



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

**May
2016**

May 15 Sat **Mentorship 102** 10-2pm Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

May 24 Tue **Monthly Meeting** 7pm Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

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

July **Tour of Michael Hagedorn bonsai garden**

Words From Your President

My last letter was a bit wordy so I am going to be keeping this one short. I know; good luck.

First off, please keep an eye out for upcoming date changes to the Mentorship Programs. These will be changed on our website as well as being in the newsletter (see article in this month's newsletter) and sent out with email blasts.

The dates change is due to the instructors availability and that unfortunately varies; sorry if this creates any hardships.

I want to get back onto my bandwagon and list and thank the monthly general meeting volunteers that are not on our board per se but keep the general meetings running so well.

In random order:

Patty Myrick is our hospitality chair and most recently has been sitting in as secretary at our convention meetings, and at our board meetings when our regular secretary is unavailable. She also recently approached me to chair the summer picnic.....Thank You Patty!

Debbie Nisely consistently assists with hospitality and has volunteered for a number of other meeting activities, she is always willing to fill our voids as they occur....Thank You Debbie.

Toni Martin volunteered when we were in a pinch a few months ago to be our raffle organizer and has done a great job filling that void and most especially with at the scene notice.....Thank You Toni.

Shannon Wells has hit the ground running ever since she became a member; volunteering for anything and generally on the spot. She most recently has filled in assisting Jan Hettick with membership desk duties, has been raffle director, and helps with hospitality just to name a few. Thank You Shannon.

Barbara Devitt has been involved with volunteering since forever. She is now the Supreme Commander over the vast library we have accumulated over the years. She is readily available at the meetings should you need her expert assistance....Thank You Barbara.

John Thomas, although a board member has just stepped up to run the auctions at our meetings and has been a huge asset to us...Thank You John.

Both Lime Allen and Lyle Feilmeier have been on and off assisting with our A/V needs and of course the now famous Lyle-Cam. Thank You Allen and Lyle.

In addition, at every meeting and often the same ones, are the set up and take down helpers. Also to those of you who volunteer at the help desk, assist with the auction and raffle and, and, and....., A huge Thank You.

Well it was shorter, just not short.

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

Taking Bonsai to the Next Level: Critiques by Boon

Many of our programs are geared toward raw material or early tree development, but this month we turn to the opposite direction discussing trees at or near the ramification stage with our guest speaker Bonsai Master Boon Manikiviti from San Francisco. Here is his bio:

Although it was a only small juniper that started Boon on his journey, that tree would soon have a huge impact on his life and his future. He became fascinated with bonsai. Before long, he joined the Bonsai Society of San Francisco, the club through which he took his first beginner class in the spring of 1989. Anxious to learn as much as possible about bonsai, Boon studied with as many teachers as he could find in California. Boon's bonsai skills advanced when he hosted bonsai master Akio Kondo, who was Kihachiro Kamiya's first apprentice. Later, Boon worked and studied at Kihachi-En (a famous bonsai nursery in Japan) and was an apprentice to Kihachiro Kamiya, a great bonsai master with multiple national awards.

In April 2000, Boon won the Grand Prize in the Kindai Bonsai Styling Contest in Japan. He was the only non-Japanese entrant in the contest. He has since won numerous other awards and recognition for his work, both nationally and internationally. Boon returned repeatedly to Japan for prolonged periods of bonsai study until master Kamiya's passing in January, 2004. Boon founded and became the Sensei (primary teacher) of BAY ISLAND BONSAI, and started his business, Bonsai Boon, in 1998.

Boon will critique several of our member trees giving suggestions on how to make already great trees even better! If you are interested in having a tree critiqued, here are the rules:

1. Tree must be developed, currently in a bonsai container and at or nearing the ramification stage. We are not looking for raw material or trees just beginning their bonsai development.
2. Trees must be disease free and in a clean container and certainly no weeds.

3. Trees may be conifer, deciduous, elongating..... in sizes shohin to large trees (3 feet or less accepted). We are looking for a variety of trees rather than too many duplicates of the same species.
4. You must submit a picture and some written information about the tree (species & sub species, approximate age, years in training, origination etc...) anything that is known.
5. We will let you know if your tree is selected. We will select more trees than time allows for Boon to discuss but Boon will make the final determination on which trees will be critiqued.

If your tree is not chosen for the critique, it does not mean it's not a great tree. It may simply mean it is not yet at the stage yet for this critique, or that we have too many of the same species.

Please submit your tree picture and information to my email STEVENLEAMING@gmail.com by May 15th. We will let you if your tree is selected by the 20th. Selected trees need to be delivered to the meeting no later than 6:30pm on the 24th.

I would like to thank Scott Elser for his fun & informative April program "Better Bonsai through Power Tools". I hope everyone was able to see what Scott was doing. We continue work on ways to improve our audio/video techniques to make sight and sound better for ever growing attendance.

