



# the TREE LINE

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

September 2014

## Upcoming Events

- September 20 , 9:30am-1:30 **Mentorship** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr  
September 23, 7pm **BSOP Monthly Meeting** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr  
October 3-5, **PNBCA Bonsai Convention 2014** Harbour Towers Hotel, Victoria BC  
October 4, 10am - 2 **Oregon Shohin Kai** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr  
October 18, **Mentorship at the Fall Show** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr  
October 18 **Fall Show & Plant Sale** Milwaukie Center , 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr  
October 18 - 21 **Intl Bonsai Art & Culture Biennale**, Yokyakarta, Indonesia  
October 28, 7pm **BSOP Monthly Meeting** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr

## A Busy Fall Season

Welcome back! Summer is about over, except for a few remaining hot days. We return to our monthly meeting schedule with a great lineup of activities and presenters for the next few months.

**Fall Sale:** On October 18<sup>th</sup>, we'll host our first fundraising event in our new meeting space. Jan Hettick is looking for volunteers to help make the **Sale, Demo & Marketplace** event a successful fundraiser. We'll all benefit from this event. We should all support it by offering our time and talents where most appropriate. Connect with Jan to find out what needs to be done.

**Sale of Donated Trees:** We recently received about 200 trees through donations. The value of these trees varies from starter to pre-bonsai. Coordination and collection required a number of volunteers and hours for retrieval and care over the past month. Thanks to Lee Cheatle for leading this project.

The trees were itemized, and a fair market value set by two experienced club members (Lee Cheatle and Alan Taft). In the interest of quick liquidation and cash flow for the club, the board authorized the volunteers to purchase up to two trees. About 30 of the trees will be available for purchase/auction at our September 23rd meeting. Additional trees will be dedicated to the Mentorship Program. Some trees were determined to be of no bonsai value and have been composted. We don't want to encroach on the Ted Matson presentation this month, so come early to

help with setup and participate in the sale.

**Summer Picnic:** A sincere thank you to Dave and Donna Burnett for a wonderful afternoon at Daybreak Gardens. The Summer Picnic was a fun event, as usual - good food, good conversation and good people. Attendance was down this year, possibly due to too many competing events. But, Dave and Donna deserve our gratitude for the energy they put into hosting the picnic again this year. It has been years since my last trip to Daybreak. Their nursery has grown and matured considerably. I was amazed by the amount of great material they have available. Thanks also to the half dozen volunteers who showed up to help set up canopies, tables, etc. That was almost as much fun as the picnic.

***Chas Martin, President***

## **Every Time I see a "Matson" Trailer**

There's some shipping company called Matson that has its name plastered in huge blue letters across its white trailers. Every single time I see those trailers on the back of railroad cars or towed by tractor-trailer rigs, I think of my first bonsai teacher, Ted Matson. I hope you get to make that association too, because it's a pleasant one.

Ted, who resides outside of sunny Pasadena, California, will be our guest bonsai professional for our September meeting at the Milwaukie Center. If you remember last time, Ted critiqued several members' trees and there was something very special about that evening. In the two years I've been planning our club meetings with many amazing presenters, no other demonstrator besides Ryan Neil has been as popular with the membership.

That's why I wanted to bring him back. In case you missed Ted last time he was here, you can get a sense of what he does by checking out videos posted at [tedmatson.info](http://tedmatson.info).

### **Now let's talk trees for a bit.**

One of the benefits to BSOP of having the Heritage group is that from time to time, BSOP receives a quantity of trees from members who are no longer able to care for them. It helps those members and their trees, too. Recently we've come into a few collections totaling more than 150 trees. We will begin to auction and raffle them off starting at the September meeting.

I've not seen the trees personally, but I have it on good authority that these are trees that have had some years of training if not refinement. It's a great way to jump-start your bonsai collection when you can acquire a tree that has already had its main features revealed, rather than that bushy juniper that will scratch you up just to reveal a glimpse of its trunk. At that point you don't need to start from scratch; often the main branches have structure and some ramification and you can get down to the business of refinement.

