



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

April
2017

April 22 7pm, **Critique** Japanese Gardens of Portland

April 22 10-7, April 23 10-6, **Spring Show** Japanese Gardens of Portland

April 25 6 pm, program at 7, **BSOP monthly meeting** Milwaukie Center

April 30 10am-2pm **Mentorship 101B** Milwaukie Center

May 7 10am-2pm **Mentorship 102** Milwaukie Center

Words From Your President

Let's start with the weather. We are paying the price for the 80 degree days we had in February 2016 for sure. I have, to date, watered 3 times. On the upside, it is easy to find a lot of green moss.

Hope your repotting schedule has been as successful as mine. I have been repotting for over 22 years now but recently took a 4-day class with Ryan Neil and learned a heck of a lot more. One constant is; each tree has its own unique circumstances and needs and the more you have in your arsenal of knowledge, the easier it is to handle those unique needs.

Onto some business matters. We set yet another attendance record at our General Meeting in March. The only time I have seen the Milwaukie Center that active, is at the Fall shows we have. We had more vendors, a boatload of auction and raffle items, our show and tell table was filled and the show display with Bob Laws and Scott Elser's trees was stellar. Bob's pine was so perfect that it could have been molded out of plastic. Hospitality treats were being consumed and the library was in full swing. And then, all of that was eclipsed by our first of seven Ryan Neil demonstrations.

We sent out an email flash that tells you how to access Ryan's presentation at no cost. <https://live.bonsaimirai.com/archive/video/spring-fundamentals> If you want a refresher, clarification, missed the program or are new to the club, you have 24-7 access to any presentation he does at our meetings. In addition, you may want to sign up for one of his tiers and have access to all of his streamline videos.

As always, I want to sincerely thank all of the volunteers that make this club so great, vibrant and welcoming to its newest members. We are the leaders in club management and are often asked how we do it. I have several answers but the real reason, is all of you.

As always, thank you for your trust, *See*

Japanese Garden is Going Banzai Over Bonsai

The Japanese Garden in conjunction with Michael Hagedorn, needs volunteers with bonsai knowledge. The recently opened bonsai area of the Garden is lacking knowledgeable staffing to answer questions about the trees.

If you have an interest in volunteering for this, please contact:

Catherine Adinolfi...cadinolfi@japanesegarden.org

Thanks team, The Garden, Catherine and Michael would appreciate it very much.

Lee, BSOP President

Mentorship 102 (and 103, yes, it's back)

On April 2, Andrew Robson, Michael Hagedorn's apprentice lead the Mentorship 102 group. The topic was bonsai physiology and deciduous growth management. He taught about where to cut to reach certain goals in bonsai development, emphasizing the different goals for bonsai versus pre-bonsai trees. Andrew also covered how plant hormones and sugars influence where we prune.

Other tips from Andrew:

- The best time to prune and repot Azaleas is the 3 weeks following flowering
- Avoid over wiring deciduous trees, using *clip and grow* to influence a more natural shape
- Visit Michael Hagedorn's website at BonsaiEmpire.com and study the Bonsai Fundamentals section

Andrew started with a 1-hour presentation, then went around the room helping us with our trees. With each student, he gave advice about their tree, then either Lee, Steve W., David K., or Ron C. stayed with that student to reinforce what Andrew had just advised, and to give further assistance to the student. In that way, they were able to get around the room more quickly, and each student got at least 3 turns with the experts. It worked very well!

Thanks so much to Lee, Steve, David, and Ron for helping out! And a special thanks to Steve Leaming for consistently being available with much needed supplies such as tools, wire, and pots for sale!

Mentorship 102 will meet next on Sunday, May 7 at the Milwaukie Center as usual from 10am to 2pm. And Mentorship 103 (yes, it's back!) will meet on May 21, same time of day and same place. For both mentorships, bring any tree you want to work on, whether it be pruning, styling, or repotting. It matters not, there is no specific topic, just bring anything you want help and advice on.

