



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

June
2019

June 23 8am **Lava Collecting Field Trip**, Tualatin Fred Meyer Parking Lot

June 25 6-9pm **BSOP monthly meeting**, Milwaukie Center

August 10 12-4pm **BSOP Summer Picnic**, Milwaukie Center

September 1 10-2 **Mentorship 102**, Oregon Grape Room, Milwaukie Center

September 14 9-4pm **Bonsai Jamboree**, Milwaukie Center

September 25 6-9pm **BSOP monthly meeting**, Milwaukie Center

BSOP June Words From Your President

Wow that was a hot spell recently, I hope everyone's trees and plants survived the upper 90s or low 100s with the low humidity.

Membership remains high at 382 members, introduce yourself and welcome some new members and share bonsai!

The BSOP picnic is almost here, I have been in talks with the Gresham Olive Garden store manager and he has offered a large donation to go with our small order to bring a nice Olive Garden meal for our club members and family for our picnic. Our idea is to bring most of the main course items. Members will provide salads, deserts and refreshments. I am trying to get a Signup Genius started so we can get an idea of what people would like to bring so we might have a wider selection of salads and deserts.

We will have from Olive Garden: 2 large lasagnas, 6 pans of pasta. 2 pans of Alfredo, meat sauce, marinara sauce, chicken, meatballs and sausage. Don't forget 6 dozen breadsticks! With our small order the donation value to our club is \$422.00. If you're in the Gresham area please stop by and thank the store manager Jeff Watson or one of his assistant managers for the generosity.

We are still looking for volunteers for the Jamboree, please check the Signup Genius on line or at this months meeting. We should have a paper copy available. The Bonsai Jamboree is September 14!

President, *Joe Johansen*

Mentorship Update

Last Mentorship 102 of the Season: We had a Pine Time Together!

We had our last Mentorship 102 class of the season on June 2, and in the words of the illustrious Lee Cheatle, we had a pine time together! Lee tells us that here in the NW, we de-candle two-flush pines from June 1 – June 15. What is a two-flush Pine you might ask? Almost always, they are black and red pines. He helped us walk through the ins and outs of pine de-candling for two-flush pines, and we also reviewed what we should be doing with single-flush pines.

Mentorship 102 will meet again in the Fall beginning September 1st. Bring trees that you want help with.

Remember the lava trip on June 23.

Until then, enjoy your summer and your trees!

Elisabeth Hardy



Kusamono
photo by Jim Baggett

Super Raffle!

At our June meeting we will continue the raffle of three trees started last month. The drawing will be at the end of the program break. Tickets can be purchased at the Super Raffle Display Table in the raffle area.

The first tree is a Sharp's Pygmy Maple in a blue glaze oval pot: 22" tall by 13" wide with a 3+ inch nebari at the soil level. This is a 23 year-old tree grown by Iseli Nursery.

Next is a Juniperus chinensis Robusta in a Tokoname pot: 24" tall by 27" wide with a 5" nebari at the soil level. This tree is approximately 20 to 25 years old, field grown by Randy Knight.

The third tree is a 28 year-old Satsuki azalea by Masa Furukawa in a dark blue glazed pot: 6" tall by 8" wide and a 3" nebari.

Good Luck!

Patty Myrick



Young Choe presented the May program on Kusamono. She created some examples on stage with some assistance from able volunteers.



Many other examples were on display for members to enjoy.



These photos courtesy of Jim Baggett.



Kusamono: Young Choe Epimedium x youngianum 'Niveum' Pot: Bill Stufflebeem

A Coastal Day

June Haiku

Sunrise sparks morning
Clouds move in this afternoon
Sunset, it's pouring.

Ron Yasenchak



LAVA LAVA LAVA...CINDER TIME

Sunday, June 23, 2019, 8am Fred Meyer, Tualatin

Well, it is time we made this announcement.....time to head to the pass and sift cinder. We will hopefully be mining black, but red is available as well.

The mentorship group attendees, and anyone else, are invited to participate in a one-day cinder sifting outing near Santiam Pass. Please sign up to let me know you are coming using BSOP's SignUp Genius page at [Sign Up Here for Cinder Collecting Field Trip](#).

Bring your own sifters or use the great and powerful cinder sifting sensation machine that we will be toting up to Little Nash Crater.

We will do a lot of carpooling: we will meet at 8am at the Tualatin Fred Meyer.

Directions to Fred Meyer: East end parking lot; exit at the Nyberg ramp off of 217 and turn left and get immediately to the inside left turn lane, it comes up fast. We meet just west of the key kiosk, which is in the parking lot east of Fred Meyer. Lots of overflow parking. We will leave the lot at 8:30am. If you miss us, have your map and directions to the crater with you!

