



the TREE LINE

the official monthly publication of the BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

July 2014

Upcoming Events

August 7 7pm **Fall Show Planning Meeting** Max's Fanno Creek Brew Pub, Tigard

August 10 10-3 **Mentorship Meeting** Apex Bonsai

August 16 **BSOP Summer Picnic** Daybreak Gardens, Battle Ground, WA *Details on page 3*

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

October 18 **Fall Show & Plant Sale** Milwaukie Center

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

Summer Update

Summer is finally here. I've spent most of my bonsai time this month hiding my trees from direct sun. That also assures I spend some time observing each of them daily. The spring burst of growth has subsided. But, they continue to grow. I am very happy with the results I've had using the Portland Rose Garden fertilizer. This is my third or fourth year. The plants seem to be doing as well or better than they did with the poo ball recipe I used previously.

On the business side, the board has a few things in progress. We're reviewing policies and procedures in preparation for transfer of leadership to the next board at the end of the year. That will include a working calendar of board and committee activities for better management of the club's affairs. We're also documenting or updating things like committee responsibilities. The Nomination Committee has been hard at work rounding up the next leadership team. Look for their report after the break.

Our next event is our Summer Picnic which will be at Daybreak Gardens on August 16th. Donna and Dave Burnett are getting things ready for another fun afternoon. I'll be there on the 15th helping to set up. If you have time to help, let Donna and Dave know. Also, let them know if you'll be there for the picnic so they'll be ready for the crowd. See more info later in this newsletter on the event. I look forward to seeing a lot of you there.

Chas Martin, President

Of Bonsai and Babies!

Your soon-to-be former VP of programs here. I don't have much club-related bonsai news for you this month, but what's present for me as I write this is the enormous to-do list that has become much of my life. With a baby daughter slated to arrive right around Thanksgiving, my priorities will of necessity begin shifting from what they've been for some time to moving, baby, marriage, and work. Bonsai will probably take quite a back seat and who knows how much time I'll have to do much more than enjoy neglected trees for awhile. However, as I prepare for fatherhood, here's a reflection that applies to parenting and bonsai.

People who don't do bonsai often comment about how much patience is needed to do our art. But that assumes this notion that there's this destination in bonsai, such that a tree in formation or transition isn't a True Bonsai or worthy in some way, that "we're not there yet." As I anticipate the birth of our first child, I imagine her in utero, as a toddler, a little girl, a teenager, a young woman. And I imagine myself growing older as I observe her doing the same, and my wife too. One doesn't have a child solely to have an adult someday. You have a child to have a child, to love her or him, to raise that child to be the kind of person who makes a contribution to the world. I don't know about you, but I can't recall a parent whose child is leaving the nest saying, "Now I can finally enjoy my kid!"

And so it is with bonsai. We enjoy them every day, from seed or cutting, to bendy young thing, buds forming, to branches and bark aging, and seasonal enjoyment. Every day we enjoy them whether they're in the early stages or ready to put in a show. Are we not attached to them at every stage, seeing their potential and enjoying what they are right now? It reminds me of my grandmother, who loved to play the stock market, even into her 90s--what? To save for her retirement? She just loved to grow things too.

There's some likelihood I'll be in childbirth classes Tuesday nights until November, which means that I may be very scarce to the club. I've already set the program and it's a good one. I look forward to enjoying bonsai with you again. Meanwhile, I have a little seedling to attend to!

AJ Polito, Vice-President of Programs

Oregon Shohin Kai

The next meeting of the Oregon Shohin Kai will be after our summer break, on Saturday, September 6, 10am to 2pm. The location of this meeting is the Milwaukie Center. The program will be announced in the future - please check the Shohin Kai website and watch for an email the week before the meeting. If you have questions, contact Jan Hettick, janhet-tick@comcast.net.

Jan

BSOP Picnic

(Best Summer Outdoor Picnic)

Final Details

WHERE AND WHEN:

**Saturday, August 16 – OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE ALL FOOD HERE AT NOON,
AND START EATING BY 12:30**

Stay as long as you want.

Dave and Donna Burnett's

Daybreak Gardens

25321 NE 72 Avenue, Battle Ground, WA

Phone (360) 687-5641

See MAP again 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, then go north
about 8.5 miles.**

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

Let us know ahead of time number of attendees, including kids.

