



# the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly  
publication of the

**BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND**

## Upcoming Events

October  
2015

October 17 **Fall Show**, Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

October 24 10-2 **Mentorship 101** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

October 27 7pm **BSOP Monthly Meeting**, Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

November 14 10am **Mentorship Meeting 101** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

November 15 10am **Mentorship Meeting 102** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

December 13 10am **Mentorship Meeting** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

December 13 **Holiday Party**, Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr.

## Words From Your President

Holy Moly! Lots to cover in my message this month.

I hope you were able to receive and read the email that was sent out after the TAC. If not it is being published in this month's newsletter named "To all TAC volunteers." Suffice it to say that you did the BSOP proud!

Our next big adventure is just around the corner: our Fall Show, Saturday October 17, 9am to 5pm. Jan Hettick and Steve Leaming are heading this up and doing a great job with it. We have most slots filled but can always use help setting up, volunteering during the event and for take down.

You will also find an article in this month's newsletter named; "Heritage Program Change." We will also publish the detailed version in the near future. The main thing to know is that Heritage now does not require you sign up for it, it is just a benefit of being in the BSOP.

I also want to address a concern I did have, and some may still have, in regards to our current meeting site; the Milwaukie Center. This venue, when first rolled out, had a lot of controversy around it: it was located on the outskirts of Portland, further for some and closer for some, and it came with a good dose of sticker shock, the price tag was \$500.00 each month. That covered general meetings and the Oregon Grape Room for our mentorship programs.

We were advised that the clubs coffers, based on current incoming revenue compared to outgoing payments would put us in the negative in about a year and a half. Well that certainly put me on alert as I am sure it did most other members.

I agree that a \$500.00 rent for a small club is a large chunk of money especially when, if memory serves, we were paying less than \$200.00 at the St Phillip Neri Parrish.

Well we did not stew on it for long. Jan Hettick said we needed to have a show for our members to be able to showcase their trees and thus reinstated our Fall show. None of us ever imagined how successful it would turn out. Not just the member participation and the number of non-bonsai attendees but the financials; over \$2,000.00 profit. We hoped that would help us to cover the new rent price: an all win situation.

Also, for some reason recently, the BSOP has been the beneficiary of a large amount of trees that via their being auctioned, has also added another \$5,000.00 to our coffers. Combined, that is 14 months of rent covered.

So to date we have been able to cover the rent with the Fall show and auctions. I would be remiss if I did not point out the best reason of all to continue to have our meetings at the Milwaukie Center: club size and growth. I do not believe we would be growing at the rate we are if we were still at St. Phillip. We certainly would not have the square-space necessary to perform all the activities that we have been having.

Hope to see you at the Fall show. Thanks for your trust, *Lee*

## FALL HAS ARRIVED

BSOP rolls into fall with an exciting line up of events. In the wake of the world class Artisan Cup we have our own BSOP Fall Exhibit Demonstration & Marketplace on Saturday October 17th at the Milwaukie Center. We hope everyone will participate in the exhibit, just email me your name, tree species and tree age so we can print a placard for your tree. This is for everyone's FAVORITE tree, it does not have to be your best. There is no competition. The marketplace will have some great trees, pots and supplies available for sale and our oral auction will be a great place to obtain some developed material for a great price.

The board has been working hard to keep the momentum going, making new workshops available to our members and trying to offer opportunities to members at all levels. Always feel free to talk with one of our board members if you have ideas or feedback.

Our program for the October 27th meeting will feature Scott Elser with a new progressive Pine Development Program – “Don't Worry Everything's Going to be Just Pine”. In the first session Scott will talk about different species of pines and how best to highlight and care for their individual characteristics. We will be talking about wild, native species and domesticated imports, and just what to do this time of year. Along the way, Scott will be using specific trees each session to demonstrate techniques for developing trees from scratch, working with wild material, as well as refining mature bonsai. This is sure to be an exciting journey throughout the year as the trees develop.

Each of Scott's presentations will be followed by a 4 hour workshop to be held at Scott's home. The first one will be held - Saturday, November 14th. Morning session, 9-12, afternoon 1:30-4:30 pm. There is a limit of 6 people per session. Workshop attendees will need to provide their own pine. The cost of the workshops is \$45.00. Payment may be made by credit card at our monthly meeting or paid in cash to Scott. For more information on the workshops please contact Scott directly at [bonsaielser@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaielser@gmail.com).

