are offering 50% discount on all plant stock on this weekend.

Ask Mr. Miyagi.....



Q. Mr Miyagi, What is a Shohin?

A. A Shohin is just one of the Japanese size grouping names given to a bonsai tree. Bonsai are graded into seven main size groups based on their height measurement from the soil level to the apex of the tree.

A Shohin is a tree that's height measures between 15cm and 20cm.

#	Height (mm)	Common Size (English)	Japanese
1	Up to 25mm	Thimble Sized	Keishi
2	25 - 76mm	Very Small	Shito
3	76 - 152mm	Mini Sized	Mame
4	152 - 203mm	Small	Shohin
5	203 - 406mm	Small to Medium	Kifu Sho
6	406 - 610mm	Medium	Chu
7	610 - 1015mm	Large	Dai

Members may submit questions to Mr. Miyagi c/o the YVBS web forum or per the club email: info@yarravalleybonsai.org.au

Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Show

The Yarra Valley Bonsai Society Show for 2012 will be held at the Montrose Town Centre Hall, Cnr Leith and Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, on Saturday 20th October from 10:00am to 4:00pm. All members are encouraged to submit a tree or trees for inclusion in the show - remember that ALL trees are worth looking at. Tree registration forms are available from Rudi at club events, or as attached to the 1st of the Month email update, or by emailing a request to yarra-valleybonsai@gmail.com. Please ask your family, friends, neighbours and workmates to come along and see what promises to be a great exhibition of bonsai artistry.



Library Check-out!

YVBS has subscribed to the new bonsai magazine produced by the Association of Australian Bonsai Clubs. Copies of all issues are in the library for perusal or borrowing. Remember, the checkout period for books and other library material is one month. If you check out a book and are not able to make the next meeting, you can return the book to Bill at Morrisons during office hours or even post it to the club PO Box.

Trade Table Cheque-out!

The trade table has been restocked with new tools, wire and other accessories. Don't forget the club's tool sharpening kit, available for use at meetings. Anything else you would like to see stocked? Eg special Japanese tools, branch-benders, etc. Just advise at the trade table or to any committee member.



Craig's Corner

The regular column by Craig Wilson of Gentiana Nursery.

UNDERSTANDING TREE SPECIES

I am constantly amazed how often I meet fellow bonsai growers who know nothing of their tree except the common name, common names can be very misleading and often have nothing to do with the species you are describing, for example the eucalyptus regnans which surround my property have the common name of mountain ash but they are eucalypts and ash are fraxinus. By using the botanic names for a plant you are able to pin point exactly which species you are referring to.

To cultivate any plant well it is very useful to know the origin of that plant, which country it originates from and the climatic zone it grows in. These very basic details will give you plenty of clues as to the best conditions to grow your trees in. It is a big mistake to assume all trees need the same conditions.

For example juniperus squamata comes from western china and its range extends into Afghanistan and Tibet, its found growing between 1500 and 2500m but the wide natural distribution would tell you that this is a tough plant capable of surviving in many situations.

Acer palmatum or Japanese maple is a member of a huge genus, maples are found in almost every environment in the northern hemisphere but Palmatum is found in the cool moist forests of Japan, Korea, China and eastern Mongolia, its distribution in the cooler forests of Asia where it is often growing as an understory tree means this plant requires very special growing conditions to flourish in Australia.

We tend to lump all native plants into the same basket but of course the habitats within our continent are wide and varied. A Banksia which is found growing only in one valley in south western Australia is going to require very different conditions to Banksia integrifolia which has a very wide distribution all along the east coast in both coastal and mountain situations.

The genus Casuarina contains many species which grow in very different habitats(these trees have the ridiculous common name of sheoak, there is very little about them that resembles oak trees) Casuarina cunninghamii grows along river banks so it follows that it will require a bit more moisture than its relative torulosa which is found as a forest tree from Cape York to Hobart.

So just a small amount of research into your tree botanic name and origins can enhance the way you cultivate your plants and give you some insight into their requirements

Intermediate Tutored Workshops

The Intermediate Tutored Workshops with Craig Wilson have started again, with a full complement of 10 eager participants taking on the 5 week course. The program is always popular, with demand exceeding available place on this occasion. Many members are coming back for a second time around - not because they failed to learn the first time, but because they recognize that this is a valuable opportunity to get quality consulting time with an expert bonsai artist.

Remember to register early for next year's course to avoid the disappointment of missing out.



Kudos, Accolades & Thanks

- To Joe Morgan-Paylor for his demonstration on pines at the July meeting.
- To Quentin Valentine for his demonstration on olives at the August meeting, and for his ongoing support of our club.
- To Chris Sirre and Bonsai The Imagination Tree for their valuable support during the formative years of our club.