We will be asking for help with the 5th Annual Portland Nursery bonsai show & demonstration Saturday June 18th. I will be sending out a separate email with more info on that.

Our June 28th meeting feature Bob Shimon of southern California. Bob specializes in Redwood Bonsai Trees and will have some available for sale at the meeting.

This brings us to the summer break...but we aren't done yet! This year I have scheduled a special summer program. In July will be taking a field trip to the Garden of Michael Hagedorn. If you have never been to Michael's it is well worth the trip. He will be showing us how to lay-out a bonsai garden and some other onsite and special seasonal information. Look for an email and sign up in June.

Steve Leaming, VP Programs

Mentorship Mentors

As the chair person for the Mentorship Programs, I want to take the time to thank the many more experienced members who have consistently dropped in on the mentorship programs to assist with tutoring our mentee's. Not in any particular order.

Joanne Raiton

Ron Cascisa

Mark Vossbrink

Robert Wofford

Steve Wilcox

Keith Wingfield

Alan Taft

Paula Bentley

These individuals consistently gave their time and talent to our members who needed their guidance. Thanks for always showing up and giving us your time and talents.

Lee

Mentorship Notice

Please note that in May, mentorship 102 will not be on the 8th (mother's day), but instead, on the 15th.

Also, I want to wait until June or July (when the soil is dryer) to go on our field trip to the Little Nash Crater to collect lava cinder. Dryer is much better for sifting because fewer fines get stuck to the cinder.

See you on April 10th and May 8th for mentorship 102.

Lee

Sunset Bonsai Club Invites BSOP Members to West-Side Meeting

The Sunset Bonsai Club is inviting any BSOP member to bring a tree to work on and join us at any of our meetings. This would be especially good for those living on the west side, or anyone who has difficulty getting to mentorship meetings in Milwaukie. It is also a great opportunity for beginners to spend more time working on their trees. While this is not an official meeting of BSOP, it is a great opportunity to meet with other bonsai hobbyists and learn more about our craft. It would be fun to have a few more people in the sessions. There is no charge, just bring a tree or two to work on (or get help with) and any tools or supplies needed.

We meet the third Sunday of each month in the meeting room of the Beaverton library at Hall and 5th St. The next meeting is Sunday, May 15th. The library opens at 1pm and we are through by 4. There is a door we can open on the west side of the library (on Hall St.) to bring in your trees. If you have questions, the club e-mail is - sunsetbonsainews@live.com or call Jim Wilson, 503-466-9183.

Sunset Bonsai Club was started in 1987 or '88 in Beaverton. It was started by students of Paul Rathjen, who had a bonsai business in California and later in Oregon called Windsong Bonsai. He knew John Naka, worked with Johnny Uchida in California and also worked with Ed Wood, well known in Oregon. I think Paul was ahead of his time, as he was a proponent of the more natural styles instead of the "formal" Japanese structure. He was in favor of an "American - or Western style" with American native trees just as Ryan Neil is now. He also thought "a tree should look like a tree" -Natural- as Walter Pall promotes.

Paul taught bonsai classes at Al's Garden Center, and other nurseries at the time and some of his students started the Sunset Bonsai Club with Paul as "guru". Paul passed away in 2007, but the club continues on. We met at Al's in Sherwood for a while, have met at Steve and Deb Wilcox's garage, and now meet at the Beaverton library.

The club is quite small and many are also members of BSOP, so we no longer have planned topics, speakers, or demo's at our meetings. We gather each month to work on our trees, chat about bonsai and help each other learn more about the craft. It is much like a mentorship meeting, or workshop where we work on our trees and help each other learn. Those who have been here longer help the beginners along. We hope you can join us.

Jim Wilson, Sunset Bonsai Club

FERTILIZER

Portland Rose Society 5-4-4 organic fertilizer with mycorrhizae is a specially blended organic fertilizer proven to be effective for bonsai, as well as other ornamental yard plants. The pelletized fertilizer comes in 20 pound bags, selling for \$17 per bag. Pre-order for delivery at the May 24 meeting: contact Bill Hettick, 503-936-5629 or bhettickco@comcast.net. After May 24th you may order fertilizer to be picked up at our home in Tigard or a residence in the Garden Home area of SW Portland.

Below are personal trees by Boon Manakitivipart.



"Ascending Dragon" Shimpaku Juniper (grafted on Sierra Juniper trunk)



Winter Berry



Japanese Black Pine



Kirin - Sierra Juniper

Refreshment Request

Because of our special guest for the **May Monthly Meeting**, we expect increased demand for refreshments. Please bring what you can contribute to meet this anticipated need.

A Fond Farewell to One Who Will Be Missed Greatly

Many of you know, and those who were at our April general meeting certainly do, as we presented Eileen with a going away framed photo of the BSOP Logo Tree, that Eileen Knox has made the decision to move to Tennessee so she can be with her children and grand children.

So we wanted to take the time to say good bye to Eileen in written form both as your club president and vice president of membership and of course, personal friends of hers.