We will then make sure all know where we are going. It is a 2.5-hour drive to the crater. Please fill your gas tanks before arriving at Fred Meyers.

Lee will bring the permit.

No hiking needed, we drive right up to where we sift. Most vehicles make it up the hill easily. If we do have problems, we can ferry people up. But to date this has never been a problem.

What should you bring?

Attitude: A friendly disposition and willingness to sift yourself silly. If everyone who is able to, takes turns on the sifter and the other tasks, the process is amazingly fast.

Containers: bring the type of containers you want to fill and are able to carry when filled. A 5 gallon bucket weighs appx. 40lbs. Buckets are popular but my last sifting sojourn I used 12" cube size cardboard boxes and that worked great. Your choice. Keep in mind you may want to take home several sizes of cinder. If you are going to self-sift, bring containers to sift into. I recommend team sifting; you'll see why, team sifting leaves others in the dust; ha ha.

Clothing: I am an optimist so I am planning on no rain. So rain or no rain, bring whatever protective gear you need. The crater is totally exposed to the elements, keep that in mind. Hats and sunglasses recommended. If we are lucky, it will be overcast with no rain, it is the best time to sift cinder. I myself cover all contingencies.

Protection: It will be dusty if it is warm and has not rained in a day or two; may want to bring a dust mask or kerchief. Tennies are fine. FIRST-AID; have not had a need but bring what you usually do on excursions.....creamy sun protection perhaps.

Food and Beverage: stay hydrated; we will be on the crater for 2 to 4 hours is my guess. Altitude is 5k plus and no shade so bring what you feel you will need to eat and drink. They have yet to open a marketplace on the crater.

Shovels: I use both a flat shovel and a spade shovel. Bring what you will. For more information call or email Lee Cheatle 503-312-4921, lcheatle@bensonhotel.com

Your Friendly Mentorship Man, *Lee*

IMPORTANT AUCTION INFORMATION

- Any BSOP member may sell at our Tuesday night auction
- Items for sale must arrive after 5:30 and **BEFORE** 6:30pm
- Bring item(s) to Auction Table and complete auction tag
 - Print legibly and press hard (to reach 4th page)
 - Seller ID is your member ID (back of badge)
 - Mark percentage to BSOP (20%, 50%, 100%)
 - If some items are 20% and some 100%, please get separate seller ID from Auction Manager.
 - Add brief description of item
 - Add minimum bid if appropriate (No minimum under \$10 please)
 - White (top) copy of bid sheet goes to Auction Manager
- If you bring something to sell
 - At end of evening, verify that it has sold
 - If not, take it with you
 - Items left after meeting become 100% donation to BSOP
- Anyone may buy
 - Members use member ID number (back of ID badge)
 - Guests get temporary number from Auction Manager
- If you bid on something, verify if you won, then
 - Allow 30 minutes for bid posting after auction close
 - Bring pink copy of auction tags to cashier with payment
 - Goldenrod STAYS WITH ITEM AT ALL TIMES, acts as buyer's copy

Mentorship 102 Students

Your mentorship chairman is reaching out to you and asking that you help him out by volunteering to demo at our upcoming September Jamboree.

Before you say to yourself that you are not qualified, believe me when I say that you are.

You choose the trees and the work that you want to do to those trees; something that you are comfortable sharing with others. The fastest way to memorize something is to teach/share it.

Please do me a favor and go to the BSOP website and find the Jamboree Signup Genius and put your name down for a demo session; or anything else you want to volunteer for.

Your club has been there for you so please reciprocate...that is a bonsai term meaning I feed you, you feed me.

Thanks, looking forward to Jamboreeing with you, *Lee*

Get ready for a BONSAI JAMBOREE!

Those of you who have been with BSOP for a few years know how much fun we have at our Fall Show; an event designed to introduce bonsai to the public but resulting in a great time for BSOP members, too. You newer members have a treat to look forward to. We didn't have a Fall Show in 2018 – we had Rendezvous, a 3-day regional convention instead. Three times the fun! This year, in 2019, we are combining what we learned from Rendezvous and what we know about the Fall Show. The result is ...

The 2019 Bonsai Jamboree Saturday, September 14, 2019 9:00am to 4:00pm

To be held at the Milwaukie Center, the Jamboree is a one-day event that includes a vendor marketplace, a member sales area (80/20), bonsai demos, kid's activities, will call/holding area, and hourly auctions and raffles. New this year, the North Wing will hold a few workshops and lectures. Details of these will be announced as soon as they can be confirmed. Most exciting, there will be a large bonsai exhibit designed for all comers. It will have the traditional formal exhibit area for fully styled bonsai and their accoutrements, There will also be an area for novice trees and for "in progress" masterpieces. All [repeat ALL] BSOP members are encouraged to bring their favorite trees. Not necessarily their best tree, but the one they like best.

