



# the **TREE LINE**

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

July 2012

## Upcoming Events

July 24 7-9pm **BSOP Special Meeting**  
St. Philip Neri 2408 SE 16th Ave, Portland

July 25 **Ron Lang Workshop**  
Elite Care Center, 12353 SW Grant Ave, Tigard

August 11 12-3pm, Sat., **BSOP Summer Picnic**  
Creston Park, Site A, SE 44th Ave & Powell Blvd

September 14,15,16, 2012 **PNBCA Convention**  
Hosted by BSOP at Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, WA

September 24 7-9pm **BSOP Special Meeting**  
St. Philip Neri 2408 SE 16th Ave, Portland



Moss aids roots, Crataegus.com

## Special Summer Program/Workshop

Our June Swap Meet was a big success, judging by the pandemonium and general chaos ;-)  
This is an extra newsletter for those of you that didn't hear my announcement at some point in that meeting. We will have a special summer program Tuesday, July 24th from 7 to 9:00 p.m. at Carvlin Hall. Ryan Neil has brought bonsai potter Ron Lang to the Northwest to give his insights about the relationship of tree and pot. Ron will deliver a power point presentation and he will have an inventory of handmade bonsai pots for sale. Ryan Neil will join us for this special presentation and this should tell you something...Ron Lang must have something special to share to hold Ryan's interest. But it doesn't end there...

Wednesday July 25th from 9:a.m. to 1:p.m. at the St. Paul Room (in the building next to where we meet) there will be a workshop held on the subject of pot selection. It's a 'bring-your-own-tree' workshop in which bonsai potter Ron Lang will sit down with you and your tree and offer his opinion for the best match of tree and pot. You may bring more than one tree. Once Ron has gone around the room, he can look at additional trees if there's time. The cost of this half day workshop will be \$30. Ron will also have pots for sale at the workshop. This is an excellent opportunity for those who intend to show a tree at the spring show, the National Show or the upcoming Portland Cup. Look around your benches and pick out your best candidates and get an expert's opinion on the best pot for that tree. Ron has done a lot of commission work and will have your tree looking its best. This will be an unusual and informative learning experience for all who participate. I'll see you there!

*Greg*

# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CONVENTION!**

There are only eight weeks left before the PNBCA 2012 convention! The committees have been working hard to put together a typical Portland convention. By "typical Portland convention", we mean a spectacular bonsai convention experience. We have internationally famous headliners, local guest artists, a bonsai exhibit, a stone exhibit, a huge marketplace, demos, workshops, and a new feature this year especially for the first time convention attendee – mini-workshops. Two and a half days filled to the brim with exciting bonsai events and bonsai conversation on September 14, 15 and 16.

As you know, a convention of this caliber relies upon the **entire** BSOP membership to make it work. Thanks to our guest artist, we have another opportunity on July 24<sup>th</sup> to get you signed up to help. **Yes, YOU!**

There are many different jobs to be done, ranging from tree sitting in the bonsai exhibit to assisting the artists with their demos and workshops. Bonsai experience is not necessary. There will be experienced people to let you know what is needed. In fact, this is an unparalleled opportunity to learn more about the art of bonsai up close and personal. Some people are needed to verify attendance at the workshops, some are needed to transport trees from storage, some are needed to sell raffle tickets, some are needed to simply run errands. Deb Wilcox is Volunteer Coordinator, and will be at the July meeting to answer questions. Please seek her out and let her know when you would be available. If there is a particular job you'd like to help with, let Deb know. Otherwise, just SIGN UP and she'll put you where we need you. If you can't attend the meeting, contact Deb by email at [DJBWilcox@frontier.com](mailto:DJBWilcox@frontier.com).

This is truly an event for all bonsai enthusiasts, from novice to experienced. A fantastic event that comes to Portland only every five years or so. Please take advantage of the opportunity to learn from the masters and converse with others who share your interests. If you can't attend the entire convention, come for a day or a half-day. In fact, anyone who volunteers can attend the convention events for the half hour before and the half hour after their shift without registration. If you can't get away to attend the convention during the day, consider attending the Friday night event, which will be a buffet dinner and the Saikei Challenge (details available on the website). Saturday evening's event will feature the benefit raffle, where real bargains can be found.

