

Nov/ Dec 20087

SABA EZINE



SABA Committee for 2009—2010

Chris Joyce, (Treasurer) Betsie de Jong (Secretary), Caroll Hermann, (E-zine & Web) & Duncan Wiles, (President) [Absent Lynn Theodoro]

The annual SABA meeting was held in Bloemfontein. This Elm, by Charl Botes was on display. See inside for more pictures.



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The views expressed in the E-zine are not necessarily those of the editor or SABA.

Pyracantha—Tobie Kleynhans

From the editor,

And so the year comes to an end. The shops are playing "Rudolph" and "We wish You" till you want to run screaming out the door. So we are also joining in and with this issue would like to wish you and your family a merry Christmas and a blessed 2009.

Special websites of interest:

- [**BCI IBS Convention**](#)
- [*Bonsai on the Web*](#)
- [*WBFF*](#)
- [*Bonsai 4 me*](#)

Hierdie jaar het te vinnig (aan?) na sy einde gekom en ek sal dit onthou as die jaar waar ek skaars grond gevat het, maar seker een van die lekkerste. Die skou in Bloemfontein het my weereens herinner waarom ek van Bonsai hou en ek het soveel mense ontmoet.

Ek sluit die jaar af, met n tikkie nostalgie, want ek is UITEINDELIK klaar met my studies, om hopelik nooit weer n teksboek oop te hoef maak nie en van nou af net Bonsai boeke (grappie). En hiermee wil ek ook graag almal n ge-seende Kersseisoen toewens, hoe jy dit ook al vier.

Caroll

SABA New Talent Competition 2008

The finals of this competition were held in Bloemfontein on 13 September 2008. There was supposed to be four competitors but at the eleventh hour we had one withdrawal due to a family crisis.

Those who participated in the finals were Juan Duvenage of Bloemfontein Bonsai Kai, Joffre Mitrovich of East Rand Bonsai Kai and Andre de Kock of Boland Bonsai Kai. The contestants were allowed four hours to style the material they drew. *Juniperus procumbens* nanas were used for this competition which was good and challenging material. All the contestants acquitted themselves well and designed some interesting Bonsai. Well done we are proud of you.

Like in any competition there is unfortunately only one winner. In this instance the winner was Joffre Mitrovich who elected to do a windswept style. Congratulations Joffre. The participants in the final thoroughly enjoyed the experience and recommended that all new talent should enter the competition.

In 2009 the competition will be held at the SABA Convention in Pretoria.



A large, well established, Canadian lumber camp advertised that they were looking for a good lumberjack. The very next day, a skinny little man showed up at the camp with his axe, and knocked on the head lumberjacks' door. The head lumberjack took one look at the little man and told him to leave. "Just give me a chance to show you what I can do," said the skinny man. "Okay, see that giant redwood over there?" said the lumberjack. "Take your axe and go cut it down." The skinny man headed for the tree, and in five minutes he was back knocking on the lumberjack's door. "I cut the tree down," said the man. The lumberjack couldn't believe his eyes and said, "Where did you get the skill to chop down trees like that?" "In the Sahara Forest," replied the puny man. "You mean the Sahara Desert," said the lumberjack.

The little man laughed and answered back, "Oh sure, that's what they call it now!"

Bloemfontein Bonsai Kai Show



New Talent entrant Juan Duvenhage hard at work



Ficus burretii—Heinrich Kohne



Buddleya seligna—Hennie Stander

Club News

Durban Bonsai Kai



Durban had a very busy two months with Shaun doing demo's on Figs and Baobabs and Scott showing how to effectively use 'accidents' to make you tree fit the pot. (*I think my interpretation here is correct, Ed*)



And just to prove that Bonsai is not for the faint-hearted, Pierre, used some power tools on a fig.

