



the **TREE LINE**

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

Upcoming Events

February
2019

- February 17 10-2 **Mentorship 101B**, Oregon Grape Room, Milwaukie Center
- February 24 10-2 **Mentorship 101A**, Oregon Grape Room, Milwaukie Center
- February 26 6-9pm **BSOP monthly meeting**, Milwaukie Center
- March 3 10-2 **Mentorship 102A**, Oregon Grape Room, Milwaukie Center
- March 17 10-2 **Mentorship 101B**, Oregon Grape Room, Milwaukie Center
- March 24 10-2 **Mentorship 101A**, Oregon Grape Room, Milwaukie Center

Words From Your President

I just want to start off by saying thank you for the vote of confidence from everyone for my presidency of our club. I will work with the board to continue bringing you a friendly club and quality programming! As of February we are holding strong with 377 members including 7 new members in January. Welcome!

It takes us as members of our club to volunteer from time to time and right now we need your help. We could use a couple of people in these following committees to work together to provide our monthly meeting with continued success. We currently need help with:

- Hospitality: organizing snacks and refreshments during our monthly meetings including set up and clean up.
- The Raffle needs more help to set up, organize donations/ticket sales and clean up during our monthly meeting and special events.
- We are looking for a chairman of our Fall Show and a few supporters to help with the organization of this annual event.

With multiple people for each committee it will become easier to organize and divide the duties to help if any person is not available from time to time, insuring the committee goals are met every month. We would like your input to improve the committee you sign up for!

We also have events the next few months with the Newberg Camellia Festival April 13th and the Canby Spring Fair May 4th and 5th both led by past President Lee. We have the Portland Nursery Show June 15th led by 1st VP Reid. Our summer picnic will be August 10th led by myself Joe Johanesen. All of our events are available on our club calendar with details.

I hope everyone has had the chance to protect their bonsai over the cold spell, Spring should be right around the corner.

Joe Johanesen

Programming Report

Thank you Michael Hagedorn and apprentice Andrew Robson for January's presentation! I hope you left that meeting with new insights and appreciation into Michael's journeys and accomplishments.

This month Dennis Vojtilla takes the stage, making for two months in a row with local U.S. National Bonsai Exhibition award winners as our presenters.

Dennis has prepared a follow-on and advancement to his various presentations about deciduous bonsai. Though he has explained his process for good deciduous branching, Dennis will now bring his more than 40 years of bonsai experience to the entire deciduous tree. Join us at the North Clackamas Milwaukie Center on Feb 26 at 6 pm to learn from Dennis' approach to the five major parts of a tree—roots, trunk, branches, twigs, and crown.

Prepare to be awed by Dennis' trees, as he will bring a van load of them for our enjoyment!

Look ahead to a second and third deciduous-focused program in 2019. We will be learning about the breadth and depths of this living art.

Reid Parham, VP-elect, Programming

Mentorship 102A

Mentorship 102A met on February 3. We did not have a specific lesson, rather it was a big "whack and chat". This time of year we are working on styling, pruning, and wiring. We came close to talking about repotting, but then the forecast appeared warning of night time temps in the 20s, meaning it's still too early to repot. But that time is right around the corner, so it's not too early to start choosing and cleaning pots for repotting next month.

We greatly appreciate our "whack in chat" assistants; seasoned members Dave Kidd, Greg Brendon, Steve and Debbie Wilcox, and of course Lee Cheatle who provided such valuable input for those of us who are more novice. Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU!!!

Steve Leaming was again present with various pre-ordered supplies to sell; it's great to be able to get things from him without having to wait for the monthly meeting!

The next mentorship 102A class will be on March 3.

See you at the monthly meeting on February 26!

Elisabeth Hardy (*Liz*)

FERTILIZER for Delivery at MARCH Meeting

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 \$20 per bag (higher price due to increased cost of mycorrhizae). Pre-order for delivery at the March 27 meeting. Contact Bill Hettick, 503-936-5629 or bhettickco@comcast.net.

