



the **TREE LINE**

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

October 2014

Upcoming Events

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

November 1, 10am - 2 **Oregon Shohin Kai** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr

November 16 10am-1:30 **Mentorship** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr

January 3 10am-2 **Oregon Shohin Kai** Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Dr

REMINDER - The Fall Show and Marketplace will be held this coming Saturday, October 18, at the Milwaukie Center, our regular meeting place. The event is open to the public from 9am to 5pm, and features a bonsai exhibit, marketplace, children's activities, demonstrations, refreshments, auctions and door prizes. Full details have been distributed in earlier newsletters. Set up will be on Friday, 2:30 to 8pm, take down is at 5pm Saturday. **THIS IMPORTANT FUND RAISING EVENT NEEDS YOUR HELP.** If you can't work a volunteer shift, please just come and enjoy! If you have questions, contact Jan Hettick, jan-hettick@comcast.net, 503-504-7760.

Winding Down and Ramping Up

We're approaching the end of our current leadership team's term in office. We have accomplished a few significant things like the move to a new location. We have strengthened monthly programs and increased membership to the 200 mark. There is always more to do. A new leadership team is focused and ready to wire the organization into shape for future accomplishments.

Board Nominations: The Nomination Committee headed by Jan Hettick offers these Board nominees for 2015-2016.

President - Lee Cheadle

First VP Programs - Steve Leaming

Second VP Membership - Eileen Knox (face-to-face engagement) – Jan Hettick (data base/
email management)

Treasurer - John Thomas

Secretary - Phil Hardin

Election of the new board will held at the November 25 meeting. Installation will be at the January meeting.

Donations: We continue to receive donations of trees and pots through our Heritage Group and direct gifts. At our September meeting, we raised \$985 through the silent auction of about 40 trees. This benefits new members looking for good starter material. It benefits more seasoned members who are up to the challenges of reshaping trees with potential. It benefits our Mentorship Program by providing good trees. And, it obviously benefits the club overall by helping us pay our rent. Thanks to all who participated and supported the auction in September. You'll see more of these trees, pots, tools and books at the Fall Event on October 18th.

Facility Status: We committed to a short term agreement with the Milwaukie Center when we selected this as our meeting site. It is time to formalize that commitment to maintain our rental benefits. Overall, the pros outweigh the cons. The board has recommended that we continue. The Board will ask for confirmation by the membership at the October meeting.

Membership Renewal Changes: We are changing our membership renewal process. Future renewals will be due on the anniversary of the date members joined the organization. The primary reason is to streamline and improve efficiency. It is difficult to round up and renew all members in December. By spreading it out, it will be easier and more successful. Additionally, renewals will be possible online. Our website will soon launch a new renewal form and online payment process. This has been tested and will be launched within the month.

Demo Volunteers still needed: We are still looking for people to do demos at the October 18th Exhibit, Demo and Marketplace. These can be short demos on technique or regular maintenance on one or more trees. Visitors need to see bonsai in action. Members who can engage visitors in conversation are our best educational resource. That is how many of us were initially engaged. You do not need to be a master to do a demo. Please contact Jan Hettick if you can support the club. You'll also have fun at the same time.

Chas Martin, President

Steve, Deb, and Diane: Thank You and Happy Trails!

October's a very exciting month for BSOP with two groundbreaking events: Our fall show, which showcases the fun, rather than formal, side of bonsai, and the thrilling conclusion of Ryan (Neil), Scott (Elser), and Douglas (Fir), last in a four-part odyssey that has now spanned two years. Our October presentation is groundbreaking on a few levels. For starters, Douglas-fir is only now beginning to be used for bonsai and we're all learning about this iconic Northwest

species together, and our four-part presentation is perhaps the first of its kind for this country: spending two years with two trees instead of the style-it-and-raffle-it presentations that are so common with bonsai clubs.

There are lots of clubs out there, with varying skill levels, program quality, etc. Ours continues to be one of the best around not only for the great spirit and talent of our members but also our mission of bonsai education, but also the vendors and resources that have made it easy to practice our art.

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize two of those vendors who have been a major part of the bonsai journey for many of us. Both have recently closed their doors to move on to other pursuits. A special heartfelt thank you to Steve and Deb Wilcox of Apex Bonsai in Aloha, and Diane Lund of Wee Tree farms in Philomath.

