



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

February
2022

Monthly Meetings:

February 22, 7-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Lee Cheatle presents:
In Depth Repotting & Soil Mix

February 26, 9-12am Milwaukie Center, Mentorship Repotting Workshop

March 12, 9-12am Milwaukie Center, Mentorship Repotting Workshop

March 22, 7-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Michael Hagedorn presents:
Chojubai Quince Development

Greetings BSOP,

As we enter repotting season, we're gearing up for some repotting oriented programming. This month Lee Cheatle is giving us a presentation on repotting basics, and we'll be following it with a couple informal club workshops on repotting with some of our club mentors. Dates can be found on our website. As you begin repotting your bonsai, keep an eye on the weather forecast as repotted bonsai, and bonsai that have leafed out, need protection from frost and freezing temperatures.

Looking ahead, the Pacific Bonsai Expo in California has begun accepting submissions. This will be a premier exhibition of quality bonsai on the west coast, and I urge you to participate and attend the show. BSOP will sponsor any members entry fees for accepted submissions, so the cost to show is zero if you're a member in good standing and get past the jury process. Check out the Pacific Bonsai Expo website for more info.

Additionally, in late spring we will be having a seminar weekend with workshops and lectures focused on pre-bonsai material and cultivation. Guest artists include Gary Wood and Telperion Farms, as well as Jonas Dupuich, John Eads, Michael Hagedorn and Matt Reel. More information will follow as we get closer to the event.

Happy repotting season,

Andrew Robson BSOP President

Pacific Bonsai Expo

An Exhibition of Extraordinary Bonsai

The Bridge Yard, Oakland, California

November 12-13, 2022

The Event

The Pacific Bonsai Expo is a juried exhibition featuring 70 outstanding bonsai displays and a selection of the community's top vendors.

Jurors Bjorn Bjorholm, Ryan Neil, and William N. Valavanis will select the trees. The exhibitors are the judges. Your trees are the stars.

It's an event not to be missed.

www.pacificbonsaiexpo.com



VISION

The goal of the Pacific Bonsai Expo is to showcase beautiful and inspiring bonsai displays. Traditional two- and three-point displays are welcome, as are novel, non-traditional displays.

We have selected a fall date for the exhibit in order to highlight mature conifer foliage, and either fall color or winter silhouettes for deciduous trees.

Anyone is eligible to submit, and all entries will be reviewed by the panel of jurors, Bjorn Bjorholm, Ryan Neil, and William N. Valavanis.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submission Period: February 1 - April 30, 2022.

1. Take a photo of your tree or trees that includes all display elements, and that will give the jurors a clear idea of the impact of the display.
2. Provide species and height for each tree in your display.
3. For deciduous trees please provide a photo of the tree in winter silhouette.
4. Send submissions to: pacificbonsaiexpo@gmail.com between February 1st and April 30th, 2022.

EXHIBITOR'S FAQ

Is it free to submit a tree to the jury?

- Yes, it is free to submit a tree for consideration.

Is there a fee to display my tree at the exhibit?

- Yes, exhibitors will pay an \$85 fee for each display.

Can I get a waiver for the exhibitor's fee?

- Exhibitor's fees are required for all accepted entries. If you are affiliated with a bonsai club, your club may sponsor an entry on your behalf. Contact the organizers for additional information.

Who are the exhibition jurors?

- ◆ Bjorn Bjorholm, Ryan Neil, and William N. Valavanis are the jurors responsible for determining which trees are accepted for display. To learn more about the jurying process, see [Exhibit Tree Selection and Judging](#).

Who are the exhibition judges?

- ◆ Exhibitors will be the sole members of the judging panel. To learn more about the judging process, see [Exhibit Tree Selection and Judging](#)

I have a tree for the exhibit, but I need a pot/stand/accent/etc. Can I rent or borrow one for the exhibit?

- ◆ The organizers are not able to provide display elements for exhibitors. We recommend you contact your local bonsai nursery, bonsai professional, or bonsai club for help locating items for your display. See a list of [Northern California bonsai professionals and organizations](#).

Do I get free passes if my tree or trees are accepted for the exhibit?

- Yes. Exhibitors will receive one weekend pass ahead of the event.

What are the dimensions of the display space?

- Display table dimensions are 72" L x 29.5" W x 29" H. Contact the organizers if you feel that your tree will not fit in this space.

Will I have help setting up my display at the event?

- Exhibitors are responsible for setting up their own displays. If you need a cart to move your tree, we suggest you bring one. Although volunteers will be onsite to help with setup, we cannot guarantee they will be available to help with specific displays.

When do I need to bring my tree?

- Exhibitors are required to bring all items for their display to The Bridge Yard between (9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Friday, November 11, 2022).

When can I take down my display?

- Exhibitors can pack up their displays after 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 13th.

Are there size limits for the trees I can submit?

- We expect most submissions to be between 4" and 40" tall measured from the top of the pot to the top of the tree. If you have a tree that is outside this range you can contact the organizers to see if we can accommodate your tree.

Can I submit more than one tree for consideration?

- Yes, there is no limit on the number of submissions an individual can submit.

