



the **TREE LINE**

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

January 2015

Upcoming Events

January 24 10am-1pm **Mentorship** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr

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

February 7 10am-2pm **OSK Monthly Meeting**, Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr

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

Thank You

It has been an interesting two years to be president of BSOP. We have gone through a lot of changes. That's the nature of organizations. It's the nature of nature. We adapt to change. Even if we resist, we usually discover that change does have benefits.

I want to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to the growth and successes we have accomplished. The list of supporters is too long to identify individually. And that is a good thing. It's the volunteers, advisors, benefactors and selfless people who make organizations like ours work.

We move on. Lee Cheatle and the new board will find their own challenges. They are highly capable. They will have their own agenda and leadership style. I wish them the best and hope we will trust them to do what we've elected them to do – provide leadership.

I will continue to serve as webmaster. I hope to find one more volunteer to assist with web duties so I can travel and paint without leaving things unattended. Thanks again. Be well.

Chas

As I begin my term as Vice President of Programs I would like to first thank the nominating committee and membership for having the confidence to allow me to serve the organization in this capacity. I would like to thank Al Polito for doing such an outstanding job and I will do my best to carry-on the great program agenda that has been presented in the past. I look forward to making it a fun year working with the new board. If you have a presentation ideas, please feel free to discuss it with me.

To give a brief bonsai-bio of myself, I have been a member of BSOP since 2012. I joined BSOP after several attempts at bonsai on my own which resulted in a collection of dead trees....or what Lee refers to as "finished bonsai". I have gained a great deal of confidence and experience in the past 3 years, and while I am successful at keeping them alive now I still much

to learn about styling. I felt that jumping in with both feet and volunteering would give me an edge to the knowledge I desired, so here I am.

I'm a real do-it-yourselfer, so like many newbies, my first inclination was to attempt to develop ALL the trees in my collection from raw material. While that is a wonderful aspiration, it's really only practical if you begin doing bonsai at a relatively young age. I have come to the realization I need to have a combination of trees both under development and those in the refinement stage for my collection. I also realized that bonsai can be an expensive hobby, but it doesn't have to be. One can enjoy bonsai regardless of their budget, it's all about enjoyment.

I encourage new members to attend our monthly workshops - Oregon Shohin Kai (OSK) and the mentorship program. The knowledge and hands on experience I have gained from those programs has been invaluable. I also encourage new members to ask questions....it's the best way to learn and I'm sure you will find as I have, that the more seasoned members of the club are always willing to share their knowledge.

As we near the half way mark for winter, repotting season will be soon upon us. Now is the time to gather your pots, get your soil ready and acquire supplies.

January Program:

As is tradition with the January meeting we will have farmers market or "pot swap" in addition to our annual business meeting. Members are encouraged to bring your pots, trees, tools and supplies to trade and/or sell. We will have local potter Jan Rentenaar doing a presentation and will have some of her wonderful handmade pots for sale.

Looking forward to another successful bonsai year.

Steve Seaming, Vice-President of Programs

Shohin Kai Meeting January 2015

Lee did his usual outstanding job presenting. He demonstrated turning mugo pine shrubs into bonsai trees. He had several for sale that attendees could buy and work on with his help. Lee went around the room and helped everyone with their trees, including species other than Pines. Mark Vossbrink was on hand and added his Pine expertise for the group.

Next month Alan Taft will give a presentation about air layering. As always, any BSOP member is welcome to join us. We meet in the Oregon Grape room at the Milwaukie Center the first Saturday of each month from 10:00-2:00. Bring your trees to work on, and your lunch.

Liz & Debbie



Above are bougainvillea bonsai at Wigert's Bonsai Nursery, North Ft. Myers, Florida

Daybreak Gardens newsletter announcement

To all our bonsai friends: I thank you so much for your beautiful cards, phone calls and kind thoughts regarding Dave's sudden and shocking death. You can't imagine the overwhelming details left in my inexperienced hands.

However, Daybreak Gardens is still in business with its usual supplies, though at this time I cannot load or lift buckets and other heavy items nor drive my 5-speed Eurovan to haul them to meetings, due to a severely traumatized shoulder tendon.

