

Nov/Dec 2012

# BONSAI

in



# SOUTH AFRICA

# Existence Is Our Home

Don't tell me how difficult the way  
The bird's path, winding far  
Is right before you.

Water of the Dokei Gorge,  
You return to the ocean  
I to the mountain.

Zen poem by Hofuku

Front page: Owner - Rudi Adam (Ficus) Photographer - Terry Erasmus.

# EDITORIAL



I wonder how many of you also have koi? I know of a few koi people who also have bonsai. Let me know and we might include an article or two.

Most of us are, by now, repotting, trimming, styling and having lots of bonsai fun. Have a look at what other clubs are doing on pages 3, 6, 18 and then the all new club section where snippets from clubs all over the country will appear.

Please consider adding [info@bonsaisouthafrica.co.za](mailto:info@bonsaisouthafrica.co.za) to your mailing list and keep us up to date with all your club news.

Most clubs are finishing off the year and having their year end functions this month, I would then also like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a spirited and safe festive season.

Carroll



# CAPE BONSAI KAI SHOW

ADMIRE OVER 100 BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLES OF THIS ANCIENT ART AT THE SANLAM HALL IN THE BEAUTIFUL GARDENS OF KIRSTENBOSCH, MANY OF THE BONSAIS BEING INDIGENOUS SPECIES.

ALSO, THROUGH DEMONSTRATIONS, LEARN HOW TO DESIGN AND CARE FOR YOUR LIVING CREATION FROM SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S BEST AFICIONADOS – AS WELL AS STOCK UP ON THE NECESSARY MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 15 TO MONDAY DECEMBER 17, 9AM TO 5PM DAILY. NO CHARGE OTHER THAN THE OBLIGATORY FEE TO ENTER KIRSTENBOSCH BOTANICAL GARDENS.

JOINING US AT 11.30AM SUNDAY DECEMBER 16, THE TAMASHII DAIKO GROUP, ARE GIVING AN EXCITING PERFORMANCE OF TAIKO – THE ART OF JAPANESE DRUMMING.

CONTACT TONY BENT 083 2305348  
[TONY@NANOSON.COM](mailto:TONY@NANOSON.COM) OR DOROTHY FRANZ 021 7978972 [DNFRANZ@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DNFRANZ@GMAIL.COM)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.CAPEBONSAIKAI.CO.ZA](http://WWW.CAPEBONSAIKAI.CO.ZA)



Juniper Forest: Owner - Rudi Adams, Photographer - Terry Erasmus

## Section 3

# THE ARTIST AND BONSAI - PIETER LOUBSER

Bonsai is like a drug. I cannot stop doing it. Why? What is it about this form of art that compels me to read, look, design, and think about it every day? It isn't that I'm not doing an ordinary job to make a living. No. I am a professional person, working many hours each day, but whenever I have a chance to see trees (real, or in my imagination) I do just that. I think about shapes, lines, contrasts, colours, weathering and much more. What is the story of the tree? Why does it interest me? I don't know why!

Maybe we can get some answers in what other artists have to say. Let's listen to them.

"Art! Who comprehends her? With whom can one consult concerning this great goddess?" were Ludwig von Beethoven's words.



This Ficus on the left, is a complex design a larger tree (BonsaiBark) , but is it less interesting than the tiny Buttonwood owned by Robert Kempinsky (BonsaiBark) shown on the right?

Is the soul of the artist reflected in these creations?

Lucian Freud says that “the character of the artist doesn't enter into the nature of the art“, but MC Escher holds that “my work is a game, a very serious game.” Of course it is serious. You expose yourself to varying opinions and the bad thing is that your art, your work is related to yourself as artist and can affect you as a person. This is not always easy to handle.

Kevyn Aucon, laconically remarks that he would “rather have huge success and huge failures than travel in the middle of the road. “ The artist will always be subject to the ups and downs, the highs and the lows of criticism even though it may be directed to the created designs only. Can you separate the artist and his/her work?

There is a path of growth and development in all of this, same as with bonsai trees. Ralph Waldo Emerson stated it very simply that “every artist was first an amateur” and even when the amateur status has been shed, it happens that “even a true artist does not always produce art” according to Carroll O’Connor.

