



# the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly publication of the **BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND** | May 2012

## Upcoming Events

- May 10 7-9pm **BSOP Monthly Meeting**  
St Phillip Neri, 2408 SE 16th Avenue, Portland
- May 11 10am **Daiza Making Workshop**  
Elite Care Center, 12353 SW Grant Avenue, Tigard
- May 14 6-8 pm **A Skoosh Japanese**  
Greater Gresham Baptist Church  
Info 503 504-7207
- May 19,20 **Annual Bonsai Show**  
Japanese Garden, Portland
- May 22 **No Bonsai Meeting**
- June 2 10-2 pm **OSK Meeting**  
Elite Care Center, 12353 SW Grant Avenue, Tigard
- June 23 10-4pm **Portland Nursery Bonsai Exhibit**  
9000 SE Division, Portland 97266 503 788-9000
- September 14,15,16, 2012 **PNBCA Convention**  
Hosted by BSOP at Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, WA



Rocky Mountain Juniper 5 (14 inches/ 35 cm) is part of yamadori collection  
From Ryan Neil at [bonsaimirai.com](http://bonsaimirai.com)

## If I May...

Take the opportunity to say thanks to all who help break down the monthly meeting; putting chairs away, wiping the tables down, putting the tables away, vacuuming and sweeping the floors and taking the garbage out. Please try to remember when attending the meeting that the club is responsible for keeping the meeting hall clean and if it's not, it's my neck on the line. We're looking for good people to fill upcoming vacancies in the board and my position is one of them--please see me or any of the other current board members if you are interested. We'd like to get them filled before the convention in September.

I took the last of my tropicals outside today as it seems the danger of freezing temperatures is hopefully past. They will stay outdoors until sometime in October depending on the threat of freezing temperatures. I find species such as bougainvillea, serissa, and ficus to name a few really become robust outdoors especially during the hot, dry months of July, August and sometimes September. I know it might seem futile to grow tropicals in the Northwest but more than a few followed me from my previous address in Tucson. They give us something to do in the summer and again in the winter months when all is gloomy outside. I winter them inside the

house in a sunny room where the daytime temps never exceed 60\* and it gets down to 50\* at night. I really need to get some additional lighting set up for indoors but for now, I try to keep the cost down and they don't seem to mind much.

It seems the trees have got the signal the growing season is underway and I've started to water every day it isn't raining and the sun shines. We also get some very windy days and this dries the trees out quickly, even when the sun isn't out. These transitional seasons are a real test of our watering skills, so keep a 'weather eye' on your trees now--they'll thank you for it later. It's also time to start scattering some fertilizer on the deciduous trees whose leaves have 'hardened off', that is, they've grown to a mature size and have stopped enlarging. You may even have to start knocking back strong shoots that stray from the desired shape you have in mind. I have quite a few lodgepole pines and now is the time to break long candles in places you don't want branches to extend--most noticeably near the apex and the branch tips. I've also been breaking the candles on my white pine. When I say breaking the candles, I mean roughly in half or more depending on where in the tree I'm working. To sum up, there's a lot going on right now! Get out there and have some fun!

I've had several requests over the last few months for a 'swap meet', so that's what I have planned for our June meeting. A 'duty free' event where you can bring anything bonsai related for sale or swap with fellow club members. We'll set out plenty of tables, but get there early to get yourself a good spot! And I'd like to have a really good raffle table this time, so everybody take a look around and see what you can live without--cull the herd, if you will. You never know what someone is looking for and you might just be able to help them out. I look forward to seeing you there.

*Greg*

## Penjing Study Group

In February Mark Vossbrink offered to facilitate a Penjing Study Group. A sign up sheet was passed around at the March meeting. Because there was a lot of interest in forming the group, the first meeting was held at the Chinese Garden office on Tuesday, April 3rd.

The group will be looking at the early foundations of bonsai, called Penjing. Future meetings may address the current influences of China. BSOP members who attend will determine the future programs.