IMPORTANT AUCTION INFORMATION

- * Any BSOP member may sell at Tuesday night auction
 - * Anyone may buy
 - o Members use member ID number (back of ID badge)
 - o Guests get temporary number from cashier
 - * Items for sale must arrive after 5:30 and **BEFORE 6:30pm**
 - * Complete auction tag
 - o Seller ID is your member ID (back of badge)
 - o Mark percentage to BSOP (20%, 50%, 100%) (1)
 - o Add brief description of item
 - o Add minimum bid if appropriate
 - o White (top) copy of bid sheet goes to Auction Manager
 - * If you bring something to sell
 - o At end of evening, verify that it has sold
 - o If not, take it with you
 - o Items left after meeting become 100% donation to BSOP
 - * If you bid on something, verify if you won, then
 - o Bring pink copy of auction tags to cashier with payment
 - o Goldenrod copy to stay with tree at all times, is buyer's copy
 - * Allow 30 minutes after auction close to allow for bid posting.
- (1) Note: If you want some items to be 20% and others to be 100%, please get separate seller ID number from cashier for 100% items.

February Haiku

Cross the range of light
Snow brightest but best of all
Trees discover they were right.

Ron Yasenchak





Hello. This tree is based on a Sequoia that is located at the north entrance in Sequoia national park. The tree is over 3,000 years old and it has been hit by lightning several times, to the point that the tree became hollow from burning for weeks in the center and losing the top half. My favorite living creature in the world!! *Left*

Saludos. Carlos Diaz



While my bonsai are languishing here at the beach, my stone collection is growing. I found this in my neighbor's landscape and asked if I could have it. She didn't know why, and I didn't tell her until I finished the daiza.

She was thrilled to see the beauty that came from her yard. I hand carved the daiza out of birch and stained it. The stone is 6" wide and 4" high. *Above right*

Ron Yasenchak, Gleneden Beach



Display at January,
2019 monthly meeting

Scott's BRANCH TIPS

BONSAI TECHNIQUE & PHILOSOPHY

Utah Jazz, Part 3. Zion

This month we wind up our trip to southern Utah with a stop at Zion National Park. Before we left on our trip in October, I talked to a friend who spends the winter months in this part of the world hiking and such, and based on that, I prioritized spending more time in Bryce Canyon and less at Zion. I got it dead wrong. Now not to take anything away from Bryce, but it's more of a cute fairy land in contrast to the jaw dropping scale and beauty of Zion. Now I know WHY they named it Zion. Of course, that came from the early Mormon settlers, but they got it right.

We entered Zion from high elevation in the northeast corner, coming from Bryce and Kodachrome. From the moment we entered into the park, we began to enjoy a landscape unlike anything we had ever seen. Soaring, huge, beautiful slabs of sandstone in a myriad of formations and colors. Trees dotting these slopes like pepper on your mashed potatoes. And more Utah red rock and Utah blue skies.

The road wound around through a maze of mountains and cliffs. We stopped for a photo op of Desert Bighorn Sheep. Then stop. What's this, a line? This must finally be the famous tunnel. We take a quick break and then see cars coming from the opposite direction. Time to jump back into the car and we start rolling. The tunnel was built back in the twenties, so there is only room for one-way traffic with our modern trailers and motorhomes. We pass the guard and enter the tunnel and click clack along. The road starts to curve and wind. Down we go, dotted with the occasional window in the rock. It goes for 1.1 miles but seems longer.

Nothing I say can prepare you for what comes next. The road simply opens out at the base of a thousand-foot cliff, with a view of the entire Zion valley that sucks the breath right out of you. Partly because you are immediately plunged into steep switchbacks to descend another 500 feet to the valley floor. I am including some photos, but nothing I have done can capture the 360-degree experience.

Since we went in October, I can't imagine what the summer must be like, with heat and many times the number of travelers. Actually, I can, since I barely got reservations a month ahead to stay in the lovely little town of Springdale. We are not really campers these days, so the town was perfect, with many places to stay and eat, along with galleries and craft emporiums around every corner. We really wanted more time to explore there. The town butts right up to the entrance of the park and each has their own shuttle system. Both are free. You stay at a motel, which are generally more expensive the closer you get to the park, then just take a shuttle back and forth as there is really only one road in town. We hop off at the end of the shuttle line in town, walk across the parking lot, entering the park again, and jump on the park shuttle to sightseeing and the lodge.

