



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

April
2016

April 10 Sun **Mentorship 102** 10-2pm Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

April 16 Sat **Mentorship 101** 10-2pm Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

April 23 Saturday **Pacific Bonsai Museum** work party

April 26 Tue **Monthly Meeting** 7pm Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

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

May 21 Sat **Mentorship 101** 10-2pm Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

Words From Your President Positive Transition

To our now nearly 300 BSOP members, as our membership continues to grow at a rapid pace I am quite often asked what are we doing to have this occur. To that end, I want to take you on a trip down Memory Lane.

When I joined the BSOP in 2000, Bob Laws was our new president. Bob was trying to create a sense of our club being highly welcoming. Every general meeting we were asked to stand up, in turn, and say our names and how many years we had been doing bonsai or how many years in the club. This went on for 5 or 6 months before it became passé.

What he was doing and what this started has not stopped. As I was not a member under any previous president prior to Bob's term, I can't say how things were managed. I do know, and have written about before, that we are where we are today because of those that preceded us. I can't speak with certainty but I am pretty sure that Bob and his board are the ones who launched the "make you feel welcome" atmosphere we continue to see at all of our meetings.

I write all of that to share some of the following excerpts I have recently received from some of our new members. Please pay attention to their words as what they are saying is a reflection of our new members in general and of our general membership's personalities.

These particular quotes came to light due to a mishap at our March meeting; the silent auction in particular was the catalyst. But from a problem came an opportunity to again show what

this club is truly about.

“Thank you so much for your time and concern in this matter! Upon joining the society I was worried about acceptance due to past experiences in bonsai communities, but I have been shown nothing but excitement and passion for the art and for getting others involved.”

“You do an amazing service.”

“The only people you have to thank for my response and view of the club is the members themselves! After every event, I am more excited and thankful that I decided to join.”

Now that you’ve read those quotes, take the time to find a mirror, look into it, and say; “way to go; nice job.”

At the risk of being repetitive; I want to once again welcome any and all new members. Please feel comfortable in asking questions as you become acclimated to the BSOP. Our members are willing to assist and help you become comfortable as witnessed by the quotes read above.

Lastly, as the voice/president of the BSOP, I am one of the more prominent figures you hear from month to month not to mention that I am quite loud...oops I mentioned it. But humor aside, I will again acknowledge and say thanks the myriad of volunteers who keep this club as such a vigorous place and thanks to the outstanding board that has now served you for almost a year and a half. They are not as blusterous and out in front as I am but they are the ones that are really the movers and shakers that serve you unselfishly month to month. Please take the time to say thanks to them:

Steve Leaming, your vice president in charge of programming

Jan Hettick and Eileen Knox, your vice presidents in charge of membership.

John Thomas, your treasurer.

Phil Harden, your secretary.

Please also say thanks to all the other volunteers you see running our arenas of activity: the help desk, the advice table, those running the raffle and auction, our hospitality crew, and the ones who continue to set up and take down our events. And if you like our outstanding news letter let Peter Pelofske hear it from you.

Thank you for your trust, *Lee*

Pacific Bonsai Museum Work Party

There is still time to join us on Saturday, April 23, 2016, as we carpool to the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Federal Way, Washington for our annual work party. We spend a few hours working on the grounds, pulling weeds and trimming landscape plants. Each worker will get a free critique by Curator, Aarin Packard.

Also, this is the weekend of Puget Sound Bonsai Association’s Spring Show being held at the Museum, so there will be lots of trees to see.

We bring your own garden tools and lunch. Car poolers meet at 7:15 am in the north parking lot at Elmer’s Restaurant by Delta Park (Exit 306b). For more information, call Jan Hettick, 503-504-7760, or email at janhettick@comcast.net.

Spring Is Here

The official start of Spring brings all kinds of activity to the bonsai benches. New growth, pruning, styling, and continued repotting...things seem to be happening quickly this year. The weather has been cooperating, so spending full days with the trees has been quite enjoyable.

I would like to thank Ryan Neil for his primary styling on 5 member trees at the March meeting. The change he made to the trees was amazing. I hope that the success of this program will lead to similar demos in future. Ryan said he may offer this program again if BSOP helps with his show at the Japanese Garden in May & June. Please sign up!

This month Scott Elser will be doing an interesting demo – “Better Bonsai through Power Tools” Come see how adding power to your bonsai techniques can save you time and increase your range and quality of bonsai technique. Scott Elser will be showing us various power tools that can be used in bonsai and demonstrating their use. Of course, there will be some deadwood carving, but there is more than that. We’ll look at how tools can help in repotting, dealing with deciduous pruning cuts, styling and many other tidbits to add to our quiver of bonsai techniques. Scott will be covering all kinds of machines to use in carving, as well as the bits to use in them, and what to use on different kinds of wood and situations. Ear plugs are optional, but it should not be too noisy! The overhead projector will be functioning again this month so everyone can see the action as it is happening.