Please come out to the nursery for potting ingredients and all the other stuff listed in our newsletter ad till I get back to "normal". Bring your 3 1/2 gal buckets if you still have them. And please call first (360-687-5641).

Thank you,

Donna Burnett

Spring Show 2015 on Memorial Day weekend

The folks at the Japanese Gardens have confirmed with us our show dates for next year and for the first time they happen to fall on the Memorial Day weekend. The dates are Saturday and Sunday, May 23rd and 24th. We are looking forward to another great exhibit, so be sure to mark you calendars for a great time. I hope that you are selecting one or two trees to really concentrate on over the next few months in preparation for a great exhibit. More details will be coming as we get closer to show time.

Scott Elser

Mentorship 2015 Monthly Schedule (*forecasted*)

Please mark your calendars

Jan Sat 24 th	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.

See

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.

Library Inventory

I want to thank Karen VunKannon, JoAnn Ellingson and Eileen Knox for their help with the annual inventory of the BSOP library. I am pleased to report that the new library software is working well, and has significantly reduced loss of inventory. Only one book has gone missing this year - Herb Gustafson's *Bonsai Workshop* Copy 2. This is a vast improvement over prior years, when we "lost" up to 25 or more items.

The library currently has 996 items, including 219 books, 40 videos (VHS and DVD) and 737 magazines. We regularly subscribe to four magazines: *Bonsai & Stone*, published by the Bonsai Clubs International; *Bonsai Focus*, by Stone Lantern; *International Bonsai*, by William Valavanis; and the *Journal of the American Bonsai Society*. In addition to these, we have received donations of several older magazines, such as *Bonsai Britain*, *Bonsai World*, *World Tropical Forum* and the *Journal of Japanese Gardening*.

Karen VunKannon has spent many, many hours creating indices of all the magazines. These may be found in the Member Resources section of the BSOP website, portlandbonsai.org. Magazine topics are listed by author/artist, botany, specimen and technique. The indices are in Word format, which means they can be searched for key words. All books and videos are also listed. Once you find items you would like to check out, you can email the Librarian, Barbara Devitt, bbd.jcgroup@yahoo.com, and have them reserved or set aside for you. Please feel free to come onto the stage at the Milwaukie Center and browse the stacks before regular meetings. The library is open between 6:30 and 7:00.

Jan Hettick, Library Database Manager

Mentorship Meeting

The Mentorship group is meeting on Saturday, January 24. Set up starts at 9:30am. Class goes from 10am to 1pm. Clean-up ends at 1:30pm. We will meet at the Milwaukie Center, 5440 Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie. Subject matter will be **repotting**.

We will discuss many aspects of this important aspect of bonsai and have several handouts about repotting. The plan is to do some instruction and a demo on 3 types of repotting methods.

If you plan on repotting anything, be sure to bring the necessary components. If you do not bring anything to repot, then this will be a great opportunity to watch and learn the proper methods to do it successfully.

Repotting is such a significant aspect of bonsai that February's mentorship subject will also be repotting but we will do less lecture and more hands on assistance. Ryan Neil says that repotting is the number two item of importance in bonsai. Only proper watering is more important.

Hope to see you there,

Lee

Book Reviews

The rains of December and that cold snap just before Christmas sent me each evening to my recliner and that stack of reading materials I have accumulated since last spring. As always, I have had great plans all year to get things read and here it was, the end of the year, and I had not made a dent in the stack. Mother Nature to my rescue! Besides, I needed to do some knowledge refreshing before winter pruning and spring repotting season arrives. So I thought I would share the fun and do a couple of quick reviews for your enjoyment.

How Plants Get Their Names by L.H. Bailey, Dover Publications, Inc. New York, 1963; originally published by MacMillan Company, 1933.

This delightful and easy to read little book has been in continuous publication since 1933. It is well written and easy to digest, and written somewhat "tongue in cheek" with some humor about what otherwise is a serious and intimidating scientific subject. The author delights in poking fun at some misadventures of common names such as "Jerusalem Cherry" which does not grow in or near Jerusalem; "Spanish Cedar" which is actually native to the West Indies; and "French Mulberry" which is neither French nor a mulberry.

