



the TREE LINE

the official monthly publication of the BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

OCTOBER '08

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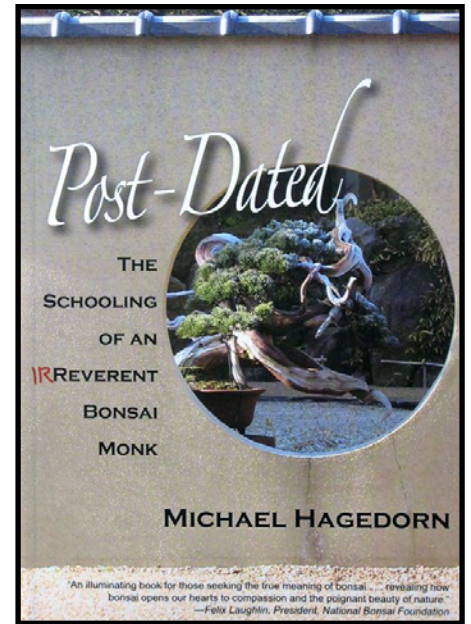
National Bonsai
Exhibition



Next Meeting...

by Scott Tice

Our next club meeting will be on Tuesday, October 28th at ST Phillip Neri Parish. The topic of this month's meeting will be a demonstration by Michael Hagedorn. Michael will also be signing copies of his new book, **Post-Dated: The Schooling of an Irreverent Bonsai Monk**. The book is a humorous, anecdotal account of his experiences as a bonsai apprentice in Japan. Price is \$15 for the book and the autograph is FREE. This meeting will be packed with fun so please come early! 🌱



Fall Show

by Scott Elser

The air is getting a little crisper in the mornings and the leaves are starting to show a bit of autumnal glow. And so it must be that the time is quickly drawing close for our annual fall show at the Japanese Gardens. The dates are Saturday and Sunday, November 8th and 9th and the hours 10am - 4pm both days. This date is a little later than we have ever had for a fall show. We are hoping this will get us a lot of color on the trees and possibly some in winter silhouette (naked as a jay-bird). It's a chance to see a totally different side of our trees. This show will be a bit simpler than our spring exhibit. There will be no marketplace or Saturday night reception. But there will be exciting and beautiful bonsai on hand in a fantastic setting. Provided by all of you, of course.

We will have lots room for bonsai, so be sure to contact Scott if you have something that you would like to show. We need to make sure that all entries are confirmed ahead so that we can plan the space and variety of the bonsai exhibited. And we will also have plenty of room for volunteers to help with tree sitting, docent tours, and informal back porch demos (depending on weather). And of course set up and take down. There will be sign-up sheets at the next meeting. Portland is quickly becoming well known for their beautiful bonsai, and we want to keep our tradition of excellence moving forward. Jump in and participate! Most of all, I hope that you can all come and just enjoy the beauty that is our art, and breathe in the story that each tree has to tell. 🌱



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Calendar of Events

- OCTOBER 28 - Tuesday 7 to 9 pm
ST Phillip Neri Parish - 2408 SE 16th. Ave. - Portland, OR
Monthly **BSOP meeting** -
Michael Hagedorn demo & book signing
- NOVEMBER 1 - Saturday 10 am to 2 pm
Cedar Hills United Church of Christ
11695 SW Parkway, Portland 97225
Monthly **Oregon Shohin Kai** -
- NOVEMBER 3 - Monday 6:30 pm
Hettick Residence - Tigard, Oregon
BSOP Board Meeting
Contact Jan Hettick for more information.
- NOVEMBER 8 & 9 - Saturday & Sunday 10 am to 4 pm
Portland Japanese Garden - Washington Park
BSOP Fall Show
Contact Scott Elser @ (503) 803-5343 for more info.
- NOVEMBER 25 - Tuesday 7 to 9 pm
ST Phillip Neri Parish - 2408 SE 16th. Ave. - Portland, OR
Monthly **BSOP meeting** -
Report on China trip and Board Elections
- DECEMBER 13 - Oaks Park - Portland, Oregon
BSOP Annual Holiday Party

Are you getting your BSOP email alerts?