In May, Boon Manakitivipart from Bay Island Bonsai will be with us. We will offer a limited number of private back yard visits with Boon on Wednesday the day after our May meeting. If you are interested, we will have pricing information and sign up at the April meeting.

We are helping the Portland Nursery with their annual bonsai show & demonstration Saturday June 18th. We need volunteers to do styling & wiring demos on their own trees. We need 4 people per shift 10am – 12:30pm and 12:30pm – 3pm. If you are interested, please email me at stevenleaming@gmail.com or call 503-750-4552. There is also a competition....Everyone entering a tree will be eligible for a raffle prize of \$25 gift certificates....that's in addition to the separate BSOP members contest prizes (gift certificates). Also, everyone entering and/or working the demo (one per person) gets a 10% off certificate from Portland Nursery. Please have contest trees at the Portland Nursery by 9:00am. The winners will be announced and trees can be picked up after 3pm.

Akadama is out for now (except those who ordered at the last meeting). I do have aluminum wire available at \$12 for 500gr or \$21 for 1kg. I will have wire with me at the mentorship meetings and the general meeting.

To all who help with meeting set up and re-setting after the meeting, your assistance makes my rather hectic job SO much easier...Thank You!

Steve Leaming, VP Programs

Auction Trees

Just a quick note, proceeds from the sale of auction trees brought into the general meeting will be divided 80% to the member and 20% to the club. Be sure to check with Jan and John when you arrive, to register the item.

Thanks, Lee

LIBRARY CONTINUES TO GROW

With 1075 items, the BSOP library just gets better and better. Be sure to "check out" our new items, which include three Kokufu-ten books: #84 for 2010, #86 for 2012 and #87 for 2013. We also have *Classic Bonsai of Japan*, a 1989 book by John Naka and Hideo Aragaki and two copies of the new *Bonsai Shohin Passion* by Roland Schatzer. Thank you Keith Wingfield for donation of the second copy!

Mentorship 101

I would like to extend a round of applause to Robert Wofford for his program on elms. It was a marvelous success for everyone. Mentorship 101 also appreciates the expertise of Joanne Raiton, Paula Bentley, Ron Cascisa and Alan Taft. We will next meet on Saturday, April 16th 10-2 in the Grape Room at the Milwaukie Center. We will be talking about Pests, Diseases and Fertilizing. Members are invited to bring the trees they have purchased through the class. We will also be talking about how to manage spring growth. And, if you have a tree that has you scratching your head, bring it along, as well.

Eileen Knox

Mentorship 102, 103

Mentorship 103 met on April 2. Our fearless leader, Lee, again helped us with repotting and styling. He reinforced the how and why of plucking needles and decandling 2-flush pines, meaning they put out growth twice in a year; those are the red and black pines. All other pines are single flush; they only put out new growth once yearly, and they are not plucked and decandled the same way as the 2-flush pines. We also discussed pest and disease control.

Mentorship 102 will meet on April 10. As usual, we will meet in the Oregon Grape room from 10-2, and we will continue to work on our trees. We have wire, but you will need to bring soil. Also as usual, any seasoned members are encouraged to come share your expertise. All are welcome! This is an excellent learning experience. We are so fortunate to have one of the top clubs in the nation!!

See you there! *Elisabeth Hardy*

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

A BOOK REVIEW

"WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY PLANT? (And How Do I Fix It)"

At last, a plant diagnostic book that not only helps you identify the pest, insect or disease problem with your plants, but also recommends organic remedies to help stop and / or prevent the problem. And best of all, it is build around what you, individually, can see happening with you plant.

The book is broken down into clearly written sections on first identifying what is wrong (the problem) which is managed based on your observations of where the problem exist (the leaves, the stems, the trunks, the branches, or the whole plant). Once you identify the problem, you are presented with a set of "yes" or "no" questions to help you narrow and focus the problem. Once you have answered a question "yes", you then are directed to a specific page and chart in the second section of the book to identify specific remedies for the problem.

The third section of the book was most interesting to me. It is a very detailed and clear photo gallery of common plant problems and pests, and it is also broken down by the anatomy of the plant (the leaves, stems, branches, trunk and roots).

The book almost makes identifying a specific plant problem fool proof, and best of all you do not have to identify the pest or problem first. You just use your careful observations of your plant to identify the specific problem and obtain a solution to address it. While it is not a completely exhaustive treatise, it does address most of the common issues we encounter with our trees, and makes early and correct response possible. And it's based on a process we already do every day, observe our trees.

Have a great Bonsai season. *Keith*

CALL FOR SPEAKERS

Welcome to Spring. It is that time of the year when BSOP starts receiving request from gardening clubs, nurseries, schools, retirement communities and others with request for a presentation about Bonsai and a display accompanying display of trees. The number of requests is increasing as the reputation of BSOP and the public knowledge about us expands. I have been asked by President Cheadle to coordinate this effort by developing a roster of BSOP members who are willing to undertake these presentations.

