



the **TREE LINE**

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

Upcoming Events

April
2018

- April 22 10-2 **Mentorship 101B**, Milwaukie Center
- April 24 6-9pm **BSOP monthly meeting**, Milwaukie Center
- April 28,29 10-7 **Spring Show**, Japanese Garden
- May 5,6, **Spring Garden Fair**, Canby Fairgrounds, Canby
- May 6 10-2 **Mentorship 102** Milwaukie Center
- May 20 10-2 **Mentorship 103** Milwaukie Center
- May 22 6-9pm **BSOP monthly meeting**, Milwaukie Center

Words From Your President

I'm so glad that Oregon legalized pot. For so long, 23 years to be exact, I always had to hide what I was doing this time of year. But now I can pot my trees to my heart's content and if I want to, I can do it in the front yard and no one can do anything about it. That police officer that just drove by gave me that look but with the new law in place, I was able to give him the same look back.

I don't know about you but now that April is nearing half gone, I believe, that I am done potting. But there is always that one tree that moves about my garden trying to avoid my sickle and shears. You can run, but you can't hide forever.

My neighbors hate the new law. We have one of those residential committee thingys where they think they can boss you around if they want to. You know, like, if you leave your trashcan out at the curb 5 minutes after the trashman...oops cancel that...the engineering recycler has removed its contents.

I think I am on the perfect neighborhood committees most wanted list. If you drive by my house, you would see the following soil situation: a wheel barrow filled over the rim with water logged soggy soil and on top of that, two 15-gallon containers filled also to capacity with same. The barrow's tire is only flat on the bottom so I think I am still able to add more but your feedback would be appreciated if you feel I am in error. Next to that skyscraper of soil is my sifter deluxe just waiting for the sun to show itself for more than 3 days in a row so I can process my old soil into propagation soil.

I probably did not mention that due to the new law, I have been so busy that I have not cut the grass, not to be confused with my pot collection. Annd...that I have a variety of club trees, and bareroot trees either on the grass and on the front patio and, and. You get the picture and can understand why I am #1 on the committees hit list.

By now you must be asking yourself, what is he going on about. How are things with the club and all that. What is forthcoming and where are we headed? And to that I will just say... up, upwards and always moving forward. Your club, thanks to you and those who have come before us, is known for being the club to emulate not immolate; thank you spell checker.

So I will leave you now and head off to visit my favorite pot stash and see if I can find that last elusive tree to sink my shears into.

And if you have stayed with me this far...as always, thank you for your trust, *Lee*

April Program

We have had a great year so far for speakers. We finished off the Ryan Neil series in January; what a stellar program that was. In February and March we had Aaron Packard and Austin Heitzman, respectively, bringing their expertise to us.

We continue to have more than 125 members attend our meetings, so we must be doing something right.

That brings us to our April program: Andrew Robson will be our presenter. Andrew is currently apprenticing with Michael Hagedorn and has been for many years. He brings a wealth of information with him. Andrew has been an active member of our society since June of 2016, and has spoken at our mentorship workshops on two occasions.

Bring your notetaking devices as I guarantee you that he will be presenting some memorable information.

Mentorship 102

Mentorship 102 met on Sunday, April 8. As we are in the heat of repotting season, that's exactly what we concentrated on. We opened the meeting with general questions, which generated some great discussion! Then Lee, Roger and Joanne shared some of the Mirai magic they have been learning in the classes they are taking from Ryan. Lee showed us several different hold-down techniques using chopsticks and wire rather than always just wiring the root mass. They are also using more steel wire these days. Great stuff!!!

Following the demonstration/lesson, Lee, Roger, Joanne and also Ron went around the room giving individual help to those who asked for assistance. Thanks to all of you!

Mentorship 102 meets next on Sunday, May 6. AND Mentorship 103 on May 20.

Happy potting, *Elisabeth (Liz) Hardy*

PS: Someone left their purple commuter mug on the window sill on Sunday. If you will let me know who you are, I can get it back to you.

BSOP Invited to the Canby Spring Garden Fair!

2018 will be the 34th year that the Clackamas County Master Gardeners have been presenting the **Spring Garden Fair** at the Canby Fairgrounds. Scheduled for **May 5 and 6** this year, this is one of the absolute best garden events of the year with over 100 vendors supplying everything for the gardener. Virtually any type of plant you might be looking for, including new varieties being introduced this year, along with tools, pots, art work... a gardener's dream.

