



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

May
2017

May 18 6pm **Rendezvous** meeting Chevy's back room Bangy Road, Lake Oswego

May 21 10am-2pm **Mentorship 103** Milwaukie Center

May **23** 6 pm, program at 7, **BSOP monthly meeting** Milwaukie Center

Please note: 4th Tuesday, not last Tuesday

June 4 10am-2pm **Mentorship 102** Milwaukie Center

June 11 10am-2pm **Mentorship 103** Milwaukie Center

Words From Your President

It appears that the weather has changed for the better and that Spring is upon us. Our trees are growing so rapidly that I have to water twice when the temperature is 75 degrees...but I can live with that; long live Spring.

My message theme for the next 16 months is going to be our upcoming 2018 Northwest Bonsai Rendezvous. You may think I am starting too soon but I am not. We voted as a team to have the convention in 2018 and as a team, I need you to approach me or Jan Hettick and volunteer to be a part of the endeavor.

The way it works, in a lot of clubs, is each person thinks the other person will volunteer and so they try to outwait each other...we can't afford that; not with as big a project as putting on 3-day show is. We are also not like those clubs...please prove me right and consider coming to the Rendezvous meeting on Thursday evening the 18th of May. We want you to RSVP. Please contact Jan Hettick at janhettick@comcast.net and let her know you can attend. She will give you the location and time where the meeting will be held. Those who come, we are hoping will be chairpersons or vice-chairpersons for the Rendezvous or just want to get involved early with the project.

Hope to see you all soon. As always, thank you for your trust, *See*

BSOP Programming for May

Last month we had Todd Schlafer speaking as part of our Mirai series. If you missed any of the talk or just would like to watch the video again you can access the videos from a link on PortlandBonsai.org or Live.BonsaiMirai.com. I hope you are all enjoying the programs this year and I would love to hear some feedback.

For the month of May, Ryan Neil will be with us speaking on deadwood and helping us to maintain and create proper deadwood. I hope that all of you are going home and practicing the techniques we are learning in this series. In this collaboration with Mirai, our hope was that people would take what is taught in each series and use the information over the course of time between meetings.

There will be an open table for Show & Tell if you would like to bring in something, or you may bring things in for the question and answer table. **Vendors are asked to arrive no later than 5pm for set up.** If you plan on putting something into the silent auction, we ask that you fill out your auction form before setting the items to be auctioned on the table.

We have been breaking attendance records at every meeting, so we need your help. We need some help with set up and breakdown of each meeting. We have been doing great as a whole, but we need some more permanent help. If you are interested in helping, then please contact me.

Michael “*Lime*” Allen , VP-Programs, 586-879-9526 Lime1299@gmail.com

Mentorship 102 and 103

On May 7, Andrew Robson, apprentice to Michael Hagedorn, led the Mentorship 102 group. Andrew gave an abbreviated presentation on fungicides; we should be spraying our Pines and Junipers with fungicide about every 10 days during the growing season. This is a slow time of year in that repotting is finished, and we are mostly cleaning up the trees.

We had a small group. Members brought any of their trees they wanted help with as there was no specific theme. Andrew and Dave made their rounds around the room helping people with their trees, and because it was a small group, everyone got lots of attention.

Mentorship 103 will meet for the first time this year on May 21 from 10:00 to 2:00 at the Milwaukie Center in the Oregon Grape room where the focus will be working on any tree you want to, just as the 102 group did last weekend.

In June, the topic for both groups will be Juniper cleaning and maintenance. Mentorship 102 will meet on June 4, and Mentorship 103 will meet on June 11, both as always in the Oregon Grape room at the Milwaukie Center from 10:00 to 2:00

See you then! *Liz*

Fertilizer

May 23rd is the last month to get Portland Rose Society 5-4-4 organic fertilizer with mycorrhizae delivered to the BSOP meetings. This fertilizer 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.