All of which brings to mind an important characteristic for your bonsai collection to have: If you are an active bonsai student who really wishes to get good at the art, it's beneficial to have trees at all stages of development in your collection: Rough trees to style from scratch, juvenile trees to shape and mold from an early stage, semi-refined trees to prepare to show, and refined trees to show or display. It's even neat to have damaged trees in need of restyling. All of these stages require different skills to learn, and if you stay with your trees long enough, the skills are

transferable from one tree to the next. You may be styling it today, but in five or six years you might be preparing it for a show. Did I mention accent plants? Always have some of those around too. They're fun and beautiful.

You'll probably get a really good deal on some decent material, so come prepared!

I'll not be at this meeting personally, but I hope to join you in October.

### ***Al Polito, Vice-President of Programs***

## **Oregon Shohin Kai**

The next meeting of the Oregon Shohin Kai will be Saturday, October 4, 10am to 2pm. Shohin are unique in the bonsai theater, and can often get away with breaking rules the big trees can't. Like the bright red pot, or the tree growing out of the bottom of the pot. Our October speaker will be Greg Brenden, who is known for his unusual trees and "pots". Greg will bring in some examples from his collection as a springboard for inspiration. Everyone is invited to share their own unique creations.

We will also be talking about getting ready for the Fall Show and Marketplace on October 18. If you have something you might want to show, bring it along. The location of this meeting is the Milwaukie Center. Watch for a detailed email the week before the meeting. If you have questions, [contact Jan](#).

**Jan**

## **ROSE SOCIETY FERTILIZER**

The Portland Rose Society Organic 5-4-4 Fertilizer is still available. 20 lb. bags are \$16. If you want to order a bag, contact Bill Hettick at [bhettickco@comcast.net](mailto:bhettickco@comcast.net) or 503-936-5629.



Crape Myrtle at Redwood Empire Bonsai Society show

# BONSAI EXHIBIT

## DEMONSTRATION & MARKETPLACE

AUCTION - DOOR PRIZES  
ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 9<sup>AM</sup> - 5<sup>PM</sup>

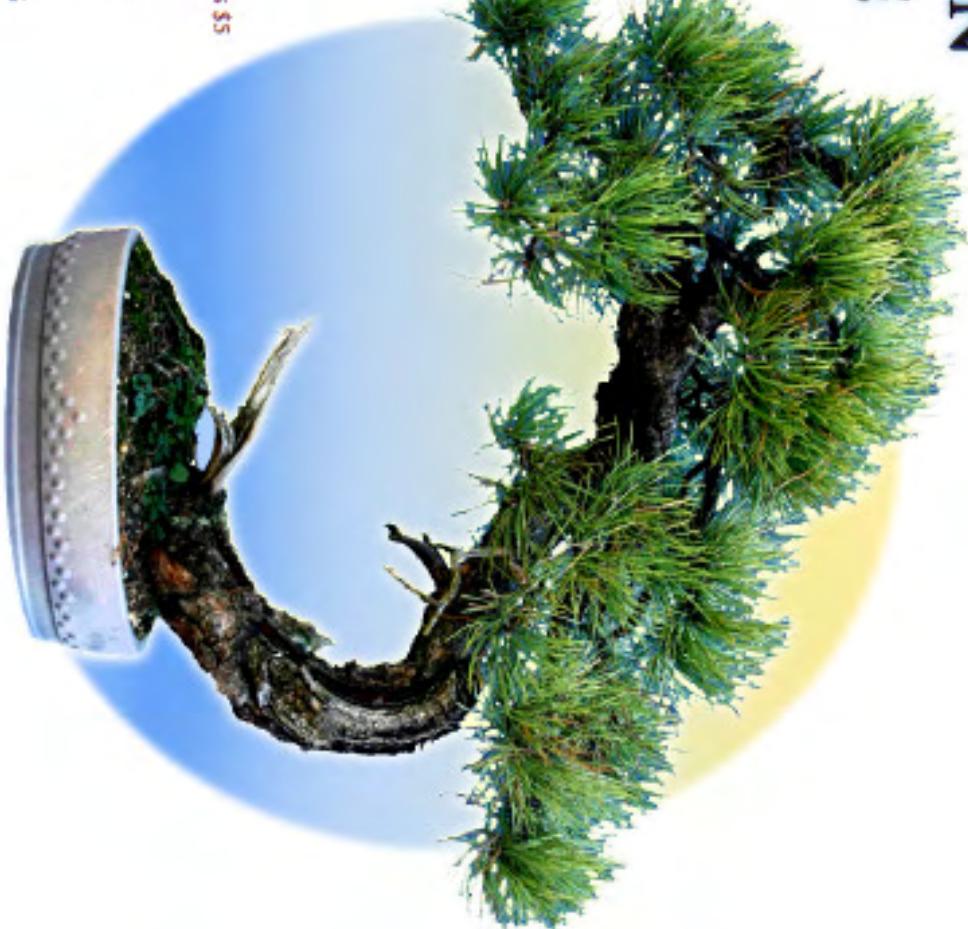
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Please print and display this page for public viewing.