BSOP has, for the first time, been offered a booth at the Spring Garden Fair. This is an exceptional opportunity to fulfill our non-profit mission. We will have one table from which to spread the word about the art of bonsai. We can offer a small display, or provide a demonstration, pass out information about the club and the Rendezvous – maybe all of the above?

To take advantage of this opportunity we need **eight volunteers**, two people per four-hour shift. 9:00am-1:00pm and 1:00pm to 5:00pm both days, the Sunday afternoon shift responsible for break down. You will be given a free pass and free parking – stay late or come early and take advantage of the fabulous gardening opportunities.

If you have a smallish tree that you could display (half a table or less), that would be the focal point of the booth. If you can spend a morning or afternoon trimming or wiring one of your trees, that will draw people in. This is not a formal demo – just working on your tree(s) and talking about bonsai. Just like we do at the Japanese Garden Show.

This should be of **special interest to our newer members** – you don't need to know a lot about bonsai; you will be paired with a more experienced member. You're not teaching classes, just talking about the art and BSOP. It's your beginner enthusiasm that will catch people's interest. Not to mention, close proximity to ALL THOSE PLANTS!

To volunteer, there are three ways to sign up 1)go to the BSOP website, log onto Member Services and select the Garden Fair icon; 2).. send an email to Jan at janhettick@comcast.net ; or 3)use this URL

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0445ADA62BA3FB6-canby

If you can volunteer for the BSOP booth or not, this is a fantastic event. Admission is just \$5.00 per person (under 16 free) There are plenty of free attractions - making it worth the drive to Canby. For more information about the Fair, see springgardenfair.org

*Clackamas County Master Gardeners **SPRING GARDEN FAIR***

May 5 & 6 , 2018 Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Clackamas County Event Center, 694 NE 4th Ave, Canby, Oregon 97013

Calling all Volunteers!

Have you cleared your calendars for BSOP's RENDEZVOUS coming this September 14, 15th and 16th? Volunteer opportunities are filling fast. Don't miss out on this opportunity to contribute to the success of OUR bonsai convention. It promises to be an exciting opportunity to contribute while also soaking up the creative local and national Bonsai scene.

Here's the link to Sign Up:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0445ada62ba3fb6-2018>

Q&A

Although it has been many years since I joined the Bonsai Society of Portland (about 23?!), I remember vividly all the questions I had with few ways to find out the answers. The club was much smaller then, and I was shy. Didn't want to bother people with "stupid" questions. While I don't subscribe to the theory that there is no such thing as a stupid question (truly, there are stupid questions), the thing I have learned over the years is that if I have a question about something, most likely there are others who have the same question.

So, it becomes my responsibility to speak out for people who can't or won't ask. That being the case, it is also my responsibility, when I hear a good question and a good answer, to share it. Thus, what we have here is "Q&A". You ask a question, I find an answer (hopefully a correct answer), and publish it for others to learn from. Whether or not this becomes a regular feature of the Tree Line, only time will tell. Maybe nobody will submit a question? Maybe I can't find an answer! But let's give it a try. Here is a question for this month, somewhat paraphrased. I hope you enjoy the answer. Jan

Member's Question: I just picked up some of the Portland Rose Society fertilizer to use on my bonsai trees. I don't want to use too much or not enough. The directions on the package are for in-ground rose bushes, but that doesn't help with the bonsai. Can you tell me the amount to use and give me some directions for using it?

Answer: (This reply came from President Lee Cheatle.) There are a lot of factors that affect the when and why of fertilizer. Details can be found in many books and videos from the club library, plus the Mirai Video series and Scott Elser's Branch Tips, both of which are available for free on the club website.

If you have conifer trees, the species and ramification stage are critical, and generalized instructions are not as easily given. But for the sake of simplicity, here are some rough guidelines which apply primarily to deciduous species.

Basic Fertilizing Advice for Beginning Bonsai Artists

If your tree is in development stage, you can start fertilizing now through Fall, and stop when the leaves have turned to Autumn hues. Development stage is defined as trying to grow the trunk and branch caliper prior to ramification.

If you are past the development stage and into the ramification stage, do not fertilize deciduous trees until after the leaves have become stiff (hardened off). Also, the leaves will turn a darker color. Prior to this point, fertilizer will cause longer internodes and larger leaves. Evergreens, such as boxwoods and azaleas, can be fertilized all growing season.

