



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

June
2016

June 19 Sun 8am Mentorship 102 & 103 **Lava Collecting Field Trip**

June 28 Tue 7pm **Monthly Meeting** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

June 29 Wed 6:30pm **Bob Shimon Workshop** Trillium Room, Milwaukie Center

July 19 Tue 6:30 - 9pm **Michael Hagedorn garden tour**

August 14 Sun 10am - 3pm **Summer Picnic** Milwaukie Center Park

October 13 - 16 **2016 PNBCA Bonsai Convention**, Red Lion Hotel, Olympia, WA

Words From Your President

Hot happy days to you all. You are lucky because I am on a timeline to get this out and am behind that timeline...short it will be. Also short because I have several short messages throughout the newsletter.

Our club continues to be a beacon of quality and a benchmark of measurement for other clubs to strive for. YOU are the reason! Thanks to each and every one of you for all that you do.....that includes those of you who continue coming to the meetings and even those of you who are members who can rarely attend. You have my deep gratitude. And, as Norm Crosby might say give yourself a "standing ovulation." ☺

As always, thank you for your trust, *Lee*

Bonsai Book Sale

At the June BSOP meeting, sixteen classic books on bonsai will be available for purchase. Among them is a Collector's First Edition, Signed, Hard Cover, with original Slip Cover of John Naka's " Bonsai Techniques" and "Bonsai Techniques II."

These hard copies are no longer available on Amazon. In addition, there is a 1st edition of " The Master's Book of Ikebana", and " The Japanese Garden". Don't miss this opportunity.

Arlene Sigourney

It's Redwood Time

Our June program features Bob Shimon of Mendocino Coast Bonsai who is well known for his work with Redwoods. Bob will be discussing Redwoods as a bonsai and will be doing an initial styling on a couple of member trees. Additionally, Bob will have several Redwood Bonsai for sale at the meeting, so this is a great opportunity to pick up a redwood bonsai.

BSOP will be having a workshop with Bob the evening following the meeting (Wednesday June 29th). The workshop will be held at the Milwaukie Center in the Trillium Room (the room next to where Mentorship meets). Setup begins at 6:00 pm, the workshop starts at 6:30 and ends at 9:00pm.

Bob will work directly with people on their trees. This is open to any type of tree except Pines. Since Bob specializes in Redwoods, if you have a Redwood that needs attention this is a great time to take advantage of his expertise. Fee for the workshop is \$30 and is limited to the 1st 10 people who sign up. Silent observers may attend but will not be allowed to participate in the workshop or ask questions. If you wish to sign up for the workshop, please email me stevenleaming@gmail.com to reserve a spot. Payment for the workshop can be made at the general meeting on Tuesday the 28th.

I would like to thank Boon for his outstanding presentation at the May meeting. I have received a great deal of positive feedback so we will hopefully have Boon back early next year.

I am still looking for demonstrator help with the Portland Nursery / BSOP Bonsai Show and Demonstration event on June 18th. We will run two shifts, morning shift is 10:00 am - 12:30 pm; afternoon is 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm. I would like 3 or 4 people to be there for each shift with trees and tools to show the public what we do. All helpers get a 10% off certificate from the Portland Nursery. If you would like to help with a shift, please contact me, stevenleaming@gmail.com.

The Portland Nursery will also have a bonsai exhibit / contest with special prizes just for BSOP members (a separate contest is also available for the public). The prizes are gift certificates for Portland Nursery....1st is \$100, 2nd is \$50, and 3rd is \$25. Contest information and advanced registration is online at http://portlandnursery.com/events/bonsai_event.shtml or register your tree the day of the show (8-9 am). The web page also has pictures from last year's event with some familiar faces. All entrants receive a 10% gift certificate (one per person). Trees must be dropped off by 9am and picked up after 3pm.

Coming up in July we will have a special summer program with a visit to the garden of Michael Hagedorn. Michael will give a tour of his garden, explaining the considerations that go into the proper way to design a bonsai garden. He will also be covering a number of topics which include summer care of bonsai. The tour will be limited to the first 30 people who sign up and we will be carpooling from the Milwaukie Center. There is a fee of \$10 for this program. Carpool and additional information will be coming out soon.

Have a GREAT summer andKEEP THOSE TREES HYDRATED!

Steve Leaming, VP Programs

5th US National Bonsai Exhibition

September 10-11, 2016

TSE- Total Sports Experience, Rochester, New York

Bill Valavanis is allowing us here in the Northwest another week to submit trees to him that you feel can be in the US National show in September. Ryan Neil will be driving the truck that will be delivering trees to the show.

