



the **TREE LINE**

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

October 2012

Upcoming Events

October 20 2-5pm **Mentorship Meeting**

St. Philip Neri 2408 SE 16th Ave

October 23 7-9pm **BSOP Meeting**

St. Philip Neri 2408 SE 16th Ave,

November 3 10-2pm **OSK**

Elite Care Center,

12353 SW Grant Ave, Tigard

November 10 **Mentorship Meeting**

St. Philip Neri 2408 SE 16th Ave

November 13 6:30-8:30 **Penjing Discussion**

Group Mt. Tabor Middle School, Room 213,
5800 SE 58th

November 27 7-9pm **BSOP Meeting**

St. Philip Neri 2408 SE 16th Ave

December 1 10-2pm **OSK** Elite Care Center,

12353 SW Grant Ave, Tigard

April 18-20 **2013 Intl Bonsai Convention**

Yangzhou, China

Indian Summer

One of my co-workers at Chase Studio, a museum exhibit company in Cedar creek, Missouri, used to tell me I had "a firm grasp of the obvious". And so you're thinking by such an obvious title, who hasn't noticed? But I beg to differ because this is the time to define it for what it really is and also to say that a true Indian summer is rare indeed. Cool nights and warm days are the characteristics of such a weather pattern--and my trees are certainly reflecting that in their growth cycle. All the tropicals are going gang-busters. Bougainvillea and serissa are blooming the best ever since moving to Oregon. I woke up to two open blooms on the night-blooming cereus cactus Barry Bartlein gave me; it's usually in the house by this time in a normal year. Any guesses as to when we'll have our first frost?

Last month's meeting was a whack n' chat with a nice surprise--a spontaneous live auction with Lee Cheatle calling it; a great opportunity to pick up a bonsai stand or a pot for next spring. I'm always happy to accommodate something like that when the program is simple. It's tradition to have a whack n' chat following a convention to allow everyone an opportunity to chat about the convention and take it easy and decompress. So, let's talk about what I've got lined up for October. I've asked Dan Robinson to join us for a program of his choice and he will be demonstrating how to turn a so-so collected Engelmann spruce with reverse taper into a tree with a future as a bonsai. Dan will also be bringing some of his collected stock for sale. This will be a great opportunity to watch one of the pioneers of American bonsai in action for those of you not familiar with Dan's place in the bonsai scene in the States. I had the opportunity to visit Elandan Gardens near Seattle this summer which is Dan's headquarters and was taken with

the staggering array of large collected trees from all over the U.S. And his black pines grown from seed collected in Korea when he was there in the service are quite something, not expected given Dan's reputation for working with collected material. Start your list of questions for Dan; I'm sure you'll get a colorful answer and Dan is generous with his knowledge. He gave Margie Kinoshita and myself 6 1/2 hours of his time on a personal guided tour of the garden. Really gave credence to the term "if only this tree could talk" ;-)

And looking forward to November's program, we will have Walter Pall from Munich, Germany. He will be giving us one of his infamous 'tree discussions' talking about our very own trees. I invite each member that would like, to bring in a tree for possible discussion and Walter will select a handful (or more) to talk about for the program. Walter has been invited to be one of the judges of the Portland Artisan's Cup next year and this will be an opportunity to observe what he sees in a world-class tree. There will be a bring-your-own tree workshop the following day from 9:a.m. to 4:p.m. in the St. Paul room at the same church we meet at. Walter has requested that if you still haven't learned to wire that you may participate as a silent observer. I will have more in the next newsletter as a reminder. Randy Knight will be organizing the workshop, so please contact him about details. I will also see if Randy can attend the October meeting to be available for you to sign up for this. If you haven't been to one of our meetings for a while, come see the energy and enthusiasm our regular members are bringing to them these days. Bring a friend! It doesn't cost anything for a visitor to attend a meeting and there's always the chance they might be 'smitten' with the bonsai bug. I'll see you at the meeting!

Greg

PNBCA 2012

BSOP can be proud that we upheld our reputation of hosting really great conventions. PNBCA 2012 was just that – really great! This was truly a team effort. Most members of BSOP were involved in some way, whether it was for a shift or two of tree sitting or months and even years of planning and preparation. From the Planning and Advisory Committee to the Convention Committee Chairs to the people who actually worked the convention, *THANK YOU*. I'd like to take space here to personally thank each and every person involved, but that would take pages and pages, and I'm afraid I'd miss someone. So you people who helped – you know who you are – you have my deepest gratitude.

