



# the **TREE LINE**

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

April 2011

## Schedule of Upcoming Events

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

April 26 - 7 to 9pm **Monthly BSOP Meeting**  
St. Philip Neri, 2408 SE 16th Ave. Portland

May 3 - 7 to 9pm **BSOP Board Meeting**  
Location TBA

May 14 - 10am to 2pm **OSK Meeting**  
J. C. Kitchen Cabinets, Wilsonville

May 21-22 - **Annual Bonsai Show**  
Japanese Garden, Portland

May 24 - 7 to 9pm **Monthly BSOP Meeting**  
St. Philip Neri, 2408 SE 16th Ave. Portland

August 13 - **BSOP Summer Picnic**  
Creston Park

September 3-5 - **PNBCA Convention**  
Seattle, WA

## MAY YOU LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES...

My Dad was fond of saying this, and it seemed appropriate given all that has occurred since I last hit the keyboard for this newsletter. The earthquake in Japan, mother country of our beloved art of bonsai, tops the list. And closer to home, saying good-bye to a pillar of BSOP, Anne Spencer, has been in our hearts and minds. Anne has been a wonderful friend, teacher, encourager plus much more to me since I joined BSOP in My 2006. Fortunately her legacy will be with us indefinitely through the many excellent bonsai she shared with us (she stipulated all her bonsai stay in this region) I still can't believe she's left the party so soon.

Thank you for bearing with me on that, I had to get it out. On with a brief re-cap of last month's meeting and another round of gratitude from me to the many helpers who pitched in to set up the meeting and clean up afterward. It really helped me to focus on helping our guest speaker, Gary Wood, get set up for his presentation. It also freed me up to help him unpack his wonderful pots, of which I found two that had to come home with me...I hope you found Gary's program as useful as I did. I know that plant physiology isn't as glitzy as a full-on styling demo, but you can't style a tree correctly without a fundamental understanding of the living material we use for our art. "Bonsai done correctly can take a while, and if you do it wrong, takes forever" no truer words about the art can be spoken and I thank Gary for planting them in my brain!

We instituted a new form of raffle last month with the help of Al Polito--it generated \$137 and more than covered the cost of our program for the evening. Way to go Al!!! I'd like to encourage all the membership to contribute when possible to this worthwhile cause. It's a fun way to raise money and is a win/win for all involved. Our April program will feature Scott Elser--two-time winner at the National Bonsai Show in Rochester, New York. Scott also orchestrates our spring and sometimes fall shows at the Japanese Garden. He also travels to Alameda, California to help Boon Manakatvivipart (whew!) with his world class exhibit of fine bonsai. Scott will share his insights about what goes into putting on a show of bonsai for the public and maybe a little bit about some unconventional ways to display our treasured trees. He will build on the presentation he gave last year, so don't think you can skip this!

Our May program will feature Michael Hagedorn on deciduous bonsai. Michael studied over three years in Japan with Shinji Suzuki and has made Portland home base. How lucky we are to have such capable artists right here among us...make plans to join us, won't you?

I'm including a picture of the tree I potted for February's program and how it looks currently--no pun intended ;-). Seriously though, I decided to remove some unnecessary branches since the tree was telling me it was strong enough to do so. Still a long way to go, but on the right path.

Bob Laws will be bringing some tools to sell at the April meeting.

## *Greg Brenden*



## OSK Monthly Meeting

OSK this month did more than trimming trees and repotting. Folks brought stands of many sizes and shapes deciding on tree placement for the OSK exhibit this next BSOP meeting. A good amount of trees were available to make the correct selection for the available stands. Jan and Arlene were assisted by Dennis Vojtilla in selecting trees for the exhibit stands.

A new addition, Viewing Stones, will be present this exhibit. Some Stones from OSK members collections will be shown along with the Shohin. Thank you Barbara for the roomy venue and especially the tables available to set up the Pre Exhibit OSK Shohin Display.

*Notum*

## Out on a Limb

Spring has finally arrived. We are bumping into the upper 50's and low 60's and our deciduous trees are leafing out. This means that our Spring Show at the Japanese Garden is just around the corner on May 21st & 22nd. Scott Elser and crew are busy selecting trees and making final arrangements.

Saturday evening, our club hosts a friendly, finger food potluck and bonsai critique. This year we are fortunate to have Ryan Neil as our guest artist for the educational critique. Those of us who attended the mentorship meeting with Ryan, know first hand what a valuable, practical learning environment Ryan creates. This is a 'must go' evening.

Our evening potluck of appetizers and desserts begins at 7:00. Bring your favorite covered plate of finger foods. The club provides soft drinks. If you would like to bring your own beverage, please be sure it will not leave stains on the pavilion flooring (ie., no red wine).

Tickets will be available at the April 26th meeting for \$10.00 each. Come and vote for your favorite trees. This year, one gifted Shohin-Kai artist will win the newly named Anne Spencer Shohin Award.

