



# the **TREE LINE**

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

May 2014

## Upcoming Events

- May 17,18 9am-6pm **Mentorship Meeting** Saturday/Sunday at Japanese Garden
- May 17,18 10am -6 pm **Japanese Garden Spring Show** Portland Japanese Garden
- May 27 7-9pm **BSOP Monthly Meeting** The Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr
- June 7 10am - 2pm **Oregon Shohin Kai** The Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr
- June 15 **Mentorship Meeting** Field trip to a bonsai nursery
- June 24 7-9pm **BSOP Monthly Meeting** The Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr
- June 21 **Pacific Rim Work Party** Pacific Rim Bonsai Exhibit
- August 16 **BSOP Summer Picnic** Daybreak Gardens
- Oct 18 - 21 **Intl Bonsai Art & Culture Biennale**, Yokyakarta, Indonesia

## Discussions and Decisions

There has been an ongoing conversation regarding BSOP's future role in Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association. PNBCA is the 11-member organization that oversees the regional conventions. Historically, hosting a convention every 4-5 years has helped supplement our funding. One major issue at the heart of these conversations is the 50/50 revenue split between convention hosts and PNBCA. Many feel this is too much financial risk by participating clubs for a disproportionate financial and logistical return.

The board is assembling a list of suggestions from several clubs which we will present to PNBCA. This would outline the changes we would like to see before we commit to host another convention. Anyone with questions or suggestions should contact me by June 15. We will keep everyone informed as the conversation evolves.

I am happy to report that our Nomination Committee has nearly completed its work with an excellent slate of candidates for our 2015-2016 Board. Details will be available soon.

Our new meeting location brings new opportunities. I believe an effort to educate the neighbors and organizations in and around Milwaukie will attract interest and members. My plan is to increase our outreach to capitalize on this opportunity. Volunteers to assist are welcome.

Our new location requires additional income to balance our finances. The Board has established a fundraising goal of \$3000 and a few suggestions for achieving that goal. We are looking for a Fundraising Chairperson to assemble and manage a team. This is a critical function in continuing our mission. Interested in learning more? Contact me.

Finally, a few of our members will be at Portland Nursery on June 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am-3pm. We will be demonstrating bonsai techniques, answering questions and inviting visitors to participate in our organization. Please stop by or bring a tree and join the demo. Contact me for details.

***Chas Martin, President***

## **Change Is In The Air**

I don't know if everyone else feels it the way I do, but there is a lot of change in the air these days. Weather-wise, we are getting lots of sun and lots of heavy downpours. On a personal note, it's the fall arrival of our first child and the pressing need to find a new place to rent that will make mom, baby, and bonsai happy. (If mom, baby, and bonsai are happy, Al is happy.) Taking it to the world of bonsai, the spring flowers are mostly fading (thankful for late-blooming rhododendrons and azaleas) and pretty soon we'll be nominating new board members. Ah, new board members and new energy coming into the club!

The time covered by the current board has seen a lot of action--great programs, some personnel changes, and a very difficult but ultimately successful search for a new home. A lot of heavy lifting was done by the board and especially Jan Hettick and her location committee over this period of time, and they have all set the next board up for success, with a terrific, reliable venue, a clear direction for programming, and budding alliances with other organizations. Add to that the incredible membership of the Bonsai Society of Portland, which shows up consistently and faithfully bringing commitment, passion, and fun to participation in club events and initiatives.

For me, being part of the board has been a terrific experience. I have enjoyed interacting with bonsai professionals from far and wide who would be our presenters. I have enjoyed the cooperative relationship we're enjoying with the Puget Sound Bonsai Association, and I've enjoyed bringing my own passion for excellence to the table and seeing the positive response of a grateful membership. Of course what I'm trying to say is this: Serving your club is fulfilling and fun, and there are committees where you can make a tremendous impact doing what comes naturally to you. Interested? See Chas Martin, our current board president.

