

Issue 1

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## Rob Clausen Tribute

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**Rob Clausen** began the hobby of bonsai in 1988 when he bought a bonsai at the side of the road and this hobby was to dominate his life for the next 20 years. Joining the Eastern Bonsai Society in 1989 I am sure he did not realise the impact that this would have on his life and more particularly that of the Society. With Sarah at his side (never ever behind!) the Clausen's influence on the Society has been immense.

Persuaded to join the Committee in 1994 Rob took over the chair in 1995 for a period of two years. The year 2000 saw Rob back in the Chair until June 2003 when Sarah took over.

With a personal collection of about 1500 trees, Rob demonstrated, lectured and showed his bonsai around the country, collecting awards and accolades where ever he went.

A marvelous teacher who ran a bonsai workshop at his home on the second Sunday of the month, Rob has influenced countless enthusiastic young growers.

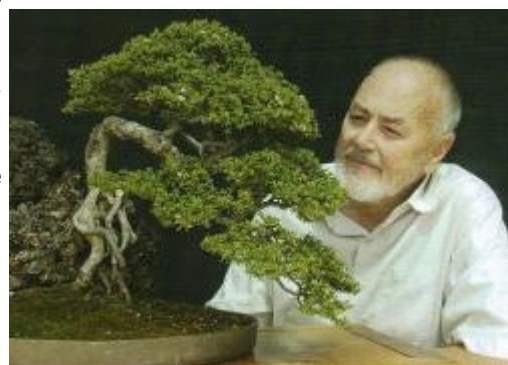
I shall remember him as a mountain of a man. A mountain of a man, not only in size and strength who picked up and carried the largest pots with bonsai trees, but a mountain of a man in sheer artistry, skill and ability with his beloved bonsai. A mountain of a man who with his immense knowledge of bonsai shared it willingly, lovingly with everyone and anyone who cared to listen. A mountain of a man, who, if I went to him with a miserable specimen of a tree that I had tenderly cared for, made me feel that I had done a good job, but with a

little more help I maybe just might have a nice tree. (even if he cut 90% of the tree away!) And he gave the help as if I was the most important member of the club.

A mountain of a man who loved people, who even though he effortlessly made me feel at ease with his lovely sense of humour, I always felt that I was in the presence of a Master.

**REST IN PEACE ROB,  
YOU WILL ALWAYS BE  
LOVINGLY REMEM-  
BERED**

**Ken Lord**



SABA exco would like to take this opportunity to wish all it's members a happy and prosperous 2009.

## Adenium

## Christa Rabie & Caroll Hermann

Onlangs by een klub vergadering het die gesprek rondom Impala lelies of die Sabie Ster gedraai. Een van ons klub lede het vir my baie oulike informasie gestuur en ek het dit so bietjie aangepas met van my eie fotos.

Die Koedoe Lelie, is nie familie van die Adeniums nie en is n Pachypodium saundersii. Hy het wit blomme en doringe. Mense kan dit nogal verwar met mekaar.



(Foto van [www.seedplants.com](http://www.seedplants.com))

Dit kom natuurlik voor in die Limpopo Provinsie.



P.saundersii blomme van naby.

Die gewone winter-Impalalelie is Adenium multiflorum (gepunte blomme met 'n donker pienk randjie), ook bekend as A. Obesum var.multiflorum. Hy kom hier by ons en in die Kruger-wildtuin voor. Hy blom in die vroeë winter. Hy is ook bekend as die Sabie ster en in Amerika noem hulle dit die Desert Rose.



Die ander een wat blomme dra wat 'n donker pienk rand het is A. obesum. Sy blom se rand is egter gerond en nie gepunt nie. Hy kom in Oos-Afrika voor.



Adenium somaliensis se blomme is lig pienk met geel in die bindeste deel van die blom. Sy blare is dun, donker groen en gepunt. Hy blom in Desember. Foto hierbo.



Die somer-Impalalelie, wat ons het, is A. swazicum (effekleurige lig

pienk blomme). Hy het smal blare. Hy kom in die Kruger-wildtuin en Laeveld voor.

'n Soortgelyke een met 'n effekleurige blom maar wat in die herfs blom is A. boehmianum wat in Namibië voorkom. Hy het heelwat groter blare. (My A.boehmianum blom nou. Kyk hoe mooi sag pienk



is die blomme!)

