



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

Summer
2019

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

Summer 2019 Words From The President

I hope everyone is having a great bonsai summer with cooler than usual summer temperatures. I know my watering has been less than last summer and my trees are looking great and I hope yours are also.

Are you ready to start getting together again? We are starting off with the annual BSOP picnic and we have Olive Garden food for the main course with most of it donated from the Gresham Olive Garden restaurant. 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!

Check out the sign up genius and let us know if your coming and if you can bring a salad, desert, or non alcoholic refreshments. Please join us Saturday August 10th between 12 noon to 4pm at the Milwaukie Center Picnic Area. We are looking at about 41 people signed up so far and there will be LOTS of food for everyone. We hope to see you there!

There is a lot more following the picnic with the Jamboree and then the September monthly BSOP meeting. Don't forget we have Mentorship 102 class for the ongoing study group and the BSOP survey, if you have not had a chance to take our survey please take a few minutes to complete it so we can make sure we are giving our club what it wants. Log on to the member services page for the survey link.

President, *Joe Johansen*

Programming Report

Thank you for responding to our all-member programming survey! BSOP has received 48 submissions, which is an impressive 1-in-8 response rate.

First, your feedback has been clear on some missed opportunities:

- It can be hard to see detailed work in the presentations
- The Helpdesk is underutilized and inconsistently staffed
- The meetings have a lot of attendees but no structure for learning about your peers

Next, there are some themes of mild disappointment and lament:

- SE Portland can be hard to get to during rush hour, especially from certain member's Metro-area locations
- BSOP meeting times conflict with work and travel schedules
- Alternative transportation access to the Milwaukie Center
- Some presentations are above people's knowledge level, while others are not engaging to members who already understand those topics

Furthermore, I have seen some trends in what people want more of:

- Tree styling demonstrations and discussions
- Presentations about deciduous and elongating (i.e. fir, spruce, redwood,) tree species
- Anecdotes and autobiographical presentations from professionals
- High quality tree sales

Finally, you are clear in what you like:

- Our vendors are great and provide critical access to supplies
- The formal display is impressive and sets a high bar for excellence
- Our presenters know a lot about bonsai
- BSOP's mentorship program is a critical touchpoint for member engagement
- The large member base reflects well on our ability to serve our mission

I will be working with the board and our committee chairs to address your thoughtful feedback. It is rewarding to see evidence of our successes and accomplishments, but I also feel humbled to know we cannot settle on the status quo and a one-size-fits-all approach.

I send my regards for a happy and healthy summer.

Reid Parham, VP, Programming

Sign Up Now!!!

The 2019 Bonsai Jamboree

Milwaukie Center

Saturday, September 14, 2019

9:00am to 4:00pm



The 2019 Bonsai Jamboree is a blend of our traditional annual Fall Show and the 2018 Bonsai Rendezvous. Taking the best from each event, the Jamboree is a one-day event that includes a vendor marketplace, a member sales area (80/20), bonsai demos, a help desk, kid's corner, will call/holding area, hourly auctions and raffles, and MORE!

A special treat and focal point of the Fall Show has always been the bonsai exhibit, which features BSOP members' favorite trees. This year we are expanding the bonsai exhibit, using the Camas Room (the one with the mirrors). What does this mean to you? Well, it means you have a chance to show your favorite tree (as opposed to your BEST tree).

If you have a fully styled tree, GREAT! We have a special section for you consisting of formal displays. Bring your stand, scroll, accent, kusamono, suiseki – whatever you want in your display. Scott Elser will arrange the exhibit.

For all the rest of us, there are essentially only the two rules: the pot and tree must be clean, without critters or disease. Bonsai pot is not necessary. We only ask that the tree have some identifiable effort towards reaching the tree's future potential as bonsai.

The whole purpose of the Jamboree is to provide education about the art of bonsai and provide knowledge for the public and bonsai enthusiast alike. What better way to do this than show how much fun we have CREATING these beautiful trees. I've always believed the goal is not necessarily the final fully styled and ramified bonsai. It's the process, folks. Let's show the public how we get there. (Just think how great the exhibit would be if we all brought one tree! Please consider bringing a tree between 6:00 and 8:00pm on Friday evening, September 13.)

New this year, taking a page from the Rendezvous, we will utilize the Oregon Grape and Salal rooms for workshops and lectures. Registration for two full workshops will be open exclusively to BSOP members beginning July 28. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, until August 15th. After that date any open slots will be offered to neighboring bonsai clubs and the general public.