Our November program will be a presentation by Ryan Neil.

See you all at the Fall Show. *Steve Seaming*, VP Programs

# Membership Renewals

If you joined BSOP during the month of October 2014, you should have received your membership renewal notice around the first of the month. If you get your newsletter by email, it was sent via email. If you get your newsletter by USPS, you'll find it in your mail. If you didn't see it at all, please check your email junk box, or contact Jan Hettick at [janhettick@comcast.net](mailto:janhettick@comcast.net) or 503-504-7760.

There are **three** ways to renew.

1. The old-fashioned way, by USPS, to BSOP c/o Jan Hettick, 6707 SW Pine Street, Portland, OR 97223
2. Use your VISA card and use the club website, [portlandbonsai.org](http://portlandbonsai.org); log in, select Join, complete the application and click Submit to get to the payment screen or
3. Bring your payment, check or VISA, to the general meeting on October 27th.

*Jan*

## Change in Membership Renewal Procedures

In May 2015, the BSOP membership voted to change the renewal date for dues from year end to anniversary month. This change is to take place effective with members who joined in October 2014. Renewal notices will be emailed (or mailed by USPS for those without email. The plan is to provide a printout of your membership information – please confirm and change anything that needs correction.

Dues will remain at \$30 for individuals and \$40 for families. Up-to-date club rosters with name and email address (if authorized) will be available on the club website to facilitate contact among the membership. Anyone wishing to receive a printed roster like we had in past years, generally printed in February or March, please add \$5 to your payment and so note on your renewal.

Your dues must be paid by the end of the month to remain a member in good standing. Renewals may be paid by check or through the club website. To renew by mail, put your check and a copy of your renewal notice in an envelope and mail to the address indicated. To renew by internet, log to the BSOP website at [www.portlandbonsai.org](http://www.portlandbonsai.org) and select “Join”. You will need to complete the required information, then press “Submit” at the bottom of the page to get to the payment section. Be sure to include an extra \$5 if you want a printed roster.

If you have any questions or would like to know when your renewal date will be, contact Jan Hettick, [janhettick@comcast.net](mailto:janhettick@comcast.net) or 503-504-7760.

*Jan*

# NEWER MEMBERS *THIS IS FOR YOU*

I want to take a moment to write to you personally and thank you for giving the BSOP a chance to be the kind of club that you want to be a part of. I hope that what you have encountered thus far has appealed to you. Many of you have been contacted by Eileen Knox, vice president in charge of club membership. If you have heard from her, she has informed you of all the things the BSOP offers. I hope you latch on to all of them.

It is easy to get overwhelmed, when beginning with bonsai and joining a large group. All of the other members experienced this. The remedy is to latch onto one or more of the members and allow them to guide you. Week by week you will pick up on how to develop bonsai and how the club operates.

During our general meetings, I try to keep the club's business really short so we can get right to the educational aspect of the program.

I also want you to know that the board has recognized the need for some more basic beginner instruction and we have added a Mentorship101 class. The first class is October24th 10-2.

So, again: WELCOME and please feel outstandingly comfortable with letting us know your needs and desires; we are here to help you get started confidently into the world of bonsai.

Your President, *Lee*

## Mentorship

We are seeing a wonderful increase in membership and folks are asking for more information about how to grow bonsai. At the same time, our Oregon Shohin Kai group has seen a change of complexion. In response to this, your board has organized three different mentorship opportunities. So, *what* is the difference between 101, 102 & 103?

Mentorship 101 is for BSOP members who have little or no experience with bonsai. The class instructor will assume you have 'no bonsai skills'. Through lecture and hands-on, we will be going over the basics of how to: apply wire, bend a branch, prepare soil, clip and grow, repot, fertilize and the basics of tree care. Each month we will build on the skills of the previous class. Members will be expected to purchase the 'tree of the month' from those provided by BSOP. Costs will be 50% off BSOP's actual expense. Most of these will be around \$10 each. The first class will meet October 24th 10-2 at the Milwaukie Center Grape Room.