Apex Bonsai: On many occasions I would call Steve to see if he was available for me to drop by when I really needed something, such as Akadama, some pots, or even a tree to work on for a demo. Steve and Deb were always very friendly and accommodating, and I am sure I'm not the only one who would call on them for off-hours service from time to time. Apex reminded me of an operation in Pasadena, CA, by Bruce and Yaeko Hisayasu. When I first studied bonsai with Ted Matson down there, we would bring our trees to Bruce, who, like Steve and Deb, sold pots out of his garage and affordable trees from his backyard. These cottage-industry bonsai operations provide so much for so many.

Wee Tree: Diane created a space, an artistic hotbed, for bonsai, selling superb material and carrying a significant selection of imported bonsai pots. Her operation touched many. Whenever I managed to get down there, Diane provided excellent guidance on pot selection. Her own bonsai were superb.

Both Apex and Wee Tree also attracted community, through Mentorship meetings (Apex) and summer picnics (Wee Tree). If we weren't into community, we wouldn't be a bonsai society, but rather a bunch of individual practitioners lacking the inspiration and challenge of each others' work. Thank you Steve, Deb, and Diane, for the community you created around bonsai.

So now that those doors are closed, what windows will open? Look around, fellow bonsaiists, and make your own offering available, or support the offerings of others in the club. We need each other to be better (and more fun) practitioners of bonsai. Community fuels passion, and we bonsai folks are a pretty passionate lot. Let's keep the fires of contribution and community burning, and not take each other for granted.

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

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!

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, 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 Cheadle, LCheadle@bensohotel.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, jan-hettick@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, 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, 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 18th 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 Cheatle, LCheatle@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 Cheatle, LCheatle@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, 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, 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, 503-635-7137

Event set up will begin at 2:30pm Friday, October 17th. 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.

October: Saturday the 18th 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 16th we will be demonstrating saiikei and raffling off the results. I would encourage you to bring in a saiikei of your own or a forest planting. We will help you with your creations as time allows.

December: Sunday the 14th 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

Oregon Shohin Kai

The next meeting of the Oregon Shohin Kai will be **Saturday, November 1, 2014**. We meet from 10am to 2pm in the Oregon Grape Room at the Milwaukie Center. The program will be "Where to Go and How to Get There", presented by Alan Taft. He will have examples of almost finished Shohin and examples of material with potential. Bring your styled trees for ideas on refinement and bring your raw stock to assess its future. Watch for a detailed email the week before the meeting. If you have questions, contact Jan Hettick, janhettick@comcast.net or 503-504-7760.

Note - There will be no OSK meeting in December, but we can look forward to Mugos in Miniature by Lee Cheatle on January 3, 2015.

Jan



Anne Spencer's Red Maple Getting the care it deserves at Crataegus Bonsai

Scott's BRANCH TIPS

BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

Pot Initiative

There has been a lot of press recently on pot. Lots of folks making speeches and writing proposals for the right to buy, sell, and grow pot. So I have begun my own pot initiative. Asserting my rights to grow in homegrown pots. That is to say, the evolving idea that maybe my homegrown, northwest native trees would look best in homegrown, American pots. The trees that I find myself gravitating towards as I continue to hone my bonsai collection down to a manageable size (A never ending and daunting task, I assure you), are our own native trees that speak of wildness and an untamed, enduring spirit of life. The Japanese, and Chinese before them, have done an awesome job of designing containers that work both horticulturally and aesthetically for the creation and maintenance of bonsai. They have a great variety to choose from. But there are times when I look at my trees and feel that there is something not quite right, something that is lacking.

So now I am on the hunt for new containers that will enhance the sense of ruggedness that many of my trees exhibit. With that said, one of the hardest things to do in bonsai is finding containers which enhance and support the aesthetics of the tree, but do not upstage it. Maybe it's a little like strawberry and balsamic ice cream. Never had it, but how do you take two disparate things and make them work together for the greater. It is relatively easy to find great pots with lots of character, but the more character the pot has, that harder it is to find a tree that it may compliment.

For me, the tree always has to be the driver. It comes first in the definition of a bonsai – a tree in a pot. But it is the marriage of tree and container that make a bonsai and doing so is a skill that is very hard to learn. The pot should be just under our level of consciousness, where we appreciate it, but we don't linger too long on it.