But do not despair, Longus (in the third Century CE) stated that” there never was any yet that wholly could escape love, and never shall there be any, never so long as beauty shall be, never so long as eyes can see”. You hopefully see that “Fine art is that in which the hand, the head, and the heart of man go together “ according to John Ruskin.

You cannot design bonsai without imagining some tree. You sit in front of this piece of raw plant-material and somewhere your mind flirts with images of some tree you have seen or think of as a possible tree. Then you start snipping away and the item is reduced to something very basic, or you can already see the imagined tree. This is why John Berger can say:”The human imagination... has great difficulty in living strictly within the confines of a materialist practice or philosophy. It dreams, like a dog in its basket, of hares in the open”.

Today, 13 May, it is turning winter and my Celtisses are losing their leaves, after first giving me a short view of the variations of yellow they so graciously share with us, before they stand bare, proudly showing their naked beauty. Let’s not forget

the maples and surely not the Lagerstroemias!! We, as bonsai artists look at trees in nature and try and create miniatures that resemble those masterpieces. We act the way John Ciardi comments on with some humor: “Modern art is what happens when painters stop looking at girls and persuade themselves that they have a better idea.” We keep on thinking we can improve on nature. Can we?

Lucius Annaeus states that “All art is but imitation of nature. “

Look at this natural beauty I show in the next photograph. Naked rock? And it has been whisked away, never to be seen in its windblown, sandblasted majesty, ever again!



And then there are artists!!!! I still don’t know why I love bonsai. Paul Cezanne was tormented by the same consideration when he asked:”Tell me, do you think I’m going mad? I sometimes wonder, you know”.

I have said my say. For now.

## Section 4

# MY BONSAI - THEN & NOW MONICA VAN ASWEGEN

Monica van Aswegen received her first bonsai, (a White Monkey Thorn) from her Dad in 2004. At the time she had no knowledge of bonsai apart from photo's she had seen a few times. A year or two later, she saw that the tree did not look as lively as it did before and she realised that the tree required "specialised attention". She then started to research everything she could find on bonsai and soon became greatly interested in the subject. Since she did not know anyone who practised bonsai, she continued on her own for about 2 years. At the end of 2008 she became very frustrated since she had many questions and uncertainties which prompted her to look for others who shared her interest. A search on the net took her to EBS and Errol gave her Kathy's number. She then contacted her and joined Far Western Bonsai Society in January 2009 and it became her "bonsai home" where I found all the answers and advice she needed.

### FAR WEST BONSAI SOCIETY

Far Western Bonsai Society was founded approximately 20 years ago due to the need for a club in the area. The club initially had about four members. Kathy Steyn became the president of the club in 2005 and she still is. At the 2012 AGM held in February, the decision was made to change the club's name to Far West Bonsai Kai. The club currently has about 20 members and has grown with 8 active members since 2010. Whatever your reason may be for growing or owning bonsai – it's always about the passion for the art, the journey and the pleasure of watching each tree's transformation from seed, cutting or nursery plant to bonsai tree. Keep in mind that the first tree you selected was the personification of beauty (for you) when you first saw it, that's why you bought it – not because it had all the sought after qualities of a prize winning bonsai.

Now, years later, we look at trees in a different manner – analysing the roots, the trunk and its movement and the tree's overall potential to deliver a prize winner. So we look at trees with sharpened focus because of the knowledge we possess but the passion for the art still remains and constantly motivate us to further improve and develop our trees.

We spend much time nurturing and looking after our bonsai to ensure its optimal growth and development and we see its ramification develop and mature. We imagine what our tree would look like in a couple of years' time and that inspires our creativity. We prune and pinch back and watch the leaves reduce in size and at just the right time we search for a special pot to show off our bonsai tree's unique characteristics.

Growing Bonsai requires patience more than anything else, and in Japan a tree remains in training for seven years before it can earn the title of "bonsai tree". So, looking after and taking care of your bonsai is like having a pet. If well looked after it will give you years of pleasure and it may (unlike a pet) even outlive you!

Finally, there's the pleasure of showing off the trees you spent so much time on and seeing other's appreciation for their beauty...

