



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly publication of the **BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND**

February 2015

Upcoming Events

February 15 Sunday 10am-1pm **Mentorship** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr

February 24 7pm **BSOP Monthly Meeting** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr

March 7 10-2pm **OSK** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr

March 15 Sunday 10am-1pm **Mentorship** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr

March 24 7pm **BSOP Monthly Meeting** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr

April 25 Saturday all day **Pacific Rim Bonsai Museum Work Party**

May 23-24 **Spring Show 2015**, Memorial Day Weekend, Japanese Garden

September 25-27 **The Artisans Cup** Portland Art Museum

Words From Your President

The most important thing I want to say in my first message as your President is: THANKS to the outgoing board and to all of our committee chairs. Without your leadership we would not have become the outstanding club we are known to be.

That leads me into another of my passions and that is volunteering. Please remember, even if you have very little experience with bonsai, you do have experience in areas that the club can use. We need you!

Speaking of needing volunteers, we have 2 committee chairs that need filling: hospitality and educational outreach. Please contact me or any of the other board members if you are interested in these two positions.

Your new board met for the first time. We all agree that we want to concentrate on providing fun, education and to minimize time spent on business, except when necessary. Meetings officially start at 7pm. BUT, there is always social time starting about 6:30pm; that is when you want to mingle and get answers to your questions, enjoy the show & tell table and soon, the question & answer table (see below).

NEW MEMBERS; please feel comfortable bringing in your trees and asking the more experienced members for help. Ask anyone, if they do not know the answer they usually know who might and will let you know who it is. Again, we will soon have a table designated, at each meeting, that members can bring their trees to and receive help.

Thanks for your trust, *Lee*

Spring Has Sprung

Apparently we are in for an early spring this year so repotting season has arrived and should be in full force by now. I've already begun work on several of my deciduous trees. Work on deciduous trees should ideally be complete before the buds open so I am arranging my priority of repotting based on the bud progression. Remember if we do have a late cold snap that trees already repotted may need a little extra protection.

Our February Meeting topic will be Pot Selection with Scott Elser. Ever wonder what pot to use for which tree? What size? What shape? What color? Scott will be covering those decisions and more when he demonstrates how to choose the proper container for growing and displaying your bonsai. This will be a very informative and detail rich discussion just in time for the potting season. To go along with this talk, Scott is asking folks to bring in containers made by western potters (The U.S. and Europe) for sharing and display. These containers should not have trees in them. We will be showing them in a hands off environment and will have labels to signify the different potters. So bring along your favorite unoccupied pot to share. Be sure to label the pot with your name on the bottom. This should make for quite an interesting show.

I have been quite busy setting up our programs for the year and will be posting the schedule on our website very soon. Looking forward to the months ahead, we will be covering raw bonsai material selection, native deciduous trees, and pine development as well as critiques to allow members to get advice on where to go with their tree development.

I would like to invite everyone to take advantage of our show and tell tables at the meetings. This is a great opportunity to show everyone those wonderful trees you have worked so hard to develop (trees in blossom especially requested this month). There are no requirements on this however if you plan to bring show & tell trees, please send me a message (stevenleaming@gmail.com) and let me know how many you will be bringing so I know how many tables to set up. Please arrive with your trees around 6pm so members will have time to view before the meeting.

Something new we would like to feature at our meetings is a question & answer table where you can bring a tree and ask one of the experts in the club a question about development or styling. Again, please arrive early so that you can talk to someone before the start of the meeting.

Steve Leaming, VP Programs



Recent raised-root cascade white pine styling at Crataegus

Oregon Shohin Kai

The February 7th meeting of Oregon Shohin Kai went very well. Alan Taft gave us an amazing demonstration of air layering on one of his beautiful camellias. He also had a juniper available for the members to practice on, if they wanted to.

Lee Cheatle was there as well, and, as usual, went around the room helping anyone who needed it. Dennis Vojtilla showed us some of his Japanese maples, after they had been air layered. They were great looking shohin trees. Thanks to Alan, Lee, and Dennis for their help with this meeting!