Imagine walking into an art gallery and all you looked at were the frames of the paintings, not the paintings themselves. I am sure that you have all seen the large, gold, ornately decorated frames the museums often use to say that this painting is really important. But this can interfere with viewing the picture. It is not quite so simple for bonsai though, as it is three dimensional. This is where art really comes in, where you can't really give any hard and fast rules. Maybe the container is not even a pot at all. Maybe it's a stone, or piece of wood. Or maybe a found object. If you get the chance, take a stroll through Greg Brendan's garden and you will find a myriad of found, created, and manipulated containers for trees. It will inspire you to think outside of the pot.

The pots that I choose to go with certain trees tend to push the edges of what is horticulturally practical for some bonsai, in terms of size. It's what takes me to the aesthetic edge to really make a bonsai great. And it's why when I look at trees that might be shared at one of our shows, I might mention to an owner that a particular bonsai could be placed in a much smaller container. Ultimately, that means that you have to work harder to keep all of the needs of the

tree in balance – water, air, fertilizer, sun, etc... But again, that is where the art dwells. Many of you are much more comfortable with larger pots and that is fine. Dead trees are not, by definition, bonsai. But the real point is to have containers which really show off the trees best.

If you have a highly refined tree that is very formal, very lush in growth, then maybe a highly refined pot is in order. It doesn't matter where it came from, it just has to work. Any artist is affected by the cultural that they live in. Asian culture is somewhat different than western cultures, and you can see it to different degrees in bonsai containers. I am hoping to find containers that have that undercurrent of the Northwest spirit that will really synergize with trees. I see it being done at times, so I know it can be done. I just have to watch for the opportunities as they present themselves.

So back to those pots and where do I find them. Good question. Not an easy one to answer, but let me give you some ideas. The web has been a great new source and method to access potters. We have lots of great American potters out there, and many have web sites. Unfortunately, you can't always see exactly what the potter has in stock. So you will have to write them about particular needs. I was fortunate to meet Charles Smith and his wife Michele during a Juniper class at Bonsai Mirai. You'll find them under MC2 Pottery. They make very different and wonderful small pots. When you can find a vintage Michael Hagedorn, and they are out there, buy it. I have found no better quality in a US potter. They are simply awesome, and I hope he makes more sometime, rather selfishly.

The most astounding American artist would have to be Sara Rayner out of Minnesota for the pure quantity of high quality work. The pots are exquisite and she makes some larger ones missing from other folks repertoire. And speaking of large, about the only other person besides Sara making large pots is Ron Lang. It is pretty much special order and he might be a year out by now. Hence, the reason for this column - now is the time to be working on next year. There are others, like local Jan Retanauer and nationally known Byron Myrick, Nick Lenz, Jim Gremel, Dale Cochoy, and Jim Barrett. Gary Wood also does some great work. You might be able to find something from Max Bravermen, with a Pine Garden Pottery stamp on it. Literally. He is no longer with us, but his designs often have a chunky rustic charm that really speaks of the Northwest.

Some of these folks can be found at conventions and shows, which allows you to actually see and handle the pots before purchasing. I think that I have a pot from most everyone I have mentioned, many of the them actually have trees in them! Nature itself may feature some of the best containers – I am on the prowl for a very large piece of lava for a new bonsai that came off the same lava. So, lots of words here to help prompt you all to start thinking about your needs for next spring and how you can take your trees to their next level through the appropriate choice of containers. Enjoy this great fall weather.

Scott E

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.

Victoria 2014 PNBCA Bonsai Conference

Some BSOP members attended the PNBCA conference in Victoria. Weather was perfect. There was ample space for show trees and some attendees took advantage of the many trees for sale. Demonstrations by guest artists were top notch. BSOP members won in the raffles and a pine styled by Michael Hagedorn brought \$1000 in an oral auction. Early arrivals visited the Horticultural Center of the Pacific to enjoy the Japanese Garden and the new outdoor bonsai display area.



Colin Lewis demonstrating on a mountain hemlock and Tak Yamaura styling a workshop juniper





Korean hornbeam at the Horticultural Center of the Pacific north of the city and a mountain hemlock at the Convention Show

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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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