**Phillip Kotze**

Schotia Brachypetala (nursery material)

1996



2012



**Deon Kotzee**

Ulmus (Nursery material)

2010



2012



Kanniedood/ Cammiphora harvyii

2011



2012



**Monica van Aswegen**

Wild Pride of India/ Pride of the Transvaal/  
Transvaal Privet/Galpini transvaalica (Nursery material)

2009



2012



Bosbeesklouy/Bauhinia tomentosa (nursedry material)

2009



2012



Juniper procumbens nana /Japanese Garden Juniper (Cutting taken 1996)

2010



2012



**Sheldon Venter**

White Stinkwood/Celtis africana (Nursery material)

2004



2011



**Sue Belcher**

Trident Maple/ Acer buergerianum (Nursery material, ± 15 years old, 40cm high)



White Monkey Thorn/ Acacia galpinii (10 years old, 50cm high)



**Cassie Page**

White Stinkwood/Celtis Africana



LINKS	LINKS
POTTER'S YARD	
CAPE BONSAI KAI	
BONSAI4YOU	
PRETORIA BONSAI KAI	
OYAMA BONSAI KAI	
JODA BONSAI DISTRIBUTORS	
THE BONSAI DOCTOR	
BONSAI4ME	
BONSAI BOYZ	
BONSAI HUISIE	
SA BONSAI FORUM	
BONSAI TREE	
BONSAI CLUBS INTERNATIONAL	
HELDERBERG BONSAI KAI	
BOLAND BONSAI KAI	

## Section 5

# BONSAI FOR BEGINNERS

So, someone gave you a bonsai. Now what?

Your bonsai will live a long time if you look after it properly. You will need to keep your bonsai small by pinching the new growth from September onwards. Depending on the species, you will only need to trim the roots every 2 or 3 years. If you are unsure of what to do, please take your tree to a club close to you.

Your bonsai is best kept out-doors where it will get plenty of light and air, but you do not need a big garden, it will do equally well on a balcony or patio. It is possible to bring bonsai in-doors for short periods, eg, when they are flowering or you want to impress for visitors for lunch.

Bonsais need to be kept wet during hot summer months.

Remember, your tree's roots will not be able to go and search for water. You may also spray the leaves occasionally. Feed your bonsai weekly in the Summer months, but never feed deciduous trees during the dormant months!

Watch out for little pests as with any big tree. Use pesticide as you feel comfortable.

Good luck with your tree, but know! From now on, your life will never be the same again.

Books are also always a good option and in South Africa, we are very lucky to have several authors who have published.

Some, but not all, are: (and in no particular order)

***Growing Bonsai in South Africa*** by Doug Hall & John Haw, recently revised and published by JoDa Bonsai Distributors.

***Bonsai Styles of the World*** by Charles Ceronio, 1999, published by Charles Ceronio

***Sukses met Bonsai*** by David Squire, 2006 (Vertaalde boek)

***Bonsai Success in South Africa*** by Carl Morrow

***Kuns in die Kleine*** by Pieter Loubser

***Bonsai in South Africa*** by Rudi Adam, now out of print but worthwhile if you can get your hands on it.

***101 Essentials Bonsai*** Tips by Ken Norman is a nice small pocket size book.

One should then also consider joining one of the many clubs around the country. Not only will you learn more than any book can teach you, you will also meet up with some lovely people. Good luck with your tree and hope there is many more to come.

# BiSA UNUSUAL SPECIES COMPETITION

Please click on the name of the tree that you like best and send email:



Callistemon



Dombeya



Spirostachys



Fuschia



Bombax



Artemisia abrotanum



Leptospernum



Caprosma



Virginia Creeper



## RULES OF THE COMPETITION

1. All pictures must be submitted in electronic format not less than 500kb .jpg
2. The picture must be of a living bonsai in your possession.
3. The public's popular vote will determine the winner and in case of a tie, the final decision will lie with the editorial staff. No correspondence will be entered into.
4. The Committee reserves the right to view the tree in person.
5. BiSA takes no responsibility for incorrectly identified trees.
6. Please send the photos to [info@bonsaisouthafrica.co.za](mailto:info@bonsaisouthafrica.co.za)

## PRIZES

1. A R500 gift voucher sponsored by Bonsai Boyz for the winning tree and R500 lucky draw prize for all entrants.
2. The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
3. The Committee reserves the right not to award a prize.