## BSOP Summer Picnic 2014

Some of the dining choices at our Summer Picnic. Good and abundant food on a perfect Summer day. Thanks to Dave & Donna, our excellent hosts for an unbeatable location.





Lots of shade and comfortable seating for a delicious meal and leisurely conversation about bonsai and sometimes other topics.



## **Announcing the Bonsai Society of Portland Fall Show and Marketplace**

The BSOP Fall Show and Marketplace is turning into quite the event! The date is October 18, 2014 at the Milwaukie Center, open to the public from 9am to 5pm. There will be a multi-level exhibit, a marketplace consisting of trees and other bonsai-related items, demonstrations, door prizes, auctions and refreshments. Something FUN for everyone! But it will take lots of people to make this work. Here's a summary of what we need. Please pick out a few jobs you are willing to do and contact the appropriate person. Please do this sooner rather than later.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Contact Pat Foldi, [patfoldi@comcast.net](mailto:patfoldi@comcast.net), 503-635-7137, or as discussed below.

Assistance is needed with:

Identifying trees for the exhibit

Acquiring donations for the BSOP sale table, auction, door prizes

Tree sitters for the exhibit and someone to take admissions

Cashiers for marketplace

Demonstrators

Baking and wrapping cookies

Distribution of advertising flyers

Set up and take down

### **BONSAI EXHIBIT** Contact Lee Cheatle, [LCheatle@bensonhotel.com](mailto:LCheatle@bensonhotel.com), 503-312-4921

We need one or two trees from each BSOP member. The only rules are that the tree and pot be clean, disease and pest free, have some serious effort at styling, and be well watered and well drained. Don't be shy... think of it as showing your favorite tree to your best friend.

Full displays are welcome, with trees, stands, accent plants, scrolls, etc. However, these accessories are not required. There will be several sections to this exhibit, ranging from formal like we do at the Japanese Gardens to casual displays of newly styled nursery stock. Contact Lee to reserve your space. You will be responsible for your own display, but there will be plenty of people to help you.

If you have shohin and/or a shohin stand you are willing to share, contact Jan Hettick, [janhettick@comcast.net](mailto:janhettick@comcast.net), 503-504-7760. We would also like to fill a couple of tables with nice suiseki or viewing stones. Contact Jan for this, also.

On the day of the show we need two tree sitters and one person to sell admission tickets. Shifts are 2 to 4 hours. Contact Pat Foldi.