If you have an interest, please contact Bill using the contact information below. Also, feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Lee



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BOB SHIMON WORKSHOP

Wednesday June 29th 6:30 pm

BSOP will be having a workshop with Bob Shimon on Wednesday June 29th. The workshop will be held at the Milwaukie Center in the Trillium Room (the room next to where Mentorship meets). Setup begins at 6:00 pm and the program starts at 6:30 and ends at 9:00pm.

Bob and his son Zack operate Mendocino Coast Bonsai, which is based about 140 miles north of San Francisco in Point Arena, CA, where they typically have 600-800 collected trees at their nursery. While they specialize in redwoods, they also collect Sierra junipers, Mendocino Pygmy cypress and live oak.

The workshop will be a follow-up to Bob's presentation at our meeting on Tuesday, June 28. He will work directly with people on their trees. You may bring any type of tree except Pines (NO PINES). Keep in mind that Bob specializes in redwoods so if you have a redwood that needs attention this is a great time to take advantage of his expertise.

Fee for the workshop is \$30 and is limited to the 1st 10 people who sign up.

Silent observers may attend but will not be allowed to participate in the workshop. (No asking questions of the instructor).

To sign up for the workshop, please email me stevenleaming@gmail.com to reserve a spot. Payment for the workshop can be made at the general meeting on Tuesday the 28th.

Thank you,

Steve Leaming, VP Programs

A.....another Friend Lost

We have lost a friend; Bruce Kerr recently passed away after battling cancer. Bruce was a member of both the BSOP and the WVB, Willamette Valley Bonsai, out of Salem. He most recently was serving as vice president of programming for WVB but due to health reasons had to give that position up.

I can say that although I did not often get with Bruce, when I did, it was always a very positive encounter. Bruce loved the art of bonsai and showed a lot of enthusiasm for it.

As I am writing, I find myself somewhat devoid of words and am having the realization and understanding of how little I did know of Bruce; not a normal shortcoming for me if you know me. But, the part I did know was always upbeat, encouraging, highly complimentary and enthusiastic.

I can for sure say that I will miss Bruce. It seems we have lost a good many of our team recently and I don't like that. To be honest, it hurts....a lot. My best guess is that God had increased his interest in the art that we love so much and needed some fine guidance; well he has recruited some darn good ones.

I miss you Bruce....I miss you all. Your friend, *Lee*

BSOP Activity: Mentorship Program on Break for June, July & August

Attention all Mentorship attendees:

All Mentorships are now on our summer break during June, July and August. Mentorships 102 and 103 will start up again in September, Mentorship 101 will begin in October. We are supposedly in for another hot summer, so everyone keep your trees well watered, and some trees will need some shade on the hottest of days.

See you in the Fall!

Elisabeth Hardy

Raffle and Silent Auction Items

We Need Your Help

THANKS to all of you who either donate or sell items at the silent auctions we have at each general meeting. It is an all win situation that benefits the whole. That would also include the raffle items to contribute as well.

BUT.....we need your help. In order for us to do a good job, we require time to setup.

Please bring in your raffle and silent auction items **between 6pm and 6:30pm**.

If you do this, we will be able to much better organize the auction to the betterment of all.

Thank you, *Lee*

LAVA LAVA LAVA..... CINDER TIME

Sunday, June 26, 2018, 8am Fred Meyer, Tualatin

Well, it is about time we made this announcement.....time to head to the pass and sift cinder. We will hopefully be mining black, but red is available as well.

The mentorship group attendees and anyone else, are invited to participate in a one-day cinder sifting outing near Santiam Pass.

Bring your own sifters or use the great and powerful cinder sifting sensation machine that we will be toting up to Little Nash Crater. We also will have a second multi-screen sifter as well and possibly other large sifting devises.

We will do a lot of carpooling and will meet at 8am at the Tualatin Fred Meyer east end parking lot; exit at the Nyberg ramp off of 217 and turn left and get immediately to the inside left turn lane, it comes up fast. We meet just adjacent to/west of, the Key making kiosk. Lots of overflow parking. We will be leaving the lot at 8:30am.

We will then make sure all know where we are going. It is a 2.5-hour drive to the crater. Please fill your gas tanks before arriving at the rendezvous.

Lee will bring the sifters and permit and will be the “Leader of the Pack” *vroom, vroom*. Ok, my DOB is showing. No hiking needed, we drive right up to where we sift. Most vehicles make it up the hill easily. If we do have problems, we can ferry people up.

What should you bring:

Attitude: A friendly disposition and willingness to sift yourself silly.

Containers: and more containers to hold the cinder you sift. Buckets are popular but my last sifting sojourn I used 12” cube size cardboard boxes and that worked great. Your choice. Keep in mind you may want to take home several sizes of cinder. If you are going to self-sift, bring containers to sift into. I recommend team sifting; you’ll see why, team sifting leaves others in the dust; ha ha.