YVBS FORUM: For new members, it bears repeating that our club has an on-line bulletin board and archive. In addition to the announcements and discussions on topics of bonsai interest, the forum also contains many newsletters from other clubs around Australia. These are to be found (surprise, surprise) in the folder entitled "Newsletters from Other Clubs" and are kept for approximately six months. There are also publications such as "Bonsai Magazine" and the "Satsuki Society Newsletter" which are archived in the library folder available only to members. If you visit the site and register as a user, please email Rudi via the club

Tree Profile - *Serissa Foetida* (Tree of a Thousand Stars)

General information: Many varieties, most common used are Chinese Snow Rose, Cherry Blossom, Kyoto and Thousand Stars. They have been given an unjustified bad reputation, mainly because they were grown under the wrong conditions. They have small leaves, textured bark, they flower, are easily trained, and ramify quickly. They sound like the perfect tree to me. My favorites are Thousand Stars for larger trees and Kyoto for great little mame or shohin.

But considering that most people buy *Serissa* on impulse because the plant is so spectacular at the store, the bad news is ... the plant will generally drop its flowers within a day or two. Don't panic (and many *Serissas* are inadvertently killed by panicking beginners who respond by drastically over/under watering the plant) the plant will soon re-grow its leaves. You soon will discover that the *Serissa* drops its leaves if it has too much water, too little water, if it's too hot or too cold. Also if it's moved, or there is a shift in lighting or temperature.

Lighting: A *Serissa* likes as much sun as you can give it without stressing it. In summer morning sun and then high filtered light from noon on. Thousand Star, when you want it to develop - grow in full sun. In winter, full sun. Too little light will result in leggy growth.

Temperature: More important than the actual temperature seems to be two factors: the plant dislikes a sudden change in lighting (many die from lack of light when brought indoors). Protect from heavy frost to prevent tip burn. Fastest growth in spring, autumn, and first half of winter, slowest mid-summer.

Watering: This is one of the keys in growing a *Serissa*, they strongly dislike continually wet roots, it will cause the leaves to turn yellow and fall off. With our heavy rains that is sometimes hard to avoid. In the summer - water every morning and have the trees go into night somewhat on the dry side. Letting them dry down between waterings is important. If they suffer heat stress with this schedule, then also water the "soil only" in the heat of the day. They actively grow in the winter here so water accordingly. Placing the *Serissa* on a moisture tray is another option.

Feeding: Every 10-14 days during growth, every 4-6 weeks in winter, using liquid bonsai food or half-strength plant food. Likes slightly acid soil conditions. Epsom Salt in 4 tbs per 9 ltrs of water will help the plant more readily absorb nutrients.

Pruning and wiring: When in bloom, remove fading flowers to encourage further flower production. Prune as needed; the *Serissa* is a fast grower and may need radical or repeated pruning to maintain its shape. Will bud back on old wood; in fact, some books recommend occasionally pruning back beyond old growth to help the plant maintain its shape. Wire during the growing period. *Serissa* will grow air roots and is often used in exposed root or root over rock styles. Eliminate unwanted suckers extending from the base. Suitable for all styles except formal upright and broom. Suitable for extra small to medium sizes.

Propagation: Cuttings root quite easily, put cuttings in a glass of water from early summer or straight in to propagation mix.

Repotting: Every 1-2 years in spring. The newly pruned roots will emit a wretched odor! Prune roots moderately. They prefer fast draining soil

Pests and diseases: Red spider mite, scale, wooly aphids, mildew. Pests are usually not as much of a problem as a sudden change in conditions such as light, temperature, etc.

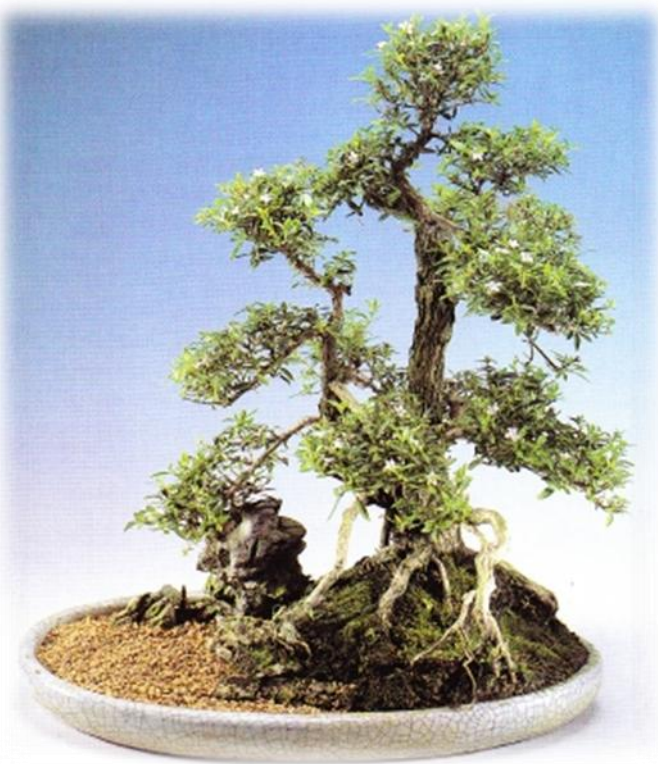
Some species suitable for bonsai:

