



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

November
2016

November 20 10am-2pm **Mentorship 101A** Milwaukie Center

November 27 10am-2pm **Mentorship 101B** Milwaukie Center

November 22 7pm **BSOP monthly meeting** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

December 4 10am-2pm **Mentorship 102** Milwaukie Center

December 11 4:30pm **BSOP Holiday Party** Milwaukie Center

Words From Your President

Welcome to the Northwest's new Fall Season. I am sitting at my desk, looking out my window and the weather is cloudless and warm. No frost yet so I am still fertilizing.

This month's message will be all about our website. Not sure if you know it or not, but Karl Holmes is in the process of reworking parts of it. It is a steady as she goes project and I invite you to log on and check it out. (If you have trouble logging in, check with Jan Hettick, janhettick@comcast.net to have your password reset.)

While browsing, note that we have a section called "Member Discussion Area," a chat room for bonsai questions and answers. Any member can log on that link and ask/answer questions, or just post an opinion. It would be nice if this was more utilized. I just found out yesterday that people are sending us questions but not getting responses. Now that I am aware, I will be monitoring that link closely. If questions are not answered, I will search for a designated person to monitor the link and answer the questions or research the answers and then respond. One does not have to be a bonsai expert to do this but should know who to contact to get the answers. If that does not work, we will have to remove the discussion area link and I hope we do not have to do that.

There is so much information on the site: get up-to-date information on upcoming events; regular or special ones. Keep tabs on progress toward the 2018 Northwest Bonsai Rendezvous. Access our membership directory and contact any member. Read the Tree Line and review past issues. Read articles that teach you about bonsai. Update yourself with our Heritage and Mentorship Programs and so much more.

I marvel at the myriad of talents the BSOP membership has on its roster. In particular, this month I marvel at the talents of Karl Holmes. Please take the time to let him know you appreciate his hard work on our website. As always, thank you for your trust, *Lee*

Holidays are Coming

Hard to believe it's November already and time to think about winterizing our trees. I've already started even though weather remains quite warm right now but winter will be here before we know it.

For our November meeting presentation, we will be having Danny Coffey from North Carolina doing tree evaluation and some initial styling work. Danny has been an intern at the National Bonsai Museum, spent 1 1/5 years in Japan as an apprentice and is presently a remote work study apprentice. He currently has a bonsai blog on the internet called "Tree the People". Danny will make selections from member trees that were chosen to be brought in, to evaluate and make suggestions as to what direction they should take.

For our show & tell table this month, we are featuring winter silhouette (naked) trees. If you have deciduous trees that look amazing without their leaves, please bring them to the meeting to share. More meeting information will come out by email in my monthly announcement the weekend before the meeting.

As December is right around the corner, so is our annual BSOP Holiday Party. The party is December 11th at the Milwaukie Center with social time and appetizers at 4:30 and dinner beginning at 5:30. This is a combination catered (meat) and pot luck event. There will be an auction & raffle following dinner. We will be sending out a separate announcement on the Party including what to bring. Tickets are available for purchase on the BSOP website portlandbonsai.org or at the November meeting for \$10 each (\$15 at the door). I would like to encourage new members to attend this social event. It is one of the best ways to get acquainted with your fellow BSOP members... I know it was for me when I was new.

Since repotting season is just around the corner, I will be placing my 1st akadama order this month. If you would like to place an order of akadama and/or kanuma please email me stevenleaming@gmail.com and let me know how many bags you would like to reserve. Price is \$30 for each bag and I will be able to deliver at the November meeting.

Steve Leaming, VP-Programs



Procumbens juniper and maple

The 2016 Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association exhibit in Olympia

Mentorship Program 2017

Winter 2017 meeting dates

January 15	Mentorship 102
January 22	Mentorship 101A
January 29	Mentorship 101B
February 5	Mentorship 102
February 12	Mentorship 101A
February 19	Mentorship 101B
March 5	Mentorship 102
March 19	Mentorship 101A
March 26	Mentorship 101B

Winter Haiku

Silver thaw morning
The snow melts into music
Pine needles sparkling



Edris Stryker

Longtime BSOP member Edris Stryker passed away on July 14th at 95 years young. Edris regularly attended BSOP functions, commuting all the way from Longview, Washington with her husband Ralph and had been a member from 1972 to 2009. She was known for her horticultural skill and attention to detail. Her trees were often favorites at our shows in the nineties and early two-thousands. And she accomplished it all with the minimal tools, pots, and instructions that were available at the time.

When she was no longer able to care for her trees and began selling off her collection, I found but a scant single, empty pot on her shelf. She used everything to the maximum. Her legacy will live on in her trees. Edris regularly started trees and accent plants from cuttings and seedlings, selling them at bonsai marketplaces. One of her favorite stories for visitors was to show the Katsura tree in a bonsai pot, then point to the thirty foot tall tree in the back yard grown from a cutting of the bonsai.

Many folks in the club still have trees that she started and that is no small feat. After whittling down my own collection to the bare bones over the past few years, I still have about ten of her trees of varying species. We miss her already.

Scott Elser

It Is an Election Year

BSOP club elections are upon us once again...where does the time go. We officially declare our candidates in this month's Tree Line and at this month's meeting. Elections are held at the November meeting. If you are interested in serving or wish to nominate someone, we will take nominations from the floor in November. At that time, we will then vote, by a show of hands, for all 2017-2018 candidates.