Happy repotting season! Elisabeth Hardy (*Liz*)

Alan Taft's Bonsai Class

Alan Taft has been leading a Bonsai workshop twice monthly at the Multnomah Arts Center on Mondays from 1:00-5:00 pm. There are usually about 8 of us who bring trees to work on, and we get one-on-one help from Alan, who is a wealth of knowledge and a very experienced and accomplished bonsai artist. The workshops are not focused around a specific topic like the Mentorships are; pretty much anything bonsai goes.

We vary in experience from beginner to advanced. The cost is \$30 per session. Space is limited, but there are plenty of sessions where there are empty spots. Alan is looking for people interested in filling in those empty spots--substitutes for the regulars who can't make it.

If you would like to be on the substitute list and would like to join us, please contact Alan at tafta24@gmail.com

Come join the fun! Elisabeth Hardy (Liz)

Fertilizer

There's still time to order fertilizer for delivery at the April 25 BSOP meeting.

Portland Rose Society 5-4-4 organic fertilizer with mycorrhizae is a specially blended organic fertilizer proven to be effective for bonsai, as well as other ornamental yard plants. The pelletized fertilizer comes in 20 pound bags, selling for \$17 per bag.

Pre-order for delivery at the meeting: contact Bill Hettick, 503-936-5629 or bhettickco@comcast.net.

Mentorship Program

2017 meeting dates

April 30	Mentorship 101B
May 7	Mentorship 102
May 21	Mentorship 103
June 4	Mentorship 102
June 11	Mentorship 103
July & August	No Mentorship
September 17	Mentorship 102
October 1	Mentorship 102
October 8	Mentorship 101A
October 15	Mentorship 101B
November 5	Mentorship 102
November 12	Mentorship 101A
November 19	Mentorship 101B
December	No Mentorship



Black Cherry Plum (Prunus cerasifera 'nigra')
by Sean Stolp
in Bonsai4me

April Haiku

Butterfly wings flit
Dancing along waters edge
Too late! Frog sees it.

Ron Yasenchak

New Books!

We are pleased to announce acquisition of three new books for the library:

Japanese Maples, the Complete Guide to Selection and Cultivation, by J. D. Vertrees and Peter Gregory published in 2009 by Timber Press: “This new fourth edition offers detailed descriptions of over 150 new introductions, updates to plant nomenclature, and new insights into established favorites. Gardeners will relish the practical advice that puts successful cultivation within everyone's grasp. Accurate identification is made simple with over 600 easy-to-follow descriptions and 500 color photographs.

In Training by Stephen Voss, published in 2016. Stone Lantern says: “...a stunningly beautiful photographic journey by Stephen Voss that captures the heart of bonsai with deeply intimate and detailed shots of some of the magnificent trees at our U.S. National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. Here's a quote from Ryan Neil (Bonsai Mirai) about this remarkable book, “There's an intimacy to bonsai that is largely invisible. It exists in those sacred moments between artist and tree in partnership; an understanding of what is and can be as it unfolds over seasons and years. Stephen's photographs shed a quiet, respectful light on these wonderful moments. I feel fortunate to see such beauty being put into the world with the careful intention these trees deserve.”

Bonsai Foundations by Stephen Cullum, published in 2016. “The Japanese bonsai aesthetic, which is widely followed but not well described in the West, is analyzed and described in terms of goal oriented design principles.

Alternative models and approaches to a tree's styling are discussed. Structural flaws are described along with causes and means for resolution. Step by step guides are provided for a variety of development paths and techniques, like pruning, layering and grafting. Detailed explanations are offered on how trees grow, formulation and testing of successful potting media and demystifying fertilizers.

The aesthetic design principles form the basis for suggested objective judging criteria. The book is suitable for all experience levels, bringing objectivity to every day management activities as well as offering new ways to look at aesthetics and styling outside the Japanese environment.”



NATIVES exhibit at Pacific Bonsai Museum

This weekend I had the privilege of attending the opening of the new, summer long exhibit at the Pacific Bonsai Museum in Federal Way. This year's special exhibit is simply titled, NATIVES, and features bonsai native to all corners of the good ol' US of A.