Some of the highlights of the BSOP year are not planned by the VP of Programs: Cases in point: our annual show at the Japanese Garden this month and the summer picnic at the Burnetts' Daybreak Gardens in August. This year the Burnetts are extending an invite to other local clubs too... but they need to know how many folks will be coming so when the time comes near, RSVP. That way Dave and Donna will know how much grass to mow to make room for all the cars... Stay tuned for more on that.

### **May Meeting**

But I digress. You probably want to know what our May meeting will be all about. Remember how during last meeting we said we need to do some fundraising? Let's raise funds for

ourselves and the club by having a Swap Meet/Whack and Chat. Let's take advantage of our large new space and abundant tables to do some spring cleaning of our bonsai collections. This will be the opportunity to buy and sell some nice trees, stock, and pots--not just the knickknacks you've been meaning to put in the raffle. Anticipating my own move, I will be bringing some nice, big trees! Remember--we all voted to stay at the Milwaukie Center and we were clear that fundraising would be part of it, so it's important to come and help us fulfill this new mandate!

Here's how the May meeting is going to work:

**Swap Meet:** If you wish to reserve a round banquet table to sell stuff, reserve the table with me by email. Email politomail at gmail dot com, subject line Swap Meet RSVP. The first table is free; if you want two tables, the price is \$50 for the extra table with proceeds going to the club. Your name will be on your table; please arrive at 6:15-6:30 to set up, and you are responsible for cleaning your tabletop and the area around your table.

20% of all sales go to the club, so please keep track of how much you sell.

**Whack and Chat:** This will be a great opportunity to work on some trees and ask/answer questions from other members. Experienced members will be on hand working on some of their own trees so you can learn from them. If you want to work on a tree but don't have one--even if you don't have tools--everything you need to get started in bonsai will be available at this meeting. You can purchase a tree to work on from our members or get tools or wire- from our monthly bonsai supply vendors--Daybreak Gardens and Apex Bonsai.

There will be ample tables set up for you to work on your trees.

It's going to be lots of fun and a great opportunity for some interesting and high-quality material to change hands. So if you want to build up your collection, come prepared!

See you soon, *Al Polito*, Vice-President of Programs

## MIDGES PICNIC ON APHIDS AT SUMMER SOLSTICE

It is time once again to call upon our Aphidoletes aphidimyza midges to swarm against those pesky, sticky, leaf-piercing APHIDS.

Evidence is mounting from many sources that the injurious effects of systemic aphid control known as NEONICOTINOIDS include toxicity to pollinating insects as they feed upon aphid 'sugar' or collect nectar from treated flowering plants. This injurious material can persist two years and cannot be undone.

Please protect our pollinators - the wasps, bees, ladybirds, lacewings -by using a simple, inexpensive and effective control method by ordering APHIDOLETES APHIDIMYZA to be released on or near summer solstice (June 21 this year).

Contact Evergreen Growers Supply, 503-908-1946, or [www.evergreengrowers.com](http://www.evergreengrowers.com).

*Dave and Donna*

## Oregon Shohin Kai

The Oregon Shohin Kai met on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in our new facility, the Milwaukie Center. We met in the smaller Oregon Grape Room, which has direct access from the north edge of the parking lot. The room is not large, but there are lots of tables and chairs and best of all, north and west light. It seemed to work well.

The May program was presented by Scott Elser. Using several different types of stands and numerous well developed Shohin provided by OSK members, Scott showed us how to put together attractive displays. He encouraged us to share our trees whenever possible. Not just at the Spring Show, but also in the home and at the workplace.



**The next meeting of the Oregon Shohin Kai will be Saturday, June 7, 10am to 2pm.** There will not be a formal program this month, but the ever popular “Whack & Chat”. Bring your trees, tools and equipment and plan to work on your trees. There will be lots of chatting along the way. This is a great way to get advise and other opinions on your creations. Load-in and load-out is easy at our new meeting place. No stairs, no elevator!