If not, please let Pat Foldi know your correct address... or your NEW address. Some addresses are still bouncing back. Contact Pat (patfoldi@comcast.net) to get on the emailing list.



Membership Report

by Pat Foldi - VP of Membership

Count of Membership
as of October 13th.

175

Oregon Shohin Kai

by Norm Sandberg

OSK had their October meeting/workshop at Arlene Sigourney's. Thank You Arlene. The group was not too large but as usual energetic, with back and forth conversation on design and ideas for each other's trees. This all took place while each of us worked on a tree or two or three. Anne gave each of us a copy of her notes from Dennis Makishima, speaker / demonstrator during PNBCA convention in Spokane this past month. Anne would be glad to share a copy with anyone who makes a connection with her.

We also talked about future meetings and ideas for the OSK November meeting. In November will begin to work toward a spring Shohin Exhibit, most likely at the March 24th BSOP meeting. Please look through your Shohin collection for trees you are presently working on that you think will be available for a future show, which will include a "trees in progress" section. These would be trees in a ceramic pot or ready for a ceramic pot soon, and that will need only a small amount of preparation for future showing.

The November 1st meeting will at a new location, trying out the west side. We will meet at the Cedar Hills United Church of Christ, 11695 SW Parkway, Portland, 97225, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This is a large church on the northwest corner of Cedar Hills Boulevard and Parkway, across from a school. Cedar Hills Boulevard is Exit 68 off of Hwy. 26; the church is about a half mile south of the highway. Coming north on Hwy. 217, use the Walker Road exit just past Beaverton, go west to Cedar Hills Boulevard then north to Parkway. Use the parking lot on the north side of Parkway, south of the church. Enter the green door to the right of the A-frame, and proceed straight back to the meeting room behind the A-frame. There is an elevator for those having trouble with steps. As always, bring your trees to work on and your lunch.

All BSOP members are welcome. If you want to be on the list for special OSK email notices, contact Arlene Sigourney.

Check out the official BSOP website:
www.portlandbonsai.com
for the latest in events & information.

Adventitious Buds

Please take the time to introduce yourself to our new member...

Margie Kinoshita
David Young
Luke Rodgers

Dean Runyan
Liz Evans



President's Message

by Jan Hettick, President

The Spokane PNBCA convention was great! One of the best I've attended (not counting Portland, of course). It was run by a very small group – the Inland Empire bonsai club has about 30 members, and only about six or eight were actively involved in the convention. Very impressive!

There is an interesting trend in convention demos. The day of the inspiring demo, from junk to beautiful bonsai, is past – those trees just don't survive. The same for workshop trees. In my workshop there was more time spent on planning than actually manipulating the tree. Dennis Makashima told us that in workshops "you'll only be going from a big ugly tree to a little ugly tree". But that will set the stage for future work and you will have a much better, healthier tree in the long run. The plan is the key.

Something else Dennis explained - I've heard this before but this time it clicked - a wound is healed by the branches above it. The healing is caused as water passes by on the way up and sap passes by on the way down. So when you make a big cut, make sure there is something above to speed healing. When taking off several branches, pay close attention to the sequence, making sure there is always a branch above the cut to help with the healing. Only cut the second branch when the first is adequately healed. That's an over-simplification of this part of the lecture, but hopefully you get the idea.

Walter Pall was long on horticulture but short on rules. For example, he says finding the front is not as important as designing a tree that looks good from several angles. Your trees should look like trees, not bonsai, he says. In designing your tree, let the tree speak to you. Don't rely on your intellect too much. You can't find the tree's soul with your brain. If you can't get a vision for the tree, start by cleaning it up, then aim for the smallest possible tree. Of course this is out of context of the whole lecture, but it's something to think about.