Serissa foetida (also called *S. japonica*): tree of a thousand stars or snow rose. Many cultivars are available, including single and double flowered varieties. Emits an unpleasant smell when pruned, hence the name.

***Serissa foetida* 'Kyoto'** - a very tiny dwarf with single white flowers - rarely grows over a foot high.

***Serissa foetida rosea* 'Cherry Blossom'** - single pink blossoms, variegated foliage.

***Serissa foetida* 'Yatsubusa'** - Very dwarf cv. with tiny pink flowers and tiny dark green congested foliage.

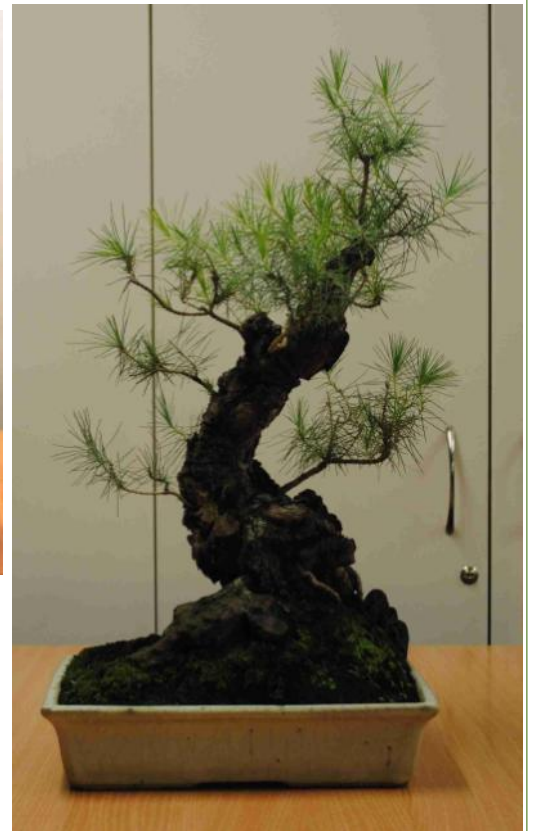


On the Display Table

Right: a cedar and a rare Canary Island pine from the July Display Table.

Below: A selection from the August Display Table.

Bottom: Desert Ash and Rukizon Sat-suki



BONSAI ART NURSERY

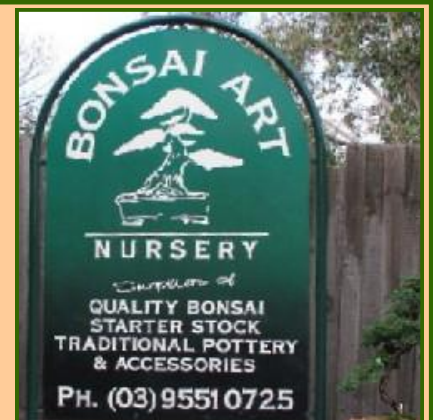
Bonsai Art Spring Sale - One Week Only

20% off ALL Plant Stock 20%

Saturday 15th September to Sunday 23rd September

236 Old Dandenong Road, Heatherton

<http://www.bonsaiart.com.au>



Bonsai Calendar: September - October

By Jeff Barry

It's been a long cold road this winter but believe it or not, spring is in the air. The short cold days are slowly beginning to stretch out and our trees are usually the first indicator that the change of season is upon us. Do yourself (and your trees) a favour by forgetting about the calendar season and let nature be your guide. Each year is different and presents a certain amount of variables that will determine where a tree is in its growing cycle. One back yard to another may offer a different microclimate. Even changing the position in the same yard may make a difference. Let your trees and the weather dictate "when".

Following are the main tasks to focus on during this time of year.

Repotting/Rootpruning

- When repotting, look for ways to improve the overall appearance of your bonsai. For example, changing the position of the tree by turning, lifting or leaning the tree. Also consider alternative pot choices.
- Watch for the buds to swell on deciduous trees. Repot before buds break into leaf.
- Begin your repotting with deciduous varieties such as, maples, oaks, elms (September) and then continue with varieties such as, cryptomerias, azaleas, pyracanthas and pines (October).
- After repotting, keep your trees in a protected area away from extreme weather (hot or cold)

Wiring

- Wire all trees before repotting. This will minimize any movement to the tree after being repotted.
- Deciduous trees should be wired before breaking into leaf. Be careful not to damage the delicate buds while wiring branches.
- Watch carefully for wire damage at this time of year as most trees are growing at a rapid rate.