For delivery on May 23rd you need to pre-order: contact Bill Hettick, 503-936-5629 or bhettickco@comcast.net. The fertilizer will continue to be available throughout the summer - just contact Bill and arrange to pick it up at our home in Tigard.

Bonsai Garage Sale

Saturday May 20th from 10:00am to 4:00pm

Pre and developed Bonsai, mame and shohin pots,

Landscape plants like bamboo, Kusamono material, and anything else I might pull out.

Alan Taft's, 5910 SW Idaho St., Portland 97221

New Library Books

Announcing the ordering and/or arrival of three new books for the BSOP library. Just received is the book Noelanders Trophy 10 Years, published by Stichting Kunstboek. This is a book full of beautiful pictures of beautiful bonsai, beginning with Noelanders Trophy I in 2000. In the book's introduction, Marc Noelanders describes the book as "*a book with a selection of the most extraordinary moments and the most beautiful exhibit bonsai in the past ten years... A book that shares beauty and passion. A book that inspires.*"

On order are two other books featuring photographs of fine bonsai. Two copies of the 5th U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition Album, with over 300 of the finest bonsai in the United States displayed in September 2016, and two copies of The Artisans Cup Retrospective Book featuring "*a comprehensive insider look at the premier American Bonsai Event of 2015.*" With luck, these books will be received prior to the May 23rd BSOP meeting.

Mentorship Program 2017 meeting dates

May 21	Mentorship 103
June 4	Mentorship 102
June 11	Mentorship 103
July & August	No Mentorship
September 17	Mentorship 102
September 24	Mentorship 103
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

Questions and Answers

We Want Your Questions About
Your Trees

We have a "Question and Answer" desk at every General Meeting. Bring a tree for advice or just come to ask your questions. We are moving the Q&A table just inside the door to the main room. Look just opposite the formal display. The table will operate from 6pm to 6:45pm. We hope to see you there.

See

May Haiku

Spring work is coming
New life, new beauty unfolds
Garden to garden

Ron Yasenchak

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

It is time to update the Constitution and Bylaws. Revision of the C&B requires a majority vote of members present at any meeting after notice of the changes has been provided to the membership 30 days prior to the vote. The following changes will be put to vote at the June 27, 2017 meeting of BSOP.

A copy of the current C&B, last revised 5/26/15, can be found on the BSOP website under Member Services/BSOP Documents and Articles. Because the document is 6 pages long, we will provide here only those sections for which we are suggesting changes. Parts that are to be deleted are in red (**example**) and those to be added are in bold green type (**example**). Explanations of reasons for the change are in italics (*example*).

There will not be a great deal of time for discussion before the June program starts, so anyone with questions, issues or comments should feel free to contact President Lee Cheatle, leecheatle@msn.com, or VP Membership Jan Hettick, janhettick@comcast.net.

Changes proposed for the Constitution are as follows:

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1. The Executive Board shall be empowered to formulate policies and **recommend action for the consideration manage the affairs** of the organization. Term of office shall be for two years. *To bring document into accordance with current practices and reduce time spent on business before programs.*

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Regular meetings shall be held monthly **or as deemed necessary by the Executive Board**, and the regular meeting in January shall be deemed the Annual Meeting. *To reflect practice of not holding “meetings” in July, August and December.*

ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS

These By-laws This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at any meeting providing notice of the proposed changes has been announced at the previous meeting and **mailed provided** to all voting members at least thirty days prior to the date of the vote. *To correct typo and reflect the fact that most correspondence is by email these days.*

Proposed Changes to the Bylaws are as follows:

ARTICLE I – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings, act as chairman of the Executive Board, appoint committees, and perform all other duties pertaining to the chief executive of the organization. The President is responsible for scheduling **monthly** Board meetings **as deemed necessary**. *To give President discretion in when meetings may be necessary.*

Section 3. The Second Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President if both the President and the First Vice-President are unable to preside. His/her major function shall be that of Membership Chairman, which includes **publishing a yearly maintaining a membership** roster. *To reflect the movement from a yearly printed roster to monthly rosters on the website.*