Workshop A – 9:00am to 12:00pm, Oregon Grape Room,

Cotoneasters are easily grown and lend themselves to many bonsai styles. Their small leaves and rapid growth habit makes them ideal for shohin size bonsai. They work well in the literati and cascade bonsai styles. This workshop will consist of five different types of cotoneaster, assigned to registrants by lottery at the start of the workshop. Leader will be Roger Case,

who will have a number of his styled cotoneaster bonsai available to show what can be done with this species. With more than 30 years of serious bonsai practice, Roger is passionate about cotoneasters and has some of the best styled ones we have seen. Cotoneasters root well from cuttings, so bring a plastic bag to take your cutting home and start more potential bonsai!! You need only to bring tools, a plastic bag for cuttings, and your imagination for an enjoyable productive workshop.

Workshop B – 12:30pm to 2:30pm, Oregon Grape Room

Crabapple, 8 workshop slots, \$75 each

This workshop material is Sargent's Crabapple, *Malus sargentii*. Ten years old and older, these shohin sized trees were grown from seed by workshop leader Scott Elser, multiple award winner at the US National exhibition in NY. These trees have great movement with no scars in the lower trunk and were specifically raised for shohin. The fruit turns bright red and is about the size of a pea - ideal for shohin. The trunks are about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch caliper with multiple branching and taper built in. The root bases have been pruned several times already and the trees will be ready for your favorite pot in the spring. Bring your tools.

To register for the workshop and take home a new tree, go to the BSOP website, www.portlandbonsai.org, login and select the link: Register and pay for one of the Bonsai Jamboree Workshops – HERE. Registration is currently restricted to members only so please do not share this link until after August 15. We will also offer an Silent Observer Pass for \$10 per person which will allow access to both workshops throughout the day. Observing is a great way to learn – just no tree to take home.

The Salal Room will be dedicated to educating the public. Keith Wingfield, BSOP's Bonsai Ambassador extraordinaire, will offer two Introduction to Bonsai lectures, one 9:30am to 11:am and one from 11:30am to 1:00pm. Following the lectures will be an introductory bonsai class:

Beginning Bonsai - 1:30pm to 3:30pm, Salal Room

Juniperus procumbens nana, 12 workshop slots, \$35 each

This class will be taught by George Biddle of early Mentorship 101 fame. Juniperous procumbens nana is one of the best trees to use to make a classic bonsai. It has so many of the best attributes that make it ideal: bends easily, can be styled in all bonsai forms, buds back profusely, grows rapidly, tight foliage, heat and cold tolerant, creates its own pads. This species is often thought by beginners to be what bonsai is, because they are seen and sold to beginners more than any other species. Lee Cheatle says he always recommends procumbens to beginners because of its versatility. The workshop trees are reported to have "pencil" or "sharpie" sized trunks for easy styling.

The goal here is to hook some new folks to the art of bonsai. The theory is they will listen to the lecture and be so enamored with the idea of bonsai that they will come back for the class. With that in mind, there will be no advance registration for this workshop. All 12 slots will be filled the day of the Jamboree. BSOP members are welcome to participate, but must register the morning of September 14th.

Also new this year, the Jamboree will have a tree help station for those who have purchased trees and would like to have an experienced artist give them some advice. Feel free to bring a tree to this table. We do ask that if there is a line, you present one tree only. Then if you wish, return to the line with your next tree.

Again, we need BSOP volunteers to make this happen. 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.

You will need to log in. Then select Resources/Member Services, then the orange SignUp Genius icon. Click on the Jamboree sign up page (the tree).

Contact Patrice Morrow, tm4170399@aol.com, if you have problems or questions about signing up. The page has a brief descriptions of each job. If you have any questions about a specific job, contact Jan Hettick, janhettick@comcast.net, or Patty Myrick, verdillia@comcast.net.

We are kind of short on volunteers so far. Special areas of need include workshop monitors (you'd get to observe the instruction for free!), auction and raffle assistants, help in the kids area, door monitors for the sales area, help with the will call/holding area, tree sitters for the exhibit, and more. You'll need to scroll down the page to find where help is most needed.

One last item – admission to this event is a measly \$5 per person, kids 12 and under are free. This is necessary to help cover the cost of the facility, which may or may not be covered by sale proceeds. As per usual, though, registered volunteers can get in for free. So be sure to get on the SignUp Genius list!

We can guarantee that you will have FUN.

Jan and Patty



Examples of Sargent's crabapple, Procumbens nana, and Cotoneaster left to right.