I encourage you to join us Saturday evening for friendly conversations, delicious finger foods and some of the best bonsais in the U.S. Let your vote count. If you can not attend the April meeting, contact me about getting your tickets.

Many years ago, I chanced upon the BSOP Spring Show at the Japanese Garden. I was fascinated as Lee Cheatle talked about the various bonsai and awed by Anne Spencer's display board and accompanying tree. I watched Dennis Vojtilla pruning a deciduous tree and Bob Laws working on a forest.

This was my first contact with BSOP. It was so fascinating and friendly that I made it an annual event for my family that led me to BSOP. Seldom do we get to see so many amazing bonsai so artfully displayed in our own back yard.

*Eileen*



## Come to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual PNBCA Convention!

If you have not already registered for this year's bonsai convention to be held over Labor Day weekend, here is another incentive to sign up now. The Connie Raphael Bonsai Study Group has offered to pay the price of one full registration, (\$245), to Convention XXII, 2011 in a drawing to be held no later than June 1, 2011. Only those who have registered before June 1 will be in the drawing. The lucky winner will receive a refund of \$245.

Remember that you can find all the details via our website <http://psba.us/2011PNBCA.html> There you will find a link to the convention registration.

Finally, don't forget that the convention is a great way to meet other bonsai enthusiasts. The profits from the convention directly benefit our club so we hope our members support the convention and in turn support the club financially.

The Connie Raphael Bonsai Study Group was founded in 1975. It is the oldest Study Group that was formed after Puget Sound Bonsai Association was founded in 1973. Their first leader was Connie Raphael, who was also one of the founding members of the Puget Sound Bonsai Association.

## Library Highlights

Is it possible to raise bonsai trees in an eco-friendly environment? Jessica The Bug Lady thinks so. In "An Intro Guide to Beneficial Insects" she explains how it is possible to establish a small, balanced ecosystem that can reduce our dependence on pesticides (**Bonsai, 2003, Vol.37 No.3**).

She provides a table of common predator insects, the pests they feed on, and the companion plants that encourage them to stick around. The goal is to establish an environment where future generations of beneficial bugs will remain in the garden, performing their protective role in controlling and preventing harmful pest infestations.

In her words, "The majority of bugs are innocuous, many are predatory and few are pests. This means you have a lot of allies out there, which you can use to your benefit."

## Annual Oregon Shohin Kai Exhibit

Oregon Shohin Kai will do its annual shohin exhibit at the April 26 general club meeting. This exhibit of shohin bonsai is open to all members of the club, not just participants in the Shohin Kai group. If you wish to bring a tree for the exhibit, please arrive no later than 6 p.m. on meeting night.

OSK would greatly appreciate the loan of single- or multiple-tree display stands to use for this exhibit. Please make sure your items are labeled with your name for safe return. Try to have display stands at the church by 5:30 p.m. on meeting night so that we will have adequate time for setting up the exhibit.

If you have a tree purchased recently from Anne Spencer that you think is ready for the exhibit, please bring it. Contact Jan Hettick with questions at 503-504-7760. Please use only this telephone number to reach her.

*Karen*



## Attend the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual PSBA Auction

The sixth annual PSBA live and silent auction will be held at the Pacific Rim Collection in Federal Way on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4 PM. A special thank you goes to Dave DeGroot from all of us in PSBA for hosting.

Ken Wassum will set the stage with a critique of selected auction trees from noon to 1 PM. Meanwhile in the courtyard John Conn will style a tree to be entered in the auction. Beginning at 1 PM our professional auctioneer, Steve Hardy, will auction trees assisted by Dan Robinson. The silent auction also begins at 1 PM and concludes at 3 PM under the direction of Sharon Muth assisted by Annette Clark.

Collected trees will again be a focal point of this popular event. Randy Knight from Oregon will bring a few partially designed, collected trees which come from the mountains of the western United States.

Jana Loyd will again act as our executive chef and offer snacks and drinks for all attendees. Donations are gladly accepted.

We encourage owners of the nearly 80 trees in the live auction to bring their trees to the Pacific Rim Collection from Monday through Friday of the week preceding auction day.

Kathy Blanchard, our treasurer, will coordinate sales in the courtyard during the auction.

Tell your friends about this event and join us for an exciting and enjoyable afternoon.

## PNBCA 2012 Committee Meeting

There will be a meeting of the PNBCA 2012 committee heads on Tuesday evening, April 19th, at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held in the back room of the Juan Colorado restaurant on Barbur Boulevard just west of SW Capitol Highway.