Section 4. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all **board and annual business** meetings and keep a file record of the Society's activities. The minutes of each Board meeting shall be provided to the board prior to the following board meeting. He/she shall handle all correspondence requested by the Executive Board.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall receive all Society funds or dues from the membership and others and deposit them in the Society's name in a bank designated by the Executive Board. He/she shall make payment of all bills for normal operating expenses and those submitted by Board members and designated committees up to and including \$100.00, and shall make payment of any other bills upon approval of the Executive Board. He/she shall keep a book record of all receipts and disbursements and make such reports, as the Executive Board shall deem necessary. The Treasurer shall, at the end of **the each** fiscal year, arrange for the Society books to be audited by the Finance Committee, said committee to contain no less than three BSOP members as appointed by the President. The Finance Committee shall document such audit by written report to the Board of Directors no later than April 30th of each year. *To provide the Treasurer with greater discretion and flexibility.*

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. Honorary members are those members who have been formally recognized by the Society as having contributed greatly to the furtherance of the **knowledge of Bonsai Bonsai Society of Portland and or** who are widely recognized for outstanding knowledge and skill in the art. Each honorary member is entitled to one vote. Honorary members shall be recognized in the annual roster. *To allow recognition of both members who have outstanding knowledge and skill AND members who may not be so skilled but have served the club in a significant manner for an ongoing period of time.*

ARTICLE III – ELECTIONS

Section 3. The Nominating Committee shall, after ascertaining that the nominees will serve if elected, submit the names of nominees for each office to the Board in sufficient time for the Board to provide notice to the membership at least one month prior to the **annual meeting November vote**, or by the October meeting, in even years beginning 2008. *To correct timing discrepancy.*

ARTICLE V – AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at any meeting providing notice of the proposed changes has been announced at the previous meeting and **mailed provided** to all voting members at least thirty days prior to the date of the vote. *To recognize that notification is primarily by email these days.*



A



B

Pick a Front

You can cast your vote for this wind-swept shore pine collected on Vancouver Island.

Email your choice (A or B) to

bybeach@centurytel.net

Scott's  **BRANCH TIPS**
BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

Abstract vs. Realism

If your eyes have managed to scroll down the page before you read this, you are probably wondering what these images of Mount Rainier have to do with anything related to bonsai. They are actually what I do most everyday to support my bonsai habit. That is, creating tee shirt designs for companies like Eddie Bauer, Columbia Sportswear, and Icebreaker. Eddie Bauer is an active outdoor lifestyle clothing brand with headquarters near Seattle and is nearing 100 years old. Mountains and trees figure in heavy with their Northwest heritage and the lifestyle

they represent. And since you can see Mount Rainier right out the window of their home in Bellevue, they quite naturally want to feature that majestic giant in just about any design where there's a mountain. There might be a whole collection with Denali, or Everest, K2, or the Teton, but there is always Rainier. So every season, I have to figure out a new way to represent the mountain, whether it is the feature or in the background.

By stepping out of bonsai and using tee shirt designs as examples, I am hoping that we can take a close look at the concepts of what we are dealing with and what we are trying to accomplish in our bonsai. What you can see by these examples, all from the same person, is that there are many ways to represent the same physical object and it can be associated with many different ideas. Maybe it's very literal, as in a photograph, or abstract – to the point where you might barely recognize the source.

What we have in bonsai is making some of the same choices in the way that we style trees. So, right off the bat, we put a tree in a pot, and in doing so we have removed it from world of reality and into some level of abstraction, even if we do nothing else. We could go so far as to put a pot of soil out and let the wind blow in whatever seeds it wants and come back in ten years and see what happens, but you can't get around the fact that someone made the pot. So much for being completely natural.

Now that we have that tree out of the relative comfort of the ground and into a stuffy, confining pot (which might actually provide much more comfort and stability than it ever had in the wild) we have some decisions to make. How much are we going to intercede on the behalf of both the tree and art, to make a bonsai?