Next month, Dennis Vojtilla will do a presentation on repotting deciduous trees. It should be a very interesting meeting.

Debbie



Two tropical specimens at Wigert's bonsai nursery



Spring Show 2015

This year our Spring Show at the Japanese Gardens falls on May 23rd and 24th. That will be easy to find on your calendars, because it's also the Memorial Day Weekend. So be sure to circle that date. Only three months away. As always, our aim is to show the highest quality bonsai, and we strive to raise the bar every year.

All of the details will remain pretty much the same as the last few years, but here is a quick rundown. If you would like to show a tree for the exhibit, please give me a call, or better yet, send me a photo via email. Our space is the same as always - that means limited - so get your trees in early. This is nearly as late in the year as we have shown, so I would expect some of those azaleas to be coming into bloom as well as others. We will be setting up on Friday, the 22nd, from morning through the afternoon. We'll need a great crew of volunteers for that.

During the weekend, we will have exhibit tours conducted by members three times daily and continuous demos on the back deck - that all reads as volunteers to me! If you have never worked on your bonsai amongst other tree huggers, along with the gathering crowds of garden visitors, you have really missed out. We will also need tree sitters to watch over the exhibit during the weekend.

Saturday evening will feature our usual critique with a special guest star, returning native son, Matt Reel. Be sure to be there for an evening of full of food, fun, and good spirits as Matt shares some of his knowledge gleaned from almost eight years in Japan. And of course, we will always need volunteers to help take down on Sunday evening. Again, if you would like to show a tree, send me a note at BonsaiElser@gmail.com, or call 503-803-5343.

Scott Elser

Recycle Wire

Please bring your used copper wire to the monthly meetings. Roger Case will have a five gallon bucket available to collect used copper wire to turn in for cash for the club. Take advantage of the fact that he has volunteered to do this for the club to generate income for BSOP.

Mentorship 2015 Monthly Schedule (forecasted)

Please mark your calendars

	Feb Sun 15 th	March Sun 15 th
April Sun 19 th	May Sun 17 th	June Sun 14 th
July Sun 19 th	Aug Sun 16 th	Sept Sun 13 th
Oct Sun 11 th	Nov Sun 15 th	Dec Sun 13 th

The time we meet is 10am to 1pm, at the Milwaukie Center, just as we have been. Access to the space starts at 9:30am. Cleanup is from 1pm to 1:30pm.

Lee

Welcome New Members!

We have four new members since the first of the year: Robert Downey, Howard Griesler, Elizabeth Hudson and Nickolas Defrieze. Welcome to BSOP! We look forward to meeting you at our February 24th meeting, and possibly at the Mentorship Group meeting which is announced elsewhere in the newsletter. Glad to have you!

The membership renewal process for 2015 is essentially complete. BSOP currently has 194 members, consisting of 122 individual memberships and 33 family memberships. Of the renewals, 37% were via the internet - not bad for a first effort!

It was interesting to note that we had 33 members who did not renew, or at least have not renewed yet, which is pretty typical. Of those, 12 had only joined during 2014 and 11 had joined in 2013.

This underscores the challenge of bonsai - it can be a rather daunting hobby to learn. This becomes an opportunity for all experienced BSOP members, who can make all the difference by welcoming new members and helping them see the joy that can be found the practice of the art of bonsai.

Eileen Knox and Jan Hettick, Co-Chairs, Membership

2015 PACIFIC BONSAI MUSEUM WORK PARTY

Saturday, April 25, 2015 is the date of this year's Work Party.

Each year a group of BSOP members goes to the Pacific Bonsai Museum (formerly Pacific Rim Bonsai Exhibit) to help prepare the grounds of the exhibit for increased public activity during Spring and Summer. Occasionally a couple of people might get to work on the trees, but our primary responsibility is the entry path and grounds; pulling weeds, trimming landscape plants and the like.

We bring our own favorite gardening tools, such as loppers, pruning shears, buckets, gloves, knee pads, rain gear and/or sun screen. And please bring a lunch, as there is nowhere close to buy one.