Kathy Shaner and Dave DeGroot were also there, although I didn't get to watch them too much. I know Anne Spencer has typed up her notes, in much greater detail than any I took, and I expect they'll be available for the asking. The whole point of this writing is that if you have never attended a convention, give it some serious thought. It's a great experience and a way to elevate your bonsai skills. PNBCA 2009 is in Victoria BC, 2010 is in Bremerton, and 2011 it's back to Puget Sound, only three hours away. They say 2011 will have some suiseki influence. I can hardly wait!



A Word from the V.P.

by Steve Wilcox, VP Programs

Here we are in the 2nd week of October and the weather is nice and cool which makes me think of going on a collecting trip. I have been up in the hills a few times and a few thoughts have come to mind which I want to share.

- Tell someone where you are going with your partners and do not wander off.
- Take your compass and be aware of landmarks.
- If you have a GPS and you need glasses do not forget your glasses in the car.
- Do not leave your walkie talkies in the car.
- If you have sore knees wear braces and use a walking stick.
- Take your collecting equipment with you because invariably you will not find that perfect tree again.
- Watch the weather, it can change fast.
- Carry water and food if you plan to wander around in the forest.
- Going up forest service roads is easier then coming back down.
- Remember to stop and look out at the scenery occasionally, you would be amazed at what you can miss by always looking down.

I am not going to admit that I am guilty of any of these points, but some of them have certainly crossed my mind.

Back to business. The October meeting promises to be a great time. Michael Hagedorn is going to be doing a demonstration on a collected tree donated to the Society by Randy Knight in the name of Scott Ginther. Do not miss this one!

In November Paula Bently, Wayne King, Pat Frey and Pat Foldi are going to share their pictures and experiences from their trip to China a few years ago. I am particularly interested in the visit with Qingquan Zhao. I think it was my third meeting after joining the Society when Zhao did a demonstration and then a work shop the next day. I took the workshop and still have the tree.

Our annual Holiday Party is on Saturday December 13 at Oaks Park, it is a great venue and promises to be a good time for all. The auction will feature the tree that Michael styles in this months meeting. All proceeds from its sale will go to the Scott Ginther Memorial Fund. Remember that we will have other trees for the verbal auction as well as the silent auction so save your money for the unexpected buy of the year.

January 09 will be a Whack and Chat after the Annual Business Meeting. This will be a great time to meet and greet your new Board Members.

I see a Round Robin format for the February 09 meeting. I will be contacting our members who like to share their knowledge. If you would like to be one of the Round Robin Instructors please let me know.

It is unusual for me to have planned so far ahead. For the last meeting I need to plan which is March 09 I could really use some help and input from fellow Society members. What are you all interested in? Are there any National or International artists who are going to be in the area?

Last but not least I have had a lot of fun writing these articles and only have two more to go. So with that said I will return to my recurring theme. Please remember that the Society is only as good as its members that are willing to volunteer and share their time. We still need help with the Holiday Party. 🌱

Calling all Magazines

BSOP has always subscribed to most bonsai magazines, as evidenced by the huge collection in our library. Occasionally we've missed a subscription, and over the years many of the magazines we subscribed to have gone missing. Before we consider replacing missing magazines, we thought we'd ask our members to see if they have certain magazines they would be willing to donate to the club. Going back just the past five years, these are the MISSING MAGAZINES that we are hoping to get replaced. If you can donate one or more of these magazines, please bring them to the next meeting and give them to Barbara Devitt, Librarian.