Summer Haiku

Hillside bright with pink
Flower mouths buzzing with bees
What does nature think

Ron Yasenchak

June BSOP Meeting

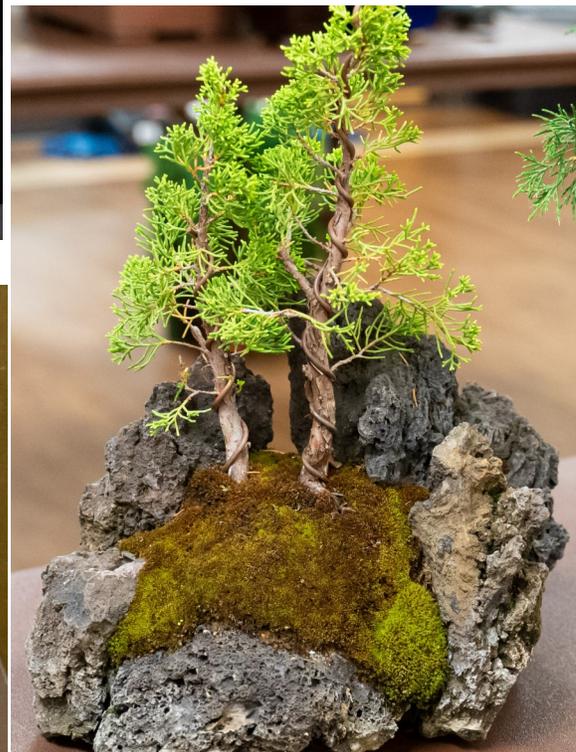
Andrew Robson presented for the monthly meeting, which was well attended. He talked us through the initial styling of a trident maple. Able volunteers helped in removing unwanted branches. While much was accomplished, Andrew emphasized the long term nature of this project. Photos by James Baggett.



June meeting displays of various examples of the bonsai arts



Photos by James Baggett



Scott's BRANCH TIPS

BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

Spider Mites

One thing that I have noticed throughout the years in bonsai is that trends seem to come and go with each season. In some years, the summers are nice and hot which the pines and junipers love. Some years are a bit milder, like this year, allowing the deciduous trees a chance to excel. There also seems to be cycles on the more negative side. Ever notice how one year you deal with one weed in the garden and the next year it's a completely different weed that you have never seen before? It seems to happen to me a lot. The same is true with insects and diseases. One year I battle a disease, the next it's some new pest. A few years ago, it was an invasion of the Marmorated Stink Bug, and just two years ago the Ash White Fly. Luckily, neither was of much importance to my bonsai. This year an old foe has reared his ugly head in my garden with a voracious appetite. The positively evil Spider Mite.

Spider mites and I go back quite a few years. Whenever I would get my big black pine ready for a show, it would seem to get attacked at the most inopportune time by spider mites. And any attack on a conifer means that you are going to take two to three years to switch out the damaged foliage for new. The damage may be mostly visual, but it certainly is unsightly. Arghhhh! The challenge for me is that mites are so insidious. They always sneak up on me and before you know it, I have a full-blown epidemic. This year they are back and I think the early warm weather we had opened the door; hence the purpose of this article. I want to save you the heartache. This year they decimated a prize Engelmann Spruce and it will take me a few years to rebuild it. More on that later.

I need to make one thing clear before we go any further. There must be no mercy when it comes to spider mites. There is no learning to get along and coexist. Only total annihilation will work. Here are a few statistics to drive the point home. There are several varieties of Spider Mites, which are members of the spider family, but we mostly deal with the red, or two-spotted, spider mite. A female is able to lay up to 20 eggs a day. These will hatch in three days, and can be sexually active by the fifth day. So, if females live two to four weeks, they can lay over 500 eggs each and mite population explodes. This means that before you know it, they have destroyed a tree, at least for that season. They can, and do, kill bonsai. This is not just cosmetic damages. So, no fooling around. We are fortunate in that our wet climate keeps them relatively at bay, naturally.

Take a look at **Photo one**. This is the leaf of a Skimmia plant in my back yard. It shows the tell-tale signs of spider mite infestation. Stippling of the leaves which make them look pale and dull.





Photo two is an Engelmann Spruce and you can see how the color (Chlorophyll) has been literally sucked right out of it. No chlorophyll, no photosynthesis, no tree. Notice also the light webbing, demonstrating the mite's link to spiders.



Photo three is a Douglas Fir from this spring. I have never had them attack a fir before and they went after both of my Doug Figs with abandon. Though not shown, the first tree they went after was an Asian Pear. Go figure. I guess they decided they liked both pizza AND ice

These photos also show how the mites sneak up on me. There are not any big holes or wilting foliage to notice. The foliage just slowly changes color over time, and since I have that tinge of color blindness, I don't always notice right away. And since it has been years since I dealt with mites on my bonsai, it's not really on my radar. Well, it is now. I seem to sort of scratch my head, hmmm, those leaves are changing color, wonder what that could be. Duh! So, on we go. A few years ago I wrote about Lacebugs on azaleas and the damage looks very similar to mites.

