



the **TREE LINE**

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

June 2014

Upcoming Events

June 15 10am **Mentorship Meeting** Wee Tree bonsai nursery

June 21 **Pacific Bonsai Museum Work Party** Pacific Bonsai Museum Exhibit

June 24 7-9pm **BSOP Monthly Meeting** The Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr

August 16 **BSOP Summer Picnic** Daybreak Gardens, Battle Ground, WA

September 6 **Oregon Shohin Kai** The Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr

Oct 18 - 21 **Intl Bonsai Art & Culture Biennale**, Yokyakarta, Indonesia

Answers are stepping stones to learning.

It was great to see so many members and visitors engaged in conversations and hands-on demonstrations at our last meeting. Our programs for the past two years have included exceptional presenters. But, there is no substitute for one-on-one interaction. It's easier to ask a question in conversation than to raise your hand in a group.

We have seen a growing number of new faces at our recent meetings. This week we have reached 200 members. When you encounter a new face, please introduce yourself and make sure our guests feel welcome. I recall a friendly handshake and a few friendly questions from Bob Laws at my first BSOP meeting. It engaged me immediately and I've remained actively involved ever since.

I also encourage you to invite friends to attend our meetings. Our mission is to educate people on the art and culture of bonsai. We do a great job of educating each other. Our group will fulfill its mission and become stronger with the addition of new participants. Newcomers always have questions. The answers are the stepping stones to learning.

Portland Nursery Demo on Saturday, June 21

Several members have volunteered to work on their bonsai at Portland Nursery on June 21 from 10am-3pm. We will have a banner hanging nearby to identify who we are. We'll also have cards and brochures for distribution. This is a great opportunity for meeting new people and encouraging club participation.

If you have a few hours to assist in increasing our visibility, please contact Chas@InnovativEye.com. It would be great to have a dozen people there representing BSOP.

Chas Martin, President

Things Are Heating Up!

The prognosis is that it's going to be a hot summer. I'm not a long-time Oregonian, but I have noticed a trend toward warmer summer weather on the whole. I can definitely remember a few summers in the past seven years I've been here that it wasn't hot, but more that have been.

The scientific community is pretty unanimous that the planet's climate is warming, and our part of Oregon is not exempt from the effects. The Northeast and Southwest are said to experience the worst consequences, and the area west of the Cascades, the least. So in that way we're fortunate. Heavier rains are something we, and our trees can generally live with. As an interesting side note, another effect of climate change is that populations of trees are expanding northward, and subalpine tree populations are going to be more and more displaced by species of trees we've found in lower elevations. Might we call this "alder creep?" Just a thought.

Yet another effect of climate change is that more warmth means more bugs and more fungi—a double-threat to our trees. In our mild climate, pests have always been a problem. But with warmer weather and new exotic pests (witness the lacebug that's sucking the chlorophyll from our azaleas), we have to be extra vigilant.

June meeting

Our own Lyle Feilmeir, a professional arborist and amateur bonsaist, will be presenter at our June meeting. We all have a lot to learn about the pests besetting our bonsai and we're lucky to have someone as knowledgeable in our ranks as Lyle.

And in addition, our June meeting will usher in the return of the Inspiration Table, an area in our meeting room where members can bring finished or semi-finished bonsai to show off. If you have a tree for display, please contact me via email (politomail at gmail) with the subject line "Tree to display."

Remembering the May meeting

Our Whack-N-Swap was warmly received by members as a great opportunity to connect socially, browse and gawk at neat trees, and for some of us, make a few bucks. It was a great first attempt at the wave of fundraising discussed at our April meeting. It was also great to see some new faces, especially those who learned about BSOP through our Japanese Garden show. Thanks to everyone who brought trees, worked/whacked on trees, and who simply came to enjoy. We'll have to do it again!

Stay hydrated (you and your trees!)

Al Polito, Vice-President of Programs

Oregon Shohin Kai

The June 7th meeting of Oregon Shohin Kai was a relaxing meeting, where members brought their trees, tools and equipment, worked on their trees and visited. It's time now for our summer break. The next program will be September 6, 2014, at the Milwaukie Center. Program for September is not yet finalized. Watch your email and the Shohin Kai website in August for details. Have a great summer!

Jan

SUPER SUMMER PICNIC II

Initial Details for Your Picnic Planning

Come out to the country again for a great Portland Bonsai Society picnic!

The number of attendees may be even greater this year. Since Diane at Wee Tree is not hosting a picnic, some members of the Willamette Valley organizations may join us.

Many more details will follow in the Summer Tree Line – please read it – but for now, the most critical advance information for us is NUMBER of attendees. Do not assume we know you are coming.

Bring your own chair and some good food. We will have many small side tables to sit by for holding your food or beverage, a couple picnic tables, and canopies to provide shade.

All the food and activity details will be in the Summer 2014 Newsletter.

See map on the next page for directions, and note:

If using I-205 Exit 32, do not go east toward the city of Battle Ground, but take Padden Parkway west to Andresen Road.

Watch for orange cones at our driveway entrance on the east side of 72nd Avenue.