We try to arrive no later than 10:00 AM, and work three or four hours with a break for lunch. Then, when we're done with the grounds, we meet in the main tent for a critique by the new curator, Aarin Packard. Each worker is encouraged to bring one tree for Aarin's analysis, instructions and styling tips. This is also a great way to see the bonsai collection. As a bonus, we're usually done at the exhibit in time to visit Bonsai Northwest, only a short drive north.

If you want to car pool, we meet in the north parking lot at Elmer's Restaurant by Delta Park (Exit 306b) at 7:15 AM. If you drive direct, plan 2 ½ to 3 hours travel time. Please arrive no later than 10:00 AM. For more information, call Jan Hettick, 503-504-7760, or email at jan-hettick@comcast.net. There will be a sign-up sheet at the February 24th meeting.

Jan

THE GREAT SOIL STUDY OF 2013

Keith Wingfield

Many of you will recall that in January of 2013, there was a crisis for the Bonsai community as the U.S. Department of Agriculture had placed a ban on the import of Akadama soil into the United States. Akadama is a basic ingredient in many soil compositions used throughout the Bonsai community. As it turned out, the ban was only temporary, but Triple Red Line Brand was permanently restricted. However, this resolution took several months (the government does move slowly at times). After some extensive searching and through the contacts of Roger Case, as a club we were able to place an order with a California operation which still had a supply of Akadama which had been received before the ban took effect.

Unsure of what the future for Akadama might be, and after talking with many of the local west coast Bonsai professionals, I determined to see if there were any materials available which had similar properties to Akadama but were native to the U.S. and would meet the requirements for a "good" Bonsai soil. Most sources of commercially prepared soils, bonsai enthusiasts and bonsai professionals agree that a "good" bonsai soil will have the following characteristics:

1. The soil composition must drain excess water quickly while retaining sufficient amounts to support the tree after watering.
2. The soil composition must be non-compacting and provide space for oxygen exchange.
3. Whether a single component or multiple components are used in the soil composition, they must be of a uniform size.
4. The composition should have a neutral or near neutral "ph" factor (somewhere between 6.5 and 7.5 "ph"). And
5. The soil components should have a good "Cation Exchange Capacity" [CEC].

All of the other basic components (red and black lava rock, pumice, charcoal, and granite grit) for what is commonly referred to as "Boon Mix" continued to be readily available. The component needing a comparable replacement was the Akadama.

CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY (CEC) is measurement of a soils capacity to retain nutrients. Clay (Akadama in this case) and organic matter have negative electrical charge These negatively charged soil particles will attract and hold positively charged particles (in the fertilizer you apply) much like opposite poles of magnets will attract

Elements having an electrical charge are called ions. Positively charged ions are called CATIONS and negatively charge ions are called ANIONS. [Cation is pronounced cat-eye-on; Anion (negative charges) is pronounced ann-eye-on].

Clay ions are always negatively charged and are therefore identified as ANIONS. Organic particles of soil may have either a positive or a negative electrical charge and can therefore be either a CATION or an ANION. CATIONS held on either clay or organic particles of soil can be replaced by other CATIONS, thus they are EXCHANGABLE.

The total number of CATIONS a soil can hold - or its total negative charge- is the soil's CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY. The higher the CEC, the higher the negative charge of the soil and the more CATIONS it can hold. The higher the CEC levels, the more fertile the soil.

The fact that CATIONS can be exchanged in the soil is the key factor in Bonsai plant health. The exchange factor allows for the positively charged nutrients to be ADSORBED onto the negatively charge clay or organic soil particles and then later released for ABSORPTION by the feeder roots of the plant as needed. **ADSORB** means that the positively charged nutrients

attach to or cling to (think of static cling from the dryer) the negatively charged soil particles. The nutrients do not penetrate the surface of the soil particles, they simply cling to the surface until released or exchanged for other ions. Without the effect of CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY, nutrients applied to the soil would simply wash out with the drainage of the applied water.