### **BONSAI MARKETPLACE** Contact John Thomas, [Chaparralbooks@aol.com](mailto:Chaparralbooks@aol.com), 503-887-0823

There are multiple aspects to this sale. The BSOP table where all proceeds go to the club, a community table where members can sell up to 3 trees, and vendor tables for larger inventories. Individual members with more than 3 items can rent tables as well. Six foot tables are \$25 each. Please contact John to reserve your space, and don't forget to donate something to the BSOP table!

Trees sold at the community table will pay 20% of the sale proceeds to BSOP to cover the services of a cashier. If you rent a table, plan to handle your own sales but the club VISA will be available for a charge of 5% of the sale price.

For this part of the event we need someone to staff the community table and someone for the BSOP table. These people will be responsible for processing VISA charges (a very simple matter these days). Shifts are 2 to 4 hours. Contact Pat Foldi.

**REFRESHMENTS SALE** Contact Patty Myrick, [patty.myrick@gmail.com](mailto:patty.myrick@gmail.com), 503-319-3212

Cookies, soda pop, coffee, etc. will be available for sale. Lee is even designing a special bonsai cookie! We need help baking and wrapping the cookies before October 18<sup>th</sup> and a few people to help sell them on the day of the event. Contact Patty to get in on the baking and cookie decorating party!

**AUCTION AND DOOR PRIZES**

Contact Lee Cheatile, [LCheatile@bensonhotel.com](mailto:LCheatile@bensonhotel.com), 503-312-4921

Several nice trees will be auctioned at the event. The first auction will be at 12:00 noon, the second at 4:30pm. Each person purchasing admission to the event will receive a ticket for a door prize. Drawings will be made hourly beginning at 10am. Winner must be present to win.

For this part of the event we need an announcer and someone to manage the sound system.

**DEMONSTRATIONS** Contact Lee Cheatile, [LCheatile@bensonhotel.com](mailto:LCheatile@bensonhotel.com), 503-312-4921

The Mentorship group will be invited to conduct demonstrations on the stage throughout the day. Additional demonstrations are welcome. In fact, the more people we have working on trees, the more information we can make available to the public, so if you enjoy working on your trees this is your chance. Contact Lee to reserve a table.

**PUBLICITY** Contact Chas Martin, [chas@innovativeye.com](mailto:chas@innovativeye.com), 503 459-1009

Press releases have been sent to 20-30 contacts. Chas has some other publicity opportunities he is working on. He is looking for some high-resolution exhibit photos, so please contact him if you have some.

Distribution of Flyers Contact Debbie Evers, [sheltie7heaven@aol.com](mailto:sheltie7heaven@aol.com), 503-620-6938

The attached flyer has been emailed to local nurseries, but it would be good to hand deliver a few also. Please contact Debbie if you can help with delivery to local nurseries or other businesses. We can provide you with copies of the flyer (contact Debbie), or you can print your own if you have a color printer and some heavy paper (24-28 lb works well). Take them to your office, grocery store, or local message board. Use your imagination. Please let us know when you deliver flyers somewhere so we can make sure we don't miss someplace critical.

**SET UP, TAKE DOWN** Contact Pat Foldi, [patfoldi@comcast.net](mailto:patfoldi@comcast.net), 503-635-7137

Event set up will begin at 2:30pm Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. We have until 8:00pm to get the tables set up, set the exhibit, and prepare for the sale. Exhibit trees should arrive no later than 6:30pm. We need another 2-3 people to set up tables, put on table cloths, and arrange trees.

At the end of the event, 5:00 Saturday, we need to break down the tables, clean the floor, and put the room back to its original condition. Many hands make light work.

# Upcoming Mentorship Meetings

The mentorship will be meeting at the Milwaukie Center for the next several months. Set up starts at 9:30am. Meeting goes from 10am to 1pm. Cleanup is from 1pm to 1:30pm. I have some Don Howse trees that I will be raffling off.

Hope to see you there.

**September:** Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> we will work on any trees you bring in and I will be reviewing late summer and fall fertilization and tree care.

**October:** Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> is the Fall Show at the Milwaukie Center. I would like to incorporate the mentorship meeting with the show by doing what we did at the Spring Show; demonstrating. Please contact me if you want to participate in this.