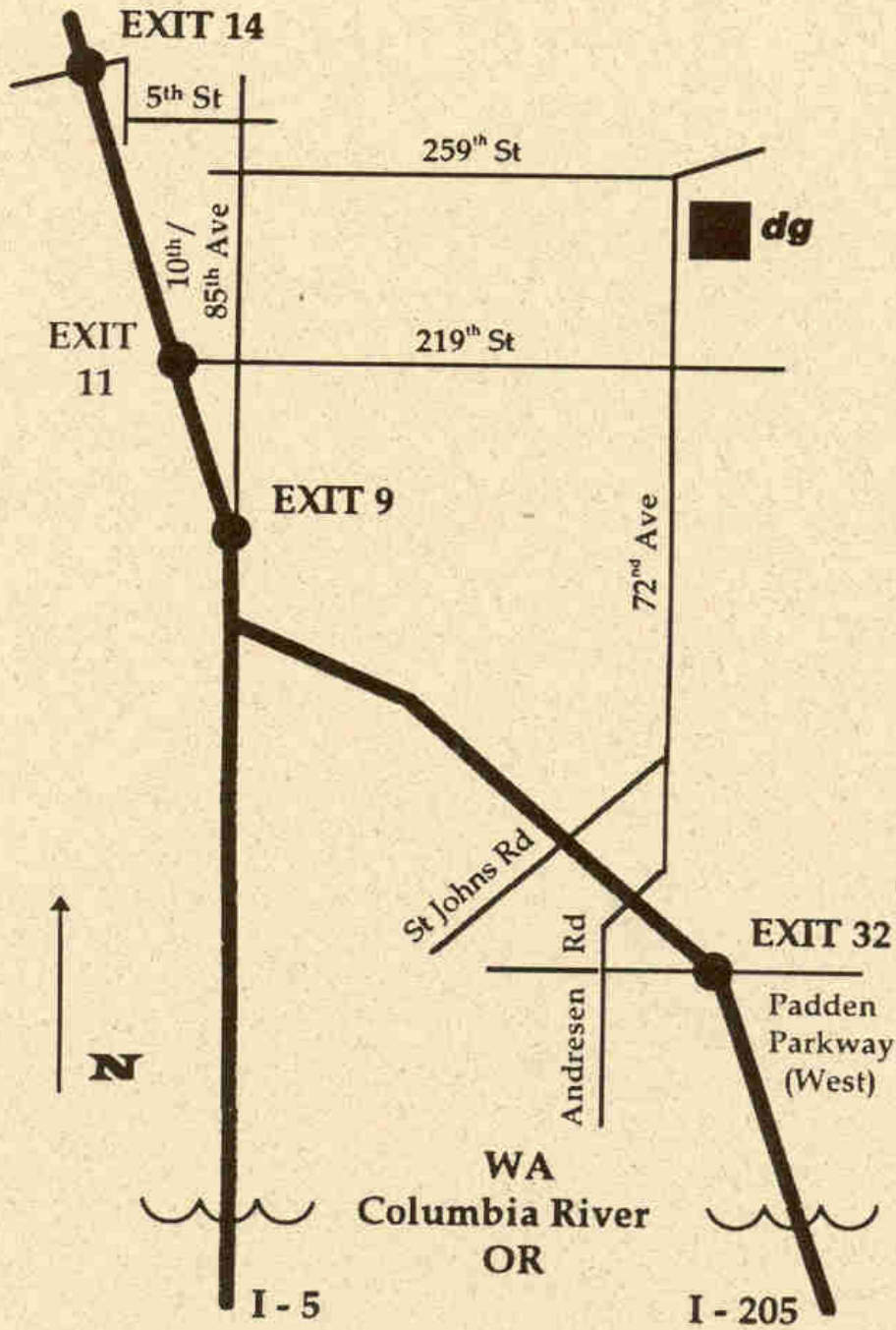
Date: Saturday, August 16
Location: Dave & Donna Burnett's Farm/Nursery
25321 NE 72 Avenue
Battle Ground, WA
Phone: 360-687-5641

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!

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.



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Spring Show Recap

Everyone put on a great show at this year's Spring Exhibit at the Japanese Gardens. We had over thirty quality displays and some really awesome trees. Who can forget the giant forest by Lee Cheate, or the exquisite Lily of the Valley from Al Polito. We certainly had trees large and small and a new room layout to deal with. Ryan Neal did a fantastic job during the critique covering nearly every tree in some fashion. We all learned a lot. Lee's mentor group on the back deck was a great hit among members and visitors alike. Many thanks to everyone involved, including all of the volunteers and especially those folks who shared their trees. Congratulate the winners of this year's awards, selected Saturday evening.

