



# the TREE LINE

the official monthly publication of the BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

November 2011

November 19 - 2 to 5pm **Mentorship Meeting**  
St. Philip Neri, 2408 SE 16th Ave. Portland

November 22 - **6:30** to 9:30pm **BSOP Monthly Meeting** St. Philip Neri, 2408 SE 16th Ave.  
*Note - Not the last Tuesday, Early start*

December 3 - 10am to 2pm **OSK Meeting**  
Elite Care Center, 53 SW Grant Ave, Tigard

December 17 - **Annual Holiday Party**  
St. Philip Neri, 2408 SE 16th Ave. Portland

HAPPY NEW YEAR

September 14-16, 2012 - **PNBCA Convention**  
Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, WA

## Ryan Neil, Walter Pall, Holiday Party

As you can see from the title, we have a lot of bonsai activity ahead for the next couple of months! Ryan Neil will join us for our November meeting doing a demo with a tree from his collection and his choice of subject. Ryan apprenticed under Masahiko Kimura in Japan for six years and has lots of little goodies to share as well as stories of his time as apprentice to one of the greatest bonsai masters practicing there today.

We'll be starting the program at **6:30** instead of 7:00 this time in order to accommodate his program--make a note of it!

Please remember to turn off your cell phones during programs as this creates a jarring interruption of the flow of the presentation. I counted three from last month's program.

Next up is the Walter Pall workshop, to be held December 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the St Paul room at St Philip Neri Church, the same address our monthly meeting is held. This will be a 'bring your own tree' workshop and the cost is \$90 for the full day, \$45 for half day and \$20/half day for silent observers.

Walter is no stranger to Portland and comes to us from Munich, Germany. He shares his world-class bonsai collection with an excellent blog and travels the world over to present workshops and lecture on the subject of bonsai. Come learn all about his 'naturalistic style' approach to bonsai.

And on to our annual Holiday Party and auction, to be held this year in the same building our monthly meetings are. Save the date: December 17th, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and include a catered dinner; they will be on sale at the membership table as you come in the door to the November meeting.

It would be ideal if everyone purchased their ticket the night of the meeting. If you plan to attend but can't make it to the meeting, please let us know **ASAP** so we can get an accurate number to expect. You can e-mail Margie Kinoshita at [youngkinoshita@msn.com](mailto:youngkinoshita@msn.com).

The limit of trees you can bring to the auction is five, based on what works best from past experience. If you have auction items please arrive by 5:00 p.m. The silent auction will open at 6:00 p.m.

We will not have a bar this year--it will be 'bring your own' instead. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and we'll start the oral auction at 7:15 p.m. We are looking for volunteers to help with the set up as well as clean up afterward. If you can help out, e-mail me at [gbrenden@hotmail.com](mailto:gbrenden@hotmail.com) or let me know at the November meeting.

*Greg*



Common Privet at [bonsai4me.com](http://bonsai4me.com)

## BSOP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

I have recently agreed to spearhead the BSOP Mentorship Program going forward. Scott Tice has left a very high standard for the program and I will do my best to maintain the excellence in programming that he has developed. We all owe a great degree of appreciation to Scott for his outstanding efforts on behalf of BSOP and the Mentorship Program, and so I hope that you will join me in expressing appreciation for his commitment of time and effort over the past several years.

As I am new to the program, I am attempting to get up to speed as quickly as possible. Our November meeting will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2011 at St Phillip Neri Catholic Church, 2408 SE 16th Avenue, Portland, Oregon. The meeting is scheduled from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Lyle Feilmeier will be our presenter. Lyle will be speaking on diseases and pest control. With our long, very wet spring and our cool, very short summer, if you are like me, you probably experienced plant disease and pest problems you had not experienced before. Your trees may have experienced things like black spot, leaf rust, powdery mildew, wooly scale, brown scale and more.

As we approach the dormant season for our trees and begin to plan winter storage, now is the time to address these issues to get the best and healthiest opportunity for our trees next spring. Lyle is the man to help us identify the problems and apply the right solutions. I hope you will be able to join us.

If you have a particular disease or pest problem you would like identified, bring a sample of material with you and we will do our best to identify it. Be sure to put your sample in a sealed Zip Loc baggie so we do not pass the problem around on our hands, clothing or other plants.

Looking forward, as the November meeting will be our last meeting until after the New Year, I am going to be working on program development over the next couple of months.

If you have ideas or topics you would like to suggest for the program, please let me know. I hope to have available for the January **TREE LINE**, a calendar of dates for our meetings and topics we will be dealing with for the next year.