You are unable to drive into the main Zion valley in your car at any time except the winter. If you have been to very many parks, you are probably used to this by now and it makes things easy and enjoyable. We made a quick afternoon/evening run into the valley and did a little hiking. Like any stream laden valleys, it is lined with all sorts of deciduous trees in a flat plain. We hiked up the famous Zion Narrows, but stopped where the trail ends and wading begins. That hike we are saving for the next trip when we bring our boots and waders and have more time.



The Watchman at sunset,
viewed from in town



Majesty – The grandeur and
majesty of Zion. This is what it
looks like everywhere you turn.



Angles – The sandstone in
Zion often looks like God
just smashed a bunch of
rocks together.



Zion Slope – Trees
emerge straight out of
the sandstone slopes.



Desert Bighorn – A group of Desert Bighorn Sheep.



Zion Pinyon 1 – Pinyon Pine emerging from the sandstone.



Zion Pinyon 2 – Perfect bonsai inspiration in a Pinyon.



Live Oak – Foliage of a small Live Oak, unknown variety.



Cacti – it's that dry.



Viewpoint Trail – The Overlook Trail. The trail follows the base of the red rocks. The catwalk can be seen at the middle left of the photo where it swings out, then under the rocks.



Zion Tunnel – The Zion Tunnel as seen from the Overlook. You can see the zig zag switchbacks in the road and where it enters the mountain at the base of the cliff on the left.



Overlook View – The view from the Overlook. The view is actually much wider than this. It has been compressed with a wide angle lens to get it all in.

The next morning, we were able to head out early and drive back up on top where we had entered the park the previous day. Doing our research, our first destination was the Overlook Trail. Sounds promising, eh? The trail starts right where the tunnel begins. Be prepared. This is the most enjoyable short hike I have ever been on. Now to frame that, I love trees, I love the outdoors, I love exploring new vistas and scenery.

The trail is not hard and we made it out and back in an hour, with a twenty-minute layover to boot. The trail winds around a steep canyon, including a catwalk out over the canyon that swing back under an overhang. Around every turn there was an interesting tree (both deciduous and conifers) or interesting rock to scramble across, or a great view into the jagged canyon. The trail then gently climbs over a saddle to reveal the entire Zion valley as a reward. You see where the tunnel emerges from the cliff and realize how big that mountain really is. You can almost see both ends of the tunnel at once. The top is also broad enough to invite more exploring of trees, rocks, and scenery and open enough that no path is needed. Seeing the trees growing in these environments is simply marvelous and bonsai inspiring. I hope you get to make the journey soon.

Repotting

And just so that we can ease our way back into actual, applicable bonsai, here are a few thoughts on repotting. First of all, once you get all of that work done to get the tree safely into a bonsai pot, take care of it. Do not let it freeze. The act of repotting has taken away much of its winter hardiness, so they must be protected.

Secondly, give a very good watering after repotting, until the mucks washes away and water runs clear. Then don't water until it needs it. That might be a week or more in our weather. The tree's uptake system has just been pruned back, so it is not able to absorb as much moisture. It is sort of like cutting the sponge in half. It will only take half as much now. As the tree re-established itself, it will tell you it needs more by drying out a little. The last thing we want to do is drown the roots and start a cycle of decay that is hard to break. Give it just what it needs.

That means no fertilizer for a month either. Not only are you wasting it, and your time, the tree can possibly suffer. So, hold off for a bit. I always try to keep my trees out of the rain by putting them under the eaves for a week or two after repotting to make sure they don't get too wet and this is a great jump start for the new tree/pot/soil system. If you are able to provide bottom heat, that would be even better.

Scott Elser



Chojubai quince
25 years in training
Antique 150 year old pot
Andrew Robson



The January 2019 meeting was well attended. Michael Hagedorn shared his bonsai experiences and knowledge via a Q&A session. Some members received recognition for their years of service.



Japanese black pine
45 years in training
Imported from Japan
100 year old
Japanese stand
Andrew Robson



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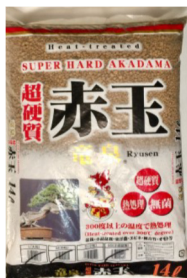
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Display at January, 2019 monthly meeting

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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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Mentorship: Lee Cheatle, Liz Hardy

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Raffle:

Social Media: Scott Tice

Spring Show: No show in 2019

Summer Picnic: Joe Johanesen

Vendor Coordinator: Reid Parham

Volunteer Coordinator: Patrice Morrow

Webmaster: Karl Holmes

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