WHAT TO BRING:

Shoes for walking if you wish

CHAIR(S) for use while eating and visiting

Your own beverage (we will have our wonderful well water available)

A container of food to share potluck style (details below)

Kids/grandkids – there are acres to roam

ACTIVITIES WE ARE PLANNING:

Trail walking (southeast trail is now open)

**Games for adults, with prizes: (1) test your plant i. d.,
(2) creative wiring contest**

Kids' fun

**Cart rides (weight and/or age limit), paper art work, basketball, trail running,
etc., depending on ages and number of kids**

FOOD DETAILS:

Main dishes (crock pot or casserole dishes, baked beans, chili, tuna or meat dishes, ...)

Misc. (eggs, organic veggies with dip, fresh local fruit, bread or rolls, ...)

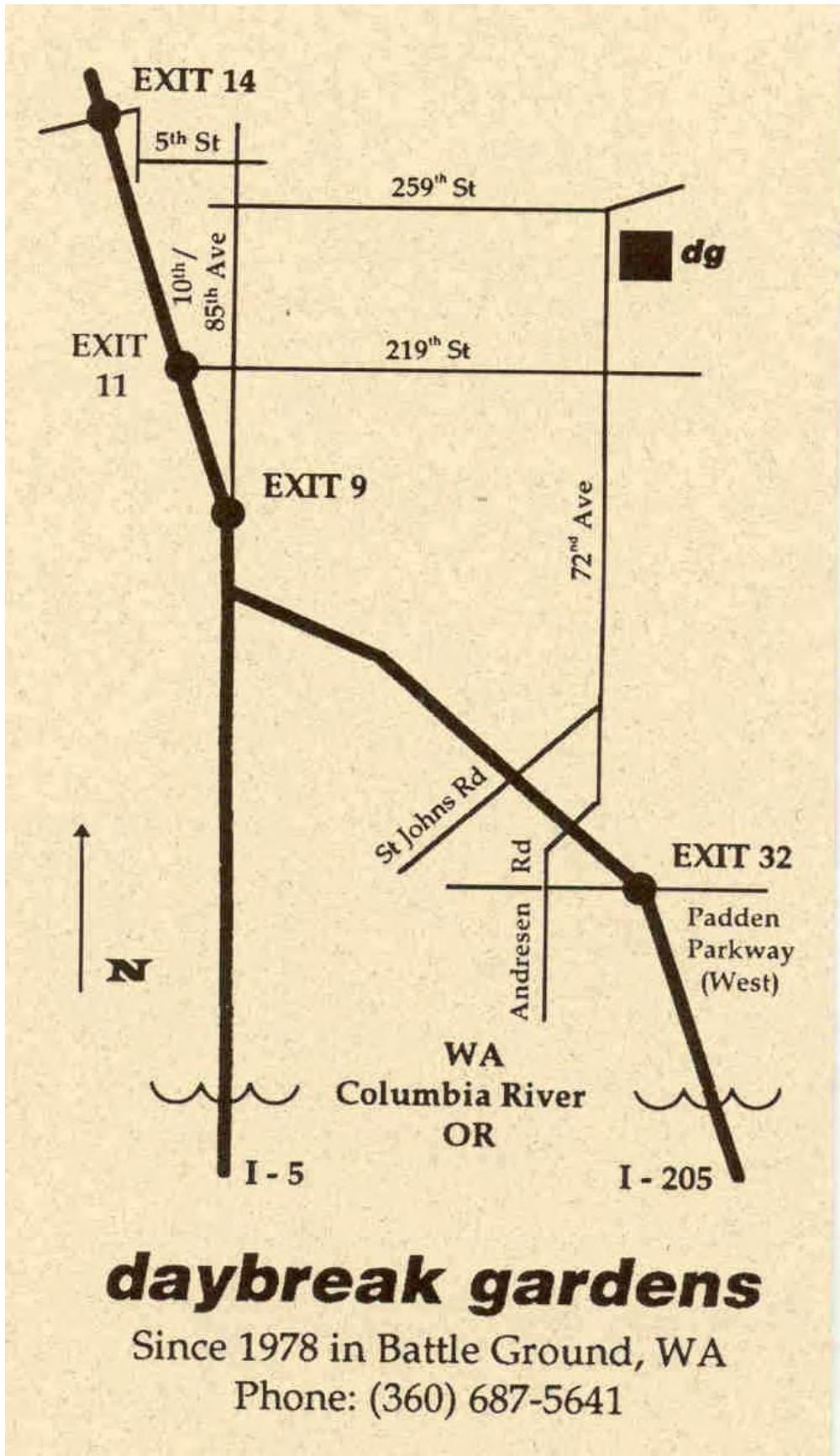
Salads (fruit salad, summer greens, Mediterranean, carrot, potato, gelatin, ...)