So how do we confirm the presence of spider mites? It's very simple and easy. You may all know this too, so forgive me if I am boring you. We are getting to the solution soon. Take a white sheet of paper (your hand will also do). Hold it under the tree and tap the branches a few times. You will get some detritus landing on the sheet, and probably some small specs. If those small specs are moving, you have mites. If nothing is moving, use your finger



to swipe the specs across the page. If there is a smear, then they are alive and well. Rather than being the size of pinhead, they are more like a pinpoint, so very hard to see the body with the naked eye. **Photo four** nicely shows their color, shape, and webbing on a cherry tree. A full-on infestation.

So, if you have made it this far, your reward is near. Spider Mites are one of the few things that systemic chemicals like Imidacloprid with not take care of. Of course, the best defense against any insect or disease is a healthy tree. The spruce that was attacked was definitely weak after last year. You can go online and find all kinds of so-called natural remedies for mites. The problem is the most of them are dealing with landscape plants that have a much higher tolerance than our bonsai. I liken our bonsai to the fighter jets that my dad used to repair. Fighter jets live on the edge and push the boundaries of existence every day. They are regularly called to push to the limits and that is what we do with growing gargantuan trees in incredibly tiny pots.

The trees natural defenses are more limited, so we have to go the extra bit to protect them. I have tried things like Neem oil in the past to almost zero effect. Trying to blast them off with water just means that they are going to go hop onto another tree.

One thing that I have found very, very effective, as in one hundred percent, is Bifen. Never heard of it? Boon put me on to it and it has been rock-solid for mites. Bifenthrin is a pyrethroid insecticide, as in a synthetic version of the chemicals found in Chrysanthemum flowers. It was originally a termiticide, and I get mine online at pest control sources like, Do My Own Pest Control. You are not going to find this at the big box stores. I just follow the directions for spraying on the label. It's a lot milder solution than an organophosphates like Orthene/Acephate, which I find damages new, tender growth.

There is, however, a caveat to any mite solution. Remember how we talked about the rapid reproductive cycle of mites? That means that they can relatively quickly adapt to any chemical solution. To combat that, we have to act quickly and thoroughly. It also means that it's a good idea to rotate your insecticide after only a couple of uses. So if you don't knock them out after two or three applications, you may have to switch to something else to be effective. I have had good luck because the infestations have been isolated to certain trees in any one season, thank goodness, and I have been able to eliminate the entire problem quickly.

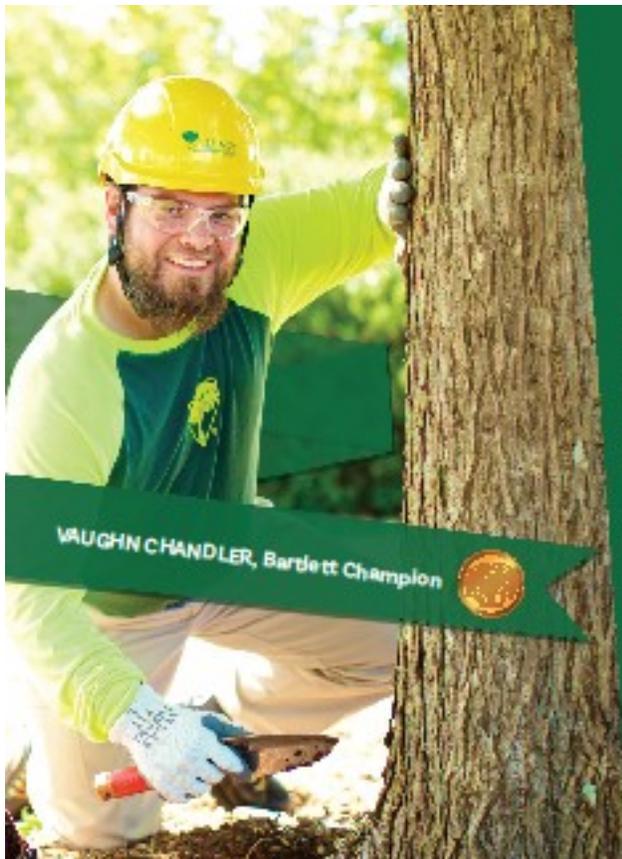
You have to stay on it when you start. The development cycle of the bugs is very quick. After hatching they go through several intermediate stages called instars, in which they molt into a new body. Miticides are usually able to only attack adults, eggs, or certain stages of the instars, but not all. This means spraying regularly on a roughly 7-10 day interval so that you are able to stop the cycle, then finish them off before they mature enough to start a new cycle. I am not yet sophisticated enough to tank mix both an adulticide and ovacide together, to do it in one operation. That would require a lot of research and is beyond my scope. But maybe one of you can do that and share. I know that Mirai is using this approach. Good luck and keep an eye out for that little speckling on the leaves.

Scott Elser



Engelman spruce bonsai





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

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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 under Resources/Member Services/Membership Directory