**LAST CHANCE TO VOTE!!!**



# Kat River Kai - Well Done

by Earl Jefferies

On Thursday 20th September, our two representatives from the Southern Cape, Earl and Mark, winners of the regional competition in George, travelled with our Chairman Tobie to the Bloemfontein Mini convention to compete in the national competition. Out of 11 entrants, from all over South Africa, Mark and Earl finished 1st and 2nd respectively. Congratulations to them both, and a big thank you to our Chairman and Bonsai master for the great instruction and coaching in Bonsai. A Feather in the cap to Kat River Kai, a three year old club. We must be doing something right. Mark and Earl will be abstaining from the next Young designer's competition in George. Judges maybe???????? Beware.

## ***Bloemfontein or Bust***

Thursday bright and early, Mark and Pammy arrived to load Earl and Sue, digging tools, padkos, luggage, young designer's tools and wire. We were off on a "know your country tour" to meet up with Sandy and Tobie at Camdeboo cottages in Graaff Reinet. First stop was the old fort at Uniondale, a beautiful view from the top of the hill overlooking the town. Next port of call the old church in town, built in 1863 with a magnificent Organ that stood over 4meters tall. A grand old building. Next stop was the church in Aberdeen with the highest steeple, spire in South Africa. Amazing town Aberdeen - the favourite pastime seems to be watching Paint dry...?.Desolate and desperate place. We were off again headed to Willowmore and lunch at the side of the road --- padkos was superb --- On the road again and headed to Graff Reinet. First stop was the amazing cactus nursery and garden. For those who have not seen them, it's a must do next time you pass through. After perusing through some antique shops and getting the makings of a braai together, we headed off to meet Sandy and Tobie at the cottages. Needless to say a glorious braai of kudu fillet a brakenfell briefcase and long chats about bonsai, kept us awake long after bedtime....another great braai by fatboy !!

Next morning, Tobie had us up and going to be at the valley of desolation by 6 o'clock --- the time the gate opens to the nature reserve --- ah --- the gate opened at 6.30am – so we missed the opportunity to take great pics of the sunrise from the top of the mountain. We scouted around and found some beautiful specimens of Star Flower and Kruisbessie and found some small rocks for souvenirs. Once we got to the top of the mountain to look down on the valley of desolation we saw the mind blowing rock formations, amazing views of the dam, lots of trees suitable for Bonsai, which Tobie thought would be inappropriate to remove as such this being in a nature reserve and all. You can't win em all. We saw lots of Zebra, Kudus, Eland, Red Hartebeest, Steenbok and Dassies to complete a well worth visit.

With Bloemfontein well in our sights we forged ahead following that turbo charged landy at a cracking pace. Next stop New Bathesda and the famous Owl House. I was full of expectation to see some of South Africa's greatest night birds, when to my amazement we stepped into a house of an insane women, rooms painted black, red orange, windows with stained glass, sculptures, of men on camels, birds, funny people and lots more in the garden. Wow!.. Full of surprises. The main road was lined with magnificent pear and quince trees in full bloom. Blossoms for Africa --- very pretty you know. Next after a tour of the two street town we found a replica of an oil rig erected in the middle of one road with the message "Frak off shell" on it. Clearly the locals are against frakking the shale deposits. Tobie then took us to lunch at a goat cheese and micro brewery just outside town, great plough mans platter, greater milk stout.

### **Off to Bloem---**

We were well on time for the SABA annual meeting and then had supper with some new, and some old --- Bonsai friends --- and bumped into a Kat river kai member all the way from Cape Town. Friend Freddie Bischoff. Some more bonsai chats and another briefcase and then to bed.