Clothing: I am an optimist so I am planning on no rain. So rain or no rain, bring whatever protective gear you need. The crater is totally exposed to the elements, keep that in mind. Hats and sunglasses recommended. If we are lucky, it will be overcast with no rain: best time to sift cinder. I myself cover all contingencies.

Protection: It will be dusty if it is warm and has not rained in a day or two; may want to bring a dust mask or kerchief. Tennies are fine. FIRST-AID; have not had a need but bring what you usually do on excursions.....creamy sun protection perhaps.

Food and Beverage: stay hydrated; we will be on the crater for 2 to 4 hours is my guess. Altitude is 5k+ so bring what you feel you will need to eat and drink. They have yet to open a marketplace on the crater.

Shovels: I use both a flat shovel and a spade shovel. Bring what you will.

For more information call or email Sensational Cinder Sifting Guru Lee Cheatle 503-312-4921 lcheatle@bensohotel.com

Your Friendly Mentorship Man, *Lee*

Scott's BRANCH TIPS

BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

Pests and Diseases – Part One

I have been doing bonsai for some twenty-five years plus now. In that time, I have experienced and dealt with many problems concerning pests and diseases. Some of these come and go. Others seem perpetual. I notice this in the landscape, too. One year I am fighting a certain weed, and the next year, something totally different. Many insects and diseases wax and wane in severity with passing time due to many factors, some being their natural cycles, nearby host trees, what your neighbors are doing, etc... We don't live in a closed environment, so we are subject to whatever the winds might blow in from next door. So it should be no surprise that we have new and different problems to deal with each season.

Today we are starting a multi-part series on Pest and Diseases – mostly how to treat them. I am not going to be able to cover all of the pests and diseases that your bonsai might encounter. However, I do hope to cover quite a few and arm you with tools necessary to diagnose your problems and how to deal with them. This will not be a scholarly approach, but one based on experience, so be sure to double check what you can with your own library, web sources or expertise. This information is hard won, through triumphs and failures.

I have collected information from club members, research, and through the many efforts of my teachers like Ryan Neil, Boon Manikativipart, and Mike Hagedorn. Each of these men maintain larger collections, both for themselves and others, and are able to experiment and adapt on a much larger scale than myself. So I am trying to do my part to make you successful by sharing what we have all gleaned out. In all fairness, I have to tell you that when it comes to bonsai, I am pretty much willing do what it takes to protect them.

When I have the opportunity to use a more natural method, other than chemicals, I will do so and I hope to share a few that work very well. Otherwise, I tend to be on the side of nuking the suckers. If I have an old, beat up Pinto, I may not have insured more than the minimum, nor polished and waxed. But if I just acquired a brand new Mercedes, you can bet I am going to do whatever it takes to keep it in tip top shape. Conversely, we have to guard the health of our plants, and that also means using the least amount of chemicals possible. It can't be good in any sense to just keep spraying away. It is also important to remember that once we eliminate the source of the problem, it will not fix the foliage immediately. Once it's damaged, there is pretty much no repairing it. We have to wait and grow new foliage. For deciduous trees, that may mean this year, but likely next. But for conifers, that means that we are a good two years out, which can really affect your plans for showing a tree.

By far the largest issue that I have had to deal with in the past few years is that of fungi, or diseases. We have had some perfect weather the past few springs for different fungi to really take hold and spread. That usually means wet weather with mid to warm temperatures in March, April, and May. Sounds like Portland, doesn't it. I've noticed that there are two general classes of diseases – those that work on surfaces of foliage, and those that work on the interior,

or vascular system of the tree. Think about this when choosing a treatment. You can't treat cancer with a band-aid, nor a cut with chemotherapy. Bingo, the light just went on for me.

How do you tell the difference? First, look and see if the damage you observe is in the foliage or in the trunk and/or branches. If there are chunks of leaves missing, you are probably dealing with an insect. Otherwise, we are dealing with either discoloration in the leaves, or desiccated and withered foliage. If the edges of leaves are turning brown, it might simply be a sign of sun burn. That means you need to alter your watering regimen, or move the tree to a shadier location. But if the new shoots from this year suddenly start to wither as the temperature warms, where they were fine before, you might be into some other systemic disease in which the vascular system and thus, moisture flow is interrupted. That makes the symptoms appear like leaf burn, but are vastly more devious. This means that you will need to treat with something that works systemically rather than the surface. These problems can be caused by Pythium, Phytophthora, Verticillium, etc... Remember, conifers can burn too, but it is much less frequent. Do you see yellow, black, or red spots on the leaves? That's likely a sign of rusts, or Anthracnose. These diseases are fairly easy to deal with via sprays, and many times the generic, broad spectrum garden sprays will work. What about powdery mildew? Same fix.

If you see cankers or lesions on the trunk or branches we are dealing with something much more insidious. Any kind of growth not natural to the tree is pointing to a systemic problem. This usually involves the soil and/or root system and these are much more difficult to deal with. We will cover this more in depth in our next installment.