There are two methods of application – put the fertilizer in tea bags or directly on the soil.

Direct Application: Putting the pellets (or powder, if the pellets have broken up) directly on the soil is a good way to start. Sprinkle it evenly over the soil surface every four weeks. Let's use one tablespoon on a 10" round pot as our point of reference. Add more or less for larger or smaller pots. When it is watered the first time it may spread out and form a thin slick over most of the soil surface. When that happens, wait until the fertilizer top layer is pretty dry, then break it up some. If you don't break it up it will remain a slick each time you water. The down side of

the direct application method is the fertilizer percolates down into the soil and begins to clog the all-important air spaces between your soil particles.

Using Teabags: Use one teaspoon fertilizer per bag. Buy teabags at Asian stores or on line.

Amount to use: Again, our point of reference is the 10” pot. Place three teabags evenly around the pot. For smaller pots use fewer bags; larger pots use more bags. Most of us use a toothpick or nail to keep the bags in place, as the birds like to flip them over to get to fly larvae beneath them. (please note – dogs REALLY like the PRS fertilizer, so watch out)

Process: Four weeks later, leave the first bags in place and position a new bag to the left/clockwise of the first one. Four weeks later repeat. You should now have nine bags on the soil surface. At the end of that third, four-week period, remove the first bag and replace it with a new bag. Continue this procedure for the duration of the fertilizing season.

The reason for this rotation is that it only takes three to four weeks for all the nitrogen to be gone from the fertilizer, but it takes 12 weeks to leach out the other minerals it contains.

Note: The most important time to fertilize ALL trees is in the Fall. That is when they are gathering and storing resources for the upcoming Spring flush.

This should get the fertilizer process started. For more details, check out the sources mentioned earlier, ask someone at the BSOP meetings, or attend a Mentorship 102 or 103 class.

Japanese Garden Spring Show

The 2018 Spring Show is here, next weekend at the Japanese Gardens, April 28th and 29th. I hope that you get a chance to come and enjoy this years modest exhibit. Many of you have volunteered, so I know we will see you there. The hours will be 10-7 on Saturday and 10-6 on Sunday. We are going to be doing some demonstrations with folks working on their own trees, showing regular bonsai techniques and maintenance.

Also, since we are not having the usual Saturday evening critique this year, we will be having a popular vote for the best trees during the entire weekend. Just pick up a ballot and instructions from the volunteers at the show. All trees (except previous winners) are eligible and will be marked for their proper categories. See you there.

Scott Elser

FERTILIZER

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 \$18 per bag .

Pre-order prior to Sunday, April 22, for delivery at the April 24 meeting between 6:00 and 7:00pm. Contact Bill Hettick, 503-936-5629 or bhettickco@comcast.net.

BSOP Mentorship Program Update

A prime advantage to membership in the Bonsai Society of Portland is our Mentorship Program. This article recaps the program for our newer members, and provides our more seasoned members updated information. The goal of BSOP is to educate as many people as we can about bonsai. We have found over the years, that a well organized Mentorship Program is the best way to teach our club members the basics of their newly chosen art form. Our Mentorship Program makes acquiring bonsai knowledge easy... or at least easier.

Every bonsai hobbyist remembers when they first began studying bonsai, and how daunting it was to get the answers needed to succeed. So many rules, and everyone you talk to has a different approach. How is a newbie to know what is best? Well, that is what the Mentorship programs are all about; a place to meet and acquire bonsai knowledge.

There are several “levels” of Mentorship: 101, 102 and 103. The 101 series is designed for the novice and teaches basic skills. It is a series of sessions, each of which builds on the knowledge gained in the previous sessions. Classes should be taken in succession. 101 has been divided into two groups, A and B, in an effort to keep class size at a functional level. The curriculum is the same in each class. Mentorship 102 and 103 are for more experienced hobbyists. Basic skills are understood, and the focus is on refinement and more advanced techniques.

101

At this writing in April 2018, we are in the final month of our current Mentorship 101 series, the one that began last October. Now here is the change: Instead of starting the next Mentorship 101 series this coming October as we have the past few years, we will instead start in January 2019. The 101 syllabus will be overhauled to accommodate some improvements that will keep our lessons at a basic, clear and concise level.

Very soon we will have a signup sheet available on the BSOP website for the next 101 Mentorship Program. As soon as that is available we will announce it in our newsletter and via an email blast. It is anticipated that 101A will continue to meet on the second Sunday of the month, and 101B will continue to meet on the third Sunday of the month. Exceptions will be announced well in advance. We will continue to meet at the Milwaukie Center in the Oregon Grape Room, from 10am to 2pm.