Both evenings will include auctions of demo trees and excess workshop materials. Sunday morning will bring all four guest artists to the stage to discuss their favorite displays from the bonsai exhibit. Also, don't forget the \$99 per night rooms at the Vancouver Hilton, of which there are a limited number. Convention registration form and hotel information are available on the convention website at [www.portlandbonsai.org/2012](http://www.portlandbonsai.org/2012).

**But remember, we can't do it without your help.**

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at 503-504-7760 or by email at [janhettick@comcast.net](mailto:janhettick@comcast.net).

*Jan*

## **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](mailto: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!

## **BSOP Summer Picnic**

Please save the date for this year's Bonsai Society of Portland Summer Picnic. Saturday, **August 11th**, from Noon until 3:00 p.m. This is the same location as last year. **Creston Park**, on SE 44th south of Powell Blvd.

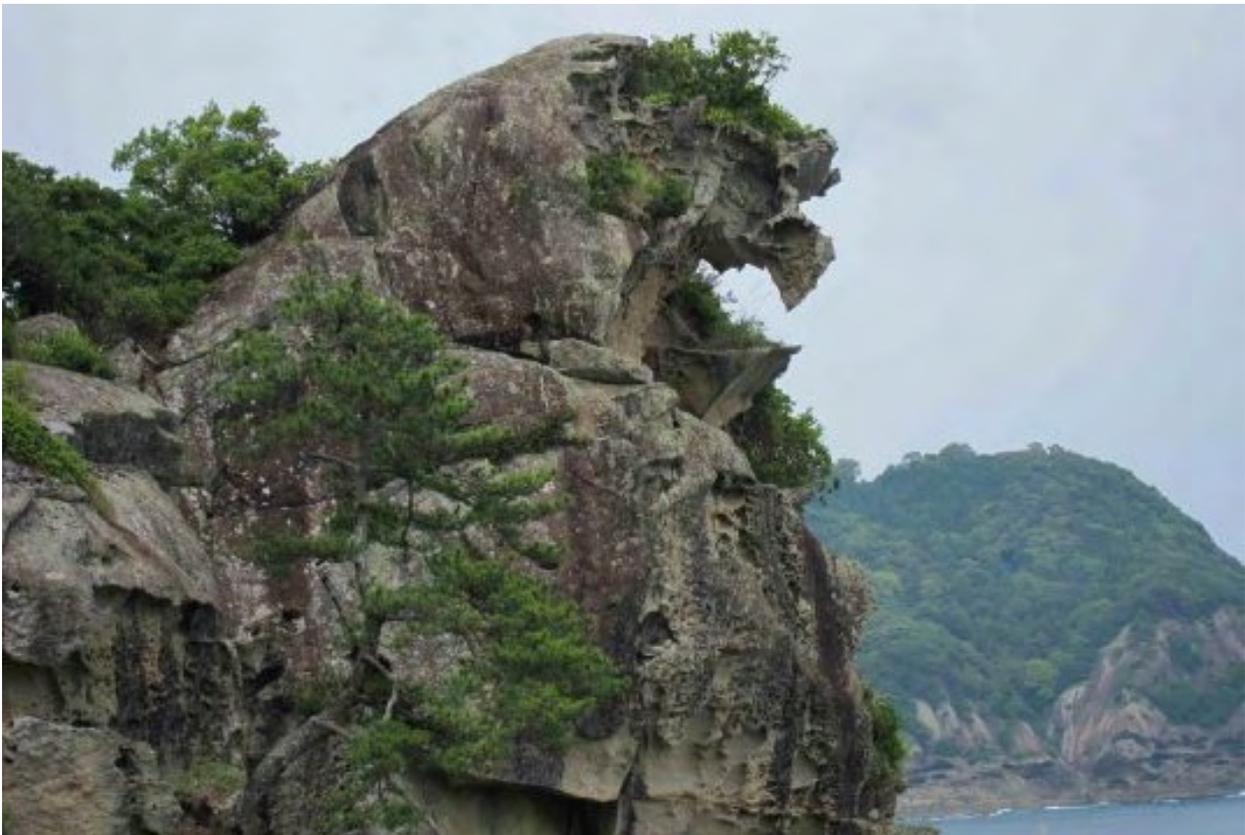
The club has paid for the site reservation. Please bring a salad to share and all of your own picnic supplies and beverages.