Mentorship 102 is for BSOP members who have some idea of how to work on their trees. This is a less structured environment. In this ongoing workshop, members bring in their own trees and the instructor guides them through styling decisions. This workshop provides hands-on opportunity to work, learn, ask questions and observe others in solving basic bonsai challenges. Topics vary from month to month. The workshop meets 2nd Sundays from 10-2.

Mentorship 103 is for BSOP members who know how to work on their trees and want more information and refinement of their skills. The workshop meets the 1st Saturdays from 10-2.

If you have questions, please contact your President, Lee Cheatele.

*Eileen Knox*, Membership

# 2015 FALL SHOW AND PLANT SALE

***Don't Forget! Saturday, October 17th*** is the 2015 Fall Show and Plant Sale.

With the The Artisan's Cup behind us, we need focus on the upcoming BSOP fund raiser, the 2015 Fall Show and Plant Sale, to be held at the Milwaukie Center. This event helps fund our top-quality meeting space at the Milwaukie Center, which in turn allows more funding for high caliber programs.

The Fall Show and Plant Sale is open to the public and fulfills BSOP's #1 mission of "promoting interest in and enjoyment of the art of bonsai." With a focus on having FUN while educating the public, this year's event will consist of several sections: a bonsai exhibit (Steve Leaming), a vendor and member sale section (John Thomas), refreshments (Jan Hettick), children's activities (Wayne King and Eileen Knox), door prizes and auctions (Lee Cheatle). See the June newsletter for more detailed information.

After our wonderful volunteer efforts for TAC, we are all ready to offer that same level of support for our own club. Please sign up for a two to four hour shift on Friday or Saturday, October 16 and/or 17. We need tree sitters, cashiers, help with set up and take down, and many other jobs. Please look for Pat Foldi at the September 22nd meeting and get involved. Remember, involvement equals learning! Experience not required. Or you can email Pat at pat-foldi@comcast.net.

In addition to volunteering to work the event, please plan to bring at least one tree to the show. We'll need it Friday afternoon in order to stage the exhibit. There will be various sections for bonsai in different levels of training, from new efforts in nursery pots to well styled trees in show pots. The aim is to show the public how much FUN we can have in the process of raising bonsai. The only rules for trees entered in this show are that they be free of bugs and diseases, and have some identifiable degree of styling. We'll also have sections for suiseki (viewing stones) and kusamono (grass plantings). Contact Steve Leaming to let him know what you will bring. StevenLeaming@gmail.com.

Tables will be available in the Marketplace for members with bonsai related businesses and for members who just have excess trees or pots to sell. There will be a charge of \$20 per table (remember, this is a fund raiser). Reserve your tables through John Thomas. Chaparral-books@aol.com.

Also, we are looking for donations of trees, pots, tools or other bonsai objects for door prizes, raffles and auctions. If every member donated one thing we'd have about 250 auction items! Please let Lee Cheatle know what you can donate. leecheatle@msn.com.

***Jan Hettick*** janhettick@comcast.net.

# To All TAC Volunteers

Where do I begin to tell each and every one of you how proud I am of what all of you accomplished by volunteering for The Artisan's Cup. What words will suffice to describe your performance: Stupendous, Fantastic, Incredible, Colossal, Monumental, Awesome, Overwhelming, How truly inspiring you all were/are.

Some of you started with attending meetings 3 weeks out and continued to attend meetings right up until, and during, the event itself; all selfless hours for a monumental event in bonsai.

You as bonsai fans and as BSOP members showed why our club is such an outstanding organization. I witnessed so many of you volunteering for so many different positions. I would see you in the marketplace, then see you at the door to the exhibit, and then notice you in the exhibit tree sitting; you were everywhere all the time, every day.

Our team leaders were asked to sign up members, to fill positions that they were to oversee. Their job was to be sure that individuals arrived on site to do their tasks and that the teams and individuals understood their jobs. What I saw instead was the team leaders actually leading their teams by staying in the area of assignment, not only for a few shifts but for all shifts, all day, every day!

Our members, when needed, just kept plugging holes and filling in the gaps. And to you new members; what a showing you had. I have never seen so many new members jump in and volunteer for so many days and hours. I look forward to working with you on your trees.

Speaking of hours; I am sure someone will do the math but I know the amount of hours expended it is in the hundreds and will actually be in the thousands; now that is volunteering on a grand scale.