Desserts (homemade goodies, ...)

We have freezers, refrigerators, ovens, hot plates, plug-ins for crock pots, etc.

Note: Please do not plan to leave leftover food with Burnetts. Thanks.

Any questions, call us (360) 687-5641.



BSOP Picnic Special Help Request

PICNIC HELP NEEDED FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 15

We have 3 volunteers so far. We need 4 total.

There are 4 canopies to erect,
4 tables to move from the Annex and set up,
2 picnic tables to shuffle,
Parking signs to carry out and position,
and possibly other details.

Thank you for volunteering!

Mentorship Meets in August

August 10, 10am to 3pm

There is usually no mentorship in August but we have decided on having an informal open forum at Apex Bonsai that month. We did this in July with good participation. This will coincide with Apex's "Second Sunday" program they have been doing.

Steve and Debbie Wilcox will be leading the group so please bring your project trees with you so they can assist you.

For more information please contact:

Lee Cheatile at 503-312-4921 or leecheatile@msn.com

Steve and Debbie Wilcox, Apex Bonsai at 503-848-2638
or slwilcox1@frontier.com

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.

Scott's BRANCH TIPS

BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

Geisha versus Sumo

One of the main characteristics that we strive for in bonsai is that of a thick, fattened trunk. The bulkier we can make it, the better. A thicker trunk shows the proportions of a more mature tree. In nature, we know that the larger tree is usually the older one. And while trees may peak out in their height, or really slow down, they continue to grow sideways. I sometimes have the same situation.

But in a bonsai, it's good, so we are always seeking ways to make the trunk look bigger. One notable method is to reduce the height of the crown through pruning. The shorter the tree is, the larger the trunk will appear in proportion. This usually works pretty well.

But we have lots of trees that seem to sit in the middle between thick and masculine, and those that are feminine and thin. Many of these trees are fairly unsuccessful because they haven't really made up their minds on what they want to be. They lack anything that would make them distinctive. Do they want to be thick and powerful, like a Sumo wrestler, or slender and delicate like Geisha? So our job as a bonsai artist is to encourage the tree in one of those directions. Otherwise the tree becomes boring and lacks interesting qualities. How do you make those decisions?

Take a look at your tree and check to see how many changes in movement it makes. How many zigs and zags? If there is only one, or no significant change in direction of the trunk line before the point where you want to reduce the crown, it might be better to style it into a taller tree, introduce some curves in the trunk line, and let it mature into a tree with a slender, more subtle nature.

Here in the United States we tend to under value thinner trees. Often, these trees are classified as Bunjin. (Thin is not the only defining quality for a good bunjin) Now it might seem strange you coming from a person that admittedly likes large trees, but bonsai is still about proportions and making something beautiful. I very much enjoy creating bunjin style trees from appropriate material.

However, we must explore each piece of material on its own merits. We want to take whatever the tree has to offer and expand upon it. Sometimes that means cutting something back hard to a new leader and redeveloping. This can even be part of the original plan to growing a thicker trunk. Sometimes we have a great abundance of branches and many options to reduce the height with plenty of movement in the trunk.

There are times though, when the best solution is to use as much of the existing trunk as possible and lengthen the design. Pull a branch up and make it taller. A lodgepole pine is a great example of tree that would vary rarely make short, powerful tree. By nature, it is tall and slender and the option to grow it thicker just is not there.

As the trees get smaller, keeping a thin proportion becomes harder. If you look at most shohin, there are not many bunjin style trees. In fact, the trunk diameters approach or exceed the total height of the tree. They become sumo-like pyramids. The sense of delicate movement is much harder to express in a shorter tree. So next time you pick up a pair of concave cutter, think about what your tree has to offer, then feature those aspects, whether it be the trunk line, jin and shari, fruit, or whatever you might have.