International Bonsai	Bonsai Today
2007-1 Jan/Feb	2006-2 Mar/Apr #102
2007-2 Mar/Apr	2006-5 Sep/Oct #105
2007-3 May/June	2005-2 Mar/Apr #96
2007-4 Jul/Aug	2005-4 Jul/Aug #98
2007-5 Sep/Oct	2005-5 Sep/Oct #99
2007-6 Nov/Dec	2004-1 Jan/Feb #89
2006-1 Jan/Feb	2004-2 Mar/Apr #90
2006-2 Mar/Apr	2004-4 Jul/Aug #92
2006-3 May/June	2004-5 Sep/Oct #93
2006-4 Jul/Aug	2004-6 Nov/Dec #94
2006-5 Sep/Oct	2003-1 Jan/Feb #83
2006-6 Nov/Dec	2003-4 Jul/Aug #86
2005-4 Jul/Aug	2003-5 Sep/Oct #87
2003-3 May/June	2003-6 Nov/Dec #88
2003-4 Jul/Aug	
Bonsai Clubs International	Journal of the American Bonsai Society
2006-2 Apr/May/June	2007-2 Apr/May/June
2006-4 Oct/Nov/Dec	2007-4 Oct/Nov/Dec
2003-1 Jan/Feb/Mar	2006-1 Jan/Feb/Mar
2003-2 Apr/May/June	2005-1 Jan/Feb/Mar
2003-4 Oct/Nov/Dec	2005-3 Jul/Aug/Sep
	2005-4 Oct/Nov/Dec
	2004-1 Jan/Feb/Mar
	2004-2 Apr/May/June
	2003-1 Jan/Feb/Mar
	2003-2 Apr/May/June
	2003-4 Oct/Nov/Dec



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Library News

Some of our library books are getting to be several months past due. Please check your books and magazines, and return the BSOP materials as soon as possible. If you have an overdue book and can't make it to the meeting, let the librarian, Barbara Devitt, know so we can make other arrangements to get the books back.

Also, we have lots of great tapes in our library - but these days not everyone has a VHS player. So, we'd like to copy some of our old VHS tapes to DVD. If you have a DVD writer and would be willing to help with this project, please contact Barbara Devitt at the next meeting. ♻️

Nomination Committee Report

The Nomination Committee would like to recommend the following people for the BSOP 2009/2010 Board Positions as follows;

- President - Don Howse
- First Vice-President Programs - Rory Zabel
- Second Vice-President Membership - Margie Kinoshita
- Treasurer - Brian Daniels
- Secretary - Patricia Daniels
- Past President - Jan Hettick

For additional information please contact me directly at apexbonsaisupply@verizon.net. Thank you, Steve Wilcox

Going National

by Scott Elser

I just got back from the first ever National Bonsai Show put on by Bill Valavanis in Rochester, New York this last weekend. It was awesome, cheesy, exhilarating, and crowded all at the same time - well at different times. Bob Laws, Dennis Vojtilla and I arrived early Friday morning to help set up, and Dennis and I in particular helped work out the kinks between having too many trees and one very busy Bill to get every tree properly placed in the show. Kathy Shaner stepped in late help really get it nailed down. It was quite the challenge. Ever try to put together a jigsaw puzzle with TOO MANY pieces? The site of the show was the large hall of an actual, functioning hospital and county home, built in the 1930's. There were 138 displays and 194 individual bonsai when all the shohin are counted. And the small tree folks will be glad to hear that they were well represented with more and better shohin than I have ever seen at an American show with 17 shohin compositions. And some very creative displays. There were 90 exhibitors from 27 different states. Mike Hagedorn rounded out our Portland contingent with a weekend long signing marathon for his new book, **Post-Dated, the Schooling of an Irreverent Bonsai Monk**.

The awards banquet and auction Saturday night, with by far and away the best quality auction items I have ever seen. I could probably have been happy taking home almost any of the 80 plus items. But lack of cash and transportation pretty much cut me out of anything more than a Japanese book. Having been loosened up by a bit of alcohol, people ended up bidding more than the price marked on the item! Our feast for the night was actually hospital food and very acceptable. When it came time for the awards, Bill had snuck in all the winning trees under the cover of bed sheets. As they began to give each award, they unveiled the particular winning tree. They actually