The location of this meeting will be the Willamette Center. Watch for an email the last week of April. If you have questions, contact Jan Hettick, [janhettick@comcast.net](mailto:janhettick@comcast.net).

*Jan*

## Organic Fertilizer For Sale

**Portland Rose Society Fertilizer** is available for delivery at the May 27 BSOP meeting. The fertilizer is a specially blended organic fertilizer rated 5-4-4 with mycorrhiza. It works well for bonsai, as well as ornamental yard plants. The pelletized fertilizer comes in 20 pound bags, selling for \$16 per bag. If you would like to pick up a bag or two between 6:30 and 7:00 before the BSOP meeting, be sure to pre-order from Bill Hettick at [bhettickco@comcast.net](mailto:bhettickco@comcast.net) or 503-936-5629.

The May meeting will be the last time this year that fertilizer will be delivered to the BSOP meeting. After May 27 you may order fertilizer for pick-up at Bill’s home in Tigard.

## 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.

# JAPANESE GARDEN SHOW 2014

The trees have all been selected and are being coifed and primped at this very moment for their appearance next week at our annual Spring Show. I hope that you all can make it. The show dates are Saturday and Sunday, May 17th and 18th, from 10 am to 6 pm. There will be continuous demonstrations on the back deck by our own BSOP members, and there will be tours of the exhibit each day at 11:00, 1:00, and 3:00 pm. Be sure to come in and enjoy the fruits of your efforts. Simply beautiful trees in a beautiful setting. We have quite a few new trees to enjoy this year. The showing is very balanced with no one person bringing more than three trees. In the past, some members have supplied up to six or seven trees.

Don't forget about our Critique Saturday evening. Ryan Neil will be joining us for the evening which promises to be a lot of fun and very informative. We are extending the talk to ninety minutes to pack in even more bonsai knowledge. Our finger food and dessert potluck starts on the back deck at 6:30, with the critique itself starting at 7:30. You may bring alcoholic beverages, but nothing that will stain, like red wine. The club will be supplying other beverages. This is also the time that we vote for various awards on the bonsai. Here is the line up: Best Conifer, Best Deciduous, Best Shohin, Best Accent Plant. Plus one new one. The newly created Masa Furukawa Award for the best saiikei. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door, and be sure to bring some delectable treats to share.

See you this weekend! *Scott E*

## Time to check junipers for worms

These pests are active now feeding on new shoot growth. Some make webs and bind shoots together. Careful searching and removal will stop the damage. These pictures are from *Bonsai Tonight* by Jonas Dupuich. Or refer to the *Pacific Northwest Insect Management Handbook*. Information is available online.



# May Mentorship Meeting

Date: Saturday and Sunday, May 17/18, 2014

Time: 9am to 6:00pm

Where: Japanese Garden BSOP Spring Bonsai Show

Subject: Saturday we will need tree sitters at the show and I hope some of you have volunteered; it is a great way to help the club but more importantly to learn more about bonsai. "The fastest way to memorize something is to teach it to others."

For Sunday, I have lined up several volunteers at 2 time slots: 10a-12p and 2p-4p to demonstrate on their trees while I and other more experienced bonsai artists assist you. This will take place on the back deck. The guests who come to the show are fascinated with watching the process to create bonsai and the opportunity to ask a myriad of questions, and they will. Don't plan on getting too much work done as you will probably be fielding questions more than working on your tree.

The park allows us to drive up to the entrance area and drop off our trees and equipment. Some can park down the hill and some may need to find parking down at the bottom. Also, they have a tram that runs all day up and down the hill. Contact me if you have questions.

My son Perry will be on hand all day Sunday to assist any of you with carrying things.

Please bring your tools and wire and of course your tree.

Special thanks to Don Howse for donating 24 + junipers to the mentorship group; we distributed at least half, to those who came to April's mentorship. A shout out goes to Joanne Raiton for her help once again and for her continuing to bring raffle prizes for all.

Final thought: As I learn more about what our mentors want I too grow.