Saturday we were off to an early start with a hearty breakfast and then it was off to the convention for the Young Designer's Competition. Mark and I looked over the competitors like a hungry bull looks over the pastures at his cows. Winning this thing today --- only in our minds. Org the YDC organiser read us the rules and the riot act. Earl was dumbfounded --- no talking to each other or observers --- total silence --- for 4 hours --- could he stay quiet for that long?? --- well he did. Mark and I were the last two to finish --- maximise winning time --- and then lunch was up. We ate lunch while the three Judges were doing their marking sheets and Mark and I were observing them with keen interest. They were looking at his tree then turning around and looking at my tree on and on --- Well Mark our designs are out of the box --- most of the others were conventional, informal upright, cascade, semi-cascade --- we'll see mate don't panic. After some good talks, 4pm arrived and the announcement of the winner. Third was Kappie, applause, 2<sup>nd</sup> --- number nine --- you know who you are --- Fatboy --- I jumped up with amazement and thought wow not bad fatboy! First no 5 --- silence ---Mark it's you I said --- Shakily Mark stood and got his cup --- applause, and then photos of first and second place with cup and trees --- Winners --- We were flattered with compliments and well done's --- but the real applause should have gone to our bonsai teacher Tobie --- Hats off Tobie you did your job well --- Two guys 4 years in Bonsai --- Carrots to the rest ---

We celebrated at the waterfront with steak and wine and had chats about Bonsai with our newest member Okkie Van Der Merwe, Freddie and old member Niel Nel. A good night to remember. Much talk was about the fact that Kat River Kai was awarded the privilege to host the 2014 mini convention in George. Kat river kai now has five members that live more than 400kms from George. We must be doing something right.

Sunday --- An Olive, Buddlea dig --- Say no more! We each dug out three trees and managed somehow to fit everything into the landy and Marks bus. We thanked Viaan and his team for the very professional way he handled the convention and his organization of the whole weekend --- We will have to try and emulate that --- Well done Bloemfontein it was great.

Next we were off to Norvals Pont for our final night before heading back to George. Once again we had a great braai by Jefferys more briefcase more bonsai talk and fellowship. Slept well that night after the dig and all. After a hearty breakfast we followed the turbo landy back to George after stopping to share lunch in the karoo with a troop of Vervet Monkeys.

My thanks to Tobie and Sandy for organising the weekend, Sue and Pammy for their support, Mark for doing most of the driving and Earl for the braai.ing --- Look out for the next getaway weekend with Kat River Kai, its always a fantastic



## BONSAI CLUBS, NURSERIES AND SUPPLIERS

# WESTERN PROVINCE

CLUB	TOWN/SUBURB	CONTACT PERSON	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL	WEB SITE
Bishopsford Bonsai Nursery	Houtbay	Gail & Lionel Theron	021 790 3478	<a href="mailto:bford@cybersmart.co.za">bford@cybersmart.co.za</a>	
Blaauwberg Bonsai Kai		Dawn Collier	076 529 7848	<a href="mailto:mrjade@mweb.co.za">mrjade@mweb.co.za</a>	
Boland Bonsai Kai	Stellenbosch	Coenie Brand	082 804 9195	<a href="mailto:cjibrand@snowisp.com">cjibrand@snowisp.com</a>	
Bonsai Society of South Africa	Goodwood	Ben van Heerden	082 870 6212	<a href="mailto:pekebonsai@vodamail.co.za">pekebonsai@vodamail.co.za</a>	
Bonsai Tree	Somerset West	Terry Erasmus	082 890 7927	<a href="mailto:info@bonsaitree.co.za">info@bonsaitree.co.za</a>	
Cape Bonsai Kai	Newlands	Tony Bent	083 230 5348	<a href="mailto:tony@nanoson.com">tony@nanoson.com</a>	
Helderberg Bonsai Kai	Strand	Ras Smal	084 655 0718	<a href="mailto:info@bonsaigarden.co.za">info@bonsaigarden.co.za</a>	
Kat River Kai	George	Tobie Kleynhans	083 635 1447	<a href="mailto:toblen@mweb.co.za">toblen@mweb.co.za</a>	
Olive Grove Bonsai Centre	Kraaifontein	Rudi Adam	021 987 4040	<a href="mailto:rabonsai@telkomsa.net">rabonsai@telkomsa.net</a>	
Overberg Bonsai Kai	Hermanus	Wynand Vermeulen	071 363 2169	<a href="mailto:wynandwurms@gmail.com">wynandwurms@gmail.com</a>	
Pygmy Bonsai Nursery	George	Andre Krige	083 471 5415	<a href="mailto:pygmy.bonsai@gmail.com">pygmy.bonsai@gmail.com</a>	
Potter's Yard	Houtbay	Phil Levitt	021 790 0559	<a href="mailto:phil@pottersyard.co.za">phil@pottersyard.co.za</a>	
Stone Lantern Bonsai Nursery	Durbanville	Steven le Roux	083 375 0446	<a href="mailto:stonelantern@hotmail.com">stonelantern@hotmail.com</a>	
Tygerberg Bonsai Club	Stellenbosch	Ben van Heerden	082 870 6212	<a href="mailto:pekebonsai@vodamail.co.za">pekebonsai@vodamail.co.za</a>	