We have to decide what our goal is, even with each individual tree, and what we want to represent. Do I want to create the sensation of standing on a certain mountaintop where that tree came from? Am I trying show off the beauty of its blossoms? Do I want to show it all full of vigor and health, or is it barely surviving? And more to the point of this article, do I want to show it as a highly stylized abstraction of what a tree can be, or simply represent the singular specimen that it is? Is this tree going to announce itself or just sit quietly in the corner? Will it be highly sculptural, creating defined, consistent shapes or just a, grow as you may, haphazard style?

Culture definitely weighs in heavily on what we want to see. The Japanese refined the art of bonsai through technical prowess and cultural sensibilities. The technical aspects of growing and maintaining bonsai speak for themselves. Plants don't change the way they work, so we have to learn to work with them, to support our efforts. But the cultural aspect is something that we can control. A good place to start is with Japanese aesthetics. They have learned how to evolve their trees into a style that is both pleasing and maintainable over hundreds of years. But even that style is ever changing, and different among various practitioners.

The Japanese, it would seem, crave a peaceful balance, with not a hair out of place and as close to perfection as possible. Take for instance, putting moss on the surface of a pot for exhibition. It definitely makes things look better, but for the Japanese, the thought of bringing dirty soil seen on top of the pot into their home is quite unfathomable. Contrast that with myself, who regularly piggy-backs dirt into the house from my waffle stompers. Cultural habits are different and lead to varying aesthetics.

So, back to the trees. Take a look at **Mount Rainier 1**, the usual view represented of the

mountain. It's basically what you see along I-5 especially from Seattle. Then there is view number **2**, which I took much closer to the mountain on the southwest side. Doesn't even look the same. I choose rather consciously to represent the mountain in its most familiar form on tee shirts so that folks recognize it. I myself would be much less recognized by my back side, than my front. That is a constant that I have chosen.



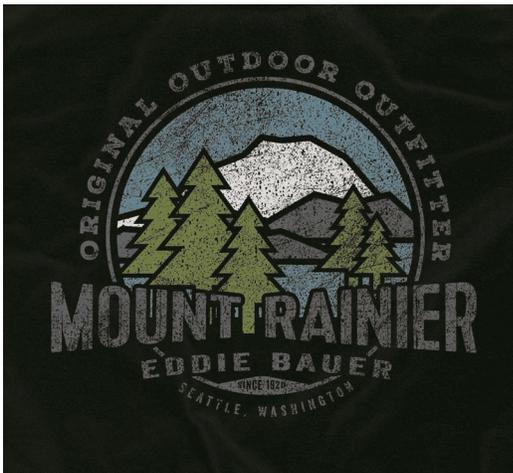
Rainier 1



Rainier 2

Now take a look at **Rainier Park**. Do you recognize the mountain? Yet I traced it from the very same views. I just used a few straight lines is all, but it's the same. Even though its roots are in a very real mountain, it is really just the suggestion of ANY mountain. The shapes are broad and highly stylized, even the trees are just one step away from Christmas ornaments.

Now observe **Rainier Pixel**. It's definitely based on a photo, something we would call real, but now the resolution in some places gets very coarse and you can barely make it out. This focuses your attention to the peak, very much in the same way that we use foliage to frame a piece of deadwood or control the way that our eye flows through design of a tree.