Because of the difficulty in parking and safety concerns, the group has moved the meeting place to Mt. Tabor Middle School, Room #213. There is lots of parking and easy access for. Because the school has scheduled other classes on Tuesdays, there are lots of people around, creating a safe environment. The second class was May 8th from 6:30 - 8:30. The next meeting will be June 5th from 6:30 to 8:30. We hope you can attend.

*Smiles, Eileen*

## Bamboo Stakes/Poles Available

- Yellow and black, 5-15 feet long.
- 100% discount for BSOP members , *"Free is a good price"*
- Call 503 704-3891 to arrange pickup

## In Our Own Backyard

Roger Case is a contented man who has found his own little bit of heaven on 2 quiet acres in rural Oregon. From his porch he can contemplate his bonsai garden, the large studio, the vegetable gardens, his apple trees, and his dogs, all set against a view of Mount Hood. He is here by choice because bonsai is an “addiction” in his words, and the Pacific Northwest is the place to be for the best in U.S. bonsai. He arrived in 2010 with a 17-foot U-Haul full of trees to begin his third incarnation in this lifetime. The first one was a career in the Air Force; the second was a career (in nuclear physics) as a staff scientist for the Dept. of Energy’s Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico. Now retired, he pursues his passion for trees.

One has to dig a little to find out just how accomplished Roger is. He doesn't boast. He is a soft-spoken, thoughtful, serious gentleman. Roger was raised in Syracuse, New York. He attended Colgate University, the Air Force Institute of Technology, and the Naval Postgraduate School. He holds a PhD in plasma physics. His work allowed him to travel extensively and make connections with people all over the world. After he saw his first bonsai tree (in Monterey, California, in 1969), he took advantage of his travels to study with bonsai professionals wherever he lived. He has always been active in local bonsai clubs, twice serving as President of the Albuquerque, New Mexico, club. He joined two clubs in Washington, D.C., and has served as President of the American Bonsai Society (ABS). He is currently a Board member of the National Bonsai Foundation (NBF) and an International Consultant to the World Bonsai Friendship Federation (WBFF).

Roger is a perpetual student of bonsai, and a regular attendee at conventions and workshops. When he lived in Washington, D.C., he spent every free weekend at the National Arboretum studying the trees at the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. With his background of travel and study, he views the bonsai world as a small community of dedicated people, many of whom are his friends. He has studied or worked with Buck and Donna Buckholtz, Jim Gremel, George Heffelfinger, Bob Laws, Chase and Solita Rosade, Toshio Saburomaru, Joe Harris, and Michael Hagedorn, among others. He hopes to expand his knowledge further with Ryan Neil next. Given this background, I asked him if he enjoyed teaching. Modestly he replied that there are highly qualified professionals here who know more than he does.

A tour of his bonsai collection is almost a travelogue: each tree is connected to someone and to some place. Like most growers, he takes pleasure in the potential within each tree. He doesn't seem to give up easily on any tree; he very patiently works with them year after year, and seeks professional advice to bring out the best in each one. As he discusses his trees, it is obvious that he has carefully thought out the needs of each of them. Roger is especially fond of maples, ponderosa pines, crabapples, and alligator bark junipers. The gentle climate in this area has led him to an interest in collecting more native species and growing more fruiting species and shohin. He says his favorite part of growing trees is digging into the root system to see what's there. As you stroll with Roger through his garden, he radiates quiet happiness and satisfaction. His workshop reveals the dedicated, professional scientist—neat as a pin, beautifully organized, including a large collection of pots, and a bonsai library that takes up an entire wall from floor to ceiling.

Roger has given serious thought to the future of bonsai in America. He is excited about the potential for great bonsai from native species. Ponderosa pine and the vine maple are among those he sees with bright futures.

Will we see his trees in our Spring Show? Not this year. Always the professional, Roger wants them to be at their best before showing them, and hopes to exhibit next year. He will, however, be an instructor at the PNBCA convention this fall.

Roger Case is one of those multifaceted individuals whose knowledge, character, and abilities raise the level of quality of any organization they join. BSOP is fortunate to have him.