## BONSAI CLUBS, NURSERIES AND SUPPLIERS

# GAUTENG

CLUB	TOWN/SUBURB	CONTACT PERSON	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL	WEB SITE
Bonsai Huisie	Krugersdorp	Andries Straus	083 393 0188	<a href="mailto:info@bonsai.co.za">info@bonsai.co.za</a>	
Brenthurst Gardens	Houghton		011 646 1529	<a href="mailto:thegarden@brenthurstgardens.co.za">thegarden@brenthurstgardens.co.za</a>	
Dunmau Bonsai	Olifantsfontein	Duncan Wiles	081 382 5233	<a href="mailto:wiles@icon.co.za">wiles@icon.co.za</a>	
East Rand Bonsai Kai	Boksburg	Rudi Buys	084 575 8141	<a href="mailto:erbk@telkomsa.net">erbk@telkomsa.net</a>	
Eastern Bonsai Society	Highlands North	Hansie Bekker	082 820 4306	<a href="mailto:hansieb@lantic.net">hansieb@lantic.net</a>	
Far West Bonsai Kai	Randfontein	Kathy Steyn	083 710 4243	<a href="mailto:pennantpress@y.co.za">pennantpress@y.co.za</a>	
Jo-Da Bonsai Nursery	Dunotter	John & Frieda Haw	011 734 2765	<a href="mailto:joda0@absamail.co.za">joda0@absamail.co.za</a>	
Lieberman Pottery	Johannesburg	Adrian Lieberman	011 482 2215		
Midway Bonsai Society	Midrand	Hennie Reynecke	082 414 1171	<a href="mailto:hennie.ero@kingsley.co.za">hennie.ero@kingsley.co.za</a>	
Mikibu Bonsai	Randjiesfontein	Jonathan Cain	083 698 9069	<a href="mailto:jonathan@bonsaisa.co.za">jonathan@bonsaisa.co.za</a>	
Pretoria Bonsai Kai	Pretoria	Org Exley	082 809 2037	<a href="mailto:org@ntp.co.za">org@ntp.co.za</a>	
Sawasdee Bonsai Empire	Lonehill	Bill	083 307 1885	<a href="mailto:billruth@telkomsa.net">billruth@telkomsa.net</a>	
Shibui Bonsai Society	Emmerentia	Derry Ralph	011 788 6104	<a href="mailto:bonsaikebana@mweb.co.za">bonsaikebana@mweb.co.za</a>	
Southern Bonsai Society	Alberton	Kallie du Plessis	082 678 2795	<a href="mailto:kareldup@netralink.com">kareldup@netralink.com</a>	
Topsom Nursery	Witkoppen	Ellen Chen	011 023 7733	<a href="mailto:topsomnursery.ellen@gmail.com">topsomnursery.ellen@gmail.com</a>	
Vereeniging Bonsai Club	Vereeniging	Deon Rynders	083 414 6472	<a href="mailto:orthorite@webhome.co.za">orthorite@webhome.co.za</a>	