We will have a "For Sale" Table, so bring some plants to sell. If you have plants ready for new homes, but prefer not to sell, we will also have a raffle and a "Free" Table.

Please join us for some fun social time with your fellow Bonsai Society members in a lovely shaded park. It's a chance for relaxed conversation and fun.

Smiles,

*Eileen*



Large suiseki in Mie Prefecture in Japan from Peter Tea's blog  
For those of us who don't travel to Japan



## PNBCA BONSAI CONVENTION 2012

*New This Year*



**Did you know?** – If you are registered for the Convention this coming September, you will have the opportunity to place a bonsai for sale, or maybe buy one.

We are talking about really nice trees, values of a minimum of \$500, the ones that are hard to sell, hard to find to buy, trees that the vendors don't bring because they don't think they can sell.

Our plan is very simple, you provide the bonsai; we provide a supervised sales area, and a whole Convention full of potential buyers.

**Interested in participating** – Contact Bob Laws, [rklaws@comcast.net](mailto:rklaws@comcast.net) for complete description and rules.

## Spring Exhibit Wrap-Up

First of all I wanted give all of you a heart felt thanks for all of your hard work and all of the trees that became a part of our Spring Exhibit this year at the Japanese Gardens. Each year we get better and better - both the trees and ourselves. Congratulations on a stupendous job. The trees were just marvelous with many being shown for the first time. Our appreciation of styles continues to expand and grow. I think some highlights in that regard were the Red-flowered Currant from Greg Brenden and the Virginia Creeper from Sue Heise. There were of course, others that stood out. I wish we had room here to publish a whole list - with photos. Maybe soon. I hope that you all got to enjoy them.

We had up to four folks demonstrating on the back porch at a time with folks crowding around to see. The public ate it up, begging for them to begin. Mike Hagedorn, again, gave a great critique of the show Saturday evening and we had a great social time with our finger foods and desserts. It's always great to see how it comes together. Many, many hands and countless hours spent on the trees. After Mike narrowed the field down to five trees each, we had a popular vote for the best trees in the show. Here are the results:

Best Shohin - Anne Spencer Award - Cotoneaster, Charlene Smallwood

Best Deciduous - Weeping Birch, Dennis Vojtilla

Best Conifer - Japanese Black Pine, Scott Elser

Thanks again to all those who volunteered for tree sitting, set up and take down, demonstrations, goodies, tours, and most of all the trees. Thank You!!!

## JUDGE YOUR OWN TREE

Now that all we can do is water our trees, consider setting this program up for each of your Bonsai. Consider the perfect tree as 100. Grade your tree with up to ten points on each of the following criteria:

TRUNK: Diameter, taper, shape, proper view, bark.

BRANCHES: Position (Rule of 3), spread, outline, twiginess, internodes.

ROOTS: Position of exposed roots, no high bumps, tangles, rot, hair roots.

OUTLINE, OVER ALL: Triangular shape, apex, density of foliage or twigs.

SOIL: Clean appearance, firm or washed out, slope or contour, moss or ground cover, suitability of pebbles or rock, if any, to planting.

CONDITION: Health, insect or disease damage, good foliage color, flowers or fruit.

DESIGN: Suitability of style to tree, position in pot, if saikei or rock planted tree, does rock complement tree?

GROOMING: Removal of stumps, proper pruning, dressed wounds, clean-up of litter.

WIRING: Proper anchoring and spiraling of wire, crossovers, wire marks tightness or looseness, no bright wire.

DISPLAY VALUE: Relation of tree to pot (size, shape, color, texture), relation of whole planting to stand (size, shape, height, color).