One thing that was obvious at the convention was that everyone was having fun. That was evident from the smiles on people's faces as they bustled from one event to the other. I heard lots of comments about the excellent quality and condition of the workshop trees, as well as the great organization of the workshops themselves. I was worried going into the convention that we had too many unsold slots, but Margie took care of that right away. After Friday morning she went to work and filled every workshop and lecture. I hear we even had to turn people away.

We had 4 very distinct personalities in our headliners, and together they created a balanced combination of creative approaches. The demos weren't heavily attended due to the number of other events occurring at the same time, but with all-day demos, people could come and go and still catch a lot of the action. People were able to come right up to the stage and see what was going on and visit with the artists. Marco even had the audience working with him, taking

advantage of a teachable moment to advance the skills of those who came to observe. The cameo artists were also popular, as were our local people running the mini-workshops and lectures. It is a credit to the caliber of bonsai artists in our local group that the mini-workshops were in demand by convention registrants from all over the country.

Then there was the bonsai exhibit. What a great exhibit! Several people told me this was the best PNBCA exhibit they've seen. One seasoned convention goer even compared it to the Kokofu exhibits in Japan! With such fantastic local publicity, it's not surprising that we had a record number of visitors from the general public. The exhibit generated quite a lot of interest in BSOP among the general public. Scott and the volunteers deserve a lot of credit for the long hours spent creating a fantastic display from the plant materials and stands that were volunteered by many BSOP members. The accent plants in particular generated a lot of interest among the visitors to the exhibit.

The Friday night Saikei Challenge was a rousing success, with ten gung ho teams and lots of interaction. First prize went to No-Name Bonsai Club of Oregon (a Salem/Eugene group), who were so excited about the event that they went to the trouble to create their own team tee shirts. The left over trees were happily scooped up by Challenge observers after the event. The evening also included a raffle and auction of excess workshop trees and a demo tree. The big raffle and auction were held on Saturday night, with Marco's demo tree (a Rocky Mt. Juniper) bringing in \$2,600!

In the Marketplace there was a fine balance of goods. It was always crowded with interested shoppers, even during the breakdown on Sunday. The Work Lab and Body Spa provided a welcome quiet haven for folks throughout the weekend, and also served as an impromptu meeting place.

Perhaps the highlight of the weekend was *Visions of Excellence*, in which all four headliners were on stage and displays were brought in from the exhibit. The artists all had differing views and opinions, and for a Sunday morning, we had excellent attendance. Very few people left the convention early.

The hotel was great. Using the lower level of the Vancouver Hilton provided very efficient movement between events, and as in 2007, the staff was very efficient and helpful. All in all, it was a very good convention. Of course it was! It was hosted by BSOP!

Jan Hettich

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 Barbara Devitt (bbd.jcgroup@yahoo.com or 503-764-8242) 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.

MENTORSHIP NEWS -- OCTOBER 2012

Our September Whack and Chat was well attended with 9 new and old members participating. It was good to see some old friends again and have the opportunity to meet and encourage some new members as well.

Our October meeting will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2012 at St. Phillip Neri Church from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. . Our topic will be Making your own Bonsai Pots. BSOP member Rocky Lawton will be presenting his technique for making Faux Rock and Bonsai Trays. Rocky has refined this technique over the last couple of years and has developed a process which allow for the creation of some very natural looking rock and slab containers which are light weight and can be colored to match the natural surface which best presents the natural environment for your tree. If you had the chance to attend the September BSOP membership meeting, you were able to view some of Rocky's current work and see some of his early pots, rocks and slabs. I hope you will join us for an interesting discussion and presentation of a new technique. Handouts will be available explaining the technique, the process, the materials and local availability.

I had hoped to have a complete schedule of Mentorship Class meeting dates and topics available for this TREELINE, but still have a few things to get confirmed. Certainly by the November edition I should be able to have everything confirmed.