Obviously we need the involvement of our BSOP membership to make this happen. One obstacle we need to overcome is the length of time between the June 25th BSOP meeting and the September 14th Jamboree. The **best** chance for people to sign up for the volunteer shift(s) of their choice in person is the June monthly meeting. As an alternative, our Volunteer Coordinator, Patrice Morrow, has set up a SignUp Genius page where you can sign on for any job you want. Just go to the BSOP website/Resources/Member Services ([BSOP SignUp Genius](#)). You will need to log in, then select the Jamboree sign up page.

Contact Jan Hettick, janhettick@comcast.net if you have trouble logging in. Contact Patrice Morrow, tm4170399@aol.com, if you have problems or questions with the sign up sheet.

Rather than put a long list of volunteer positions here in the Tree Line, I ask that you please go to the website and read through the list. There are brief descriptions of each job on the webpage. For questions about a specific job, contact Jan Hettick, janhettick@comcast.net, or Patty Myrick, verdillia@comcast.net.

One area that needs special attention: We are in need of instructors (and materials) for two full 3-hour workshops, one Saturday morning and one Saturday afternoon. These workshops will be made available to BSOP members before they are opened to the public. In addition, we need an instructor for one 1½-hour workshop in the afternoon. Keith Wingfield and his BSOP Ambassadors are priming the pump for this beginner level workshop with two Introduction to Bonsai lectures in the morning, to be followed by a mini-workshop. If you are interested in becoming an instructor for any of these three workshops, please contact Joe Johanesen, frj1@msn.com.

Time is getting short, so please take a look at the SignUp Genius page and sign up for a shift or two! Or more! We can guarantee that you will have FUN.

Jan & Patty

Scott's BRANCH TIPS

BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

Formal Upright Inspiration

Living in the great, and I do mean great, Pacific Northwest, it is easy to take for granted the inspiration that is all around us with grand Douglas Firs, muscular Red Cedar, a myriad of true firs and beloved spruces and hemlocks. Those trees are the model for the most difficult and under-utilized style in bonsai, the formal upright. In my thirty some years of bonsai, I have never tried to grow one. Maybe I was too intimidated, or maybe no material really presented itself. I now think that you have to go looking for it. That part aside, I was recently quite surprised by some other awesome examples of formal uprights.

My wife Lisa and I have been very blessed to be able to visit several national parks in the past few years and I have reported to you what we saw, especially as it relates to our favorite subject, bonsai. If you have made it this far you have probably guessed that we just made it back from another trip, this one to Yosemite, which is almost three quarters of the way to Los Angeles, tucked away in the Sierra Nevada. We tried to avoid the crowds by hitting it after Memorial Day, but before all the school's let out for the summer. Not sure we were all that successful on that count, but it sure was worth the very, very long drive. We arrived at the park on Monday morning and saw all the famous sites in the valley, like the jaw dropping El Capitan, and iconic Half Dome, as well as Yosemite Falls.

They have somewhere between 150-175% of normal snow pack this year. That meant that all of the waterfalls were in full force, thundering away. It also meant that my dream of traversing Tioga Pass over the Sierras would have to wait for another trip, as well as Mount Lassen, and Crater Lake, too. However, on Tuesday we were able to take the road to Glacier Point, which at 7,200 feet overlooks all of the valley, which is a frightening 3,000 feet straight down below you. The road had been closed by snow just the week before. By Wednesday of our trip, the crowds were amassing and after watching two shuttle busses pass us by fully loaded, we headed south out of the valley down to the Mariposa Grove of the Giant Sequoia.

The grove is accessed near the community of Wawona at the southern entrance to the park and we were fortunate to stay at the 140-year-old Big Trees Hotel. It was a great experience, but in 1879 they had no running water in rooms, or air-conditioning, so be forewarned. It was 90 degrees that day, of course. But the real treat was the Mariposa Grove. It has been closed for two and a half years after a fire to rebuild and reorganize the experience. There is now a nice big parking lot with a shuttle bus to take you up the winding road to the hiking trails. Very nice facilities. And we definitely left the crowds behind. As we hiked on our trail (oops, is there such a thing as a Freudian typo?) trail, folks started to drop off rapidly after half a mile and we were left virtually alone.