## My side of it.....

## .....Caroll Hermann

I hope you all had a wonderful, happy festive season and are ready for the year ahead. I *do* know that 2009 snuck up on me and I do not know what happened to 2008. But these holidays, I managed to sort out my bonsai garden by getting rid of those trees that will *never* be bonsai trees, not even by my standards, gave a second chance to those that still might make it one day by re-planting them in the garden and finally by planting my box

(es) of seeds or my husband threatened to walk out.... Through this all, Tony's bonsai poem kept on going through my head and the more I threw out, the more I ended up with 'other' trees, rescued from other gardens, etc. so, quite frankly, I have achieved absolutely *nothing!* But I had a lot of fun and my husband had hope of reclaiming his garden for a very short while... and I mean very, very short while... Oh, and then did I say that I also bought some lovely trees from a nursery...???



**Marco Invernizzi****submitted by Duncan Wiles**

## Challenging the severe world of nature

The appearance of his slim, tall figure, medium length black hair, sunglasses and silver necklace could be to blame to make you think Marco Invernizzi (32) was some sort of Latin playboy, but where Marco and I met was not a fancy Italian restaurant in Ginza, but a small Bonsai shop. As soon as he arrived, Invernizzi took a look around the shop, 'This is pretty interesting' he says as he points to a Goyomatsu (Japanese White Pine) with its roots tangled onto a rock and its trunk taking a very strong, sharp curve. There's one just like this in Morioka, the Pine's growing right on the edge of a cliff, with a small tree just below it. I love seeing trees that are challenging the severe world of nature.

To Invernizzi, who makes Milan the base for his work, Bonsai is not an extension of gardening, but an art form. 'Italy has long since had a culture in stone. Once you make a stone building or statue, it'll remain the same for hundreds of years' he says. By that basis, he sees in the never-completed art form of Bonsai, that which isn't possible in the world of Michelangelos and Raphael's, where the Bonsai will grow and change along with the artist themselves, and even when passed onto another, will continue to evolve for possibly hundreds of years. 'It's an art where you take a statue, and give it the fourth dimensional element of time.'

The bonsai he has had since he was 16 is still continuing its 4th dimensional evolution in his studio in Milan (a Ficus that his mother gave him for Christmas). At the time he saw the movie Karate Kid on TV, and where most boys would have been enthralled in Karate, he fell in love at first sight of the Bonsai that the Karate master Mr. Miyagi was nurturing. 'It struck my heart, and I knew that instant that this is the art for me.'

17 years since then, he has been pouring his passion into 'Small Trees'. After becoming a Bonsai artist in Milan, Italy, he came to Japan at the age of 21 to train under in Marco's words - 'The world's number one master Masahiko Kimura as his very first foreign apprentice for four years. He's dexterous and smart, most importantly he has the sensitivity needed for it. Kimura tells us 'The resolution needed to come from abroad to train is immense. It was as if resting even for a day would be a waste.'

7 years since his return, Invernizzi still loyally obeys his master's ways. His style is still at base, a very traditional Japanese style. What's important isn't new looks and styles, but using the 'inspiration I get from nature to create an old ancient looking tree which will express by love and fascination for Mother nature, who remain the best bonsai master in the universe.' he says.

But at the same time, Invernizzi has the feeling that he is meant to take Bonsai to the future. His websites (<http://marcoinvernizzi.com> and [www.mybonsaitube.com](http://www.mybonsaitube.com)) created in '07 has pages of himself in Astronaut suits, Flamenco costumes, and other various outfits. 'The traditional Bonsai person may not appreciate the humour in my website, but there is an important reason for this' Invernizzi says 'I want the younger generations to be attracted to and appreciate Bonsai so I want everybody to understand that my art is a lot fun' and certainly Marco blows away the old image of the traditional Bonsai artist.

Classes and workshops, from Israel to South Africa, Invernizzi travels around with furious proactivity. He even says that the Mini-Bonsai and the accent plants made by moss that are rising in popularity in Japan are 'OK as a gateway into the art'. However, his real aspirations lie within 'seeing matured trees' and 'having its basis within a natural concept'. Not just any nature, but that which is found fighting for survival at the top of a mountain in a harsh and oddly shaped landscape.

For inspiration, he takes time out to travel in search of rare or unusual trees. During our interview he showed us a picture he took during his travels to Madagascar this summer. A Baobab tree in a large plain land, looking as if to

## In pursuit of small trees

stretch its hand towards the heavens. When asked if this could be a Bonsai, he answered 'this is a species of tree which is hard to make into bonsai, and its certainly can be considered a challenge..but I like challenge, actually is my Masters favourite word'

The time when a Bonsai like that is acknowledged around the world, perhaps Bonsai art will take its next evolutionary step to the future.

**Web sites**

[Bonsai4me](#)

[Marco Invernizzi](#)

[SABA](#)

[Startkabel](#)

[WBFF](#)

[Bonsai Garden](#)

G a r y     H o w l e s —



Procumbens nana



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