What makes this exhibit stand out is the comprehensive approach to a visual presentation of the American landscape. Fourteen vignettes portray a distinct segment of the American outdoors featuring a backdrop painting by German artist luna Tinta. Wonderfully abstract at times, and others times representational, these paintings create a palette of colors rhythms that draws you into each landscape. In each scene, a bonsai from noted Northwest artists like Ryan Neil, Mike Hagedorn, Randy Knight, Dan Robinson, and myself, as well as trees from the museums permanent collection pair with each painting.

Completing the visual treat are kusamono created for especially for each scene. BSOP member Vicki Chamberlain of Ashland created custom ceramic containers representing each locale, partly from materials or minerals from the same locale. Maryland artist Young Choe then created wonderful kusamono with plants from again, the same native locale. Can you say native five times fast?

The whole effect is simply stupendous. We've not seen anything like it and certainly it is going to have an effect on North American bonsai, much like the Artisan's Cup has, in setting new standards and a different approach. Accompanying the main displays in each alcove are two additional trees from the same region, often by the same artist. You will probably see species and forms that you've not seen before. And some trees rarely seen as bonsai.

A favorite of the crowd was the Tucker Oak representing southern California. Gnarly, twisted, and still bleakly bare this time of year, the palette created with the golden hills is so different than my own green Northwest. Another feature of the scenes is that they incorporate different views. The Redwoods, represented by the museum's own outstanding specimen, is shown with a backdrop looking up straight to the sky through a patriarchal grove. It adds a very visceral action to the scene.

The display featuring a cascade Douglas Fir of my own is just the opposite. This view is of Ecola State Park from the air. It's a calming sea of blue. This is the same tree, by the way, that was featured in an 18 month long, side by side demo with Ryan Neil and myself a few years back. It has come quite a ways in a relatively short time. Speaking of Ryan, the color of the Badlands painting paired with his Ponderosa Pine was astounding. Rich and elegant, the view is full of punch and energy.

One of my very favorites was Michael Hagedorn's exquisite Mountain Hemlock grove, which won the Best Conifer award at last year's National Show. It is paired with a view of Mount Rainier and calls to mind the way that you usually have to try and sneak a peek of the peak through all of those branches as you hike along. And the vine maple accompanying it completes a very graceful scene.

Along with the scenes listed above, you will find Alaska, the Bayous, Apostle Islands (Lake Superior), the Appalachians, Yosemite Valley, the Rockies, and the Cascades. Credit for this innovative and challenging exhibit belongs squarely with Aarin Packard, the curator of museum. It's really his vision that initiated the concept and drove it's creation. The exhibit runs from now until October 8th. Be sure to check on museum hours before you go. And if you can't make it, you'll be able to view it in pixel form on Mirai Bonsai soon. Or just use that as a nice preview. An exhibit catalog is forthcoming.

Scott Elser



Ponderosa Pine and Badlands by Ryan Neil



Douglas Fir and Vine Maple with view of Ecola State Park by Scott Elser



Mountain Hemlock and Vine Maple with Mount Rainier by Michael Hagedorn



Redwood with Redwood grove, museum collection



Sierra Juniper and Yosemite Valley, museum collection



Tucker Oak and Tehachapi Canyon, museum collection

Spring Show

It's here! Our annual spring show is scheduled for April 22nd and 23rd at the Japanese Gardens of Portland. In a new twist, our trees will be presented in two different spaces flanking the new plaza at the Gardens and adjacent to the new, permanent bonsai gallery. Anyone entering the Gardens will pass right by our bonsai display. The show will be a little smaller than we are accustomed to, but a tasty one, none the less.

We will be exhibiting formal displays inside with more casual displays and demos on the exterior. We still have a slot or two that we can squeeze in, so please send a photo if you have a tree that you would like to show. Set-up will be on Friday at starting about 10 am and continuing throughout the day. More info will be forthcoming to exhibitors. There are many trees coming that you have not seen before, so I hope that you all can make it.