The 101 classes will continue to be provided at no charge, although you are asked to purchase the trees that are provided. This is so each member of the class has the same kind of material to work on and are learning the same things. The trees are priced at or below cost, and are yours to grow and care for in the future. While participants are welcome to bring their own tools and supplies, BSOP has everything you might need, including tools, wire and soil. A BSOP member, Portland Bonsai Supply, typically brings his store so you can obtain pots, tools and other supplies on the spot.

102 and 103

The best way to emphasize what these sessions are about, is to say... “come one, come all!” The point here is that the 102 and 103 sessions are for ALL BSOP members to attend, regardless of knowledge or experience. The sessions are workshop format than formal classes, but each includes a short lecture on season-specific information and often includes a guest speaker. The topic of each meeting is announced via email and/or announced in the newsletter prior to the meetings. Participants bring in their own material, tools, wire, etc. However, we do have

a good quantity of tools and wire for those who need them.

Mentorship 102 typically meets on the first Sunday of each month. 103 meets the third Sunday of each month, but ONLY when there are no 101 classes. 103 sessions will begin again in May and June. There are no classes in July and August, and this year, due to the Rendezvous, none in September, but sessions will begin again in the Fall (after Rendezvous). You do not need to graduate from 101 to attend and participate in 102 and 103. Please just come and learn. Bring trees with you. Remember, observation can be the best learning tool.

The most important aspect of the Mentorship Program is our volunteers. The most valuable thing anyone has in their lives is their time. Those of you who come to any of these workshops, 101, 102 or 103, have seen from two up to eight of our seasoned members sharing their time week after week, giving you their expert assistance. Without them, the Mentorship Program would not exist. Please take the time to thank them for giving you their valuable advice, but more importantly, for the time they invest in you.

Your Mentorship Chairman, *Lee Cheate*

April Haiku

When needles turn brown
They never turn green again
Smile, no need to frown.

John Naka original

Ron Yasenchak

Scott's BRANCH TIPS

BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

Three's a Crowd

We are all in the midst of the repotting season and it seems to take quite a toll on our personal and social time as we descend into a furious frenzy of cutting, sifting, chopsticking, and mossing. However, it also happens to be the best time of year to work on many trees that haven't been repotted. Such is the case for many of our conifers that are just starting to wake up. It is sort of a lull between deciduous and conifers for me. The weather has really wreaked havoc in the system, both my schedule and that of the trees. We are all a bit confused. Things seem to be settling down and on their way to a splendid spring.

The push right now is to get my conifers pruned, if they were not last fall, so that all of the energy can be maximized and focused in the areas desired. This process also balances out the strength of the tree. One tree that I worked on recently is a largish Engelmann Spruce. Many of you are familiar with this tree. It has been seen at our shows once or twice as well as being shown at the Artisan's Cup in 2015, National Show in New York in 2016, and the Natives Exhibit at the Pacific Bonsai Museum in 2017. Yep, that tree. It sure is well travelled.

It is also the tree that I, or we, styled together about a dozen years ago, when Boon got me into a Golden State workshop with none other Masahiko Kimura, and his young Jedi apprentice, Ryan Neil. What a fortuitous meeting, with my two teachers and Mr. Kimura. But since this tree spent most of last year up in Federal Way at the Natives exhibit, it was time to take stock and prune out any dead tips, cut back where I could and generally reacquaint myself with the tree.

When I exhibited the tree at the Artisan's Cup, it was a last minute replacement for a tree that dropped out at the last minute from California. As such, it was some really late nights getting it ready for the show. It was already somewhat wired and cutting in. So I reworked the tree and told myself that most of the wire could stay, though I cut out much of the heavier wire for aesthetic reasons and everything held pretty well. But then it was on to New York the next year, with a partial dewiring, and adding mostly detail wire.

I worked on it a whole day with Ryan to get the first branch just right as a model to follow and learned much. I finished the tree myself but I was dissatisfied with the results. There was this sort of gnawing discomfort that it just wasn't giving the impression that I wanted. However, I was still very proud of the achievement because it was very full and much more developed than most collected spruces. Maybe too much so. The crown was almost a solid helmet of foliage with not enough separation between elements. It has fabulous dead wood, but the foliage was rather boring. Still wondering what the future of the tree was, I sent it to New York and then to Pacific for the 2017 season.