I was in this same grove about thirty years ago, back in my college days. But of course, I was not yet doing bonsai (soon, though) and I didn't remember a thing. By far the biggest surprise was not the size of the Sequoias, nor their age, etc... It was the fact that they were growing in a very mixed, open forest of many species that were also growing very large. My first real encounter with most of these species, though we do have similar trees in the northwest. I think this is really going to surprise you, so I will work through the list here. But a warning, this is thoroughly conifer country, with just a smattering of black and live oaks.



Incense Cedar – You see this tree in your Christmas garland and wreaths with all of the light-colored pollen tips. It grows very tall and slender in Yosemite, not as bulky as our own Western Red Cedar. Thickly furrowed bark. A wonderful tree.

Sugar Pine – This is frequently mentioned as a construction material for many of the lodges. It has crazy looking branches that look like bent up pipe cleaners.

Ponderosa Pine – not the same variety that you see coming from the Rockies. These are big, tall, and straight as an arrow.

White Fir – Tall and majestic. The branch tips are rather blunted, as if they had just been pruned, giving an odd look. Needles splay out flat, rather like a Grand Fir.

Western White Pine – Fewer of these and I don't know too much about them.

I also observed in other parts of Yosemite the following species, Douglas Fir, Mountain Hemlock, Jeffrey Pine (close cousin to Ponderosa) Lodgepole Pine, and Red Fir. There were also Black Oaks in the valley, along with Big Leaf Maples. I didn't see a single juniper the whole trip.

So why did I list all of these species out? For one, all of these giants were living together. Something we can all learn from, I suppose. But more importantly, they were all in bonsai terms, formal uprights. Yet their forms were vastly different, especially as they aged, and most notably in the crown. I thought a photo essay and brief study of what was happening would be useful.

This first photo is a very large Sequoia. I was able to get this



Four species mix

Young and old Sequoias

shot because the path was wide and straight (an old road). Unlike our own Pacific Northwest forests, these areas in the Sierras are very open with almost no undergrowth and very few young trees.

Combine that with the fact that many trees had been recently hit by fire or disease, but with their ramification still intact, giving us a great view into the structure of ancient trees. The trail network also ran up a hill, with most of the Sequoia in a long draw, enabling me to get some elevation relative to the tops of trees.

Notice that little Y shape down at the bottom left? That's Lisa, arms outstretched and giving you a little size perspective. Yes, the largest trees on planet earth.

Photo two gives you a nice comparison between young and old. Pyramidal saplings at the bottom are surrounded by generations of elders, contrasting the angular uniformity and fullness of youth with the rounded asymmetry of age. The foliage of Sequoias is not unlike that of a juniper or cypress. It is scaled in long strands that come together in billowy tufts.

Photo three offers us an interesting comparison. I was taking a picture of the three species in the central part, but later noticed that I got the bonus fourth species on the left. Note that they are almost all the same size, height, and scale. They are from left to right, Ponderosa Pine, White Fir, Sugar Pine, with the crazy branching, and finally, Incense Cedar. Most of these are old, but not yet ancient trees and retain their pointy apices for now. That will change in years to come as they grow older, and more asymmetrical.



Old versus ancient



Grizzly Giant

Photo four demonstrates the difference between what I am calling old, or mature, and ancient. Here are two Sequoias and notice that they are approximately the same height. That is where the similarities end. They are separated in age perhaps by several hundred years. The tree on the right is still very symmetrical and slender. The foliage is evenly distributed and crown rather pointed. The Sequoia on the left, in contrast, is much bulkier, both in the trunk and branch thickness. There are gaping holes in the foliage and the crown is rounding out.

Photo five is the Grizz, and better known as the Grizzly Giant. This is where we start to



Ponderosa Pine

get interesting and are forced to take another look at what we call old, ancient, or formal upright. The trunk is straight as an arrow, but that is the only thing uniform about the tree. Thick, contorted branches everywhere. It is even growing a new top from a branch. That branch, on the right, is over seven feet in diameter. Crazy indeed, but it's what the tree has had to do to survive. There is almost no discernable apex or even a branching pattern. It's all just random, and above all ancient. Not old. Just plain ancient, but it looks perfectly healthy.

And yes, that's Lisa again at the bottom of the photo. Behind her you can see the hollow left from a fire. These trees survive upwards of 800 years because of their ability to resist fire, and recover. An ancient cross section of a fallen giant at the parking lot revealed damage from a fire that the tree then took 117 years to heal over, but it did, and lived another couple of hundred years before falling. An incredible story. The other species in the area do not have nearly as thick or insulating of bark. Throughout the region I noticed that where there had been a fire, just the lower five to ten feet of trunk had burned, but this was enough to kill the tree, but leaving the upper structure intact. There have been some very large and numerous fires in the Yosemite region the last several years and the results have been devastating. The fire that swept through this grove several years ago was just a few yards from where we were standing. In fact, it made the hike a bit warmer, since their shade was gone. But that is the way Sequoias like it, open with no competition.