The book is an easy and delightful read which challenges and refreshes your skills with your grammar school Latin and root word development. Latin terms and word endings commonly used in botanical nomenclature, and rules on pronunciation are reviewed as well as Latin words and their English translations for common horticultural terms. The author discusses the history of plant naming starting with the "sexual system" of plant classifications before moving onto the works of Carl Linnaeus, the "father of modern botany" and his "genera, species, variety" system of classification still used today.

I spent 2 very pleasant evening engrossed in this small book, enjoying the humor, the challenge of remembering my grammar school Latin, and wondering why I had not read it before.

Botany for Bonsai: The Science Behind the Art by Enrique Castano de la Serna, published by Haskill Creek Publishing, 2007.

This little book (approximately 125 pages) is not as easy a read as **How Plants Get Their Names**, but it is extremely informative and is specific to the botany of Bonsai. Professor Castano has been involved with Bonsai since the late 1970's. He has traveled, lived, worked and studied all over the world, and with a PhD in biochemistry and Bio Physics, you might figure his writing would be intimidating and lean toward technical discussions, but this is not so. While he cannot avoid the technical and scientific terms, Professor Castano, using diagrams and drawing to illuminate the discussion, takes pains to ensure that the general Bonsai enthusiast can gain and use some botanical and physiological knowledge to improve their artist skills with their trees.

Starting with "Cells and Nutrition" through "Water, Roots and Soil"; through "Plant Hormones", to "Leaves - What Are They Telling Us" and concluding with "Pests and Their Control", the professor shares his botanical and physiological knowledge specifically focused on trees and how and why they respond to various Bonsai techniques they way they do. Yes, trees do talk to us, and with the help and information contained in this book, it becomes easier for

Bonsai enthusiast to know what to look for when the trees talk, and how to figure out what they are saying.

While not an "easy" read, **Botany For Bonsai** is certainly what I consider an "essential" read for anyone truly interested in understanding the growth and health processes of their trees. I have now read the book 3 times, and each time I find my understanding of my trees is advanced, and small things which previously went unnoticed or not reacted too now catch my eye. And besides, now when I take my cup of coffee and go out to my workshop or greenhouse, I have a whole new list of conversation starters to try out on my trees. Who knows, perhaps this will convince them I really do care.

Botany for Gardeners (Revised Edition) by Professor Brian Capon, published by Timber Press, 2005.

Why won't my plants grow? Why won't my tree do what I want it to do? Why did my tree die? Anyone who has been involved in gardening, horticulture or Bonsai (or worked at the Master Gardeners Help Desk) for any length of time has had to ask themselves (or been asked by others) these difficult and frustrating questions. I was delighted when I read a review of this book which claimed it would answer these questions (and more) and do so from "the plants point of view". We humans are very good at establishing "our" expectations, wants and desires. I do not know about you, but when it comes to my trees, I had never really considered that the trees might have "a point of view".

Starting with what happens inside a seed when it is planted; to how a plant adapts to its environment for survival and protection and to fulfill basic needs; to the uptake and utilization of air, water, minerals and light; to reproduction and the inheritance of genetic traits; Professor Capon leads a lively discussion on the basic scientific study of plants. He scraps the technical jargon (although it is still there) as much as possible and uses (to excellent effect) illustrations, photos, and Greek and Latin roots words (remember **How Plant Get Their Names** ?) to assist the layman to grasp and follow the discussion.

While this is not "a quick read" it is an excellent reference source that I am glad to have in my library. If for no other reason, I enjoyed it (and you might to) because it introduced me to "the plant's point of view". Now, thanks to having read **How Plants Get Their Names**, **Botany for Bonsai**, **Botany for Gardner**, I will be able to address my trees by their proper Latin names, I can tell them I know that they have "a point of view", and I will know what to look for (how to listen) when they talk back to me. But I will still probably want them to do what I want them to do.

Keith Wingfield

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 e mail 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!