Scott E

2014 FALL SHOW AND PLANT SALE

October 18, 2014 is the date of BSOP's Fall Show and Plant Sale at the Milwaukie Center. We'd love to have at least one tree from every BSOP member, so polish up your favorite tree (not necessarily your best tree). We want to show the public how much fun bonsai can be. The only rule is that the tree be clean, bug and disease free, and have experienced some styling.

In addition to the show, we will attempt a plant sale/fund raiser of some kind. There will be a planning meeting Thursday evening, August 7, at Max's Fanno Creek Brew Pub in Tigard. All ideas will be welcome. A future email will provide directions so you can get around the Main Street construction. If you want to eat, come by 6:30 to get food ordered before we start the meeting at 7:00.

Please RSVP if you expect to attend the planning meeting. Max's wants to know how many to expect. Comments and questions may be directed to John Thomas (Chaparralbooks@aol.com) or Jan Hettick (janhettick@comcast.net).



The Oak Grove hailstorm of June 16, 2014. How do you protect your trees from this?

Apex Bonsai Supply

Phone: 503-848-2638
Cell: 503-720-9028

Email: apexbonsaisupply@frontier.com

Contact: Steve or Deb Wilcox

Custom Soils
Akadama
Japanese, Chineses, and
Korean Pots
Tools
Wire
All Your Bonsai Needs

Lessons Available

Family Run, Locally Owned

盆栽



Ponderosa, Reel styled



Windsong Museum of Trees, Escondido



ReelBonsai by Matt Reel

Bonsai Supplies from Wee Tree Farm

Not only do we have a large selection of pottery, trees, tools, etc., but Garland Nursery has 5 acres of plants to browse through. Please come see us, I promise it is worth the drive!

Our Retail location located at:

Garland Nursery



HWY 20 half way between Albany and Corvallis

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

541 753 6601

PRE-BONSAI PLANTS . BONSAI TOOLS

High-fired Pots • Mica & Plastic Training Pots

Wire • Classes • Organic Fertilizers

New: Mazama Pumice (1/16-3/8")

New: Diatomite Rock from Nevada, USA

Superior Black Compost • Red Cinder Rock (1/4-5/16")

Est. 1978



25321 NE 72nd Avenue
Battle Ground, WA 98604
Phone (360) 687-5641
Dave & Donna Burnett

Need supplies?
Call ahead for delivery at BSOP meetings.



Dedicated to growing trees specifically for bonsai, combining the best of traditional Japanese techniques with the proven technology of the Oregon nursery industry.

In the field:

Japanese Black pine, Shimpaku

Scots Pine, Shore Pine, Mugo

Trident & Japanese Maples

Chinese Elms, Japanese Quince

Ume, Crabapples, Korean Hornbeam

And others. Come see the result of our nebari development process.

Many varieties of satsuki whips

Shimpaku from 1 gal to field-grown

Many varieties developed for shohin styling

To contact us, please call or email

Chris & Lisa Kirk •

(503) 881-1147 •

www.telfarms.com

Website at www.telfarms.com

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

President: Chas Martin 503 459-1009 Chas.Martin@innovativeye.com

Past President: Alan Taft 503 245-1927 tafta24@gmail.com

VP-Programs: Al Polito 503 708-9394 politomail@gmail.com

VP-Membership: Margie Kinoshita youngkinoshita@msn.com

Treasurer: Robert Wofford 503 304-0996 wofford9694@comcast.net

Secretary: Gail Jones 503 393-4400 gail_lee_jones@q.com

Committee Heads

Librarian: Barbara Devitt 503 764-8242 bbd.jcgroup@yahoo.com

Mentorship: Lee Cheatle 503 312-4921 leecheatle@msn.com

Shohin Kai: Jan Hettick 503 540-7760 janhettick@comcast.net

Newsletter: Peter Pelofske 503 704-3891 pelofskepj@outlook.com

Webmaster: Chas Martin 503 459-1009

Chas.Martin@innovativeye.com

Heritage Group: Manny Tavan 503 869-0872 etavan@gmail.com