**November:** Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> we will be demonstrating saikei and raffling off the results. I would encourage you to bring in a saikei of your own or a forest planting. We will help you with your creations as time allows.

**December:** Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> will be working on any tree(s) you bring in. There will be a short demonstration on first time wiring of a shimpaku cutting.

*Lee*

## FOR SALE TREES, TREES AND MORE TREES

The BSOP was recently the benefactor of over 170 trees; 30 of these trees will be raffled and auctioned at our next meeting, Tuesday September 23. There is some very good material.

We have fir, larch, cedars, junipers, euonymus, beech, pines, maples, linden zelkova. We look forward to seeing you then.



Rocky Mountain juniper with shimpaku grafted foliage at Crataegus studio

# Scott's BRANCH TIPS

BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

## What the H2O?

I have been working on bonsai for about twenty-five years now. I have been fortunate to study extensively with some of the best instructors this country has to offer. And after all of that time and study, I am still trying to figure out how to water my trees effectively. It seems to be the one skill that is so vital to the health of trees, yet remains elusive, even for the professional. Each tree has it's own, separate watering needs, so meeting them all can be a challenge. This might seem like a strange time to talk about watering, now that we are moving into fall. But really, watering is a year round activity for all bonsai endeavors. The problem with water is keeping an even balance. Far too often we either have too much or too little on any given tree. So now is a good time to really concentrate our efforts as the needs of trees change during this fall season.

What our trees really desire is a balanced level of moisture throughout the year. They don't really get that in nature, with swings in moisture levels from spring through summer to wet winters. But trees in nature also have a built in buffer in the ground that they grow in. That's an advantage that we don't have in bonsai. Our trees are out on benches and expose both top AND bottom to heat, cold, wind, and rain. Conditions can change rapidly, drying out too fast, or hold too much water in a shallow pot. Too little water and the tree starts to shut down. Growth and vigor are inhibited and wilting may occur. We may also see roots die off. Then, when we do add water, the tree is unable to uptake the water and the issue is compounded and we end up giving too much. We really stress the tree out. With too much water we start to deprive the tree of oxygen and it starts to suffocate the roots. A vicious cycle ensues.

Healthy trees use a large amount of water. Most of this is for air conditioning of the tree via transpiration through the foliage. Only a relatively small portion goes to metabolic growth. My wisterias sit in tubs of water for about six months of the year. On a hot summer day they will drain an inch of water or more out of the tub in order to stay cool, folding their leaves like wings in order to minimize the surface exposed to the sun. So supplying enough water is critical. How are we going to do it?

First of all, good watering starts with proper potting techniques. You must set your trees up for success. It is critical to leave a portion of the rim exposed above the soil line when repotting. This edge will catch water and keep it moving through the pot instead of dribbling out onto the ground. Also, the flatter the top of the soil surface is, the more even the penetration of water to all areas of the root ball will be. You probably want it to be a little mounded though. The next thing that will help is to have the soil covered with nice green moss. This will create a buffer for the tree. It helps direct the water down into the soil when watering and it also keeps the moisture from evaporating out of our coarse soil mixes. How do you get the moss going? Mix a little grated New Zealand sphagnum moss and the green moss of your choice and sprinkle it on after repotting. You'll have a verdant crop in no time.