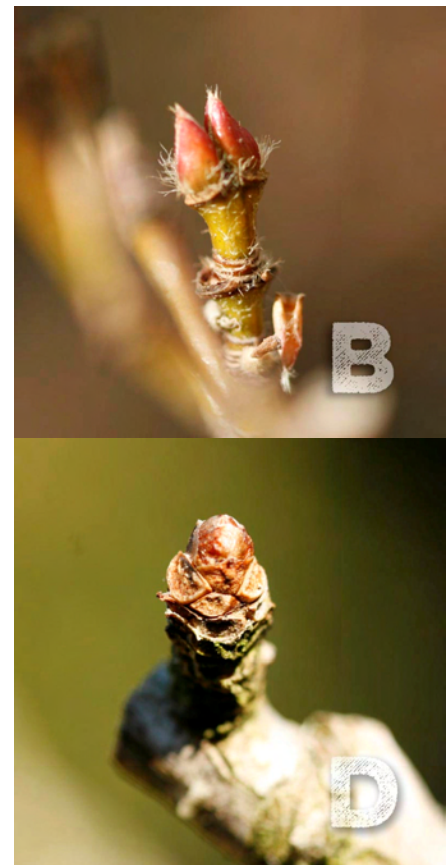
Scott's BRANCH TIPS

BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

This Buds For You!

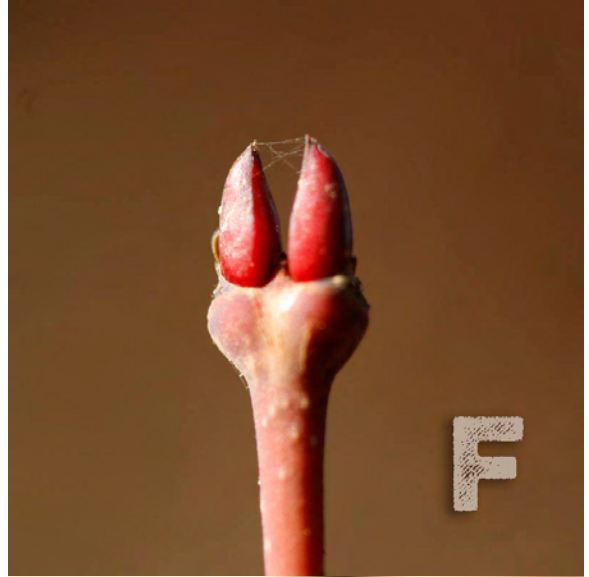
Time for a little pop quiz. During our recent foggy, drippy, sunny weather (when is it anything else?) I took the opportunity to capture some of my trees in their winter dormancy, showing off their nice fat buds for next year. This years growing season started way back in August, or even earlier on some trees, when our bonsai began to develop and set buds for next year. If you have ever pinched a spruce in spring, you have felt that little round nodule at the tip of the shoot – next year's bud already forming. The buds really come with a lot of variety and a lot of different aspects.

When you take a look at the following photos, study them closely to see the characteristics of each one and how to recognize them. They can be a great help in identifying a tree's species, diagnosing any problems, and as a gauge to general health and strength of a particular tree or individual shoot. See how many of these buds you can identify. You even get some helpful clues with the conifer foliage. At the end I will have the key and a few worthy notes that demonstrate something particular about that tree. Have fun!