Aprils demonstration went from being a 15 to 30 minute short demo to a full blown demonstration of taking a never before wired scraggly juniper, to a fully wired cascading bonsai. What I learned was; our mentors do not usually get to see a start to finish demonstration and by the time it was almost completed all the mentee's were on their feet and standing around the table to get a better look and ask more questions.

I have always tried not to talk the students to boredom and say and do what needs to be said and done and then work with them on their trees. So April was a good learning tool for me as well.

Please let us know what you want so we can better serve your needs.

We will see you at the Japanese Garden.

*Lee*

# MENTORSHIP TRAINING AT THE JAPANESE GARDEN BONSAI SHOW 2014

**Subject:** Mentorship educational lessons at the May Japanese Garden Show

**Date:** Sunday May 18

**Purpose:** to allow guests of the Garden to watch active BSOP members in our mentorship group learn how to improve their bonsai skills by observation and asking questions.

**Quantity of mentee's:** Two sessions of 3 mentee's. First session from 10am to 12pm and second session from 2pm to 4pm.

**Mentors:** 1 to 3 mentors to assist the mentee's at each session and answer questions the Garden guests may have. Mentee's to also answer the guest questions if they can.

**Material:** predetermined trees to be brought by the mentee's with mentor approval (me). This is necessary so we have a diverse selection of trees as well as trees we feel we can work on for the full 2 hours. Also trees I feel that will cover the subjects that our observers are usually most interested in. I will also bring some backup trees in case they may be needed.

**Genus of trees:** conifer, deciduous, evergreen/azalea/boxwood.

**Subjects to select trees by:** wiring/styling, clip and grow. Repotting juniper from garden pot to bonsai pot. Pinching, leaf reduction, branch selection.

**Mentee Tools:** mentee's will bring their own tools, wire, turntables etc.

**Mentor tools:** Mentors should bring tools they feel they need. I will bring my large bucket of tools as well as aluminum and copper wire. Also a plastic cement bin for repotting and bonsai soil and turntables and a tarp.

**Cleanup:** each session will assist in cleaning up the area they work in.

**Japanese Garden assistance:** we will need two 6' tables and 6 chairs. A trash receptacle; is usually available.

**Additional information:** Mentor chair will also be recruiting mentors to do tree sitting for Saturday and Sunday as well as to assist with the take down of the exhibit. This information will be communicated to either Scott Elser and/or his appointed recruiter for the show.

**Arrival/departure:** Scott Elser to arrange with the Garden permission for the participants of the sessions to drop off/pickup, near the gate, their needed supplies.

# Scott's BRANCH TIPS

*BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY*

## **May Work on Pines and Deciduous**

Circle the week on your calendar. Last week of May. What's it for? Decandling your Black and Red Pines. This date has come by much trial and error. It is based on the time we need in Portland to grow a new set of needles before the trees harden off in September and October. So that means of course that you have been fertilizing the heck out of everything up to now. And while you are at it, you can thin out the needles and do any wiring and styling that you need on these trees. Pines can handle that just fine and it opens things up for light to get in for back budding now that you have stimulated the trees by having decandled them. The whole process and technique for decandling is something that needs to ideally be taught hands on, so we can't really cover it here, especially without illustrations. But if you are familiar with the technique, you now have the date to go with it. You just have to trust me on this one. It doesn't matter what they look like now - it's all about the time on the back end. And remember, Black and Red pines only. Anything else and results may vary (including death of the tree).