As we discussed at our September Whack and Chat, now it the time to switch over to your fall feeding program to get your trees ready for the cold, rainy weather that is certain to come this winter. Even if it is hard to believe that right now, considering that this is October and we still have not had any rain. The recommended fall feeding schedule is an application of 0 - 10 - 10 applied every ten days until mid December. This is a zero nitrogen, 10% Phosphorus, 10% Potash (or Potassium) application. Phosphorus is good for root growth, disease resistance, seed and fruit growth, blooming and flowering. Potash (or Potassium) helps increase root growth, and increases drought resistance and disease resistance. This application will help prepare the plants for the cold winter months by building up the roots and helping to harden of the trunk and branches and will help set the stage for the best start next growing season. If you would like an electronic copy of the handout information, please feel free to contact me.

Keith Wingfield

Oregon Shohin Kai

The Oregon Shohin Kai group was happy to resume regular meetings this month. We were delighted to have Dennis Vojtilla as our guest "guru." He shared his "Pearls of Bonsai Wisdom" to help us improve our deciduous trees. Dennis is always a patient and informative instructor, so we were lucky to have him speak to our group. Plans are in progress for a return visit by him to explore grape bonsai later this year.

We were also delighted to welcome a new member to our group, and want to encourage all new BSOP members to check us out on the first Saturday of each month at Elite Care in Tigard. Shohin Kai meetings include lots of smiles and chuckles, and our members reach out to each other with helpful tips and shared experiences in bonsai. So bring your trees and join us.

Karen VunKannon

Our Website www.Portlandbonsai.org

Our thanks go out to Chas Martin for putting together a state-of-the-art BSOP website. Through the efforts of many, the site has become rich with how-to articles, member discussions and information.

1. To partake of this marvelous bounty visit our home page, www.portlandbonsai.org
2. Click on MEMBER LOGIN and enter your last name and your password. If you do not currently have or cannot remember your information you can contact Chas Chas.Martin@innovativeeye.com and he will email it to you. Check with him to be certain he has your most recent email information.
3. Once you have logged into the site, look on the right side of your screen under *MEMBER ONLY RESOURCES* and in you can:
 - Read Articles like Anne Spencer's "Getting Ready for Winter: November and December". To find this, you click on *Articles, Papers, Handouts*.
 - From the *Library Index*, you can request a book or magazine and then pick it up at the next monthly meeting. You can find a magazine article that directly answers your exact need by looking through the Periodical Index. Thank you so much, Karen VunKannon. This is an amazing resource.
 - Can't find your *Member Directory*? It is available to members only on the webpage.
 - One of the areas that we all could share is our *Member Discussions* page. Post a question. Respond to someone else's question. This page is not being used a lot but has tremendous potential.

Smiles, *Eileen*



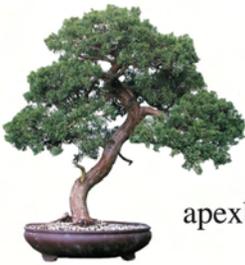
PSU Penjing Presentation

Club member Mark Vossbrink will give a talk and demo for The First Saturday Chinese culture forum on Nov. 3 2012 at 9:30am. The topic is PENJING BEAUTIFUL: Living 3 Dimension Poetry - Timeless Trees and potted Landscapes in the Chinese manner. Portland State Urban Center Bld. Rm# 250, SW5th and Mill, Portland OR Free and open to the public.

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Library Highlights

BSOP's library was recently given a donation by Roger Case of The Art of Arranging Flowers: A Complete Guide to Japanese Ikebana, by Shozo Sato. This book is of interest not only to those who love flowers, but also to bonsai artists and students. Since the Japanese art of creating horticultural artistic displays predates the rise of bonsai there, it is fascinating to see how the Japanese developed their traditions of visual sculpture with plants. The reader can see how many of the principles that underlie ikebana also form underlying principles for bonsai. This is a great book to help a beginner in bonsai develop an eye for visual balance and texture.

When Mr. Sato called his book “complete” he was making a huge understatement. This large volume is incredibly comprehensive, covering history, eleven different styles of arrangements, tools, containers, seasonal recommendations, plants and their symbolic meanings, techniques, and horticultural principles. Everything to do with Japanese flower arranging is explained in this encyclopedic guide. If you check out Sato's book, plan on renewing it, as you can spend weeks in thoughtful study with this one. Many thanks to Roger for the donation.

Karen VanKannon

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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.

St. Phillip Neri Parish

2408 SE 16th Avenue, Portland OR

Northeast corner of SE Division and 16th Avenue

Visitors are always welcome!

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