Fast forward to our current pruning session. As I began looking for back buds to prune back to, I realized there weren't many. Many fewer than I expected. I think this was partly due to the reduced amount of light at the Museum and less fertilizer during the season (per my instruction, at the time). But as I began to look at the branches, I think there was another big contributing factor. And that was overcrowding. There were just too many branches to support. The tree grows like a juggernaut, but all of that energy was being dissipated into more and more branches. This is a very good problem to have. It took a good dozen years to get here, but now I realize that it was time to reassess and start thinning things out.

While pruning this tree I was very committed to the rule of two. Only allow two branches at any intersection. It could be the trunk and a branch, two larger or two smaller branches, or a large and small combination. But two is going to be it and I will be ruthless about it. It was then that I discovered that I had junctures of three and four branches all over the tree. In my desire to maximize the foliage mass for consecutive shows I had inadvertently sacrificed the structural quality of the tree. I was so focused on the creation of nice foliage pads that I didn't fully reexamine the tree each time I touched it.

It is very common to leave three shoots on the end of branch for fullness before a show. But since I had stacked all these shows up in a row, after four years, those shoots turned into ramified branches, which I hadn't questioned. I also discovered that this was a major factor contributing to wire cutting in at an astronomical rate. Spruce are known for wire marking rapidly and this tree is no exception. The stronger the bend, the more it cuts in. That is very predictable on spruce.

When folks are new to bonsai, they generally fall into two camps. Pruners and Waterers. The Pruners are people who will readily prune their trees down to a stump without blinking an eye. They can leave the tree rather weak and unresponsive until it builds its strength back up. Waterers are content to nurture their trees slowly over time. They would prefer to go through a long prayer ritual to the bonsai gods before they are ready to cut off a single shoot. I definitely fell into the former camp and have learned to balance my approach.

But this spruce had had enough of nurturing. Now was the time to prune. It was DAMN hard. I spent a lot of time growing those branches. And mostly, they were *good* branches. I had to weigh many factors. I was not going to keep three, sometimes four, branches at one juncture. So what to do? Do I keep the two shorter ones? Do I keep a long and short. Do I keep the one on the right or left? So, here is my little hierarchy to make those decisions.

One, keep the branches with live buds. This is so hilariously obvious, yet is the one I get caught with all the time. If you have elongating species, like the spruce, and you pinched it the previous season, you won't necessarily have buds on the tips. Plus, there can be insect damage, overall weakness, etc... So always check to see if there is a bud.

Next, do I need the length? Sometimes I do. At other times, I want to compact and keep short. In that case, I like to keep a long and short branch. It looks more natural and develops more elegantly. Thirdly, where are the adjacent branches growing? By pruning, will I make a hole, which may actually be desirable for some negative space, or is there a better branch available to take its place? In all cases for this spruce, there was always something available nearby. And finally, can I improve the structure of the tree? Can I eliminate flaws like crossing branches? For a show, I may wire things into position to fill a hole that I would never keep long term, or so I thought, four years ago.

Now that the job is done, I have a renewed fondness for the tree and vision for the future. It was quite harrowing at first, but now I see a tree once again. Good trees are intimidating, old and large ones even more so. By pruning, it got older and more tree like, and I now feel as though I can bring it to fulfill the potential it has had all along. The tree looks great and I would have to show you the garbage can full of branches to prove that I pruned anything.

Please note how the apex is slowly being moved to the right and that the back branch is finally peeking around the right side. I left all of the wire that was not cutting into branches on the tree to help hold it for this next growing season, but come fall, I am really looking forward to completely dewiring the tree and restyling it from scratch. I did not have time now, with preparations under way for our Spring Show.

It is now set up to grow vigorously through this next year and build up strength for a good styling session. There will likely be much more pruning at that time. But at least for now, the strength is balanced and many structural flaws are eliminated. Remember, three's a crowd.

Here's to a great growing year ahead! *Scott Elser*



Tree as collected by Randy Knight, 2004



Repotted and ready to go for the workshop



Golden State workshop with Mr. Kimura and Ryan Neil, 2006



Mr. Kimura, Ryan, Myself, Boon.



Final Result



Artisan's Cup 2015



2016



Freshly pruned by unstyled, 2018

Could essential oils enhance biopolymers performance for wound healing? A systematic review.