On Thursday, so many of you worked so hard and so long as to be at TAC well past midnight and some past that; how dedicated is that? As Scott Elser said: "Absolutely Incredible!" And so "reliable." Then, on Sunday, after so many were so tired, you jumped in and assisted with the breaking down of the entire event.

Our next meeting is on October 27. I would like to see every volunteer wear their volunteer TAC T-shirt at that meeting; if you do, it will certainly be a wall of gray.

The most precious thing we all own is time and of that, so many, gave so willingly and so unselfishly.

Being your President is an honor.

*See*

# The Artisan's Cup



Opening night queue for the exhibit. The camera doesn't show the line extending past on the left into another room and wrapping back to the Portland Art Museum lady on the right. The line began forming at 5:25. Doors opened at 6:00.



Looking back to the front door of the vendors tent. BSOP table on the right.



BSOP table in the Vendors tent. Eileen's Eastern Larch with accompanying video history. The video was a real attention grabber especially with children. At least two boys watched the entire presentation during the editor's shift at the table.



Shohin at the Artisan's Cup



# Scott's BRANCH TIPS

*BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY*

## The Artisans Cup

Wow! Did that just really happen? With a resounding note, Ryan and Chelsea Neil have re-invigorated American bonsai. What we saw last month was the seminal point of bonsai here in America. We finally have a voice. We now have expression and a shared vision for the future.

Kudos go to Ryan, Chelsea, and their whole team for presenting trees in such a refreshing manner. I just loved it. The attention was solidly focused on the trees, and not the trappings. I spent three days on the floor and never got tired of it. I doubt this will become the de facto standard for exhibits, simply because it takes so much technical prowess and financial investment to pull it off, but it will influence all exhibits for years to come. I know that other exhibits have done something with dark lit rooms, but nothing like this. This was throwing out the rules and see what we can create. Every time the Neils made a leap of faith they stuck the landing with near perfection. Well done.

Most of you reading this article put considerable time, effort and talent into making this great event happen. Whether showing up a day early to build the great rhomboid erector set for the displays, ushering folks through the exhibit, or manning the swag tables, you put in a ton of hours, all for the love of bonsai. A few of you even spent days, months, and years preparing trees, stands, and accents for the exhibit. Twelve to be exact. That's 17% of the entire exhibit developed, owned, and maintained by the good ol' BSOP. Not only that, but outstanding BSOP member Randy Knight took home the top prize for not only the top tree but also the best accent planting. Way to go Randy!!!! Way to go BSOP!!! All of this speaks volumes to the artistic excellence that BSOP has been pursuing for so many years. We sit at the very epicenter of the emerging American bonsai movement and it shows.

We might be able to just blame some of this on proximity. It seems natural to say that, of course there were more trees from Portland because it took place here. Well to that I say, true, it's a lot easier to submit trees to the show without needing a cross-country trek, but all that stops at the jurying process. All of those BSOP trees had to make it through the scrutiny of Mike and Ryan before they could ever make that trip across town. (I was probably the closest exhibitor at roughly 15 minutes away, as opposed to say, the 3,000 miles from New York) It also means that they beat out the other 230 or so entries that were submitted for inclusion. So congratulations Portland, on a job well done. Most of you were at the show and/or have seen tons of photos. What I show here is just a reminder of all the great trees from the BSOP.

I think that the one thing that stuck out most to me artistically besides the general presentation, and where this show really made its mark noticeable, was in the display stands that were utilized. What we were saw were many different styles from traditional Japanese and Chinese designs to fusions with contemporary furniture motifs. I think that all but one were wooden (Remember the metal trolley under the giant climbing hydrangea?). Some were rustic, like Lee Cheattle's fence boards – how did he find those chunky, weathered boards the exact length needed? Some stands were missing parts – Randy's winning tree sat on a table missing its

fourth leg, with the magic of 80 pounds of ballast keeping everything steady. Many were crafted locally in Portland or in Seattle, with forms yet unseen in bonsai – cantilevers, early American touches, and such. Credit BSOP member Jan Hettick with TWO stands in the show that went uncredited at the show – her wonderful stand for Eileen Knox’s Scots Pine and the lovely Bloodwood stand she made for my own Engelmann Spruce. Bob Laws also made a great stand for his display. I thought his whole display was very well conceived and executed. It had its own unique personality, speaking strongly, but softly. I even got into the act making a live edge stand for my Ponderosa.