# EASTERN PROVINCE, MPUMALANGA, NORTHERN CAPE, LIMPOPO & NORTH WEST PROVINCE

CLUB	TOWN/SUBURB	CONTACT PERSON	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL	WEB SITE
<b>EASTERN PROVINCE</b>					
Border Bonsai Kai	Gonubie	John Jansen	083 448 3417	<a href="mailto:john.jansen@bipa.co.za">john.jansen@bipa.co.za</a>	
Eastern Province Bonsai Kai	Port Elizabeth	Lionel Owen	083 495 3375	<a href="mailto:lilowen@netactive.co.za">lilowen@netactive.co.za</a>	
Fuji Bonsai	Port Elizabeth	Greg Blandford	082 417 1455	<a href="mailto:fujibonsai72@gmail.com">fujibonsai72@gmail.com</a>	
<b>MPUMALANGA</b>					
Nelspruit Bonsai Kai	Nelspruit	Eddie Jenner	083 324 6671	<a href="mailto:earthmatters@mweb.co.za">earthmatters@mweb.co.za</a>	
<b>NORTHERN CAPE</b>					
Kalahari Bonsai Kai	Upington	Jandre Brink	083 388 8476	<a href="mailto:kalaharibonsai@gmail.com">kalaharibonsai@gmail.com</a>	
<b>LIMPOPO</b>					
El Shaddai Kwekery	Phalaborwa	Willie Viljoen	082 923 8195	<a href="mailto:whv@lantic.co.za">whv@lantic.co.za</a>	
Tzaneen Bonsai Club	Tzaneen	Hennie Smit	083 259 2806	<a href="mailto:midas@inx.co.za">midas@inx.co.za</a>	
Waterberg Bonsaiklub	Bela-Bela (Warmbaths)	Ian Pringle	083 468 3578	<a href="mailto:pikkian@iafrica.co.za">pikkian@iafrica.co.za</a>	
<b>NORTH WEST PROVINCE</b>					
Klerksdorp Bonsai Kai	Klerksdorp	Pieter Loubser	082 564 4878	<a href="mailto:mploubser@gmail.com">mploubser@gmail.com</a>	
Rustenburg Bonsai Kai	Rustenburg	Koos Robbertse	083 273 2968	<a href="mailto:smarais@angloplat.com">smarais@angloplat.com</a>	

# FREE STATE & KWAZULU NATAL

CLUB	TOWN/SUBURB	CONTACT PERSON	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL	WEB SITE
<b>FREE STATE</b>					
Bloemfontein Bonsai Kai	Bloemfontein	Vian Herbst	083 458 7183	<a href="mailto:vian@fxsos.co.za">vian@fxsos.co.za</a>	
Platberg Bonsai Kai	Harrismith	Mariaan Pienaar	083 454 9174	<a href="mailto:bartsch@dorea.co.za">bartsch@dorea.co.za</a>	
Die Towerpot	Harrismith	Magda	058 622 3373		
<b>KWAZULU NATAL</b>					
Bonsai Boyz	Pinetown	Ed Brits	082 771 5395	<a href="mailto:info@bonsaiboyz.co.za">info@bonsaiboyz.co.za</a>	
Bonsai Boyz	Umhlali	Carol Brits		<a href="mailto:info@bonsaiboyz.co.za">info@bonsaiboyz.co.za</a>	
Ballito Bonsai Club	Umhlali	Caroll Hermann	082 579 5599	<a href="mailto:info@bonsaisouthafrica.co.za">info@bonsaisouthafrica.co.za</a>	
Durban Bonsai Society	Durban	Edwin Boreensee	084 625 8920	<a href="mailto:borresene@velavke.co.za">borresene@velavke.co.za</a>	
Kengai Bonsai Kai	Assegay	Lynn Theodoro	083 254 1022	<a href="mailto:mistymoonbonsai@gmail.com">mistymoonbonsai@gmail.com</a>	
Pietermaritzburg Bonsai Society	Pietermaritzburg	Jurgen Nuss	083 745 6078	<a href="mailto:nuss@telkomsa.net">nuss@telkomsa.net</a>	
“The Castle” Indigenous Bonsai	Hillcrest	Garry or Alan	082 801 8860 073 588 8768	<a href="mailto:indigbonsai@mweb.co.za">indigbonsai@mweb.co.za</a>	
Zululand Bonsai Society	Richards Bay	Barry Stofberg	083 324 9392	<a href="mailto:info@zululandbonsai.co.za">info@zululandbonsai.co.za</a>	



## SA Bonsai Forum

All you need to know about South African Bonsai

A very interesting discussing on how to start a strangler fig van be found at <http://www.sabonsai.co.za/forum/index.php/topic/498-how-to-start-a-strangler-fig/>



**Bonsai Tree** runs a very active forum and always has interesting topics. Currently, there is a beautiful video of the Benbel Bonsai Weekend in October 2012.