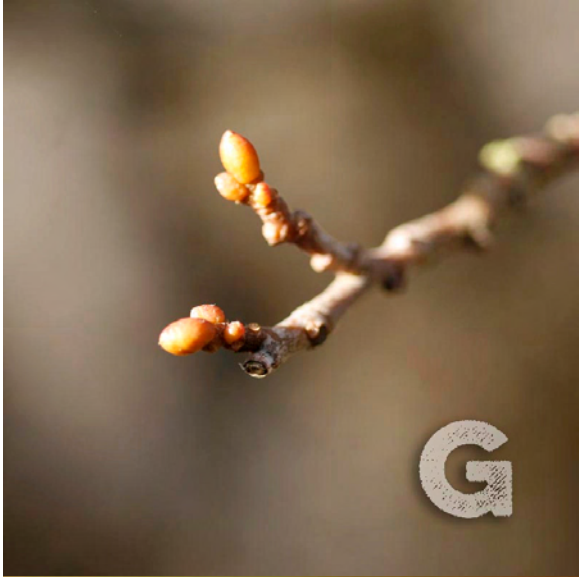




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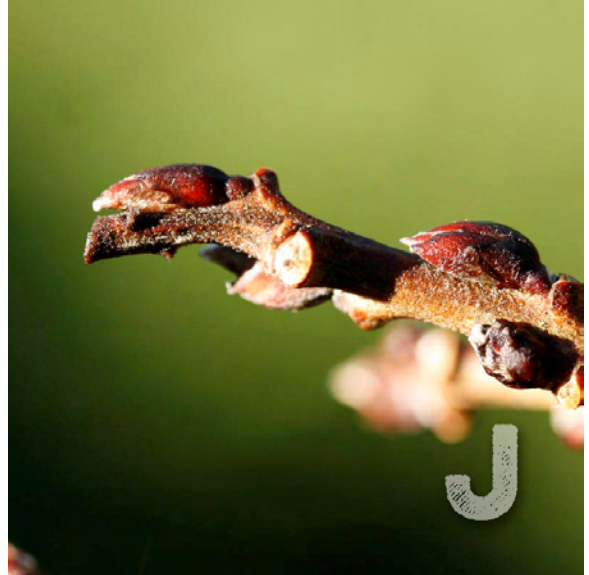
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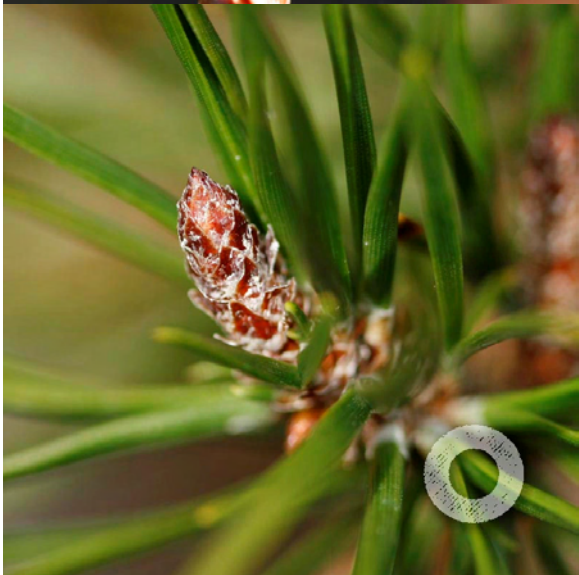
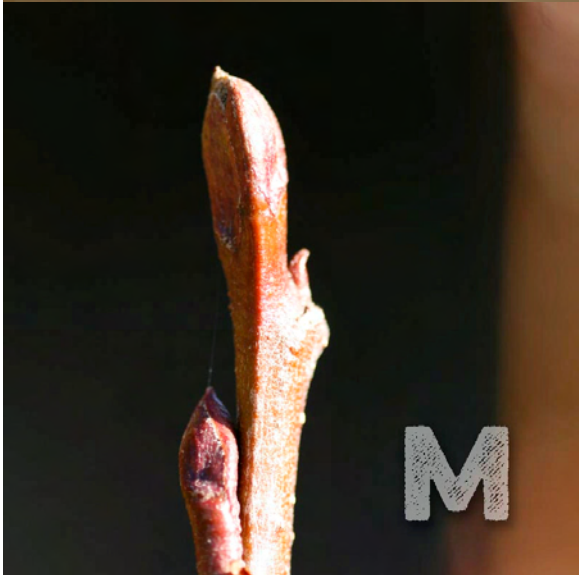
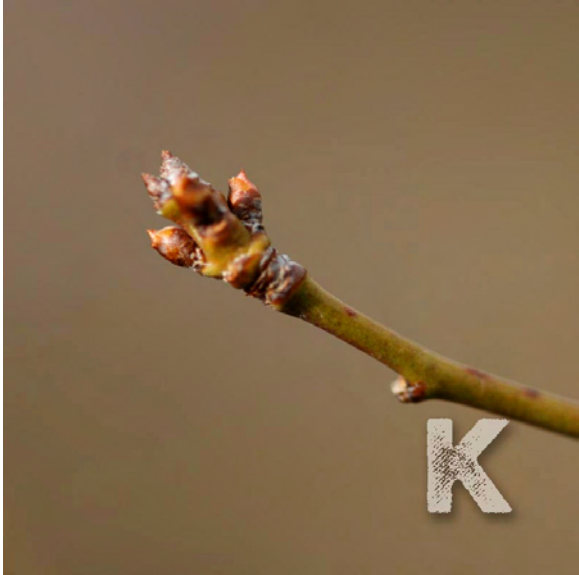
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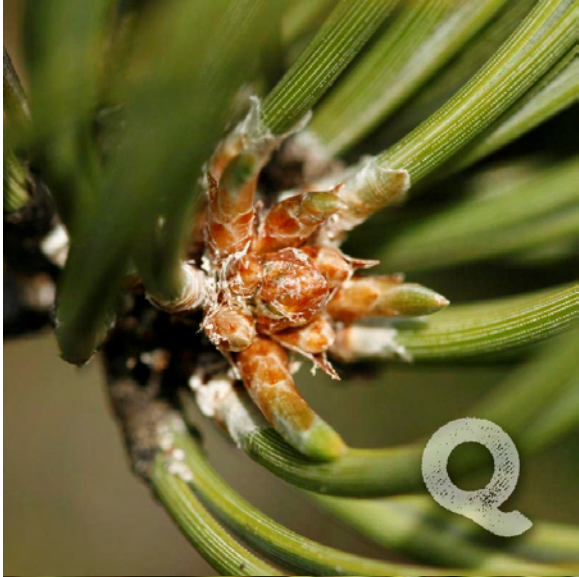