What if I don't have any those kinds of pines to work on? Now is a great time to work on deciduous trees. It's a great time to start an air layer, either in a landscape tree to create a bonsai, or to improve the roots and base of an existing tree. I will be showing that technique in the next meeting. It's also a great time to do hard pruning and cutback on deciduous trees. They are usually up and running at full steam right now, so if you cut them, they can pop out all over. Plus, they have a month or more to start growing new foliage to protect the branches and especially the trunk before the heat of summer arrives. Try not to totally defoliate a tree unless you have a specific purpose and you are able to give good after care. Most trees will not need total defoliation. Be careful with those scissors, they can be more dangerous than you might think. And finally, now is a great time to start wiring that nice spring growth. Let branches continue to elongate, but wire the first four or five inches into interesting curves, very carefully. Then as the wire begins to cut in later in the summer, or possibly all the way into fall, you can remove the wire. During your fall pruning, you can cut back past where you stopped wiring to anywhere you need. You probably will not use all that you wire, but you will have the options at pruning time and letting it elongate will set the branch and let it thicken, if you are developing a new branch. Aluminum wire works great. You can use copper too, but it would be best to protect tender species with a wrap of paper around the wire itself before it is applied. Fold a normal paper towel several times into itself - accordion style, then cut across to make some quick strips. You may also choose to use guy wires in some circumstances, which helps with wire scarring.

Have fun with your tree and enjoy the arriving sunshine. *Scott E*



# ALL STRESSED OUT

As you are moseying among your plants, you might hear a quiet conversation between them: “Hey, Ulmus. How are you doing this spring after that horrendous winter? Rain in torrents, hail, snow, cold. Why, my roots never did warm up, even in that brief interlude of sunshine. (We couldn’t all go to Costa Rica!)”

“Most of all, Picea, I’m concerned about enduring summer. These human caretakers think they have stress! Think of us in these undersized containers completely dependent upon our owners to protect us and provide optimum care and nutrition. Talk about STRESS! Well, let’s do:”

In no particular order of importance, here is a plant stress list for growing guidance.

nutrition deficiency	allelopathy (plant against plant)
mechanical damage	lack of or inadequate beneficial microbes
temperature	chemical injury
root volume	exposure
insects/disease	drought
competition	pruning
mineral toxicity	defoliation
air/soil pollution	soil compaction
low soil aeration	

To protect itself from danger, here is an example of a physiological plant function induced by a number of stresses. Say the stresses are lack of water, air pollution or cold weather. The plant will produce a type of an amino acid called glutathione, whose purpose it is to protect against damage. BUT, this amino acid renders the plant super tasty to injurious pests. As a result of their voracious appetites, the pests become super critters, growing larger and reproducing faster as they decimate your plants.

We have an important responsibility to eliminate plant stresses for optimum health and beauty of our bonsai. ‘Eavesdrop’ on your bonsai collection – in the form of OBSERVATION.

*Donna*

## 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](mailto: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!

## **2014 Pacific Rim Work Party**

**The date of this year's Pacific Rim Work Party is Saturday, June 21, 2014.** There is still time to sign up! Spend a few hours working and get a free critique of one tree by David DeGroot!

Each year a group of BSOP members goes to the Pacific Rim Bonsai Exhibit to help prepare the grounds for increased public activity during the Summer. It is even more important this year, since they became an independent non-profit organization. Now, instead of 3 acres of grounds to take care of they have 8 acres, and they need our help. Our primary responsibility has always been the entry path and grounds; pulling weeds, trimming landscape plants and the like. For this work we bring our own favorite gardening tools, such as loppers, pruning shears, buckets, gloves, knee pads, rain gear and/or sun screen. And bring a lunch, because 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 Dave DeGroot. Each worker is encouraged to bring one tree for Dave's analysis, instructions and styling tips. For those newer members who don't know Dave, he is one of the region's best Japanese-trained bonsai artists and a wonderful teacher. This is also a great way to see the bonsai collection.

As an optional 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.

**Please do sign up, as space is limited.** For more information, call Jan Hettick, 503-504-7760, or email at [janhettick@comcast.net](mailto:janhettick@comcast.net). There will be a sign-up sheet at the May 27<sup>th</sup> BSOP meeting.

*Jan*

Two black pines by Kentaro Shiino from Bonsai Tonight by Jonas Dupuich



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## BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

P. O. Box 21271  
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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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