Are bonsai professionals eligible to submit trees for the exhibition?

- Yes. We strongly encourage bonsai professionals and hobbyists to submit trees for consideration.

Can a single tree win more than one prize?

- Yes. Although submissions are not eligible to win more than one of the four exhibit prizes (Best in show, Best conifer, Best deciduous, and Best broadleaf evergreen), any tree is eligible to win one or more sponsored prizes, including the winners of the four exhibit prizes.

Will my tree be photographed?

- Yes. Photography will be allowed during the exhibit, and the organizers will photograph exhibited trees for use on the event website or in a commemorative album.

Will there be security at the event?

- Yes. The event will have professional security guards onsite continuously Friday morning through Sunday evening. Volunteer security staff will be on duty when the event is open to visitors.

Lichen: a three-way symbiotic organism

Last week, a neighbor knocked on our door. He was holding a twig covered with lichens. He wanted to know what heck they were and how could he get rid of them, because they were killing his tree. I explained that no, these were not killing his tree, but because the twigs were bare, their spores had germinated there to take advantage of the good light (without the leaves). He's not alone in thinking the the lichens are causing harm to trees, so I thought I should provide some needed background.



First, some bark botany: The function of bark on a tree is to protect the living tissue, the cambium layer of phloem and xylem, that lies just inside the bark. It's this living tissue that produces the annual rings of the wood in the tree. The bark contains complex, often resinous, chemicals that provide a waterproof layer of protection. The trees do not lose or absorb water or water soluble chemicals through the bark. They could ooze resins and in fact rubber trees are good example of how the resins are waterproof. When rubber trees are tapped, it's done very carefully so that some of the bark remains intact so the cambium layer is not disturbed.

So, as I explained to my neighbor, lichens are opportunistic organisms and occurred on that branch because the tree had lost its leaves. It had not caused the tree to lose its leaves and that these organisms are not parasites, but are epiphytes and do not take nutrients or moisture from their host plants. The lichens actually provide additional protection for the cambium layer so they do no damage. In fact lichens often occur on rock surfaces, which would not provide any nutrients or water. Lichens are pioneer organisms and quite often are the first life after volcanic eruptions and lava flow.

How do they withstand such harsh conditions?

Lichens are a result of a symbiotic relationship of a fungus, a photosynthetic partner, either green algae or cyanobacteria, or both, and as recently discovered, bacteria. The algae are green plants in this partnership and photosynthesize to provide nutrients for its fungal host. In turn, fungi provide shelter for the algae so it can survive in harsh conditions. We're not really sure how the bacteria fit into the partnership, but maybe they help to break up the rock or fix nitrogen from the air.

The evolutionary result of the self-sustaining partnership is a unique joint structure, the lichen thallus, which is indispensable for fungal sexual reproduction. The lichen spores include those for all three symbionts: the fungi, the algae, and the bacteria.

Lichens come in many colors, sizes, and forms and sometimes look like plants, but they're not plants. They are generally classified by the fungal shape:

- Fruticose when they have tiny, leafless branches.
- Foliose when they have flat leaf-like structures.
- Crustose when they have flakes that lie on the surface like peeling paint.
- Leprose when they have a powder-like appearance
- and other growth forms.

Reprinted from Green Garden Matters by Ginny Stibolt

Lichen on a fallen branch...



Three examples of lichen on editor's trees



Snow in the Japanese Garden December 2021



Witch Hazel in bloom
Red Wings sing and stake their claims
January Spring

Pinus densiflora / Japanese red pine or Korean red pine

A “classic” old-world, 2-needled, hard pine.

Pinus densiflora, as described in 1842 by [Philipp Franz von Siebold](#) (1796–1866) and [Joseph Gerhard Zuccarini](#) (1790–1848), in *Flora Japonica*, 2nd edition, is commonly known as Japanese red pine; as well as, or as アカマツ (aka-matsu) in the Japanese language, 赤松 (chì sōng) in Chinese, 소나무 (sonamu) in Korean, and Сосна густоцветная (Sosna gustotsvetnaya) in Russian. The species name describes the dense growth of pollen cones that grow at the tips of the previous year's growth.

Ethnobotany. Historically, this pine has been one of the most important species used in Japanese architecture. The principal structural woods in most surviving structures of the Muromachi period (14th to 16th Centuries) and the Edo period (1603-1867) are *Pinus densiflora* and *P. thunbergii*, although surviving structures also contain a great deal of *Chamaecyparis obtusa*.

Besides following agriculture as a 'weedy' species, it is also one of the more popular ornamental pines, used as such in Japan since ancient times and now widely planted in Europe and North America.

Description. Red pine is an evergreen coniferous tree which grows straight to contorted (particularly in coastal settings) up to 100 feet (36 m) tall, with an open, irregular or umbrella-shaped crown. Lower branches are shed early even in open settings.

