



the **TREE LINE**

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

June 2011

Schedule of Upcoming Events

June 18 - 2pm **Mentorship Meeting**

St. Philip Neri, St Paul room

June 28 - 7 to 9pm **Monthly BSOP Meeting**

St. Philip Neri, 2408 SE 16th Ave. Portland

July 9 - **Multi-club Potluck**

Wee Tree Farm, Philomath, OR

August 13 - 12 to 3pm **Annual Club Picnic**

Creston Park

September 3-5 - **PNBCA Convention**

Seattle, WA

December 17 - **Holiday Party**

St. Philip Neri, 2408 SE 16th Ave. Portland



Pinus mugo by Walter Pall

*Like a crane's dance,
as if it was not rooted,
a noble pine bunjin.*

*Starting with the knowledge
that a life is not enough,
in designing a bunjin
the master strives for the essential
by omitting the marginal. - Peter Krebs*

Be There!

I'd like to start off by thanking everyone from the club for coming to the opening of my show at Redux and to those who came as they could. Your support is genuinely appreciated. I'll be at it again July 19th and 20th at McMeniman's Edgefield as one of the 'Cracked Pots' artists. This is a fun event and worth considering if you've never gone. Ask me for details.

On to the program for June's monthly meeting. We will be featuring one of the biggest auctions in the club's history, both live and silent. Lee Cheatle will be our 'Grand Auctioneer' and will provide an entertaining and educational patter to help sell the over 200 auction items.

I was planning to have an informal 'whack 'n chat' as well but have decided to keep the focus on the auction so there will be no distraction.

We'll set out a couple of tables for show and tell items. Feel free to bring in a tree you have a question about. Ask myself or one of our more experienced members for questions about care and disease, etc.

I plugged this event in the last newsletter and Margie has also covered it with a couple of e-mail blasts for those that do e-mail. We are hoping for a good turn out. Even if some of you are "auctioned out" this is a rare opportunity to purchase nice, older, quality pots and other bonsai related items. There will also be the tail end of items from Anne Spencer up for the silent auction. Have a garage sale or a bake sale--do whatever it takes to enhance your already fabulous bonsai collection!!!

Greg Brenden

Spring Exhibition at the Japanese Gardens

The Spring show at the Japanese Garden Pavilion occurred on May 21 and 22. Ryan Neil covered as many trees as time allowed at a well attended Critique. He pointed out the characteristics that made the trees good, better or world class. I found this helpful, educational and entertaining. It's a rare talent to accurately assess a tree quickly and be able to communicate this assessment to every member of the audience.

Whatever stage of development the tree was in, Ryan showed clearly what step or steps would improve the design.

Ryan introduced his student, Matija, who will study with Ryan for three months. Matija has pursued the art of bonsai for the last ten years after seeing a picture in a book. He mentioned seeing *Karate Kid* years later. Evidently one can be inspired to bonsai without seeing this film.

Attendees brought a large assortment of tasty food that we all enjoyed while voting for trees for the three awards.

Trees represented a variety of bonsai styles. Timing was right for wisteria and Korean lilac to perfume the room.

Scott Elser has put together another great show and the club is grateful for his effort and expertise.

New Flowering Companion Plants

The words 'companion' and 'accent' are used interchangeably to indicate a plant or object used in bonsai display...

I have been heavily focused on Northwest native perennials since moving to Portland, Oregon. Part of the reason is that many of the nursery offerings seem a bit gaudy to me, not quite the austere, honest look we try to find in all our bonsai and in their accessories. (I made one exception here with a purple columbine, a genus which I have a weakness for... my purple one is a double-flowered variety, and doubtless the result of some savvy breeding.)

Some months of the year I'm as easily excited about accents as the bonsai. One of the curiosities of accents is that depending on how the perennial grows that year, or is trimmed, or simply flowers that week, the front of it changes.

Visit Michael Hagedorn's website, Crataegus.com, to see the photos and read more.





OSK members show off their finds from the June 11th field trip to Tsugawa Nursery. Pictured from left to right are Norm Sanderg, Karen Vunkannon, Jim Wilson, Paula Bentley-Mathews, Jan Hettick, Eileen Knox, Margie Kinoshita, Pat Foldi and Barbara Devitt.

BROKEN CLOUDS - SUNSHINE - MODERATE TEMPERATURES !

What a day it was for nine OSK attendees passing up the Rose Parade this Saturday to shop for additions to their Shohin collections - some also added to their yard water features at home. To show the diversity of plants and other Japanese features one member purchased gold fish for her yard water feature.

Tsugawa's Nursery in Woodland, Washington was our OSK Field Trip destination. Everyone came away with trees to turn into Bonsai, both deciduous and conifer. The Bonsai section had a large number of pots available - as well as small stock for Shohin and finished potted Bonsai for sale. Our group were pulling wagons full of projects for design and "growing on". Following our shopping spree we gathered at Rosie's Diner in downtown Woodland for sandwiches and pie with ice cream. There was a little show and tell on purchases to finish a successful Field Trip "up the road a piece".