While we will continue to do the traditional topics and programs on fertilizer (POO Balls) and soils (Boon Mix), I hope to expand on these and introduce

some new opportunities for tree development (from raw stock to pre Bonsai), carving, wiring and other Bonsai skill development and perhaps some hands on opportunities to make your own Bonsai tools.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting and hearing from you with your suggestions. You can speak with me at a meeting (Mentorship or BSOP Membership) or you can contact me at [keithwingfield@aol.com](mailto:keithwingfield@aol.com).

*Keith*

## Giving Thanks!

A big THANK YOU to Scott Tice for his huge donation to the BSOP library! Scott brought in about 30 books and 11 magazines, including some new and exciting material. Several are especially interesting:

Gnarly Branches, Ancient Trees, Life and Works of Dan Robinson, by Will Hiltz

Ficus, the Exotic Bonsai, by Jerry Meislik

Mission of Transformation, by Robert Steven

The Spirit of Bonsai Design, by Chue Tan

Growing and Displaying Bonsai, by Colin Lewis

There are several others, as well as some magazines we have been missing.

Thank you, too, to Keith Wingfield for donating Bonsai With American Trees by Masakuni Kawasumi and The Bonsai Workshop by Herb Gustafson, and to Randy Knight for donating a set of four VHS tapes on White Pine, Black Pine, Ezomatsu Spruce and Azaleas. These are good, basic material that everyone should watch.

And while we're giving thanks (it is November, after all), once again THANK YOU to Barbara Devitt and Karen VunKannon. What an impressive job of reorganization!

*Jan*



Spiraea japonica 'Goldflame' at [bonsai4me.com](http://bonsai4me.com)

# The Library as a Resource

Over the past several months, the BSOP library has been blessed with several donations. These are greatly appreciated! In addition to these gifts, we continue to add new magazine issues. We now have over 100 books and 5 very full crates of journals. In short, our library is rapidly outgrowing the available space in the basement of the church while it expands the number of resources it offers to members.

The increasing size of the library holdings is making the task of hauling it up and down the stairs each month a truly challenging one. The library committee is deeply grateful to those strong members who volunteer to do the heavy lifting. However, it is just too much to ask one or two people to haul box after box, crate after crate, in addition to setting up all the chairs and tables!

The Board and the library committee are considering how to deal with this issue. Additional volunteers to move the library are desperately needed. Another option under consideration is to only bring up a sampling of books based on a seasonally appropriate topic or frequent member requests (in addition to the items reserved in advance, the magazine crates, and the Periodical Index).

We have discussed trying to put the library on wheeled shelves; however, the church tells us there is no place on the main floor for us to put shelves or carts. We have even investigated the use of a public storage facility, but have not located one that fits in our budget.

An additional concern has been the location of the library during the general meetings. We moved it away from the hospitality area because it was impeding the flow of foot traffic and creating crowding in that area of the room. We tried putting it on the stage in order to minimize the distance all those crates and boxes had to be moved; however, the stage location interferes with set up for a guest speaker. At the next general meeting, look for a smaller library display against one of the walls at the opposite end of the room from the stage.

In addition to investigating possible storage and display solutions, the library committee is working to sort the books so that locating a particular item will be more convenient for the members. Also, the first supplement to the Periodical Index will be coming out soon. It will contain entries for new journals

and for the issues that were checked when the original Index was prepared. As supplements are completed, they will be placed in the Index binders and posted on the website.

Please remember that the library opens 30 minutes before the meeting begins. Volunteers should arrive 45 minutes before the meeting. In November, the meeting will begin at 6:30, so volunteers should arrive around 5:45 so we can open the library at 6 pm.

The Board and library committee will appreciate your ideas and suggestions on these issues.

Barbara Devitt and Karen VunKannon

## Library Highlights

If you have a maple tree you are going to repot in the spring, you may be shopping for just the right pot. William Valavanis has written a very helpful article ([International Bonsai](#), 2011, No.3) about selecting the right container for a maple bonsai. He goes through a wide selection of pots, illustrated in photographs, and explains the pros and cons of each shape, size, and color choice. This one is worth a look!

Looking for a particular magazine and can't find it in our library? It helps to know that sometimes magazines change names. For example, [Bonsai Today](#) changed its name to [Bonsai Focus](#) in 2007, and [Bonsai](#) by Bonsai Clubs International changed its name to [Bonsai and Stone Appreciation](#) in 2007. Magazines whose titles have NOT changed include: [Bonsai](#), the [Journal of the American Bonsai Association](#), and [International Bonsai](#).

*"When I was a beginner I killed a lot of trees. Now that I am an experienced veteran...I still kill a lot of trees. I just do it with more authority and panache than before."* Randy Clark, [Bonsai](#) (Bonsai Clubs International) 1992-Nov-Dec

*Karen VunKannon*

## Recycle

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.