The October meeting was well attended and unstructured. Members brought in a variety of trees in different styles and George was requested at very short notice to give an impromptu talk on styles. He covered a wider topic than styles and he emphasised the need to acquire the ability to "see" a style in a yamadori or nursery tree; that is by looking at a tree one can visualise the completed tree although the final outcome is not immediately apparent. He also spoke about not altering a tree too much, but trying to make use of the natural style inherent in the tree. Although bonsai have certain horticultural reasons to be styles in a particular way, these are logical. For example – not growing a branch from the inside of a curve in the trunk. Other rules are formulated for aesthetic reasons and involve harmony, balance etc.

Because a bonsai grows in a confined space and is so small compared to a tree, it has to be highly efficient and ideal branch placement is essential for it to thrive.

Kengai Bonsai Kai



(*Lynn, we hope by now you are on the mend and mobile again.* – Ed)

Pietermaritzburg Bonsai Society



At the Sunday Tribune Garden Show, Pietermaritzburg Bonsai Society won a Gold Award with Laurels. This is for 96 out of 100 points that they scored. Judging is done on the same as at Chelsea Show in England. Jurgén sent in a picture of their stand. (*See in Gallery for this beautiful display*) Well done from all of us at SABA!!

Eastern Bonsai Society



The Eastern Bonsai Society held the BRAT Top 10 on the

30th of August

Pretoria Bonsai Kai



Op 9 Augustus het ons op uitnodiging 'n mini uitstalling by bg ouetehuis gehou as deel van

Please send us an email on who you would like to know more about. We would like to do an article per issue on our experienced Bonsai people.

hul "Japanese dag".

Baie dankie aan Ben Kruger asook André en Sylvia de Bruin wat bome uitgestal het. Ben het ook 'n demonstrasie gedoen. (*Sien van die foto's op die Gallery*)

Shibui Kai



Erika has just had her long overdue back operation and is recovering. She is mobile,

but will not be able to sit for at least 6 weeks. When she was seen in her hospital bed, she was already making plans for Fred to organise her a high work table, to enable her to work on her trees, standing up. Hopefully Fred will be a good nurse and keep her under control and not allow her to overdo things too soon. Erika, we all wish you a speedy recovery and look forward to having you back, probably not for the exhibition, but soon thereafter. We are pleased to welcome back, Aubrey Cronje, one of their founder members, to Shibui.

Cape Bonsai Kai

Our annual show at Kirstenbosch, December 13 to 16 will be around the corner before you think – so start giving some thought to what trees you will be showing. This is a kai show and the kai exists through its members – so remember we need your help for setting up on December 12 and doing duties during the run of the show – more of that later in the year.

(Het èrens n voëltjie hoor fluit dat daar n nuwe klub in George gestig gaan word....sien uit na die detail.)

Tommy Flaxman Memorial Competition

The new, improved SABA

Photo Competition.

When opening a new bonsai book, the latest issue of a magazine and visiting a new website the first place that people go to will be the gallery section to look at the pictures of the bonsai. Bonsai is a visual art and it is useless declaring that we grow world class bonsai when we are not sharing pictures of our trees with people around the world.

At the 2008 SABA AGM it was agreed that the Tommy Flaxman Memorial Photographic Competition (TFMPC) and the SABA cup were not working in their current form due to the lack of submissions of pictures. It was also agreed that these are important competitions, not least to continue the memory and legacy of Tommy Flaxman. I have taken over the running of these competitions and hope that they will develop so that we can then start showing off the quality of the trees that we grow. Pictures are also remarkable in that they reveal all the little (and big) faults in the design of the tree that we choose to ignore when we see the actual tree in front of us. The other major value in taking pictures is it captures the history of bonsai in the country (see the pictures below)



The same tree in 1992

In talking to delegates at the Bloemfontein mini convention I also found that some people stopped entering pictures due to some thoughtless and harsh comments made by observers who weren't even part of the judging process. It is a pity that people saw fit to comment when not called for and I is also sad that people stopped supporting the competition. Let us move on from this.