RECORD SCORE YEARLY FOR IMPROVEMENT

*Arlene*

## PNBCA Bonsai Convention 2012

Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association

### Call for Entries Bonsai Exhibit

Vancouver, Washington  
September 14-16

**The 2012 PNBCA Convention** is fast approaching, and we are attempting to put together the most outstanding exhibit of Northwest regional bonsai yet. Every year, bonsai quality in the U.S. continues to improve and its time to show just how far we have come. We are looking for the trees from all over the Northwest to bring together the best of the best into one show. The Portland club is hard at work getting ready for this show, which will feature around seventy of the most gorgeous trees available. Consider this an open invitation to all bonsai aficionados attending the convention. Send in your photos and make ready a space in the back of the van. This looks to be a great event, so we hope that all of you will be participating. Some of trees from Portland have already been traveling, having been to the National Shows in Rochester, NY over the past several years. So we are hoping that some of your treasures will join us this year at the Vancouver Hilton.

#### **Submissions**

To submit a tree for the exhibit, just send an email to Scott Elser at [bonsaielser@gmail.com](mailto:bonsaielser@gmail.com). Let us know the common and scientific name of the tree along with any other details you feel appropriate. Be sure to include at least a front view photo of the tree in good detail. If your tree is selected, we will need to get the approximate age and number of years in training from you. All trees must be in good health, free of insects and disease. They must also properly groomed, with moss covering the entire surface of the soil and pots cleaned and oiled. You will also need to provide an appropriate stand for your tree. We will have a very limited number available for use and there is no guarantee that one will match your trees needs, so it's best to plan ahead. Please also bring an accent planting along to go with your display. Submissions need to



### Imagine & Create

be received no later than September 1st, although we may fill up before that time.

#### **Creativity**

We want to encourage everyone to be as creative as possible with their display area. All large trees will have their own space approximately six feet wide, and most medium size trees will be paired with another tree to create a cohesive arrangement. If you would like to create a three or four point display with two of your own trees, or paired with a friend's, that's great. Just let us know. Shohin would be best coming as a complete display as we will not have sufficient stands to guarantee a spot for single trees. So buddy up with a friend or two and wow us with your trees. But most of all we want to expand the possibilities of display of bonsai in North America. We encourage the use of scrolls, accent plants, and other items to create a unique bonsai presentation.

#### **Arrival and Departure**

Your trees need to arrive at the exhibit room no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, September 14th for inclusion in the show. No exceptions. The exhibit closes at noon and your trees, stands and accent plants will be available for pick up after lunch on Sunday.

Hosted by

**The Bonsai Society of Portland**  
[www.portlandbonsai.org/2012](http://www.portlandbonsai.org/2012)

## Third National Bonsai Exhibit, Rochester, NY June 9th,10th, 2012

Last month, Dennis Vojtilla and I flew off early in the morning, bound for Buffalo, New York. From there we made the hour drive to Rochester for the 3rd, bi-annual National Bonsai Show, organized by Bill Valavanis. Our goal was to meet the truck that had left earlier in the week, carrying our precious bonsai cargo. The three man crew of Ryan Neil, Peter Warren, and Zach Shimon were making their marathon trek with trees from the West Coast. They made the drive each way in just over three days and nights. Manly stuff. Many thanks to those three for making a West Coast presence happen. It would not have without them. Dennis and I hooked up with them on Friday, but they had spent all day Thursday working with photographers so that each of our trees would look just right in the album.

Friday we helped set up the show, working on our own trees and the west coast trees in general. Then we helped finish out the show. Some of the folks who also sent trees included Sheiji Shiba, Cheryl Manning, Dave DeGroot, Ted Matson, Walter Buck, Dean Burkhart from Springfield, OR, and our own Randy Knight. Humidity was high, with temperatures moderate. The sweating was only exceeded by the ninety degree heat and hundred percent humidity on Sunday when we packed up. The trees did very well and Ryan and Peter were just awesome. They were very dedicated to the safety and security of the trees the entire trip.