# Oregon Shohin Kai

The Oregon Shohin Kai met again on November 5th in the Garden Room at Elite Care at Fanno Creek in Tigard. Members brought trees to work on during the meeting, along with a very informative program given by Don Howse from Porterhowse Farm on the miniature and dwarf conifers he is growing at his nursery.

An interesting part of the program was Don having a story to go along with each of his unusual conifers, many of which he started from witches brooms of different species. He brought several books and samples of the conifers he was talking about, most of which were of the size for Shohin or Chuhin. Thank you, Don!

We had several handouts on preparation for winter care, both from magazines and from Anne Spencer's works. Contact Karen VunKannon for copies.

We will be meeting again at the Tigard Elite Care on December 3rd. The program will be hands-on, making pinch pots for our shohin and mame bonsai. There will be a small charge for clay and firing. Jan will bring various tools to work with the clay, but if you have something special to add texture, bring it along.

The pots will be fired after they are dry, and will be ready for glaze, if you want it, at the January OSK meeting. If you don't want to make pots, just bring trees to work on. Watch your email for details, or call Jan Hettick 503-504-7760 or Karen VunKannon 360-597-4010.

*Notum*

## What Isn't in the New Library Periodical Index

- Calendars of Events and schedules
- Book and DVD Reviews
- Convention Promotions
- Award Announcements/Winners
- Photo Galleries without attributions
- Q & A, unless the topic matches an entry in the index
- Convention Summaries, unless the presenter is identified and the topic is discussed in detail
- Organizational biographies and staffing announcements
- Tours
- Poems

- Photographers' names, unless they produce a whole article or are featured
- President's/Editor's Messages
- Convention workshop summaries
- Exhibition summaries
- Exact article titles (This is a topical index, not a title index; part of a title or the main words from a title will be in parentheses at the beginning of the entry so that the reader can locate the article in the specified magazine.) I have not attempted to record article titles as written, since the titles frequently do not tell what tree or technique the article discusses. If you are searching for a specific article, try looking for the artist, the plant variety, or the technique explained in the article.
- Club news
- Travel summaries, unless they go into detail about a specific garden or artist

*Karen*



Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*, October 2011. The upward and outward flowing branches create its natural feeling. Full story is at Crataegus, Michael Hagedorn's website. An Anne Spencer tree.

## Out on a Limb

I love this club! As Scott Tice moved his attention toward his young family, Keith Wingfield moved in to chair the Mentorship Committee. Check out his Mentorship Article! Charlene Vojtilla needed to relinquish making home made goodies for the Hospitality Committee and Patty Myrick emailed me the following week that she would love to help out here.

A healthy system works just this way. It is like a flock of Canadian Geese flying South for the Winter. Have you ever had the time to really watch them? As one tires, it drops back and another moves to the point of the V. That one breaks through for a while until it too drops back allowing another to take point. As a flock, they make it possible and even easy for everyone to lead and follow and learn to lead. I wonder if they could travel so far, if they didn't take turns flying point?

Our Library team has been doing some creative thinking. Without volunteers to bring the library upstairs each month, we need to figure some different ways to make this fabulous resource available for the club members. How could you help? Any ideas? Could you come to the meetings earlier and schlep books? Karen VunKannon and Barbara Devitt and Jan Hettick have spent hundreds of hours on the Library. There is no way we can every say, "Thank You!" too often. Check out their Library article.

Along the lines of volunteers, I want to take this month of Thanksgiving to call your attention to your amazing BSOP Board. Greg Brenden has made this year's programs so interesting and educational. He is a natural teacher and has one of the most difficult jobs on the board. Each month he coordinates the program, hosts the speakers, sets up the room, breaks down the room and cleans up afterwards. Many of our members stay long after the meetings end to help him with this. Thank you one and all.

Margie Kinoshita, our membership chair and convention registrar, spends many, many hours each month on BSOP business. Her friendly smile at the door makes us all feel glad to have arrived. Thank you to Pat Fry and Pat Foldi, who step in to help her at meetings. We need to clone her, however, so that she can be in more than one place at a time. Anyone know a good scientist? RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP sooner rather than later.

Robert Wofford is so thorough and professional as our Treasurer. We will finally have a budget to work with in 2012! He is always on Jan Hettick's right wing, running credit cards and collecting money. What a fabulous treasure he is. Robert is always there for each of us, to make a Costco run, or move chairs or...the list goes on and on.

Me, I have it really easy. As Don Howse told me before I took office, the other members of the board do most of the work. I just try to keep up.

Smiles,

*Eileen*



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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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