*Karen VunKannon*



Amur River maple (*Acer ginnala*)



Roger in his studio with a cotoneaster



*Above:* Roger with a crabapple he got from Anne Spencer

*Left:* Roger's favorite Japanese maple

### **BSOP Board Highlights**

This month's Library Highlights article has a different focus. I thought I would take this opportunity to report on BSOP's current Board of Directors. Summer is almost here, and that means the search for new Board members will be starting, so that nominations will be ready when we return next fall from our summer break. So, before the focus shifts to who the next Board will include, it seems a good time to remark on my experience with the current Board.

First, it is my humble opinion that our President, Eileen Knox, has been doing an OUTSTANDING job. She is a gracious, warm person, who inspires teamwork. Eileen has worked diligently to bring people together and to recognize their contributions.

Our Vice-President for Programs has been Greg Brenden. We have had wonderful programs this past year, and he deserves all the credit. His position is one of huge responsibility, because the programs are the public face of the club. I believe he has put our best foot forward, time and time again.

Margie Kinoshita, our Vice-President for Membership, is a jewel. How many people would be as dedicated and reliable as she is after moving out of town?! Margie has a gift for dealing generously with the members, and she has been a source of many, many bright ideas in Board meetings.

Our Treasurer, Robert Wofford, has put BSOP on a professional footing in our financial records. He has worked hard on budgeting, juggled funds for a myriad of BSOP activities, and volunteered a lot of time outside of meetings—all with a smile. His professionalism, accuracy, and great personality have made many things go smoothly for BSOP. Like Margie, all this dedication and hard work is coming from another city!

Working with this Board has been a delight for me. These are hard-working, considerate, generous, and forward-thinking individuals. One would think that Board meetings would be tedious, but this Board works so well together that meetings are always interesting.

We have a good time, share some laughs, and feel appreciated by the others in the group. Any volunteer organization depends on the willingness of its members. On behalf of the Board, I'd like to express our appreciation of the willingness to pitch in and help that is evident in BSOP. Our club is active and successful, and it is due to the team spirit of many of the members.

Our Board has tried to be responsive to the requests of the membership. For example, the newsletter series, "In Our Own Backyard," and the Penjing Study Group arose directly from member requests. We would appreciate feedback from the membership. If you have ideas about the future of BSOP, contact us!

*Karen VanKannon, Secretary*

## PORTLAND NURSERY BONSAI EXHIBIT

I want to encourage everyone to attend the Portland Nursery Bonsai Exhibit on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday, 10-4pm, at the Portland Nursery, 9000 SE Division St., Portland. It should be a fun day with demonstrations by our very own members, tree exhibits, gift card awards and SALES. In addition to the trees the Portland Nursery has for sale, Diane Lund from Wee Tree may bring up finished bonsai for sale (25% off).

Portland Nursery is also offering:

- 10% off Joshua Roth tools and supplies,
- 25% off finished bonsai and all bonsai starts 4" or less,
- \$1 off 8 qt. Wee Tree bonsai soil, and \$4 off 1 cu.ft. Wee Tree bonsai soil.

Look to [www.portlandnursery.com/plants/bonsai](http://www.portlandnursery.com/plants/bonsai) for some of what Portland Nursery has to offer. Something for everyone!

Just to sweeten the deal, George Bowman, new member and Manager of the Division St. Store, is issuing Participation Perks to BSOP members:

- 10% off next purchase for anyone who enters a tree in the exhibit (1 coupon per person).
- 10% off next purchase for any BSOP member doing a demonstration during the event (1 coupon per person).
- 10% off next purchase for any BSOP member tree sitting/answering questions during event (1 coupon per person).

Anyone wanting to take part in this event (exhibiting, demonstrating or hosting), please contact me at [joanneraiton@msn.com](mailto:joanneraiton@msn.com) or 503-244-5201 and we'll get you scheduled.

Finally, be sure to thank George when you see him, and The Portland Nursery for supporting our search for new members and publicizing our Bonsai Exhibit at the Japanese Gardens. We appreciate it.

See you all there, *Joanne*

## Recycle Wire

Please bring your used copper wire to the monthly meetings. Roger Case will have a five gallon plastic 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 a little income for BSOP.