The CATION EXCHANGE CAPACITY scale ranges from a 1 (lowest level) to 100 (highest level) based on the type of soil and the "ph". Sand has a CEC of 5 - 20; Clay has a CEC of 20 - 50; and organic soil has a CEC of 50 - 100. Depending on the particular lab reports, Akadama soil was identified as having a CEC of between 21 and 26.

So, if we need to find a replacement at sometime for Akadama in our mix, in order to meet the characteristics of a "good" Bonsai soil, we need an inert ingredient which has a neutral, or near neutral, "ph" and a CEC of between 20 and 30. In my research, I found 3 such soil components which I decided to use as part of the soil study and one "organic" based soil.

"**Boon Mix**" was used as a control and has a CEC value of 23. **Wee Tree bonsai soil mix**, which was screened for fines and then supplemented by additional lava rock, pumice, charcoal and granite grit, was included as it is close to an organic mix for CEC purposes, and after screening and supplementing it has a CEC value of 28. **Diatomaceous Earth (DE)** has a CEC value of 27, **Haydite** which has a CEC of 25, and **Turface (MVP)** with a CEC value of 30 were the other 3 soil components selected as having a neutral or near neutral "ph" and a CEC values within the 20 to 30 range. These soil components were mixed with lava rock, pumice, charcoal and granite grit in the "Boon Mix" proportions except for the **Turface**.

Turface, came with a manufacturer's caution that in horticultural applications, the volume of the **Turface** in the soil composition should not exceed 10% to 15% due to a risk of the soil becoming nutrient toxic. It was therefore mixed at a ratio of 10%.

Once the soils were selected and prepared, they were all tested (measured) for Soil Permeability and Soil Porosity. **PERMEABILITY** (sometimes referred to as Hydraulic Conductivity) is a measure of the ease with which fluids (mainly water) will flow through or be transmitted by a porous rock, sediment or soil. The packing (compression), shape, and sorting of granular material controls their permeability. Permeability is controlled by the size of the particles of the sample soil, the consistency of the size of the particles, the size of the pores or void between the particles and the degree to which the pores or voids are interconnected. Generally, materials of larger particle size which are consistently sorted will be more permeable.

POROSITY is a measure of the open spaces (voids) or pores found within a particular soil or sediment. The open space in a soil sample is comprised of the open spaces between the particles themselves and within the cracks, crevices, or cavities between or on the soil particles themselves. Porosity determines the total amount of water a soil or sediment will hold. Porosity is largely influenced by factors of particle size, shape and assortment. The greater the column of pore spaces a material contains, the higher its porosity and the more water it can hold. Porosity is expressed as a fraction or a percentage of the volume of the pore space to the total volume of the material.

Here is quick analysis of measuring for Total Porosity, Soil Porosity and Percentage of Air in a soil mix. REMEMBER: THE EXAMPLE PRESENTED BELOW IS BASED ON USING A BALANCED MIX FOR THE SOIL. EACH OF THE PRIMARY COMPONENTS OF THE SOIL MIX CAN HAVE A DIFFERENT POROSITY VALUE FROM THAT OF THE MIX ITSELF. YOU CAN THEREFORE CONTROL (RAISE OR LOWER) SOIL POROSITY BY CHANGING THE PERCENTAGE OF EACH COMPONENT USE IN THE MIX.

TOTAL POROSITY -- The amount of water accepted by the measured amount of soil mix. (In this example the amount of soil is 8.5 ounces.)

SOIL POROSITY -- Amount of water retained in soil mix sample after draining. This is the amount of water in the soil which will be available to the plant. Not all of the retained water is available to be used by the plant due to being absorbed within the particles of the soil and due to the effects of the surface tension of water.

PERCENTAGE OF AIR IN SOIL -- Air filled space within the soil sample after drainage from initial TOTAL POROSITY stage.

HOW TO MEASURE -- For our example the initial volume of soil is 8.5 ounces.

TOTAL POROSITY is the amount of water that is accepted by the soil sample to reach total saturation.