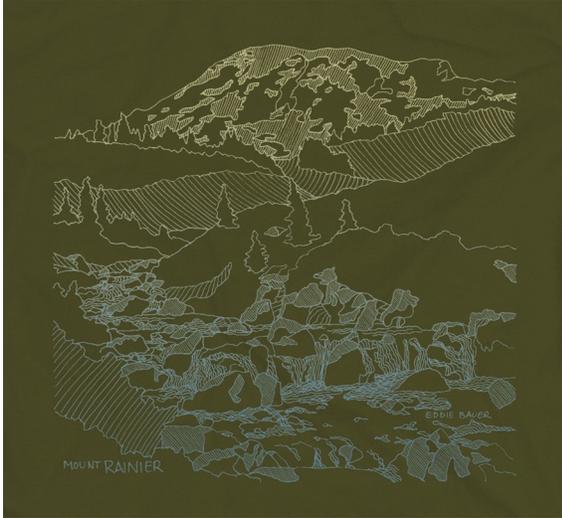


Rainier Park



Rainier Pixel

Then there is **Sketch Rainier**. This one is totally made up of lines with no shapes at all. If you get to close, it's very difficult to decide which is a positive or negative shape, but it becomes much more interesting, and even refreshing with that push/pull aspect.



Sketch Rainier



Puget Sails

And now lastly, we come to **Puget Sails**. I chose this one specifically because it is entirely made up, yet it conveys the feeling of being on a sailboat, coursing the wind through the Puget Sound. All the elements came from different sources. Mount Rainier, the foreground hills, the water, the boats, and even the little orca are all derived from different source material, yet they are assembled to evoke a certain feeling, even if it would be nearly impossible to see all of these things together at once in the natural.

But we do that same with our trees. Collect it from the wild and put it in a pot from Japan, or Europe, or Portland. Then we collect moss from down the street and put it on top. Then it's off to the nursery for an accent plant that may come from somewhere across the globe, rather than the environment the tree itself came from. Or not. Then another pot for the accent. We are already assembling pieces of culture, all with different levels of abstraction and all positively able to be enjoyed.

I have been watching most of Ryan Neil's Mirai Live videos, which you might have guessed. One of the ideas that he has been tossing around is that of ancient versus old. When we think of mature (old?) we would generally think about a pinnacle level of development. We imagine fullness and vigor. But what happens when we go past that? What happens when we get to ancient? Things start to become less ideal, and thus less abstract. Gone are the smooth even shapes. Edges begin to get ragged. There tends to be more space. I have a large Japanese Black Pine, which I am proud to say is styled more or less in the Japanese tradition, and I think it will stay that way. That's its bones, and its heritage, both physically and stylistically. But now ancient, with my American born trees, that's a whole new place to explore.

Scott Elser

HARD WON TRUTH
No. 4

Assume that any damage you see is not cultural, but a disease. Spray now. Stay on top of your diseases. Damage cannot reverse itself. You must be proactive and now with the wet spring and moderate temperatures is the most active time for infection of diseases. For a primer, check out the newsletters from June and July, 2016. Use online resources to diagnose your issues. Do it now rather than lose your favorite tree.

Spring Show in New Home

Our annual spring show returned to the Japanese Gardens one fine, rainy weekend in April. Back to the garden, but in new quarters, as our display was divided into two separate rooms across the new plaza, plus an outdoor display by Brian Lonstad. It was a great success, even though it featured fewer trees than we are used to. We saw many new trees and several new exhibitors.

Folks had a really good time during the day visiting with attendees and Saturday evenings critique was a great hit. During the critique, we voted on the best trees, shown below. Congrats to all of the winners and many thanks to all who participated, either by showing trees, helping set up or take down, tree sitting, and demonstrations. We hope to expand further into the plaza next year with more outdoor displays. Thanks everyone! All photos by Brian Lonstad.

Scott



Best Saikei - Masa Furukawa
Award - Dwarf Boxwoods -
Bob Laws



Best Conifer - Subalpine Fir - Lee Cheatle



Best Deciduous - Chinese Quince -
Dennis Vojtilla



Best Accent - Saxifrage - Scott Elser

Best Shohin - Anne Spencer Award
- Japanese Maple - Pat Foldi



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VISIT OUR VENDOR TABLE AT THE BSOP MONTHLY MEETING





Crataegus monogyna/Common Hawthorn by Harry Harrington in bonsai4me.com

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Welcome to the Village



6707 SW Pine Street, Portland, OR 97223

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.