Eileen has been a BSOP member for 7 years. She has packed a lot of volunteering into those 7 years for sure. Two years after joining the BSOP she took over as president; 2011 and 2012. She also served as a valuable asset in the role of “past president” on the board for 2013 and 2014 and until recently served as co-vice president of membership but has recently had to resign. That makes her a part of the board for 6 of her 7 years with the club; not many can say that.

In April, she completed our first ever 101 mentorship series that ran for 9 months. She not only led this endeavor but conceptualized it and created the syllabus for it. She put all of that information to print and has handed it off in full to the club so we can continue with the program in October.

Eileen is at her best when teaching. She finds creative visual ways of communicating information to all levels of her students.

Eileen is a very hard person to describe because of her many and varied talents. Any listing of her accomplishments and contributions will, by its nature, be incomplete. She initiated programs, propelled others through to fruition, was always on the spot to help out, equally at home being in charge or as backup and support. She has a unique talent of reading people and situations, helping all she comes in contact with to feel comfortable and welcome. So Eileen, we wish you the very best in Tennessee or wherever you travel. What we are losing Tennessee is gaining and their bonsai community will be so much the better. We hope this homage will help you to know just how much you have meant to our club and to us personally. You are truly one of a kind.

Eileen, we miss you already. *Lee Cheate and Jan Hettick*

Scott's BRANCH TIPS

BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

Back to the Beginning

In March, my wife and I attended the wedding of one of her cousins in Phoenix, Arizona. While there, we decided that we would take in some sights and sounds. Some were planned, some unplanned. Since our honeymoon in the Redwoods four years ago, we have made it a point to try and visit a national park every year, usually in September. Last year's fully reserved trip to Yosemite was terminated when we suddenly found ourselves owners of a new house (after a year and a half of looking and seven rejected offers).

So, when this trip to Phoenix came up, I suggested that we take in the Grand Canyon. It had been a long, long time since I had been there and Lisa had not been at all. So off we went. The wedding was quick and sweet, and we were able to take in the Desert Botanical Garden on a very hot day beforehand. After the wedding we took the two and a half hour drive north to the south rim, only to find ourselves in the middle of a mini blizzard when we arrived at dark. However, we were quickly inside the century old dining room with a window seat to all the frosty fireworks.

When we arose the next morning, it was sunny, so I was quickly out the door to capture the snow on the trees before it melted. The air and colors were crisp and clean. I took tons of photos. Of course, I took as many pics of trees as I did the canyon, and usually both together. I had greatly anticipated the chance to see these trees up close. My memory was of twisted specimens hugging the cliffs with just a thin wisp of a life-line showing. I reflected on the last time that I had stood on that spot. It was with my grandparents on their annual Fourth of July jaunt to the park. The year was 1983 and I was spending my college summer with them in Phoenix. It was nice and hot, especially staying in tents.

But there was another reason to remember that trip. It was the beginning of my bonsai career. You see, my grandfather Mark had practiced bonsai for many years, both in Phoenix and Beaverton. In high school, I poured over his John Naka books and by the time that summer came along, I was ready to jump in. So on the return trip home to Phoenix, we drove off the road into the hills somewhere and dug my first two bonsai. Yes, I started with collected trees. I was never able to positively identify the two trees, but on this trip, 33 years later, I finally had satisfaction. They were a Utah Juniper (*Juniperus osteosperma*) and Colorado Pinyon Pine (*Pinus edulis*). The trees were small, maybe a foot to two feet at the tips. The Pinyon was only a half inch in diameter, and the Juniper older at two inches.

They made the trip home with me at the end of the summer, but languished in the buckets we had unceremoniously dumped them into. The buckets didn't even have drainage holes. I don't know how they survived. It was not until 1989 and six years later that I actually started working with them. Those trees are gone now, as I moved on to other treats. With the skills I have now, I might have been able to do something with them, but they were really of very poor quality. They did the job and got me started.

If you get a chance to make it to the Grand Canyon, I highly recommend it. The canyon is really like nothing else. Its vastness cannot be overstated. I got to see it from the air, both coming and going and it's beeeeg. It's almost seven thousand feet in elevation on the south rim, which is where timberline is here. That means it can be a bit nippy at night, and snowy and cold in the off season. What you will find startling as a bonsai person, are the twisted and curvy deciduous trees. That's right, and many species to boot. They are all worthy of study and you really need a good two full days to take it in. The junipers and pines are ninety percent of the trees there, but you will find Ponderosas, and a few odd firs. Be sure to take a look at the rare Doug Firs in the photos, and take in inspiration anywhere you can find it.

Scott



One of a thousand views of the canyon



Douglas Firs hug the cooler shadows along the canyon wall on the left side of the photo.



Morning snow with Utah Juniper and Colorado Pinyon Pine



Utah Juniper emerging from solid rock through a crack



Pine jutting out into the canyon below





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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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