Wisteria 1993, picture taken 2006

In collaboration with Caroll, we will be using the Ezine as a showcase of trees that will then have public participation to vote for the trees that they most like. It is envisaged that the winners of these rounds would then be forwarded through to the national competitions although these details have not been ironed out yet.

Taking pictures has now become very easy with digital technology. Amazingly good cameras are amazingly cheap and cell phones have up to 7 mega pixel cameras installed. In the next article I will discuss some simple tips for taking pictures of bonsai



Miniature Chinese Elm 2002, picture taken around 2005.

Pictures can be submitted to photos@bonsai.co.za or they can be posted to

SABA Photo Competition

PO Box 2649

Clareinch, 7740

Please try to limit the size of each image to less than 1.5 MB

There are three categories

Indigenous species

Foreign trees

Interesting bonsai related pictures

In the email please provide the following information:

Name of the Artist:

Type of tree:

Name of the photographer:

Years that the tree has been in training:

Height of the tree:

Pictures will be reviewed by me (I will just be looking at the basic quality of the image making sure it is in focus, whole tree in shot I would also love to get feedback from people on how they would like to see the competition develop and also reasons for them not submitting pictures to previous competitions and how these issues can be overcome. Please send your comments to email address above.



Evening Glow—Little Karoo

All pictures taken by Carl of his own trees.

Watch this space for rules & regs on the competition

Carl is a member of Oyama bonsai Kai and Cape Bonsai Kai.

I started bonsai in 1987 when I was 15. I have been passionately engaged in the art since then and have lectured at numerous clubs, regional symposia and at National Conventions. I have traveled to China, Australia, Holland, Belgium and Italy to see bonsai and attend conventions. I enjoy writing about bonsai and have had many articles published in the mainstream media, local bonsai magazines and in international bonsai magazines. I wrote the book "Bonsai Success in Southern Africa" with Keith Kirsten and have consulted on and contributed pictures to 4 other books. I have won "best tree on show" and had many other category winners at the Cape Bonsai Kai's annual show. I am also very interested in photographing bonsai and have had two of my trees selected as winners in the World Bonsai Contest.



(Picture taken in 2006, training since 1996—Acer buergerianum)

I prefer to work on anything interesting, challenging and possibly unconventional and refining Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus thunbergii*) and Chinese Maples (*Acer buergerianum*) are favorites from a technique and horticultural point of view.

I am very versatile, willing to tailor a presentation to what is needed for the event.

I like combining a discussion of a more theoretical aspect of bonsai with a practical demonstration. It is important that attendees are stimulated and to think about their art rather than just sit back and watch somebody work on a tree.

I also enjoy critique sessions where the good points and bad points of the bonsai on display are discussed and suggestions of improvement are made. I also do "Do it now" critiques where the suggestions are carried out and the bonsai is refined after discussing it.



Fantasy Rising

Two blondes went deep into the frozen woods searching for a Christmas tree.

After hours of subzero temperatures and a few close calls with hungry wolves, one blonde turned to the other and said,

"I'm chopping down the next tree I see. I don't care whether it's decorated or not!"

Hospice Xmas Fair Empangeni

The Fish Eagle Bonsai Kai took a stand at the annual Hospice Fair in Empangeni recently. The exhibit was mainly to attract people to their show on the 1st & 2nd November. They decided to turn a Procumbens nana into a Xmas tree and raffle it off with the proceeds going to Hospice.

Although Betsy dreaded the job I gave her, I thought she did a stunning job and entered into the spirit of things by also decorating it.

The most precious moment was when a little boy of about six years old, came to me, with a dirty R10 note in his hand, wanting to buy Betsy's landscape!