Pinching/Pruning

- Begin to pinch back new shoots as soon as they appear.
- Frequent pruning/pinching will improve ramification and help reduce leaf size throughout the growing season.
- Remove dying flowers from the tree as it weakens the plant and encourages pests.

Fertilizing/Watering

- With new growth, the need of water and fertilizer increases. Try to observe your trees individually to establish the amount and frequency of water is necessary.
- Avoid overwatering. Remember it is a process of wetting and drying.
- Use a slow release fertilizer (OzmoCote/Dynamic Lifter) in combination with a liquid fertilizer (Maxicrop, Charlie carp).
- It is better to fertilize regularly and frequently in small weak doses than give a strong dose now and then.
- With flowering species, fertilizing should commence after flowering.
- Water your trees (with plain water) before using liquid fertilizer.

End-Of-Month Saturday Workshop



Left—Julie has plenty of advice as she re-pots an elm at the July Saturday Workshop.



Right - At the August Workshop, George watches intently as Margaret does initial trimming on a fuschia lifted from her garden.

ヤラ谷間盆栽会

Volume 5 No 7
July & August
2012

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www.yarrawalleybonsai.org.au

A group for all lovers of bonsai in the "far east" of Melbourne



Yarra Valley Bonsai Society
PO Box 345
Mount Evelyn, Victoria 3796
Australia

*Looking Ahead to
Sept & Oct 2012*



The third Nursery Crawl - "**Deep South**" on 1st September, will take us this time to three Nurseries (also interesting for "non-bonsai" partners) and one Pottery place - Faceys Nursery (wholesale natives), Wrights Nursery (wholesale azaleas), Pearcedale Nursery (general nursery), and Lorraine Simpson Pots.



Our monthly meeting on 11th September due to the change of Presenter/Demonstrator with the month of August will start with the Overview/Review Session on Pot Selection - Shape, Size & Colour with our **Steve Manassa**. Followed by the very experienced bonsai artisan - well known to our club - **Michael Simonetto**, who'll give a presentation on flowering Prunus, Apricots, Cherries and Wisteria. All his "flowering Stuff" is a delight to look at (and to own!).



On Saturday 15th September, we'll have a "**SPECIAL WORKSHOP**", 1:30 PM - 4:30 PM at Morrisons with one of THE most experienced bonsai artisans not just in Victoria, but Australia - **Quentin Valentine**, any species are welcome! Maximum of 8 Participants and unlimited Observers. Costs: Participants \$25.00, Observers are FREE, bookings are on "first-come-first-served" basis. A great opportunity to get your Trees into top or new shape!



Our workshop on Saturday 29th September, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at Morrisons this time will be focusing on preparing your trees for our SHOW in October. **Any tree is worth looking at it!!!**



The monthly meeting on 9th October will be a "Workshop Night on SHOW Preparation" to get the "final touch" and "sprucing-up" with Rudi & Marlene. A valuable session well worth attending!



Saturday 20th October "**D-day**" for "**YVBS SHOW**" at Montrose Town Centre Hall. Flyers with more details are available on our website and as hardcopy at our monthly meetings.



Back to "Normal" with our Workshop on Saturday 27th October, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM at Morrisons.

Other Events



Friday 31st August - Sunday 2nd September the Home of Garden Lovers - **Plant Sale 50%** off including some Bonsai from the previous Bonsai The Imagination Tree!



Saturday 6th October and Sunday 7th October the Bonsai Society of Victoria holds its annual **Bonsai Exhibition** at the Box Hill Town Hall, 1022 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill (Mel 47 E9) - admission \$5.00.



Saturday 13th October, **All Day "ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS"** Bonsai Course at Morrisons from 9:30AM - 3:00PM, presented by Bill McKernan. For more details check out their website www.morrisons.org.au or call Bill on 0417 314 004.



Member Benefits Refer to the website for a list of discounts to members upon presentation of a current & valid YVBS Membership card. "Freebies" of donated items are also made available from time to time at monthly meetings.

ADVERTISERS & SPONSORS:

Advertising on our website and/or in the newsletter is available for any registered business or sole trader. Society Sponsorship opportunities are capped at three for any year, however supportership opportunities still remain for any business in an area related to the craft of bonsai.

For a prospectus or further information contact Rudi via the society's external email: info@yarrawalleybonsai.org.au