



## EBS Newsletter

January 2020



### **From the Chairman:**

*Dear EBS Members*

With 2019 behind us and with an exciting 2020 awaiting us all, I am writing a delayed newsletter.

Every year brings new challenge, new highlights, and new developments. This also happens with our trees. I was reminded of this when I saw the following quote in an old magazine:

“Yesterday the twig was brown and bare;  
Today the glint of green is there” L.H. Bailey- US Botanist

#### *A TALE OF HOPE*

In June 2019 I bought a “White thorn” tree from the sale table at the Shibui Winter Bonsai Show. Derry Ralph told me that he couldn’t believe that I bought such an ugly tree. I explained that I only bought the Japanese pot that only happened to have the scraggly tree planted in it. If I couldn’t “rescue” the tree with my limited knowledge, I knew that I at least have a beautiful pot!

The two major secondary branches were dead with some die back on some of the others.



I cut off most of the dead branches and then wired the remaining long thin branches.

My new rescued dog “Jordy” needed a lot of love and attention, and he showed great interest in the tree, knocking it off the bonsai stand. Luckily the pot didn’t break but some branches broke off completely and the wired ones were mangled and re bent.



By September some of the branches died back more, it really was in a sorry state. As I decided that the tree was going to die in any case, and as the tree hadn’t been re potted in years and with the soil totally compacted and with no drainage, I decided to repot!

The tree’s original taproot that had never been cut coiled attractively on the surface and created an impressive nebari. Removing the compact soil, I realized that two thirds of the root was rotten below soil level and only one third diameter wise was barely alive. There were hardly any other roots. Cleaning off the old compact soil this root snapped off!

As the saying goes: “Fools rush in where angels fear to tread”, and as I am no angel I decided to repot in any case, using a training pot and club soil (this was on 29th September).

By November the last two branches died completely but I continued to mist tree and water as before.

The most recent photos show my dead tree 35 days later. Sprouting new growth all over, and whilst lower growth will have to be removed, there is hope that with the help of EBS club members, I might still be able to make something of this tree.



LATEST PHOTOS  
The lesson learned: not to give up too soon, and that there is always hope.



### **DECEMBER MEETING**

We had a lovely day at Hospice with lots of people bringing trees to work on. Kathy T bringing a very able son to braai the wors for delicious boerewors rolls. Jeanette brought lots of cakes and Hansie Bekker brought delicious savouries and sausages. Kanthi brought a tree decorated for Christmas with “snow” and won the shop voucher. Ismail brought his delightful children that had a great time. Thank you to all for making it such a lovely day. We were all having so much fun that we only snapped a few photos one being of Ismail's children relaxing on the lawn and when we were packing up.



## **NEW MEMBER**

Nilesh came to our December meeting to check things out. He came with lots of enthusiasm and lots of trees to work on. He enjoyed it so much that he joined immediately! WELCOME NILESH.

## **NEXT MEETING- 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020**

Committee meeting 11-12.30

Current Beginners course (Session 5) 11-12:30

**TALK** by our own Fred Oudmayer on the do's and don'ts and special quirks of BUDDLEJA, the small tree/shrub named after the Rev Adam Buddle, the amateur British botanist (1660-1719). Kathy T is bringing in a nursery bought Buddleja for Fred's expert advice.

Please bring a Buddleja or any tree that you are currently enjoying, to stand a chance of winning R50 shop voucher

WORKSHOP Please bring a tree or two to work on, or a tree that you need help /advice with.

**CAKES-** provided by Kanthi in this his birthday month.

## **SABA NEWS (South African Bonsai Association)**

Pretoria based; Anthony Smith has been chosen by SABA to represent South Africa at the Australian convention.

## **BRAT (Bonsai Regional Association Transvaal)**

**EBS is hosting the BRAT day on 30th May 2020**

Please get your trees in top condition to enter them in the following categories:

- 1 Formal and Informal
- 2 Cascade and Semi Cascade
- 3 Forest and Group plantings
- 4 Literati
- 5 Broom And Flame style
- 6 Driftwood
- 7 African Styles
- 8 Mame
- 9 Collected Material
- 10 Beginners less than 5 years
- 11 Best Buddleja
- 12 Root over rock
- 13 Previous past winners
- 14 Shohin



Club members please start bringing trees in January already for help and advice, so that we can be ready for May.

## **January Birthdays**

Naseem Ebrahim on the 6th  
Anthony Bosman the 13th  
Esther Rothfels the 14th  
Klaus Kreft on the 19th  
Ismail Sallie the 22nd  
Dave Wilson the 27th  
Kanthi Soma the 28th January



## **Condolences**

Long standing EBS club member; Clive Kay has lost his farther in the new year. We wish him long life and our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

## General:

### Workshops

The club offers a workshop every meeting and members are encouraged to bring trees for working on and advise.