An OSK meeting in July will be researched for location. So watch your E-mail for time and place in the near future. *Notum*

June Mentorship

Next meeting: Saturday, June 18 - Program TBA - St. Philip Neri - St. Paul Room - 2408 SE 16th Ave. - Portland, OR

Scott Tice

Recycle

When you remove copper wire from your trees, you can recycle and help raise funds for BSOP. Just bring your used copper wire to the monthly meeting and turn it over to Roger Case. When he has enough to sell as scrap copper, he will turn the proceeds over to the club.

Japan Bonsai

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NEW Consignments

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Bonsai Auction

Our next bonsai meeting scheduled Tuesday, June 28th will feature our clubs largest one day auction ever! From the estate of Leonard Gratteri , the Heritage Committee will be making about 200 lots available for member purchase. Len was President of our BSOP club in the early 1980's. He and his wife Jean joined our Portland club some 40 years ago!

Jean was recently our hospitality chair up until the time it became difficult to make the night time commute from Hillsboro. Many of you will remember the great cookies, coffee and snacks Jean happily prepared with her welcoming smile each month. Jean was also an early member of the Shohin Kai group. Both Len and Jean were early and active participants in the club helping and attending at many conventions locally and up and down the west coast. Len enjoyed participating in workshops, especially John Naka's and collecting bonsai pins he proudly displayed on his aprons.

The treasures being offered have been collected over the past 40 years or so from many Bonsai conventions and workshops that Len and Jean participated in. The auction will include bonsai pots (many Japanese, both large and small), one of kind suiseki stones in custom cut daiza, gorgeous bonsai stands, books, bonsai pins, aprons, tools, a Japanese watering can, a large maple grove, as well as many other items. There will be both an oral and silent auction. Credit cards will be accepted for purchases. There will be something for everyone, from inexpensive to high end. Do not miss this rare opportunity! See you there!

P.S. If you would like the club's Heritage Group to help maintain your collection during times of serious illness or to provide support to your heirs in liquidating your bonsai trees and supplies (as we are doing here) you should give serious consideration to signing up and becoming a member of this important group. There is no monetary cost to you for these services. Please see Bob Laws, Arlene Sigourney or Ron Cascisa for additional information.

Ron Cascisa



Out on a Limb

Our Spring Show at the Japanese Garden was a huge success. Thank you to Scott Elser who organized it and all the many folks who helped set everything up and all our members who brought in their fabulous bonsai. Ryan's critique was informative, entertaining and inspirational. Ryan and Scott selected 5 of the best trees from each division; conifer, deciduous and shohin. We then voted for our favorites from each category. Lee Cheatle won best conifer, Dennis Vojtilla won best deciduous and Arlene Sigourney won the Anne Spencer Shohin Kai Award. We will present the awards at our next meeting.

Michael Hagedorn really hit a home run at our last meeting. His presentation on deciduous offered something for all levels of learners. Thank you, Michael. Our next meeting will offer all of us a chance to bid in the auction for some of Len Gratteri's pots, books, tools and a rich array of other items. We will have silent and open bidding opportunities. Those of us who have all the bonsai stuff we would ever want, or not a lot of ready cash, can enjoy the 'whack and chat'. This will be a great time to bring in a few of our trees to work on while having the opportunity to ask other members for their input and ideas.

I would like to thank Chris Botero for becoming our 'go to guy' for the meeting set up and break down team. Rocky Lawton, Anjalee Mills, Eli Nguyen, Kirk Westphal and Robert Wofford have all volunteered to participate. I will be reaching out to a few more members in an effort to create a long list of people Chris can contact a few days before the meeting, assuring us that no one person has to do it all. Many hands make light work.

The Summer Picnic will be held on August 13 at Creston Park from 12:00 to 3:00. Hope you can come. The Burnetts have come up with some really fun ideas and prizes.



Smiles,

Eileen

LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

"Bonsai without artistry is just technically inspired gardening." So says Andy Rutledge in his preface to Robert Steven's book, Visions of My Soul, a recent donation to our library. Mr. Steven's book offers chapters on line, form, texture, color, dimension, composition, perspective, and balance. He approaches the cultivation of bonsai as a creative art form, rather than starting from the customs of Japanese practitioners. Mr. Stevens presents a very individual approach and credits his study with Hu Yun Hua in China as a significant force in shaping his aesthetic views.

The text is interlaced with numerous photographs and poems. Following the chapters on design are 130 pages of photographs, each with a caption that comments on the design principles illustrated by the trees in the photo. The pictures are grouped according to style (raft, groups, cascade, etc.). This is not a step-by-step "how to" book, but a conceptual discussion of bonsai aesthetics, which should appeal to more advanced bonsai artists.

Karen

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Chris & Lisa Kirk 503 859 3697
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The *Bonsai Society of Portland* has been an active group in the Portland area since 1966. It is organized to promote the art of bonsai through education, exhibits and social activities. The Society welcomes everyone interested in this unique and beautiful art form to share in the bonsai experience and develop both basic and advanced skills.



Official Website
www.portlandbonsai.org
portlandbonsai@hotmail.com

Mailing address
PO Box #10615
Portland, Oregon 97296-0615

TreeLine deadline: 10th of the month

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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