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“Ascending Dragon”

Shimpaku Juniper (grafted on Sierra Juniper trunk) From [bonsaiboon.com](http://bonsaiboon.com)

## Oregon Shohin Kai

Our May 5 meeting featured guest artist Scott Elser, who presented information on growing thicker trunks. He discussed when and where to prune developing trees, and brought a number of species to demonstrate his points. Scott really did a great job of explaining the rationale behind pruning decisions. He also discussed how to use the energy of growing trees to heal cuts.

After his presentation, Scott worked with individual members on the trees they brought, so everyone got good advice. Entries for the BSOP Spring Show were also analyzed, and Scott gave helpful suggestions to improve their presentation.

*Karen VunKannon*

## FERTILIZER AVAILABLE 5/10

20 pound bags of Rose Society fertilizer will be available at the meeting on May 10th, 6:30 PM. The fertilizer is organic 5-4-4 with mycorrhizal fungi. Price is \$16 per bag, payable by cash or check to the Portland Rose Society (PRS). If you would like a bag or two, please order in advance if possible. Call Bill Hettick, 503-936-5629, or email at [bhettickco@comcast.net](mailto:bhettickco@comcast.net).

*Jan*

# **BSOP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

## **NEWS FOR MAY**

Our April program on Styling, Design and Wiring was well attended, with nine individuals bringing in trees to get help with. Thanks to our own “Professor” Lee Cheatle, we were given an excellent discussion, lecture and demonstration on wiring and proper technique. With his usual humor and personal approach, “Professor” Cheatle reduced the basic skills and techniques for successful wiring to a college like course syllabus of Wiring 101, 102 and 103 covering basic and advanced techniques accompanied by demonstrations of each aspect. Following the lecture and demonstrations, attendees were provided assistance addressed to their own trees and hands on application of wire.

Our program on May 12, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. will be everyone’s favorite (especially the trees), POO POO BALLS (FERTILIZER CAKES) **THIS IS AN RSVP PROGRAM. PLEASE REGISTER FOR ATTENDING THIS PROGRAM BY CONTACTING ME BY EMAIL AT [KEITHWINGFIELD@AOL.COM](mailto:KEITHWINGFIELD@AOL.COM) OR BY PHONE AT 503-538-6118.** There is a slight charge for this program to cover the costs of the components for making the fertilizer cakes. This program is being hosted at the home of Scott Tice. Additional information on the program and location will be forth coming by email blast to all BSOP members and to the web page.

Plans for our June Mentorship Class for a field trip are being considered. We will be visiting either Wee Tree Farms or Telperion Farms. Hopefully details will be finalized by the May 12<sup>th</sup> class and program but we will get the information out as soon as possible.

As we begin to experience the change in weather from our wet and soggy spring toward the dryer, warmer and sunnier weather, be sure to keep an eye on your trees. The young, tender foliage has not had sufficient time to harden off and can burn very quickly on a bright and sunny afternoon or with a dry wind blowing. So be sure as you are moving them out of the sheltered environment for winter and early spring to provide some shade and wind protection.

Another Bonsai season is about to commence and our labor of love will fulfill and reward us yet again. Are you ready?

*Keith*



Trident maple  
From 82nd Meifu-ten Bonsai Show January 17, 2012.  
Photo taken by Peter Tea.  
See more at the website  
[peterteabonsai.wordpress.com/](http://peterteabonsai.wordpress.com/)



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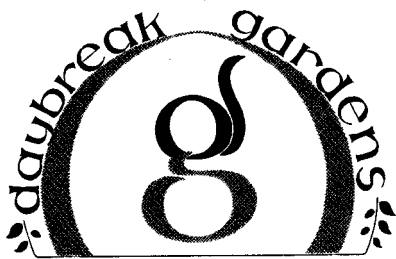
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The Bonsai Society of Portland meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month except in summer, when other group outings are arranged.

St. Phillip Neri Parish

2408 SE 16th Avenue, Portland OR

Northeast corner of SE Division and 16th Avenue

Visitors are always welcome!

**Board of Directors**

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