*The thunder of the waterfall  
has been silent for many years.  
But when its name is called,  
it sounds again like in former times.*  
Fujiwara No Kinto

## Pacific Rim Collection Work Party

The Spring 2011 **Pacific Rim Work Party** will be held on **Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Each year we go to the Collection to work on the grounds and help get them ready for the summer's visitors. We pull weeds, trim landscape plants, cut back ivy, etc. for 3 or 4 hours, then gather in the tent for a critique by Dave DeGroot. Everyone working can bring one tree, which for which Dave will offer instructions and styling tips. So plan to bring along one of your trees. Dave is very good with beginning artists.

Be sure to bring your own favorite gardening tools: loppers, pruning shears, buckets, gloves, knee pads, rain gear, hat, sun screen (ever the optimist) and LUNCH. If you're driving direct, try to arrive at the Collection by 10:00. Expect a drive of about 2 ½ hours, slightly more if you drive the speed limit. If you want to car pool or caravan, we'll meet in the north parking lot of Elmer's Restaurant by Delta Park, Exit 306b from Portland. We'll plan to depart no later than 7:30 AM.

This is a great opportunity to see the Collection trees while we help with preparation for their opening over Mother's Day Weekend. If you want to come, call Jan Hettick, 503-504-7760 or email janhettick@comcast.net.

*Jan*

## Membership Roster Addition

### Re-joined Feb or March meeting

Chris Van Hooser 503-332-1665  
e-mail surfandturf64@gmail.com

Carol Hall 503-227-5468 e-mail carolh242@comcast.net

### New for March:

Roberto Navarrette 503-443-8634

Jade P Osilla 503-701-7445 e-mail jadeco@pdx.edu

Donald L Cox mobile phone 503-367-4142, work phone 503-530-7485 e-mail dnecox@hotmail.com

Barb Shepard 503-657-4455 e-mail hammillb@hotmail.com

Phyllis Holt 503-910-6593 e-mail prholt@peoplepc.com

Palmarin Merges e-mail palmarinmerges@yahoo.com

### Changes for March:

Keith Hughes has a new e-mail, kshughes7@gmail.com

### New for April:

Bert Toya 503 740-1033 e-mail Tbertram@gmail.com

## Japan Bonsai

Masa Furukawa  
10813 SW Barbur Blvd.  
Portland, OR 97219  
(503) 245-4346  
Open: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
Closed Monday

## NEW Consignments

Kingsville Boxwood - all sizes  
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Big Crab Apple  
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Dwarf Alberta Spruce

## The Effects Of Rain on Bonsai and Watering Practices

It is now widely recognize that correct watering practices are essential for the health of bonsai. While allowing the soil to dry out will kill a bonsai, so will overwatering. As most bonsai are kept outdoors they are subject to local weather conditions and in particular, the unpredictability of rain. As it is impossible to gauge the frequency and amount of rainfall that may or may not fall on a bonsai, it is important to understand the effects of rain on the soil of a tree so that correct watering practices can be maintained.

### Rain and Overwatering

On a continual basis, overwatering can encourage root rot, poor root development and an altogether unhealthy tree. The soil should be watered thoroughly and then allowed to slowly lose moisture until the surface of the soil is nearly dry before being watering thoroughly again. Not allowing this period of time for the soil to begin to dry out, creates a perpetually wet soil that lacks oxygen, causes premature collapse of the soil structure and eventual lose of health in the root system and the tree.

With these facts in mind, what effect does periods of continual rain have on the health of the roots of a bonsai growing outside? If it rains often enough over a period of a week or two, surely the soil will be unable to dry out and the bonsai will be effectively overwatered, eventually leading to health problems?

Heavy rain for 2 or 3 weeks will not kill your tree (unless it already has a very weak, damaged or unhealthy root system due to being overwatered (by hand) for a prolonged period of time and/or is in a very water retentive/compacted soil). **Short periods of overwatering do not damage a bonsai**; it is chronic overwatering that is dangerous to the health of a vigorous tree and even then only after a period of weeks. The roots of a healthy bonsai are more than strong and vigorous enough to withstand short periods of overwatering. To read the rest of this article go to [www.bonsai4me.com](http://www.bonsai4me.com) Basic Techniques.

## In Memoriam

On April 9, 2011, the Bonsai Society of Portland lost a treasured friend and mentor when Anne Spencer passed away. Her efforts on behalf of BSOP throughout her many years of membership have left an indelible imprint on the nature and direction of the Society. We will treasure our memories of Anne and honor her by remembering the many ways she taught us to improve our trees.

*Karen VunKannon*

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*If you need bonsai supplies, please call ahead for delivery at a BSOP meeting*



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](http://www.portlandbonsai.org)  
[portlandbonsai@hotmail.com](mailto: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!

#### **Board of Directors**

President: Eileen Knox 503 466-2964 [eileenknox@frontier.com](mailto:eileenknox@frontier.com)  
President emeritus: Don Howse 503 668-5834 [don@porterhowse.com](mailto:don@porterhowse.com)  
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