Now that your trees are set up properly in pots, get them sitting right on the benches. To water well, you need access to both sides of the pot. Hopefully you can walk on either side. I like to hit the tree from both sides, which means that at least three-quarters of the tree is getting watered twice. And that is the next important point. Make sure to water each tree at least twice each session, if it needs water. The first pass just moistens the surface, kind of like remoistening a sponge. The second pass is then able to penetrate the top layer and make it down to the roots. I found that when I went back after watering and uncovered the soil that I thought was well watered, it was still bone dry. No water had made it through. Lesson learned. When a tree needs water, it is best to get it done thoroughly, letting water reach all of the roots. Then allow the tree to use that water at its own pace. That means not watering it again until it needs it. There in lies the quandary for many of us. What if you water in the morning and tree runs out of water at 2:00? Most of us have no choice. We have to go to work, so our only opportunity to water is before and after work each day during the summer. Professional nurseries often check water up to five times a day. That doesn't mean that every tree gets water each time. Some trees like white pines that like drier conditions may only get one thorough watering a day. I have a black pine that takes a thorough drenching three times a day if it can get it. Luckily, I happen to work at home, so I can serve its thirsty desires. The point is that the more often you can check water on your trees, the more appropriately you can water.

There are some other factors that weigh in on the water usage of each tree. The aforementioned black pine is in a fairly deep pot, but not super big for the tree. What the tree has is a dense foliage mass that really churns through the water. It isn't the size of the trunk that governs the water needs, but the foliage mass, and the proportion that it has with the pot. Obviously shallower pots are going to hold less moisture overall. Orientation is another one. My trees use water at different times and amount during the day based on when they get sun. Many of my trees do not get direct sun all day, so I must adjust my watering, even for things that are a foot apart – in shade and out. Season is also a big factor. In the spring when things are pushing, trees will have a voracious appetite for water. Then in the summer, when things have hardened off, trees may enter summer dormancy, so they may actually use less water when it gets really hot. That is the challenge of staying on top of water situation. My general rule is that if it is going to be above eighty degrees, I MUST check water twice a day. When it is above ninety, I check three times. Then we get to winter where we don't have to water very much around here. But with a dense canopy on a good tree, the load is great and not much water is making it through, so keep checking unless you've had a hard downpour or day of rain unending. When deciduous trees lose their leaves, don't let them dry out. They still need some moisture.

So there is an awful lot to watering. And I am still learning. I hope this will help you in some way with your trees and maximizing their health through good watering practices.

***Scott C***

## **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.



Pat Frey, 24-year member of BSOP, died August 29, 2014, surrounded by her family. She had suffered a massive pulmonary embolism on Wednesday, and on Thursday a massive stroke. The family is planning a Celebration of Life at her daughter Rae's home in Dundee on Sunday, September 28, 2014. Details will be forwarded by email.

Those of you who knew Pat need no reminder of her constant involvement and work for the benefit of BSOP. Those of you don't remember Pat probably met her at your first club meeting. She loved to per-

sonally welcome all new members and guests as they came by the membership desk. Pat was the lady with the ready smile who would hustle you off to get an answer to a question, or show you the library, or just find someone's hand to shake. She was doing this when I joined in 1995 and was still doing it until last summer when she broke both arms.

Pat's husband Jerry was the bonsai artist of the family; Pat did accent plantings. Jerry was President of BSOP in 1997 and 1998. He died unexpectedly in the middle of his last year. Even with Jerry gone, Pat continued to be active in the Society. She considered herself a "floater", going anywhere help might be needed. She attended several conventions with us, making sure everyone knew where to go and when, and that nobody got lost or left behind. Always smiling, even when her ducklings scattered to the four winds.

Pat was a very busy person. She loved to travel, going on many cruises including one to a fabric convention in Bali! She drove disabled people to doctor appointments. She provided free lodging every year to a needy student of the Sociology Department at Portland State, where Jerry had been a professor. When home, Pat worked in her garden (fuchsias, red geraniums and tomatoes), swam every day, walked her dog. Always Pat was ready to laugh, to go, to do. Pat – we will miss you immensely!

### ***Jan Hettick***

## **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!

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Crabapple at the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society show



Sierra Juniper at the Redwood Empire Bonsai Society show

Gary Wood presenting a one day seminar on tree physiology and biochemistry and its relation to bonsai at Michael Hagedorn's studio

## 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!

### Board of Directors

President: Chas Martin 503 459-1009 [Chas.Martin@innovativeye.com](mailto:Chas.Martin@innovativeye.com)

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