We will also hold our annual critique on Saturday, starting at 7pm. We'll start out with a potluck of finger food and desserts, with beverages provided by the club. If you wish to bring wine, you may do so. Just make sure it is non-staining. The price is \$10 per person.

The new garden hours are from 10-7, so the exhibit will be open from 10-7 on Saturday, and 10-6 on Sunday, closing a little earlier for take down. Be sure to plan your travel for limited parking. Anything close to the garden is paid by the hour and of course, parking in the neighborhood is sparse at best. I am really looking forward to our new digs and the opportunities they provide. See you there.

Scott Elser

Surprise Mom with Uniquely Beautiful Trees at the Puget Sound Bonsai Association's Spring Show on Mother's Day Weekend, May 13-14, 2017

SEATTLE/FEDERAL WAY -- Tired of taking mom to the same old brunch spot when May rolls around?

Fear not. Something uniquely beautiful is on the horizon for Mother's Day. And it's free.

Introduce mom and the whole family to bonsai, the art form of growing trees in pots, at the Puget Sound Bonsai Association's (PSBA) Spring Show. The PSBA Spring Show is one of the newest Mother's Day events happening in Western Washington in 2017. This annual event features a diverse collection of beautifully shaped and artistically presented trees created by PSBA members, and displayed at the Pacific Bonsai Museum, a cultural gem featuring world-class bonsai from around the globe elegantly displayed in a woodland setting.

This is the first year the PSBA Spring Show takes place both on World Bonsai Day (Saturday, May 13, 2017) and Mother's Day (Sunday, May 14, 2017). World Bonsai Day is held worldwide every 2nd Saturday in May to honor bonsai master Saburo Kato



Bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea glabra*) by James Smith



Sierra Juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) by Masaharu Imazumi



Sierra Juniper (*J. occidentalis* var. *australis*) by Ryan Neil

and his belief that bonsai has the power to unite people by acting as a bridge to international friendship and peace.

"We're dedicated to educating people in the art and culture of bonsai," said Edd Kuehn, President of the PSBA. "This year, we're especially excited to introduce many more people to bonsai by hosting our Spring Show on World Bonsai Day and Mother's Day."

Moms, dads, kids, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and people of all ages will have the opportunity to view and vote for their favorite tree in PSBA's Spring Show, as well as stroll through the Pacific Bonsai Museum's world-renowned collection of trees.

On-site activities at the PSBA Spring Show will include:

- Outreach and education about local bonsai events, programs, and resources
- Free on-site guidance on the art and culture of bonsai from docents
- Ballots to vote for your favorite tree and enter a drawing for a free bonsai tree
- Scavenger hunt for kids and adults
- Pacific Bonsai Museum pop-up store
- Food truck

"We hope people will leave the PSBA Spring Show with a sense of awe and serenity from viewing so many beautiful trees," added Edd Kuehn. "And if some visitors are inspired to learn more about bonsai, or even want to learn how to create their own tree, we'd be thrilled."

Event details:

WHAT: Puget Sound Bonsai Association Spring Show

WHEN: World Bonsai Day, Saturday, May 13, 2017
Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, 2017

TIME: 10 AM - 4 PM both days

WHERE: Pacific Bonsai Museum
2515 S. 336th St.
Federal Way, WA 98003

(just a 30-35 minute drive from downtown Seattle)

TICKETS: The PSBA Spring Show is free and open to the public. The Pacific Bonsai Museum is admission by donation.

The Puget Sound Bonsai Association (PSBA) was formed in 1973 and is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the education of its members and the general public in the art and culture of bonsai. For more information about the PSBA and the Spring Show, visit <http://www.psba.us>

Pacific Bonsai Museum connects people to nature through the living art of bonsai. A grand outdoor setting with the elegance of a fine museum, the Museum boasts 150 bonsai and the most diverse public collection in North America with trees from Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and the United States. For more information about the museum, visit pacificbonsaimuseum.org.



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Welcome to the Village



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The Bonsai Society of Portland meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The Milwaukie Center

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie OR 97222

Enter parking lot from Rusk Road

Visitors are always welcome!

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Contact information is on the BSOP website www.portlandbonsai.org.