If you have colored bands on your conifer needles, you have a needle blight. Easy solution, Daconil. If you have tufts of juniper foliage dying off, that is a bit harder to handle. It could be a few different diseases, including Phomopsis and Kabatina. We'll cover those next time too.

So back to the insects. Take a look at your foliage and notice what is happening. Are there chunks missing out of the leaves? This is more likely to be insect damage than a disease. Most diseases do not remove tissue, but rather they discolor, desiccate, or otherwise alter the foliage, but do not remove it. Other causes for missing foliage might be hail stones, bird pecks, or other mechanical damage. Does the foliage look off color – sort of grayish, or have light colored stippling all over? This may be a sign of spider mites or lace bugs. To test for spider mites, hold your hand or a piece of paper under the foliage and give it a couple of taps. Small bits will drop onto the paper, which may be just about anything. But if you run your finger over them and they smear, it's likely the spider mites. They can also make fine webs in the foliage.

Are there chunks missing out of the side of the leaves? Shot hole bees make a perfectly round hole. Notched sides may indicate Weevils. I used beneficial nematodes for a couple of seasons and have not seen the weevils back for over ten years. Caterpillars are easy to take care of via BT, or *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a naturally occurring bacteria.

Do you notice black mold on your trees, or sticky honeydew on the leaves? This is more than likely caused by some form of aphid. Usually green, but often black, sometimes wooly, covered by cottony tufts. How about scales – these can also be wooly, or even armored – oval bumps along the trunks or branches. Yes, there are insects under those bumps. Use your fingernail to scrape them back and you will see their dark bodies. Most aphids are easy to remove – a blast of water will do, but they will be back. Sometimes with the help of ants that carry them into the trees to farm them for their honeydew. There are also insecticidal soaps that work well.

Scales are different. That armored shell or tufty crust makes it almost impossible to penetrate with any kind of chemical, no matter the strength. For the last ten years or so, I have been using a chemical called Imidacloprid, which I have written about before. It is the most widely used pesticide in the world, at this point. Since I started using it I haven't seen a single scale or aphid of any type. You can use it in liquid or granular form, under the name Merit or in product by Bayer, or others.

Unfortunately, it is also part of a class of chemicals called Neonicotinoids. You have probably heard about them. Misuse of these chemicals, like a relative called Safari, have been responsible for bee population declines. The problem is using them on flowering trees, as this is what the bees feed from (All trees flower, but not all produce a pollen that the bees are interested in). You will have to make your own decisions about this and maybe do some more research if it is warranted. Use any chemical with caution and care. Protect yourself as well as the environment. Wear goggles or glasses when spraying and rubber gloves. Long sleeves are good – then wash the garment afterwards. Avoid spraying on windy days- which is just frustrating and wasteful anyway. Do not spray on days above 85 degrees as you may do more harm than good. And what cannot be emphasized enough, is READ THE LABEL. All of it that pertains.

When I first started bonsai, I wanted to make care and maintenance easier, so invested in all kinds of spray bottles, which I filled with mixed concentrations of each chemical I needed. The kind of sprayer that you squeeze the trigger to pump out the contents. They work great for occasional sprays and you can keep the chemical at the ready. The only problem being, as your collection grows, so must your arm strength. Spraying the entire collection in this manner requires mixing many refills and really gives your forearms a workout.

What I have gone to now are the half-gallon sprayers that you hand pump prior to spraying. You can mix a larger quantity and it's much easier on the arms. The units sell for between \$5-10, and are available at most hardware or garden centers. I really prefer the ones with a metal nozzle and especially a metal pump shaft. I also label these like before, with each chemical, but I also mark the measured amount needed for that sprayer/chemical combination. When I need to spray the entire collection, I use a two-gallon tank sprayer. I use masking tape to make a quick label of what I have mixed inside if I don't use it all in the first shot. I also have a second sprayer I use for weed killer so that I can never mix the two together. Be aware. Invest your money in the best sprayer that you can afford. If you buy the \$20 model, you will be replacing it by years end, so better to spend the \$30 the first time.

I have never found the need for a full size backpack sprayer, but would certainly enjoy one if I had it. Now, the best tip of the whole article. Be sure to let out the pressure on all of these sprayers before returning them to the shelf. Many units have a valve for just this purpose. Doing so will save cleaning up a big chemical mess when the unit falls over or something bumps into the trigger and it sprays until all the pressure is gone. How do I know?.... I can't really say happy spraying, but I do hope that your growing season is prosperous and I have been able to help a little.

Next time: More in depth on fungi and how to treat them.

Scott



An array of Insecticides and Fungicides



Chemical are labeled with mixing instructions



Keeping the chemicals in a leak-proof container



An assortment of pump sprayers





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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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