Pérez-Recalde M¹, Ruiz Arias IE², Hermida ÉB³

Abstract

BACKGROUND: Millions of people in the world suffer from chronic wounds of different etiologies such as diabetic foot and leg ulcers, without solutions nowadays. Molecules obtained from plants offer an alternative to aid wound healing. Strong evidence about essential oils (EO) anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties is thoroughly described in literature and their chemical compositions are well characterized. More recently, EO effects in experimental wounds have begun to be analyzed.

AIM: We aim to summarize the evidence of EO in experimental wounds, and the possibility of combining them with biopolymers commonly used in skin regeneration.

METHODS: Electronic databases such as ScienceDirect, PubMed and Scopus were used to search scientific contributions until March 2017, using relevant keywords. In a first step, literature focusing on EO and/or mono- or sesqui-terpenoids effects in rodent wounds was identified and summarized. In all cases, chemical structures and EO composition were detailed, as well as references to in vitro activities previously determined, e.g. antibacterial, antioxidant or anti-inflammatory. In a second step, scientific literature devoted to combine EO and biopolymers with the focus set on wound healing innovations, was collected and analyzed.

RESULTS: Treatments with EO from species of genders Lavandula, Croton, Blumea, Eucalyptus, Pinus, Cymbopogon, Eucalyptus, Cedrus, Abies, Rosmarinus, Origanum, Salvia and Plectranthus, have shown positive results in rodent wounds. All of these EO were mainly composed by monoterpenoids-thymol, 1,8-cineole, linalool-or monoterpenes, as limonene or pinenes. Experimental wounds in rodents have shown faster closure rate, better collagen deposition and/or enhanced fibroblasts proliferation. In blends with biopolymers, several EO combined with chitosan, alginate, gelatin or collagen, were processed to give active films or nanofibers, with antioxidant, anti-inflammatory or antimicrobial activities. Curiously, all of these works were carried out since 2010.

CONCLUSIONS: There is significant evidence about the effectivity of EO as wound healers. The incorporation of EO into a polymer matrix that contributes to wound healing is still incipient. However, scientific based evidence of the EO incorporation in resorbable polymeric scaffolds was found and analyzed herein. In summary, EO-biopolymer dressings or scaffolds have become promising artifacts regarding wound treatments, especially in chronic wounds, where treating infection and inflammation are still important issues.

KEYWORDS: Active dressings; Biopolymers; Essential oils; Monoterpenoids; Skin regeneration; Wound healing

Paul Krasner



Monthly meeting Formal
Display

Lee Cheadle's Itoigawa

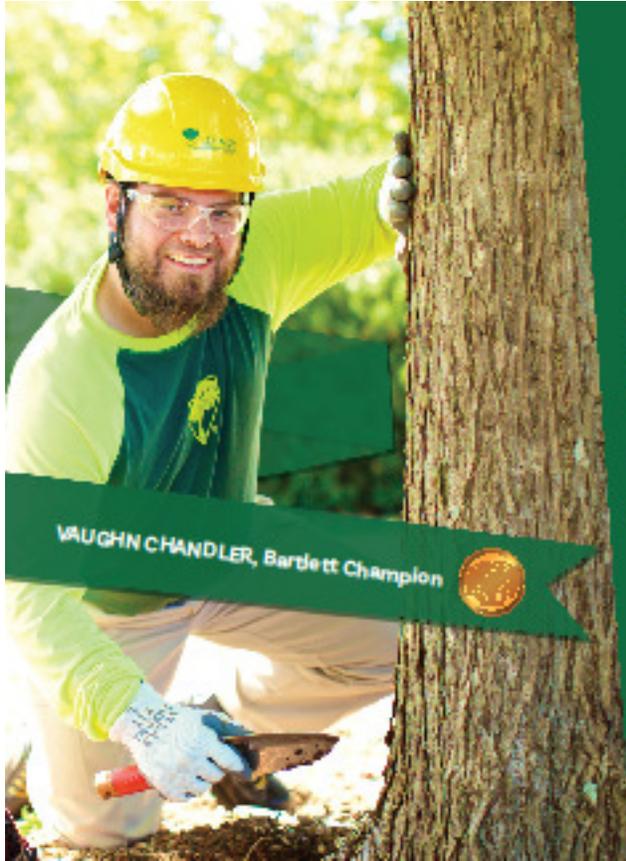


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The Bonsai Society of Portland meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

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.