Record this number. (For example if the soil sample accepts 6 ounces of water to reach total saturation, record 6 ounces. Allow the soil sample to stand covered in the water for 30 minutes.)

SOIL POROSITY -- The amount of water remaining in the soil sample after drainage from the original TOTAL POROSITY amount of water. (For example, the amount of water that drains from the soil sample equals 2.5 ounces. Subtracting 2.5 oz. from 6 oz. means that 3.5 oz. remains within the soil sample. Record 3.5 oz.)

PERCENTAGE OF AIR IN SOIL SAMPLE -- The percentage of air remaining in the soil sample is equal to the amount of drainage water collected. (In our example this was 2.5 oz. Record this number)

To determine the TOTAL POROSITY, SOIL POROSITY, AND PERCENTAGE OF AIR in the soil sample divide each recorded number by 8.5 and then multiply the result by 100.

TOTAL POROSITY = 6.0 divided by 8.5 = .70 -- $.70 \times 100 = 70.5$. The TOTAL POROSITY in the example is 70.5 percent.

SOIL POROSITY = 3.5 divided by 8.5 = 0.41. -- $.41 \times 100 = 41$. SOIL POROSITY in the example is 41 percent.

PERCENTAGE OF AIR IN THE SOIL SAMPLE = 2.5 divided by 8.5 = .29. -- $.29 \times 100 = 29$.

PERCENTAGE OF AIR in the example is 29 percent.

I then determined that in order to conduct as fair an analysis of the 5 soil mixes as possible, I would select 5 of the most popular trees grown for Bonsai, obtain 5 of each species of tree (all were one year old cuttings or seedlings) and plant one of each tree in the five soil mixes. The trees that were selected were Japanese Black Pine, Korean Hornbeam, Japanese Larch, Trident Maple and Shimpaku Juniper. All of the trees were planted in the first week of March, 2013.

2013 Progress, Outcomes and Observations -- All 25 trees were planted in 4 inch nursery pots the first week in March, 2013. There was one of each species of tree planted in each of the 5 soil compositions. After planting, the trees were placed in a protected area of my unheated green house where they would get plenty of light. In mid May, they were given their first fertilization which was comprised of 20-20-20 mixed at 1/4 strength combined with fish emulsion and kelp meal at 1/2 strength. This feeding formula was repeated every 14 days for the remainder of the growing season.

All of the trees appeared to prosper until about mid July when it became apparent that the 5 trees growing in the Turface MVP mix were not as healthy as the other trees. By early September two of the trees growing in the Turface mix had died and the other 3 were definitely weaker than the other 20 trees. A careful un-potting of the 2 trees which had died revealed that the problem was the Turface mix remained too wet and the roots had rotted. Remember, the Turface composition was only 10% Turface. I immediately reduced the amount of water the other 3 trees in the Turface soil mix were getting.

All of the other 20 trees in the other 4 soil mixed grew tremendously. By late October, the maples, hornbeam and larch had all grown more than 2 feet in height. After their leaves and needles had turned, they were all lightly branch trimmed and reduced in height to approximately 15 inches. The black pine and juniper had extended approximately 2 to 3 inches. The real surprise to me was that the roots (on these 20 trees) had completely filled the 4 inch pots and grown out through the drainage holes and several inches into the gravel floor of my greenhouse. All would need to be repotted in late winter of 2014.

One observation that I made when lifting the trees out of the gravel floor was that there was tremendous growth of feeder roots on the roots that had extended into the gravel. The roots extending outside the pots were trimmed off. I therefore had expectations that the pots would be full of strong feeder roots when I repotted.

2014 Progress, Outcomes and Observations -- In late February, all of the trees were showing signs of bud swell and so repotting was in order. Remembering the tremendous feeder root growth in the gravel floor of my greenhouse, I was slightly disappointed when I commenced repotting. While the 4 inch pots were quite full of strong roots, they were long and fibrous, but not nearly as dense with feeder roots as I anticipated.