The request are generally for a talk of 1 to 1 1/2 hours accompanied by a display of a few trees and a Q and A period of 15 to 30 minutes. If you are willing to share your bonsai knowledge and display a few of your trees to help further BSOP's mission to educate and promote our art, please contact me at keithwingfield@aol.com, call me at 503-538-6118 or contact me at one of the club meetings or mentorship programs. This is a simple and fun activity that helps to promote the general public's knowledge of bonsai and extend BSOP's community outreach. Please let me hear from you.

Happy Bonsai Season, *Keith*

Scott's BRANCH TIPS

BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

Bare Essentials

First of all, my apologies for missing this column last month. The deadline passed, and as such, most of your repotting season. But I wanted to cover a few things that came up during the February presentation and following workshops. I hope that this will help fill in some gaps and set you up even better for next year.

The subject that I wish to grapple with is bare rooting. A bit of clarification is needed in terminology. Some folks see bare rooting as merely removing just the soil from the roots. Other folks will see it as removing all of the soil AND washing off the roots. So here is the analogy. The first is like stripping down to your underwear. A bit cool but bearable for a moment. The second leaves you stripped naked. All protection is gone, and that is the way we need to look at it. When you wash the roots, you strip away any bit of security the roots have, any mycorrhizal mycelia that may be present. This may be fine for some trees, and death to others. In general, any evergreen tree, whether a conifer, or broad leaved tree, does not like to be bare rooted, and much less have their roots thoroughly washed. There are of course, exceptions, but it would be rare for an evergreen. Last year I bare rooted and washed almost all of my deciduous trees. I was fighting a still unknown disease that I suspected was soil born, and spread through the reuse of soil (dried, resifted, etc...) It was a ton of work, especially since I had to dig about thirty trees in growing beds and do that same process in order to move to a new house. A monumental task. But everything survived and is busting out this year, with kind of growth that I have not had for some time. I attribute this to the complete renewing of the soil, a spraying program during the year, and aggressive fertilization in late summer and early fall. But this would not be possible on a conifer. I would have to come up with a different strategy.

With conifers, if you need to change out the soil because percolation is non-existent, or because you just have some sort of mountain muck for soil, you can remove up to half of the soil all the way to the base on one side of the tree, or split it up in wedges. Be sure to do the WEAK parts first. If you do the strong roots first, then the entire root system is weakened. When the tree recovers in a year or two from that, you do the other half. If you have a fairly newly collected tree, limit yourself to one third of the total volume. Another technique I use is to lightly trim a bit of the outer roots and put it into a generous sized pot and let it grow some new roots. In the next repotting, I try to leave the new, strong, outer roots alone and go after the black gunk up under the base of the tree. It gets cleaned out, but the process is buffered so that the impact is minimal.

So, you may ask, why the difference between conifers and deciduous trees when it comes to bare rooting? I have no definitive answer, but I like to think of balancing the roots with the foliage load. When a tree has lost all of its leaves, it has no load. The roots are not required to supply moisture to the leaves. This can happen naturally as the leaves depart their branches in the fall, or induced by our cutting them off (defoliation) for some other purpose. That means that spring is the best time to repot – no load on the roots, so we can cut, bare root, whatever, and

the tree has time and temperature to recover as the leaves emerge. On evergreens, we must be much more careful. The tree ALWAYS has a load on it, so anything we do to the roots can induce stress. We need to limit root work as much as possible to provide as smooth a transition as we can. Anytime we work on roots, no matter what kind of tree, we are impacting its health. We may not notice the effects, as the tree marches on. Heck, we may want to purposely slow it down. But be careful. Repotting any tree may cause the needles or leaves to grow longer and larger as it seeks to recover.

Respect your elders. Deciduous trees get old, just like conifers. It's just that the relative range is shorter. So if you have any kind of older tree, treat it more gently than you would a new seedling. Younger trees may need to have their roots worked on every year to help establish a solid foundation. As the tree ages, it can be repotted less often. On a deciduous tree, you are still going to want to really clean it out every couple of years to inspect and make sure that no single root is getting too strong, but in general things will begin to slow down and even out. Less drastic work is needed. On conifers, even on young trees, you want to let them go a couple of years between repotting. Mature trees can easily go five or six years. If you have an older tree, or any bonsai approaching a mature state, you really want it to slow down and produce smaller growth. That's what all that nice Akadama in your mix is for. The roots are able to penetrate the particles, drilling right through them. This increases the available space for roots to grow through multiple seasons, stabilizing the tree. That is when the fine ramification starts to occur. That is what we are striving for in the end. So next time you get the garden hose out to blast away on your trees, proceed cautiously.

Scott



From www.bonsaiboon.com
See Boon at our May meeting!

Bonsai Ambassador

Your club has created a new position...."Bonsai Ambassador." Please give a hearty thanks to Keith Wingfield for volunteering to chair this post.

This position will be assisting the board with being a voice of the club. The primary duties will be to field requests from the public for speakers to come to their events and talk about and demonstrate bonsai.

Keith has already sent out a request for members who would be willing to speak and/or demonstrate. Please contact Keith at keithwingfield@aol.com if you are willing to be a speaker.

Thanks Keith, *Lee*





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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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