



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

January
2023

Monthly Meetings:

January 24 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Annual Business Meeting, Shohin Master Daisaku Nomoto Demonstration

January 28,29 8am-4pm Shohin School for enrollees, Milwaukie Senior Center

February 28 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, American legend, Bill Valvanis, presentation on Japanese maple

March 28 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Club repotting workshop

April 25 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Dan Robinson, presentation on carving

Greetings BSOP,

I hope everyone is enjoying the mild weather we've been having since the big winter storm. It's been nice to enjoy my bonsai back on the benches here at Rakuyo. This is an exciting month! Daisaku Nomoto who is a shohin bonsai master from Japan will be in Portland with me for Shohin School, a private event that Jonas Dupuich and I are hosting on January 28th-29th. While he is in town he will do a shohin demonstration for BSOP. Daisaku is the former chairman of Japanese Shohin Union and a prize winning shohin master. He has fun, youthful energy. Years of teaching on trips to California has given him good English communication skills. We're very lucky to have him this month, I'm excited about his shohin program!

Next month Bill Valavanis will be our guest speaker. He'll be giving us a presentation on Japanese maple bonsai and creating a Japanese maple forest. Bill hosts the US National Show and is a prolific author and artist. In March, we'll be doing a club repotting workshop for our monthly meeting, more details on that to come!

I'd like to express my deepest appreciation for Reid Parham, who finished his multi-term tenure as Vice President of Programs. Reid has done and continues to do so much for BSOP, and is critical to the functioning of our meetings. The AV committee which he now runs could use some volunteers, so if you'd like to help with running our club meetings and have technical experience talk to Reid next time you see him at a meeting. And, please thank him when you see him next for all he does to make BSOP function on a regular basis!

I hope everyone is having a fantastic new year, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all on January 24th for Daisaku's demonstration!

Cheers, *Andrew Robson* BSOP President

MENTORSHIP 101

The Mentorship 101 registration for 2023 is complete and we look forward to our first class on January 22nd from 9:00 to 1:00 in the Grape Room at the Milwaukie Community Center.

Mentorship 101 is a program of volunteers who teach bonsai basics using “Best Practices” to new members as well as long time members. If you have never touched a bonsai, we are here for you. If you want to complete your bonsai knowledge, we are here for you too.

We know there is more than one way to do what we want to do, but we have only six classes for a total of 24 hours to provide our students with enough information to begin the process of developing a bonsai. We will cover skills such as wiring, pruning and potting as well as topics like design. Yes, we will have lectures, but there will be ample opportunity to enjoy a hands on experience with a new species each month.

For January, we will be working on juniper whips. Students will try their hands at structural wiring, cleaning a plant, removing flaws and setting up a preliminary design. In February, it will be a mugo pine and in March we will have our first repotting, a boxwood. At the completion of the classes, students will have had experience with a juniper, a pine, an elongating species, a broadleaf evergreen, a broadleaf deciduous and a surprise for the last tree.

Though the class is full, we want to invite members to sign up on the waiting list in the Sign Up Genius published on the BSOP website. In addition to filling any absences from the waiting list, each month we will send you copies of the class documents so that you can step into the classes if needed.

If you know someone who is taking the classes, ask them how it is going. I think they will be excited to share. I am hoping a little inspiration will be included in your conversation.

The Mentorship 101 Team

Joanne Raiton, Steve Wilcox, Roger Case, Lee Cheatle, Brandon Myren, Keith Wingfield

Contact Information: Joanne Raiton, joanneraiton@msn.com





Library volunteers

Library volunteers worked on 2022 inventory: From left to right they are: Gretchen O'Brien, Sue Heise, Patrice Morrow, Jay Schwab, Ellen Bartholomew and Michael Babbit. Thank you all for your great help and enthusiasm.

Passages

We are sending our deepest condolences to the friends and family of Paula Bentley-Mathews. Paula was a long-time member of the Bonsai Society of Portland, and an enthusiastic and accomplished practitioner of the art. She was generous in sharing her time, expertise and valued opinions in various ways within the club. She will be missed.

Paula's family will host a Celebration of Life on January 21st from 11:00 to 1:30 at the Kennedy School Northeast, 5736 NE 33rd Ave, Portland, OR.

Please park in the back parking lot and enter from the back. Look for signs on the left to this event in the gymnasium.

For me it always feels *good* to be a member of the Bonsai Society of Portland - BSOP. It is a great organization and the largest bonsai club in North America with over 500 members. <https://www.portlandbonsai.org/> This month it feels *great*. This year's club schedule is packed with outstanding bonsai instructors and activities. Bonsai professional and Japanese master, Daisaku Nomoto of Miyazaki, Japan, will provide the program for this month's meeting on January 24th, at the Milwaukie Center kicking off the year. After the short annual business update, Master Nomoto will talk about shohin bonsai and do a shohin bonsai demonstration. He is a past president of the All Japan Shohin Bonsai Association.

Joining an organization like BSOP and being an active participant, attending its meetings and events, is a fantastic way to increase your bonsai knowledge, receive useful tips, tricks, strategies, skills and techniques to ensure you have a successful journey in practicing bonsai. The great thing about this art is it is not rocket science. It does however require learning basic techniques, skills and timing to perform them. The good news is that they can be learned by anyone. With patience and vision, all of us can craft stellar bonsai. So come on out the end of the month and join the party as we all start 2023, the year of the rabbit, out on the right bonsai foot. We hope to see lots of members & friends there and give Master Nomoto a warm BSOP welcome. It is his first visit to Portland!