Scott E



Best Conifer - Japanese Black Pine from Bob Laws



Masa Furukawa Best Saikei -
Shimpaku from Lee Cheatle



Best Deciduous - European
Beech from Scott Elser



Best Accent Planting - Lily of the Valley from Al Polito



Anne Spencer Best Shohin - Dwarf Forsythia from Pat Foldi

2014 FALL SHOW AND PLANT SALE

The Board is considering a fund raising effort in the form of a Fall Show and Plant Sale, to be held on October 18, 2014, at the Milwaukie Center. The attitude of this show will be casual. Rather than focusing on the formal Japanese style exhibit, the Fall Show will have more of a “back yard bonsai” approach, demonstrating how much FUN we are having with our hobby. Anyone can show any tree that has had some styling. Stands and accent plants are preferred but not mandatory. Short bios on the trees are encouraged. Members will be scheduled to bring trees to work on during the show, creating mini-demos for the public to observe. This event would be advertised in the local media and open to the public for a small admission fee.

In conjunction with the show we propose to have a plant sale. Members with bonsai related businesses can bring in their pots and tools; BSOP members can bring in individual trees (starter cuttings to styled bonsai). It is proposed that BSOP take a small percentage for providing a cashier and VISA capability, and we will also actively solicit donations for material for a BSOP table from which the club would get 100% of the proceeds. We are even considering adding a bake sale component, selling little cookies shaped like bonsai.

The event is in its formative stages; any and all input and ideas would be appreciated.
Your participation is important to its success....this is a fund raising show for the BSOP!!!

Comments and questions may be directed to John Thomas (Chaparralbooks@aol.com) or Jan Hettick (janhettick@comcast.net). Discussion will occur at the June 24th meeting.

Scott's BRANCH TIPS

BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

The Courage to Cut, or Not

Yesterday I was in my backyard with Steve Piper working on some trees that I had grown from seed. They are crabapples. Years earlier, I had stratified the seed in my refrigerator in a plastic bag with some sand in it. Pretty soon, those seeds sprouted and started growing, right in the refrigerator. Apples do like their cold! I was really late in getting them planted, so I ended up planting seedlings rather than seeds. I grabbed a few Anderson flats and put a layer of soil in the bottom, then built up a berm of soil to lay the tender roots on. I didn't want to crush them by trying to shove them into soil from above. I then added a strip of soil on top of a row of seedlings, then layed down another row of seedlings on top of that. When I got done, the whole tray of seedlings was sticking out of the soil at roughly a forty-five degree angle. So as these seedlings began to grow, they natural grew straight up, reaching for the light. Fast forward seven or eight years and I have these wonderfully twisted trunks without a single wire scar, all on accident!

This spring I laboriously rooted pruned and repotted into clay pots roughly eighty of these trees. At that time, I had to cut off about seventy-five percent of the roots because they were encircling the pot and tangled in the drainage mesh. I knew my Crabs and that they could take such harsh pruning. They grow roots profusely and are presently growing right out the drainage holes. Now that they have regained some strength after the spring ordeal, it has come time to give them a good pruning.

I pruned them hard two years ago when they were out-growing their little four-inch plastic pots. But they ran again and now were towering at two feet tall – a little unwieldy in the wind and lacking much side branching. As we came to look at each specimen, we had to determine whether we were going to keep it as a shohin as originally intended, or let it grow into a medium sized tree. This was largely determined by the size of the curves available. In some cases, we made a drastic cut, leaving no leaves at all, but always a visible bud node. On others we were able to save leaves and still have some good curves.

What we knew is that the foliage mass of the tree is what will drive its strength. The larger the foliage mass, the more strength the tree has and its ability to respond to our training increases. But overriding that, we had a need to get the trees to a height that we could easily manage and also induce some back budding to get branches to grow.

I would have preferred to do the work a month ago, but that's the way the schedule goes. The idea is to cut it in May or June so that the tree has enough time to grow new leaves before the heat of the summer hits and burns the trunk. Be sure to keep this in mind with any defoliation technique. We really ended up with some home runs in this batch. The trees have a great

start. In many cases, we left a long branch to give the tree some strength and help it thicken and develop further. Every tree we touched was a viable bonsai and the reward of diligent work.

Watering the trees all these years was a bit of a task. I even had to have help to keep them weed free. But now on to the real point. Every time we touch a tree we need to have a clear purpose in mind and a clear direction for the tree. Each tree needs a different kind of treatment for each stage of development. Can I begin developing branches, or am I still working on the trunk? Can I do a little of both? Do I have the courage and patience to make the hard cut, the best cut? And then let it recover.

Or for some of us, do I have the patience to not cut and let the tree build up strength and bulk. Many of us have weak trees simply because we keep cutting off the very foliage the tree needs to get strong. Our task as a bonsaist is to balance the needs of the tree at any given moment, whether it be water, air, sun, styling, or growth. Have fun in the sun this summer with your trees and be on the lookout for each one as you water and prune.

Scott E

2014 Pacific Bonsai Museum Work Party

Saturday, June 21, 2014

Please do sign up, as space is limited. For more information, call Jan Hettick, 503-504-7760, or email at janhettick@comcast.net. 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 Bonsai Museum (formerly Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection) 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 no place nearby 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 in order to arrive at the collection no later than 10:00 AM.

Jan

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Twisty Sierra juniper photographed by Jonas Dupuich at bonsaitonight.com

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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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