*Remember bonsai is best supported through doing*

### EBS on the web

Website: <http://www.ebs.org.za/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/easternbonsaisociety>

### Shop

The Club shop will be open from 11:30 - 12:30hrs, preceding a club meeting, at Hospice.

### Library

The library will be open from 11:30 - 12:30hrs preceding a club meeting, at Hospice. Please note books are taken out on a monthly basis. Kindly return books on time.

### Every meeting is a mini show

Lucky draw on all trees brought by members to work on. Prize R50 voucher for EBS shop.

### Cake Roster

#### Name

#### Month

Khanti	January
Volunteer needed	February
Volunteer needed	March

Contact Kathy T

### Cups and teaspoons

Should any member have spare coffee/tea mugs and teaspoons at home that they would like to donate to the club it would be much appreciated. Hospice crockery and cutlery is not always available and polystyrene cups and plastic teaspoons are really only for emergencies.

### BRAT Events

Date	Club hosting	Location
29th February-30th May	Bonsai Addicts- Our own EBS-	Pretoria Johannesburg
29th August-31st October	East Rand Bonsai Kai- Suikerbos Bonsai Kai-	Johannesburg Heidelberg

### Things to do for January

- Check for pests and diseases. Remove weeds.
- Water twice daily in hot weather.
- Hot water can cause chlorosis. Use Epsom salts.
- Feed balanced fertilizer.
- Break out azaleas' growth points.
- Acacias can still be defoliated.
- All figs can be defoliated and pruned back.
- Cut back longer shoots on Junipers.
- Olives get second spurt. Cut back all growth points.
- Bougainvilleas finished flowering can be cut back and shaped.
- Repot trees not potted in Spring. Remove less roots.
- Put repotted trees in shade for six weeks. No fertilizer.
- Maintenance pruning on all species can be done.
- Swamp cypress and Wisteria need extra watering.
- Wire where necessary.

\*Conditions differ from region to region. Consult with local club.

### Raffle table

Any of those trees or pots that are in your way could find a happy new owner via the raffle table. Any bonsai or non-bonsai related items are welcome.

Thank you to people who brought items for the raffle table. It is highly appreciated. Raffle tickets are still R5.00 each. The raffle table will have plenty of items available-support the club and buy raffle tickets.

### Banking details

**ABSA Bank**

**Branch Sandton**

**Account holder name- Eastern Bonsai Society**

**Account number -711951156**

# AUTUMN BONSAI FESTIVAL 6



**01 May to 03 May 2020**

Pine Lodge Resort, GEORGE

HEADLINER  
**David De Groot**

"INSPIRATIONAL BONSAI INTERACTIONS"



## Program

DATE	TIME	
FRIDAY 01 May	14h00 to 14h30	David De Groot - Introduction
	14h30 to 15h30	David De Groot - Demo / Lecture
	15h30 to 16h00	Tea
	16h00 to 17h00	Cindy Rodkin - Bonsai inspiration
SATURDAY 02 May	09h00 to 10h30	David De Groot - Tree Critique, Exhibition trees
	10h30 to 11h30	David De Groot - Demo / Lecture
	11h30 to 12h00	Tea
	12h00 to 13h00	Tobie Kleynhans - New Bonsai material
	13h00 to 14h00	Lunch
	14h00 to 16h00	David De Groot - Demo / Lecture
	16h00 to 16h30	Tea
	16h30 to 17h30	Hennie Nel - Branch structure of Mame & Shohin
	18h00 to late	Spitbraai
SUNDAY 03 May	09h00 to 10h30	David De Groot - Demo / Lecture
	10h30 to 11h00	Tea
	11h00 to 12h00	Antony Smith - New Bonsai Techniques
	14h00 to 17h00	David De Groot - Workshop 50 Cj Langenhoven street - Only 8 Spots - R500 pp

### **Committee Members:**

Chairman	Anthony Bosman	084 557 7348
Vice Chairman	Dave Wilson	082 923 2538
Secretary	Kathy Tinney	072 999 9672
Treasurer	Alan Russell	082 766 0670
BRAT Representative	Dave Wilson	082 923 2538
New members & Membership	Jennifer Georgeson	082 336 5425
Website	Naseem Ebrahim	084 401 2379
Raffle & Tree Sales	Yatish Poonee	
Committee member	Clive Cosser	083 876 4581
Committee member	Gerhardt Buchner	082 805 2037
Committee member	Vaughan Brenchley	
SABA Representative	Hansie Bekker	082 820 4306
Facebook	Annetia Russell	

**Next committee meeting is on Saturday 11 January 2020, at 11:00hrs.**