These are your candidates for the 2017-2018 board:

- President Lee Cheatle
- Vice President of Programming Michael Allen (Lime)
- Vice President of Membership Jan Hettick
- Treasurer John Thomas
- Secretary Patty Myrick
- Past President Jan Hettick



The National Show – Portland brings it.

As I made my way to Rochester, New York this last September for the Fifth National Bonsai Exhibit, I was anticipating a fun time and a chance to do a little bonsai shopping. This was the fourth time out of five that the Pacific Northwest, and Portland in particular, has sent trees on the long journey back to the National, and we've always been well represented by our trees.

But, what occurred this last show was astounding. Three major awards went to the Portland club alone, and when taken as an influence, our region was unmatched. Nine BSOP members sent trees back east. I've included a photo of each tree so that you get a feel for how Portland was represented.

First off, congratulations to Dennis Vojtilla on a well deserved win for the Finest Deciduous tree. His European Birch clearly stood out from the field. Deciduous trees require dedication and perseverance, and Dennis's years of effort were finally recognized. This was actually the birch's second trip to Rochester.

Then there is Michael Hagedorn, one of our local pros who took the award for the Finest Evergreen bonsai. The Mountain Hemlock group was collected by Mike as one giant clump and took three strong guys just to move it around.

Finally, John Jaramillo won a special prize, the Natural award. When I asked Bill V. to define what the award meant, he said it was created on the spot at the request of judge Enrique Castano. Way to go John! Rounding out the field for Portland were some awesome trees. Here's what went to Rochester:

- Greg Brenden Common Juniper
- Scott Elser Engelmann Spruce
- Michael Hagedorn Mountain Hemlock (Best Conifer)
- Howard Greissler Rocky Mountain Juniper
- Randy Knight Rocky Mountain Juniper
- Paul Krasner Japanese White Pine
- John Jaramillo Scots Pine (Natural Award)
- Ryan Neil Shore Pine



Dennis Vojtilla – European Birch (Best Deciduous)



Greg Brenden with his Common Juniper



Scott Elser with his Engelmann Spruce



Rocky Mountain Juniper by Howard Greissler



Scots Pine by John Jaramillo



Rocky Mountain Juniper by
Randy Knight



Japanese White Pine by Paul Krasner



Shore Pine by Ryan Neil



Mountain Hemlock by Michael Hagedorn, Finest Evergreen Bonsai

That's just the BSOP itself. Now consider the trees, clients and students of the Northwest teachers like Ryan Neil and Mike Hagedorn. First up, the National Award or, best of show, won by a local Mountain Hemlock owned by Eric Schikowski of Ohio. This tree was collected on Mount Hood by Randy Knight and developed by Ryan and appeared in the Artisan's Cup



Colorado Blue Spruce by Jason Eider



Colorado Blue Spruce by Todd Schlafer

and nearly won that event. This tree finally got to make to its new home on this trip back.

Jason Eider of Seattle won the All American award with a Colorado Blue Spruce by having a tree, stand, and pot all of North American origin. Jason made the stand himself and is a student of Ryan's. Todd Schlafer of Colorado is also one of Ryan's students and won the ABS, or North American award, also with a Colorado Blue Spruce. That demonstrates the tremendous amount of influence from the Portland area.

On a completely different note, it was a lot of fun to walk around the market place and see all the fabulous trees and accessories available. Certainly there was more in one place than I had ever encountered, and all at a high level. My first stop was of course, at Sara Rayner's display where I picked up a few pots. Check out the before and after photos. The difference in time is a mere two hours. By the end of the show she had completely sold out.



Sara Rayner display before

All that's left after two hours...

Other vendors also did well. Mirai was doing a brisk business selling all of the trees they brought, plus pots, stands, and tee shirts. I was able to view first hand the line of American Bonsai's tools. This new line is entirely American made and have some nice design tweaks. The workmanship looked great, and the prices were good, but I am no metallurgist. I purchased a large pair of spherical cutters and will let you know how they are holding up at a later date.

There were also many, many trees available of all shapes, sizes, and development levels, from seedlings to show ready. More potters, and even imported antique pots. There were also demonstrations throughout the weekend, as well as talks on antique and collectible pots. All in all, a great experience to meet fellow enthusiasts from across the country and chat up old friends.

I must point out that this show is organized and put on by Bill Valavanis of International Bonsai. He created the show and continues to do a great job. But it's nothing official. There is no sanctioning body, just bonsai enthusiasts coming together from across the country to have fun and put on the best exhibit possible. Special thanks to Ryan and Chelsea Neil of Bonsai Mirai for driving the truck back East. All of the trees listed above were transported on the Covered Wagon. The show would not have been the same without that truck and the grueling trek across country. Thanks guys.

Scott

One more tree from the National Exhibit

Dear BSOP members,

I want to apologize to you members and especially to Bob Laws for an omission in the latest newsletter. I inadvertently left his excellent Apple tree off the list of BSOP trees that went back to the National Bonsai Exhibit in September. Check out the photos of Bob's tree. If you don't know, this rather large tree was created as an air layer from one of the apples in his own back yard. I think the trunk diameter is somewhere between 8-10 inches. Not only was Bob's the only major tree in the exhibit with fruit on it, three of the four apples that started the journey made it the three thousand miles intact to Rochester. Quite a feat. Thanks for letting us enjoy this tasty *treet* Bob.

Scott Elser







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Welcome to the Village



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The Bonsai Society of Portland meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The Milwaukie Center
5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie OR 97222

Enter parking lot from Rusk Road

Visitors are always welcome!

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