What made it even more special was when one of the Hospice volunteers won the Xmas Tree bonsai. (I apologise for the quality of the photo, it was taken with my phone)



Waterberg Bonsai Kai

Iets wat ons as bonsaiers soms uit die oog verloor of sommer net vergeet, is die beplanning wat 'n demonstrasie, 'n praatjie of sommer net 'n oorplanting van een van jou eie bome in jou agterplaas voorafgaan. Baie van die goed word half outomaties gedoen. Ian Pringle het tydens ons vergadering op 20 September 'n groepaanplanting met kremetarte gedoen en hy het die nodigheid van beplanning weer sterk beklemtoon. Van die bome het hy ongeveer twaalf maande gelede reeds oor stukke teëls geplant, nadat hy die patats afgesny het, om te verseker dat hy 'n plat basis het die dag as hulle geplant moet word. Verder het hy beplan hoe die bome in die pot geplaas moet word, maar met die insette van die aanwesiges is die plasings ietwat aangepas en uiteindelik het Ian 'n mooi groepaanplanting van sewe kremetarte gemaak. Sy inspirasie vir die aanplanting was die Baines Baobabs, ook bekend as die "Seven sisters", in Botswana. (*Fotos sal in die volgende uitgawe verskyn, Ed*)

Dankie Ian vir die voorbereiding vir en die bou van die groepaanplanting en vir die notas, "A guide to creating a bonsai group planting" wat aan lede gestuur is. Ons het die geniet en baie geleer.

Fish Eagle Bonsai Kai

The members had their first exhibition at the Zululand Yacht Club on the 1st & 2nd of November. Photos to follow.

Please note: In order to keep the newsletter of a manageable size for all to download, the photos on this page are very small and in a simple format. Hopefully we will soon have them on our web site.



Christa & Eddie Rabie
(van Fish Eagle Bonsai Kai) se Koraalboom

Pietermaritzburg Show



From Chris Joyce's collection

Pretoria Bonsai Kai Uitstalling 2008



Hansie Bekker—Azalea



Julian Adler—Fig



Tobie Kleinhans—
Wisteria

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Pietermaritzburg Bonsai Kai



KUTEM RANGE



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Demonstrator

Errol Rubin—All rounder, good presentation skills and easy talking style. Available for demo's for workshops, etc.

Please contact Errol on erubin@mweb.co.za

Demonstrator

Charles Ceronio—Author of many books, world renowned demonstrator.

Please contact Charles on
charlesceronio@telkomsa.net

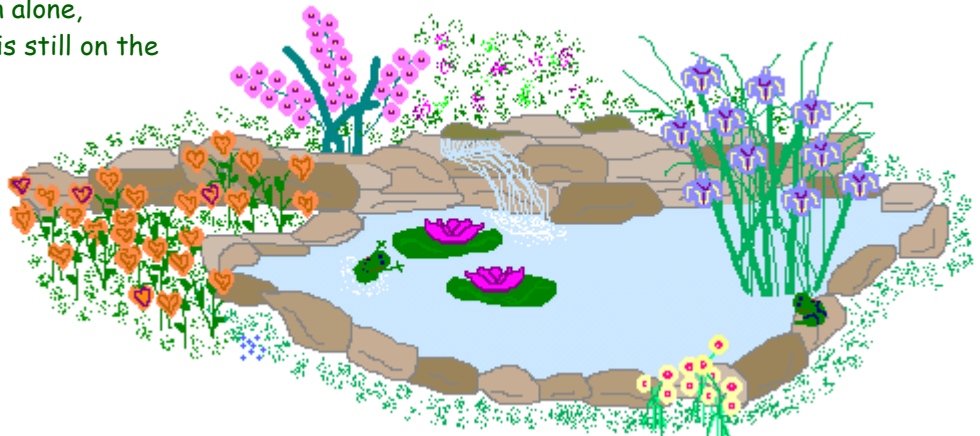
Demonstrator

Duncan Wiles—Available for demo's for workshops, etc.

Please contact Duncan on centuref@icon.co.za

How To Plant Your Garden .. Submitted by Lynn Theodoro

First, you Come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the



**FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING,
PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:**



1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul



PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:



1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another



TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:



1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another



1. Thyme for each other
- 2.. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE..

THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN BECAUSE YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.