Lest you think I am going to slight the rest of the species, photo six features a nice, mature Ponderosa Pine that I would call old, but not at all ancient. However, you can start to see asymmetry taking hold of the tree as it gets older.

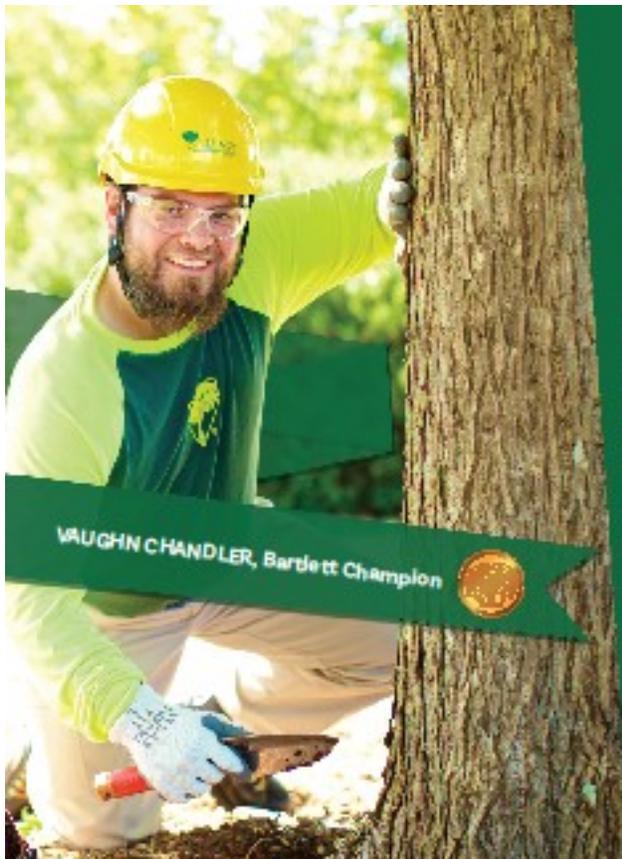


White fir top

Finally, one of the many dead trees revealing its structure. I believe that this was a White Fir by the bark, but I won't argue that it could be something else. The point here is that I saw many of these examples and this one was fairly interesting as it repeatedly divided itself, creating new apices as it was unable to push water any higher, thus limiting its total height. This is how the tree starts to round out its crown and give us a hint into how to construct the same on a bonsai scale.

I hope you have found this interesting and I invite you to search the details in the photos for yourself, as there are more than I can write in this space. This also informs our other styles of bonsai, so there are many insights to be gained. Above all, consider an inspirational trip for yourself.

Scott Elser



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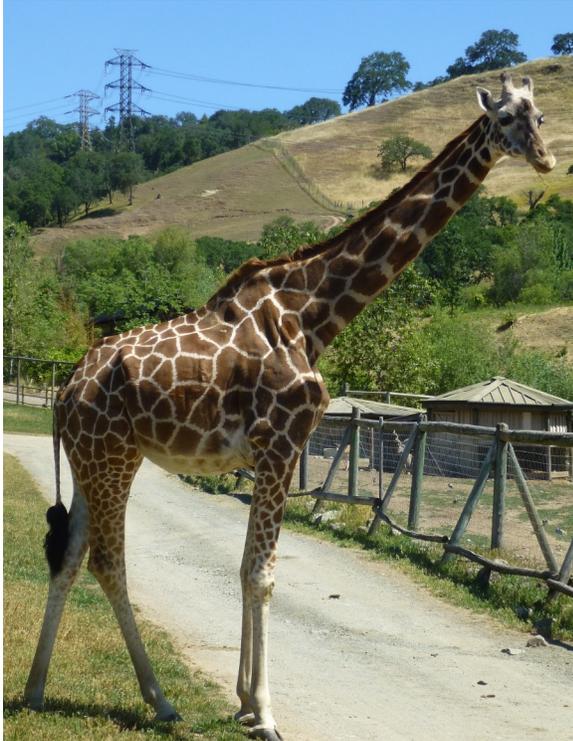
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Enter parking lot from Rusk Road

Visitors are always welcome!

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Contact information is on the BSOP website www.portlandbonsai.org under Resources/Member Services/Membership Directory