The show went really well and the overall quality was definitely up from previous exhibits. Our trees were in some pretty heady company. Including Shohin there were about 254 trees to give you an idea. The vendor area was great, though I would always love to see more potters. That was OK since I had zero budget anyway. There were demonstrations by two of the three judges, Yasuo Mitsuya and Marc Noelanders. The third judge was Pedro Morales.

One display just blew me away. It was a saikei of Shimpaku Junipers by a French Canadian. Sorry, I did not get his name. But see the photo! This amazing composition is eight feet long - two four foot sections of granite trays interlocked together. I helped set part of it up. Truly amazing. I thought that I was right on the sea shore, the way that they rocks seemed to just emerge out of the water. And then a tree, more rocks, then more trees. All verdant and crisp. Small hedges sprinkled in. The base that looks like a ribbon is actually carved wood. Just over the top. It's worth buying the book for.

I love showing my bonsai. I do it to share the beauty that nature and man can put together. On Saturday night, after a banquet and lots of thank you's and plaques awarded to all the volunteers, they gave out awards for the trees. On the very first award, a photo of my Black Pine flashed on the screen. Wow, I thought this is great. It was from the Nippon Bonsai Association and was awarded for the best Japanese Style Display. I shook Ryan's hand as I walked by and was feeling great. This was my third award in as many shows. Since they only hand out one award per person, I thought that I was done. Then they started handing out more awards and we all enjoyed the marvelous bonsai. He came to Best Conifer, an award that I had received both previous times. Bill noted that I would not be winning it again, and it went to a fabulous Procumbens Juniper, I believe. Then the Best Deciduous Award went to Suthin Sokosolovisit for a Japanese Maple very close in size and quality to Dennis'. Then for the National Award the photo of my tree flashed on the screen again, and I thought it was a mistake. But they called me up, and I shook Ryan's hand even heartier this time. Bill explained that the earlier award was made by the NBS, so it was considered separate.

This whole endeavor really was a team effort. I wanted to thank all the folks involved. Of course, first is my wife Lisa, who supports my wayward hobby. Next, is Ryan, who has done so much for the growth of my skills and artistry in bonsai. The tree simply would not have made it to this level without him. I really enjoy working with him and encourage all who can to do so. Many thanks to Dennis for allowing me to piggy back with him over the weekend. He takes many more risks at the show with his deciduous trees. And they were great - The Washington Hawthorne and Japanese Maple that you saw at the spring show.

Thanks to Bob Laws for lending his awesome stand. That's the one, hand carved and built by Bob Sigourney, that you see in the photo. And many thanks to all of you for your support in so many different ways. I really enjoyed the trip and the journey to creating really beautiful works of living art. I was looking at the Mountain Hemlock that I had also brought and had a rather emotional experience. It was just that sublime, beautiful, and regal. That was the tree I was really excited about. It's a real blessing to be able to work on the trees and create. Thank you for all of your support, Portland!

*Scott Elser*



**Two Awards**



Shohin



Ryan



Dennis Vojtilla's Hawthorne



Exhibit Hall



Shimpaku Saikei

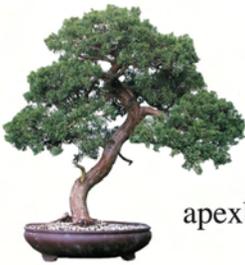


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'Ascending Dragon' Shimpaku juniper grafted on Sierra juniper trunk by Boon Manakitivipart

## Library Highlights

According to an old proverb, a picture is worth a thousand words. In the case of **Peter Adams's book, Successful Bonsai Shaping**, the proverb is especially true. This is an excellent book for bonsai practitioners who have difficulty envisioning the final form of a tree. Mr. Adams presents a summary of the care and characteristics of several species, accompanied by his wonderful sketches of the species in various styles. Included are beech, Chinese elm, Chinese juniper, crab apple, firethorn, Japanese black pine, Japanese larch, Japanese maple, Japanese white pine, and trident maple. This is a great book to help a novice develop a sense of style.

*Karen VunKannon*

## Oregon Shohin Kai

Oregon Shohin Kai will reconvene in September at Elite Care in Tigard.

*Karen VunKannon*

## 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.

## Bonsai Supplies from Wee Tree Farm

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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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