The soil around the root ball and under the root ball was lightly loosened with a few strokes from a chopstick on all of the trees. All of the trees were repotted into 6 inch bulb pots and additional amounts of the appropriate soil compositions were added.

The 3 remaining trees in the Turface composition were still weak, and their roots did not fill the 4 inch pots as with the other 20 trees. As the roots were only in the top 1/3 of the pot, I determined to apply a small amount of rooting hormone to the root balls and to increase the particle size of the soil mix to 1/4 inch and to increase the pot size to 6 inches as with all of the other trees. I also determined to reduce the watering routine for these 3 trees so as to hopefully promote a drier soil.

Once all of the trees had been repotted, they were again returned to the greenhouse for the new season. The fertilization routine for 2014 was the same as it was in 2013. Again, all of the trees displayed tremendous growth. The 3 trees in the Turface mix responded favorably to the change in the soil size of the mix, although they did not show the progress of the other trees in the other mixes. Again, for the other 20 trees, the roots filled the six inch pots and grew into the gravel floor of the greenhouse.

In late October, as the trees were being prepared for the winter, I saved some of the feeder root masses growing in the gravel of the greenhouse floor. Over the winter I wanted to study these. I also took a slight risk and lifted the strongest tree in each soil mix and collected a root to also study over the winter. Clearly, all of the trees will need to be repotted in the late winter of 2015 and will move up into 8 inch bulb pots.

Late 2014 and Early 2015 observations -- At this point, I feel comfortable in saying that I would most definitely never use Turface in any soil mix for Bonsai again. Turface simply retains too much water. Even after changing the size of the soil mix in 2014, the 3 trees do not show the health and vigor of any of the other 4 compositions. It also appears to decompose or degrade into sludge rather fast. The original soil mix which was left on in the transplant of 2014 now has very little granular structure left. I will know more when I look at the trees during repotting in a few months.

Of the 4 other compositions of mix that I have evaluated in this study, they all appear to support the development and growth of the trees and the root systems. Clearly, the CEC value of the various soil compositions was favorable to the trees, and with the exception of Turface would appear to satisfy the quest for a "good" Bonsai soil.

When I took the root samples I had collected when I lifted the trees to a Master Gardener office and did some examination under a microscope, there were some obvious differences in the root development. The first thing I noticed was that while there were soil particles clinging to

the roots in all of the samples, only in the Akadama mix did the root actually penetrate through the soil particle and emerge out the other side. The root actually impaled the soil particle. A close look at a dry Akadama particle revealed that there are tubular structures within the Akadama particle which in many cases actually traverse the entire particle. Therefore, these particles will cling to the root until they decompose or until the root expands to the extent that the root fractures the particle. All of the other mixes revealed that the roots were growing only in or through surface irregularities and crevices of the composition particles.

Additionally, a microscopic examination of the feeder root clusters growing into the gravel of the greenhouse floor showed that these roots had multiple divisions of the roots where they had pushed against sharp edges of the gravel. But why were these roots so much healthier than the roots in the pots? A friend at the OSU agriculture labs asked me to bring the root samples in to him along with samples of the various soil mixes and a bucket of the greenhouse gravel. After putting the roots under the microscope, he and I sieved the 2 gallons of greenhouse gravel.

Although the gravel in my greenhouse was rated as 1/4 inch minus in size, what we found was that the particle size of the mix was actually (according to the sample) approximately 20% in the 1/4 to 1/2 inch minus size. It was this additional size of particle in the mix which accounted for the healthier root development. There was more oxygen in the gravel mix in the greenhouse than there was in the uniform size of particles in the pots. This mix of larger sized particles provided more space for oxygen to collect as the water drained down. Roots need water, oxygen and nutrients to develop. The additional oxygen spaces were key.

I intend to test this concept with the next repotting. I have sufficient screened components of each of the soil mixes available that I will be able to add 20% of soil volume in the 1/4 to 1/2 inch size and incorporate that throughout the soil mix in the larger 8 inch pots. If the concept proves positive, I expect that during repotting in 2016 I will find significantly more of the feeder roots throughout the root mass inside the pots.