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Bud Key

- A. Japanese Arctic Willow
- B. Vine Maple – who knew that these were so hairy? Notice the tiny internodes. This is on a very small shohin size group of trees – very unusual and difficult to maintain for this species.
- C. European Beech – Long, lance like bronze buds. I pull all the leaves off in the fall – beech normally retain their old leaves until spring growth pushes them off.
- D. Ginkgo
- E. Japanese Maple – this one happens to be Deshojo, a variety with red leaves in the spring.
- F. Katsura – this reminds me of deer hooves.
- G. Linden –
- H. Star Magnolia – Huge wooly flower buds. Note the relatively small leaf bud to the right.
- I. Styrax – Japanese Snowbell. These greenish buds appear in early winter. But don't worry, they won't elongate until the time is right.
- J. Wisteria – These are fairly pointed. The buds on my other wisteria are very plump and round right now.
- K. Plum – Please note that these are all flower buds. They are much larger and plumper than leaf buds. Flower buds also tend to have a bit of copper color, whereas the leaf buds can be flatter and duller. You can actually see a few leaf buds at the very tip of the branch – just tiny little points. It is very important with all prunus species (Plum, Apricot, Cherry, Peach, Almond) that you do not prune back past the last leaf bud. You can't count on there being a leaf bud being present where flower buds are. This is especially true with any double blossomed forms. If you prune off the leaf buds, then your branch may die back to the nearest main branch, thus losing ramification. For that reason, I like to prune my plums post flowering. Pruning the tips in late summer helps to encourage the development of leaf buds closer to the trunk.
- L. Japanese Quince – Note the large flower bud developing. There is a smaller leaf bud just below it, but a bit out of focus.
- M. Red Alder – This one is growing very vigorously in the ground and this is the apical bud – that is why is aimed vertically. One of our natives.
- N. Japanese Black Pine – Healthy black pine buds are creamy white and very pointed. Less vigorous are darker, redder, and rounder.
- O. Lodgepole Pine – These are usually covered with a bit of resin.
- P. Douglas Fir – Very distinctive, red, pointed, and scaled buds. The longer and pointier, the healthier.
- Q. Ponderosa Pine – Note the large central bud and several smaller ones tucked in next to it.
- R. Japanese Red Pine – One of my favorite photos. Now you know how it got its name.
- S. Subalpine Fir – OK, so this was a little tricky, but here for a reason. There is no bud in this photo. This shoot was probably pinched earlier in the year. It's healthy now, with great foliage. It will most likely lose vigor in the next year or two and die. It will not likely produce another bud. Its replacement is more likely to come from an adjoining branch that continues to grow strong, creating some back buds.
- T. Mountain Hemlock. These buds are incredibly tiny. A little clue that they grow very slowly.
- U. Engelmann Spruce – This really shows the arrangement of needles all the way around the branch.

Scott

Bonsai Supplies from Wee Tree Farm

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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!

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