Jeffrey Robson



(Photograph from Bonsai Tonight ([Jonas Dupuich](#)) blog from 2010). FYI [Daisaku Nomoto](#) was [Boon Manakitivipart's](#) senpai at Kihachi-en. In Japan *senpai* (先輩) is a honorific term meaning senior in a hierarchical organizational structure.



Farewell to the PNBCA

On January 5, 2023, the Board of the PNBCA voted to permanently dissolve the PNBCA Organization and distribute the remaining treasury funds to the member clubs.

In 1994, bonsai clubs from British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho formed the Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association (PNBCA). Its stated purpose was ‘to further the art of Bonsai by providing education to bonsai enthusiasts by holding an annual bonsai convention/seminar’. From the first convention in 1990 through the 2014 Victoria convention, there were 25 annual conventions of the PNBCA, an incredible accomplishment by the member clubs. In 2016 the PSBA held the last typical convention in Olympia, then the BSOP held their Rendezvous in 2018, but no further PNBCA conventions have been held since.

The bonsai scene in the Northwest is quite healthy and vibrant, but the big, three-day conventions at a large hotel appears to be a thing of the past. Multiple factors contributed, including increasing expenses for these big productions, declining numbers of registrants, and declining numbers of volunteers at the member clubs who were willing to undertake such a huge endeavor.

Over the past 5 years or so, the PNBCA Board has tried to find new purposes for the Organization, and has tried to recruit new members for the Board, with little success. It became obvious to the Board that the responsible thing to do was to dissolve the organization and distribute of the treasury funds to the member clubs. The clubs can use this money for any bonsai educational purposes they choose.

The end of the PNBCA is a sad event for so many of us who were fortunate enough to get to attend many of those conventions over the years. Not only were the programs and demos and workshops and exhibits educational, they were great fun, as were the well-stocked vendor areas. But the best part of the conventions were the long lasting friendships made between the members of so many different bonsai clubs. The PNBCA organization may have ended, but the friendships will go on.

There are so many people that deserve thank yous and recognition for all that was accomplished over the lifetime of the PNBCA. To name them all would require pages and pages.

But to all those people, be assured that your efforts have made a real difference in the bonsai scene in the Pacific Northwest, thank you from us all!

November Monthly Meeting

The November monthly meeting included a silent auction, display trees, vendors and a special styling demonstration by Mauro Stemberger.



Display trees

Four saikei





Mauro explains how he plans to style this Scot's Pine.



Mauro explains big cuts.

Making a jin.



Big cuts are finished.

Applying wire.



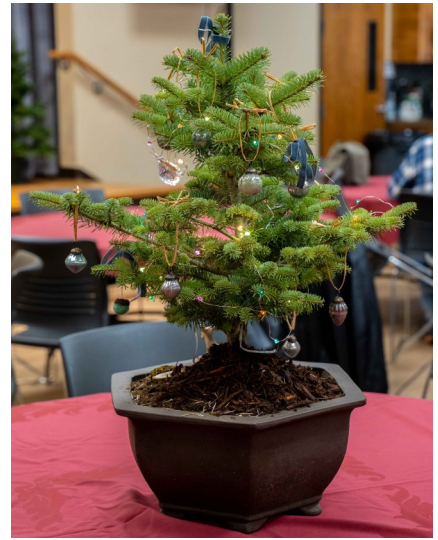
Holiday Party

The Holiday Party was well attended. Reed Parham hosted until President Andrew Robson took over while Reed won the ugly sweater contest.



The club provided a good assortment of tasty snacks and members brought desserts. Members and guests gathered at tables for food and conversation.





The decorated bonsai contest had many imaginative entries. .





The silent auction included some real treasures.

Great to see newer members enjoying the festivities





The tree styled by Mauro Stemberger went to the winning lottery number.

Selecting the winning lottery number



All photos courtesy of Jim Baggett



Teahouse located in the San Diego Botanical Garden, Encinitas, CA



Jade bonsai displayed in the Teahouse



Tillamook State forest blog

January Haiku
 Wind and snowflakes play
 Tonight temperature drops
 Winter's here to stay
Ron Yasenchak

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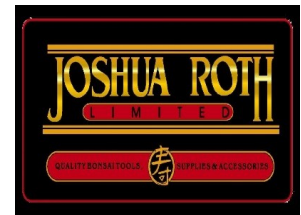


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The Bonsai Society of Portland meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The Milwaukie Center

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie OR 97222

Enter parking lot from Rusk Road

Visitors are always welcome!

Board of Directors

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1st VP-Programs: Ben MacBeth

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Facilities Coordinator: Brandon McMullin

Fall Show:

Formal Display: Scott Elser

Heritage: Steve Leaming

Hospitality: Harold Yearout

Library: Barbara Devitt, Jan Hettick

Mentorship: Joanne Raiton

Newsletter: Peter Pelofske

Portland Nursery Show Reid Parham

Photographer: Jim Baggett

Raffle:

Social Media: Scott Tice

Spring Show:

Summer Picnic:

Vendor Coordinator:

Volunteer Coordinator:

Webmaster: Karl Holmes

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