So the take away from 2 years of this study is:

1. Akadama is still probably the best soil mix component of all of the ones tested.
2. Akadama will allow the tree roots to literally penetrate right through it.
3. It is possible to control (raise or lower) soil porosity by changing the percentage of each component in the mix, therefore you must test the porosity of each component as well as the porosity of the final mix.
4. Soils with similar CEC values will provide excellent root development and trees growth very similar to Akadama although Akadama has some clear advantages.
5. Better root development appears to be possible with soil mixes containing a combination of similar sized particles as opposed to a single uniform size.

So there you are. Two years worth of observations and study. Have a great new year and remember, spring is coming so get your repotting materials, tools and your plan ready.

Keith

Fertilizer for Bonsai

Time to start planning your fertilizer regimen for 2015. Portland Rose Society Fertilizer has proven successful and effective. It will be available at the February meeting. This is a specially blended organic fertilizer rated 5-4-4 with mycorrhiza. The pelletized fertilizer comes in 20 pound bags.

Price is \$16 per bag for deliveries at the February 24th meeting. After March 1, the price will be \$17 per bag. If you would like to order a bag or two for delivery at the February BSOP meeting, please pre-order from Bill Hettick at bhettickco@comcast.net or 503-936-5629.



How to Renew Library Materials

If you have library materials checked out and will not be at the meeting when they are due to be returned, you can renew them. Simply call or email Jan Hettick at 503-504-7760 or jan-hettick@comcast.net BEFORE THE DUE DATE and tell her you want to renew your items. That's all it takes. Just say "renew" and you are good to go!

Scott's  **BRANCH TIPS**
BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

Buds Number Two

Wow! Last months column on buds generated the most buzz yet since I started this column, so I decided to go another round. There are a few species duplicated here from last time because they can vary so much. This one may be a little more challenging and maybe a bit more obscure. All of the photos below were taken at the end of January. As usual, there is a key with comments at the end. Have fun.



A



B



C



D



E



F





Bud Key

- A. Stewartia Monadelpha – This one always shows color in its buds early winter, and then holds on for a few months before it starts growing.
- B. Beauty Berry – This one happens to be growing in the ground, so the internodes are a bit longer. I love fuzzy sprouts. Again, they sit here for quite awhile in winter before growing.
- C. Limber Pine – One of our native five-needle pines.
- D. California Juniper – Those are water drops on the scales. With the juniper you don't really see distinctive buds that you do on other trees. This is an important clue on how they grow. Junipers elongate throughout the growing season, ramping up from spring on through fall. They lack the single strong push of pine or maple tree.
- E. Douglas Hawthorne – Another one of our natives that you will see at our April program. Also called a Black Hawthorne. This came from near the Idaho border.
- F. Shimpaku Juniper.
- G. Honeysuckle – This tree never seems to go fully dormant in the winter, holding onto a few green leaves throughout. The buds emerge early and stay as if frozen in time, including an occasional blossom.
- H. Japanese Maple – This one is the regular species.
- I. Crabapple – Somehow I expect this vigorous grower to have larger buds, but they are almost hidden this time of year.
- J. Flowering Plum – This tree is a red-flowered variety. It is very easy to see the difference between the roundish flower buds and the small pointed leaf buds.
- K. English Hawthorne – This was my grandfather's tree.
- L. Indian Plum – Another local inhabitant and one of the early bloomers. The green emerged in December and it is just waiting for the right time to elongate.
- M. Western Hemlock – The small buds of the hemlock show here.

Bonsai Supplies from Wee Tree Farm

We have a large selection of pottery, trees of all sizes and price range, tools, soils and miscellany. Our retail store is located inside **Garland Nursery** which is a destination in itself with 5 acres of plants and displays to delight and inspire. Come see us, we promise it is worth the drive!

HWY 20 half way between Albany and Corvallis

Hours: M-F 9-6, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5

541 753 6601



Please call Rose with any questions at 541 829 1859

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Welcome to the Village



BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

P. O. Box 21271
Keizer, OR 97307

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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