This was the real coming out party for American species of bonsai. Sure, we have seen Redwoods, Ponderosas, and California Junipers for years. But this show is the first one where natives dominated the scene and more importantly, showed mature development. We still have a long ways to go, but everything is clearly on track. I have watched Randy’s winning Rocky Mountain Juniper for several years, including times when it didn’t go into other shows. The rapidity of its development is just shocking. But it came with persistent, expert care and technique, lots of fertilizer, and lots of sun. But nothing that you can’t actually do. I can’t wait for the release of the online catalog with judges’ audio comments on every tree. I am most anxious to hear insights into my own trees and how I might improve them. I am already reexamining a tree from the show and how to redesign it. The show is over and now it’s time to get back to work. There is a lot to do before the next one!

*Scott*



Grand Prize Winner, Rocky Mountain Juniper – Randy Knight.



Best Accent – Randy Knight



European Birch – Dennis Vojtilla



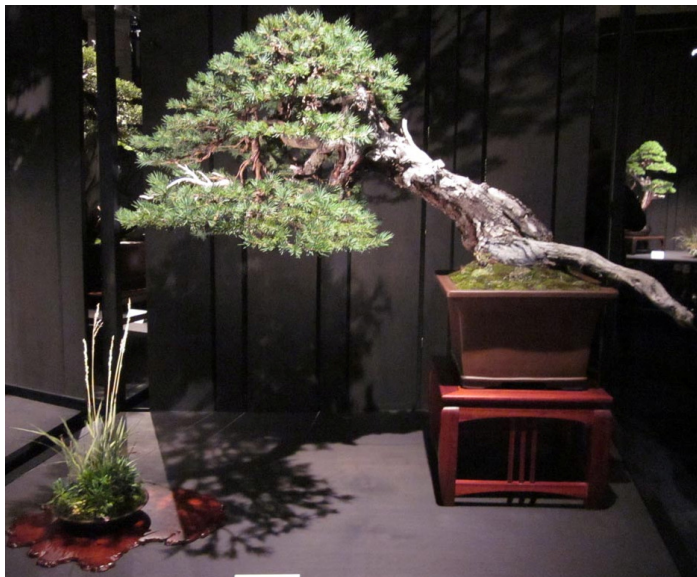
Chinese Elm – Robert Wofford



Ponderosa Pine – Lee Cheatle



Japanese Maple – Dennis Vojtilla



Engelmann Spruce – Scott Elser



European Beech – Scott Elser



Ponderosa Pine – Scott Elser



Coast Redwood – Randy Knight



Southwestern White Pine – Greg Brenden



Scots Pine – Eileen Knox



Shimpaku Juniper – Bob Laws

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Welcome to the Village



6707 SW Pine Street, Portland, OR 97223

The Bonsai Society of Portland meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month except in summer, when other group outings are arranged.

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

Enter parking lot from Rusk Road  
Visitors are always welcome!

**Board of Directors**

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Past President: Chas Martin [Chas.Martin@innovativeye.com](mailto:Chas.Martin@innovativeye.com)

VP-Programs: Steve Leaming [stevenleaming@gmail.com](mailto:stevenleaming@gmail.com)

VP-Membership: Eileen Knox [eileenknox@me.com](mailto:eileenknox@me.com)

Jan Hettick [janhettick@comcast.net](mailto:janhettick@comcast.net)

Treasurer: John Thomas [chaparralbooks@aol.com](mailto:chaparralbooks@aol.com)

Secretary: Phil Hardin [phil.hardin37@gmail.com](mailto:phil.hardin37@gmail.com)

**Committee Heads**

Librarian: Barbara Devitt [bbd.jcgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:bbd.jcgroup@yahoo.com)

Mentorship: Lee Cheatle [leecheatle@msn.com](mailto:leecheatle@msn.com)

Shohin Kai: Jan Hettick [janhettick@comcast.net](mailto:janhettick@comcast.net)

Newsletter: Peter Pelofske [pelofskej@outlook.com](mailto:pelofskej@outlook.com)

Webmaster: Chas Martin [Chas.Martin@innovativeye.com](mailto:Chas.Martin@innovativeye.com)

Heritage Group: Manny Tavan [etavan@gmail.com](mailto:etavan@gmail.com)

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