lost Suthin's shohin for a moment amidst the big trees. When they got to the Best Evergreen category, there was about a six inch opening in the sheet which showed a portion of the pot. I was fully expecting it to match Jim Gremel's Green Atlas Cedar, which had a very distinctive pot shape. Instead, Dennis turned to me and said, "That's your pot!". I thought it must be someone else, and wondered what other tree had a pot like that. A few seconds later the sheet came off and Bob shouted at me, "Scott, you won!". I was rather startled as I hadn't really even realized when I sent the tree that there were awards, and certainly didn't think that my tree was really in consideration that day. Bill had coveted the tree since I first sent the photo in, and had placed it as the very first tree when you walked in the door of the exhibition. That was an honor to be sure, and a vote of confidence, but I really didn't pay that much attention. As I made my way up to the front of the room, I wanted to stop and cry, I was just overwhelmed. But I knew it was my job to go up there and smile, shake hands, and take pictures. It was quite a deal. Dennis says next time he is going to make me wear a jacket (I don't even own one, but it looks like I better correct that). The actual award is a framed painting by Alice Chen, which can be slipped into a scroll holder for exhibition. I am still rather high on all this. I am very thankful for the opportunity to exhibit my bonsai and for the recognition that this will bring the Portland club and all the great work that is being done here. I could only take one photo in the presence of a guard, so you will have to wait for the official exhibit album to see a better photo, though most of you have already seen the tree's debut at our spring show. The most interesting part about the tree's selection is that the one quality that I thought disqualified it was actually what attracted the judges. It's rugged features and naturalness. Not quite so primed as other trees. 🌿



The First National Bonsai Exhibition

by Dennis Vojtilla

The First National Bonsai Exhibition was designed to be the finest assembly of top-quality bonsai from across the United States — and it succeeded. Apart from Southern California, all major bonsai growing areas of the country were represented. Collected high mountain hemlocks, desert California junipers, northern larch, southern bougainvillea and bald cypress were shown, along with more traditional bonsai species.

There were 139 displays in the Exhibition of remarkably high quality — among the best of the best in this country. The trees were generally well prepared, well groomed and well presented. (For example, my preparation time for each tree was about 8-10 hours: to find fresh moss, prepare the moss, place the moss, remove twig stubs, remove damaged leaves, remove older wire that was no longer needed and that might detract from the tree, add a little fine wire for new or errant twigs, clean the pot and stand.) Most were trees that had been in training for quite some time — in many cases, decades. The level of refinement in many cases was extraordinary. It wasn't quite a Kokufu exhibition (the top exhibition in Japan), but it was close. And the trees which won awards were certainly of Kokufu caliber.

It was an honor to have trees selected for the Exhibition, to have a tree you've grown thought of as one of the best in the country. It was a huge honor to have your tree win one of the awards. Congratulations, Scott, not just for having the Best Evergreen bonsai in the Exhibition, but for your work in creating and refining it.

P.S. A show book will soon be available; price is \$50 until Jan. 1, 2009.

P.P.S. The 2nd National Bonsai Exhibition is tentatively scheduled for June, 2010. Time to start preparing.

Trees shown by BSOP members

Anne Spencer - Red Maple, Chuhin

Bob Laws - Satsuki & Shishigashira Maple

Dennis Vojtilla - Plum and Weeping Birch

Mike Hagedorn - Sonoran Scrub Oak, Chuhin

Scott Elser - Western Hemlock



Best in Show- Cascade Shimpaku by Jim Gremel (and Anne's Red Maple).



— AWARDS —

National Award (Best in Show)

Jim Gremel, Shimpaku Juniper cascade

Best Evergreen - Scott Elser, Western Hemlock

Best Deciduous

Martin Schmalenberg, Trident Maple Chuhin

Best Shohin - Suthin Sokolsovisit

Best Classic Bonsai - Mike Page, Red Pine

Best Pot/Tree combo - Julian Adams, Scots Pine

Best North American display

Jim Gillespie, Ginkgo with a battery lit Jack-o-lantern

Best Tropical - Bougainvillea from Florida



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BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

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

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Portland, Oregon 97296-0615

TreeLine deadline: 10th of the month

P. O. Box 10615
Portland, OR 97296-0615

BONSAI SOCIETY
of PORTLAND



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

St. Phillip Neri Parish

2408 SE 16th. Ave. • Portland, OR
(Northeast Corner of SE Division and 16th. Ave.)

Visitors are always welcome!

Board of Directors

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