



THE MIDWAY NEWS

8. WHO'S WHO

since vyani and myself are doing the newsletter together, we decided it would be good for everyone to get a glimpse of our bonsai history.

YOUR FIRST BONSAI TREE: our first trees were both figs (the commercial grafted woolworths type).

HOW DID YOU START DOING BONSAI: vyani started bonsai through being introduced by a friend in 2010 and went for workshops with duncan wiles. she got me my first bonsai on valentine's day not knowing that i have always wanted a bonsai but thought they would be too expensive. once i had my first tree and it started to thrive, we started to look for more and more bonsai places to expand our collection. we went to olifansfontein looking for duncan as vyani remembered him being there. that is where we met jonathan and denise. we joined midway shortly thereafter.

HOW MANY TREES DO YOU HAVE? ABOUT 200, 50 IN POTS AND 150 LAYING AROUND. MOST OF THEM STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO AND WE HAVE A LOT TO LEARN. WE FIGURED WE HAVE TIME THOUGH. I ALWAYS TELL VYANI WE HAVE ENOUGH TREES BUT SHE SAYS THERE IS NO SUCH THING!

FAVOURITE SPECIES OF TREE: vyani's favourite is the ficus burtt davyi and she loves her flowering trees. mine is the japanese maple and pine. i am still on the search for a japanese black pine.

NUMBER OF YEARS IN MIDWAY: we joined the club in august 2015.

FAVOURITE STYLE IN BONSAI: i like the formal upright and vyani is a fan of the informal upright with lots of twists and curves in the trunk. she also likes mames where as i like the bigger trees.



Some of Rudy Adams' famous personal collection which we went to go see on one of our trips to Cape Town





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8. WHO'S WHO CONTINUED



YOUR FAVOURITE TREE IN YOUR COLLECTION: we have many favourites BUT TO name a couple would be our CHINESE MAPLE, CHINESE ELM and LEOPARD TREE. we have actually become so FOND of some of our trees that we have named them.

YOUR BEST BONSAI ADVICE RECEIVED: PLACING a tree in THE GROUND. IT WILL GROW AT LEAST 10 TIMES FASTER THAN IN THE POT.

BEST ADVICE YOU CAN GIVE: BONSAIS GROW SLOW and there IS NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT so IF YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING WITH a TREE DO IT TODAY.



ANY OTHER INTERESTING FACTS OR HOBBIES. vyani actually DOES salsa DANCING and I HAVE GIVEN IT a TRY TOO. I COME FROM a BANKING BACKGROUND BUT WOULD LOVE TO HAVE a GAME FARM one DAY. we BOTH LOVE TRAVELLING and HAVE DECIDED TO VISIT as many BONSAI PLACES as POSSIBLE on our TRIPS and LEARN as MUCH as we CAN FROM THE PEOPLE we MEET.

Above – A crassula sarcocaulus that we got from the Vaal BRAT day

Left – A karoo koeniebos almost 20 years old