**PYGMY BONSAI NURSERY** is a nursery based in George and sells Japanese and Chinese species as well as a wide range of pots



JoDa Bonsai Distributors have a Automatic Watering Device in stock. Automatic Watering Device. It waters your bonsai or house plants “whilst your away”. Set it up and try it out a few days before you go away for best results. Simple instructions included @ R25 each.



EBS's next meeting is on Saturday, 10 November 2012 from 12:00 to 16:30 at the Main Hall, at Randjes Estate, Randjeslaagte Road, Highlands North.

NOTE: The meeting's start time is earlier.

The meeting format has been changed to provide for a dem, a crit and 2 workshop slots. The general workshop is where members will be given guidance to style or repot trees. The second workshop will be after the dem where members get a chance to put the learning's from the dem into practice.

Everybody requiring guidance should therefore bring trees to work on in both workshops and for the crits as well as your tools, wire, etc. The shop will be open from 12:00 to 13:00.

### ZULULAND BONSAI

Celia doing a very informative talk on root over rock techniques. This was followed by a demonstration on the various projects she has on the go. The three methods discussed to develop root over rock were:



- bucket planting, where the tree is placed on a rock and planted in a deep container, in effect burying the rock
- clay & aluminium foil

Shaun Murphy and his gang of traveling Bonsai Maniacs will attend our full day workshop to be held 10 November at the NSRI, starting at 9am. Details will follow so be sure to diarise the date. There will be a section for those who wish to display their show bonsai, and Shaun will do a crit and evaluation on these trees.



Shibui Bonsai Kai's last meeting was a brilliant showing of some the Japanese art collection and Satsuki Azaleas of Dr. Tony Harrison. He also took us through his journey, from his first Bonsai and the other various activities, to where he is today. Thank you very much to Tony for a very informative afternoon.

### Cape Bonsai Kai

Graemme La Foy had an extremely interesting talk about Slasto slabs. He showed us the process he follows from start to end product and brought some very nice finished pieces with. Graemme pointed out that Shale stone can be drilled, polished and shaped with relative ease as long as care is taken and you use the right tools.



Ballito Bonsai Club had it's first styling competition. In spite of rain bucketing down, all the active members pitched up and had lots of fun. They even managed to snag a new member who bravely attempted his hand at a (according to him) first time styling and had the rest of the members eyeing his tree with envy!

Ek wil vir Una dankie sê vir die interessante praatjie oor die herstel van gebreekte houers. Met 'n bietjie gom en dalk 'n bietjie verf kan 'n mens dalk weer 'n nuwe pot hê wat 'n mens kan gebruik. Ek wil Hannes ook bedank vir 'n baie insiggewende praatjie. Hannes het weereens gewys hoe diep sy kennis is van plante en bonsai tegnieke. Dit was 'n baie goed voorbereide praatjie. Dit is geen wonder dat hy so gewild is en moet regstaan om praatjies en demonstrasies regoor die land doen nie.



### PRETORIA BONSAI KAI

## calendar

when?	who?	where?	contact?
15 - 17 Dec 2012	Cape Bonsai Kai	Kirstenbosch Gardens	Contact Tony Bent 083 2305348 tony@nanoson.com or Dorothy Franz 021 7978972 dnfranz@gmail.com
24 November 2012	ERBK - BRAT Day	at ERBK	
30 March 2013	BRAT Open Day	Heidelberg	
20 - 22 April 2013	BCI	Yangzhou, China	BCI-Bonsai
24 - 27 October 2013	EBS	Convention	

Please email your newsletter and club activities for inclusion in this section to: [info@bonsaisouthafrica.co.za](mailto:info@bonsaisouthafrica.co.za).



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