Photos from
[Bonsaiempire.com](#)



Editors note: *Although more commonly referred to as the Japanese red pine, Pinus densiflora has national significance in Korea. The following two pages are excerpted from a paper published in 2019. The complete paper is at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3867381*

Sonamu – The cultural significance of the Korean red pine

Jill Matthews¹

The Korean red pine 소나무 (*Pinus densiflora*) is widely regarded as the national tree of Korea. The same tree is known as Japanese red pine in Japan. It is endemic throughout the Korean peninsula, and adjacent parts of China and in Japan, where fossil traces have been found dating to the beginning of the Pleistocene Era. Its Korean name, sonamu, means supreme tree.

Many other species of pine tree are cultivated in modern Korean forests and gardens, notably Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*); Korean white pine (*Pinus koraiensis*) the source of pine nuts, jat, in Korean cuisine; Japanese stone pine (*Pinus pumila*) and Japanese white pine (*Pinus parvifolia*), however, these pines are not seen as commonly in traditional Korean gardens, and none of them have the same deep cultural significance in contemporary Korea as the Korean red pine. At least 2 internationally renowned Korean photographers have published entire books of photographs of Korean red pines. The tree is even mentioned in the Korean national anthem:

As the pine tree atop Namsan stands firm, unchanged through wind and frost, as if wrapped in armour, so shall our resilient spirit.

Symbolism

Traditionally the Korean red pine is one of the ten symbols of longevity, shipjangsaeng, the others being: the sun, mountains, water, clouds, rocks/stone, mushrooms of immortality, white cranes, deer and turtles. As such it appears frequently in all forms of Korean visual art and literature. Representations of the Dangun creation myth about the semi-divine origin of the Korean people almost invariably include a Korean red pine and the earliest surviving Korean tomb paintings include trees, which appear to be sonamu. The fact that old red pines develop a characteristic bark pattern, which resembles the shell of an old turtle, doubles their metaphorical value as a symbol of longevity.



Red pines are particularly associated with Confucius because they remain green and do not shed their leaves in winter and so represent constancy and righteousness. The main pavilion in Confucian scholarly retreat gardens and in Confucian academies, known as seowon, almost invariably has a single red pine growing to the right side of the entrance.

In these gardens this custom of planting a single red pine contrasts with the other common practice of planting two ginkgo trees at the entrance to the garden, also seen as a symbol of Confucian wisdom and probity. So deeply ingrained is this practice that today many red pines are planted at the entrances to Seoul high-rise buildings.

Red pines are also said to symbolize the long life of those dwelling in the land of the immortals, and recluses who have withdrawn from society and returned to nature to pursue the Daoist quest for immortality. They are also often used as a literary allusion to longevity in common Korean aphorisms such as ‘the pine tree lives 1000 years’ and ‘the pine tree and the Chinese juniper never grow old’.

Many Korean red pines are cultivated in the landscaped forests surrounding the major Buddhist temples in Korea, particularly on the slopes of the protective mountains behind the main temple complexes. The ritual walkways leading to these temples are fringed by forests of various kinds of trees, however it is at the base of the red pines among them, where pilgrims create the votive heaps of pebbles as they pass.

Every Buddhist temple has a small shrine (gak) at the rear, which is dedicated to a shamanistic figure called a san shin or mountain spirit or mountain god, thought to be a survival from the earlier animist beliefs that pre-dated the arrival of the more formal religions of Buddhism and Confucianism in Korea. Frequently these shrines are situated in front of stands of red pines and often there is a single aged specimen at the door of the shrine. Paintings of the san shin can be recognised by his inevitable companions - a tiger and a Korean red pine.

So we see the tree is intimately associated with the Korean origin myth and shamanistic, Confucian, Buddhist, Daoist, and Christian observance.

Red pines in royal gardens frequently appear in groups of three especially on artificial islands in garden ponds. Here they may be understood to represent earth, man and heaven and hence the essential complementarity of the universe. Another explanation is that in this context they symbolise the Daoist quest for immortality and the three sacred mountains worshiped before any of the more formal religions came to Korea.

In some areas of Korea, red pines grow with the naturally twisted and distorted habits much admired by gardeners, whereas in others they are renowned for their straight and upright stance so valued by craftsmen for the building of palaces and ships and for sculpture.

So how can it be that Korean red pines are valued both for being twisted and for being straight? There is an interesting theory about this⁷. It seems there may be more than such obvious factors as terrain and geography at work here. It is suggested that near ancient centres of Korean civilization such as royal capitals or temple or tomb complexes, all the straight upright specimens have been so consistently logged for construction purposes that the only specimens which survived long enough to reproduce, were those which were too twisted to be useful as timber. Thus over many hundreds of years, a process of human assisted natural selection has taken place. Certainly it is true that there is a preponderance of twisted red pines in the forests near the tombs and former palaces in Gyeongju, the capital of the Silla dynasty for 1000 years until 952AD, and the straight red pine required as timber by the current restorers of the Gyeongbokgung Palace in Seoul has to be felled in remote forests such as those at the foot of Mount Seorak in Gangwon-do province.

When all the above instances of the symbolic and practical uses made of the Korean red pine in Korean culture, both past and present, are considered, it is no wonder that the Korean name for the tree, sonamu, is spoken with reverence by Koreans and the tree holds a special place in their hearts.

¹ Jill Matthews principal designer of Greenleaf Garden Design and author of *Korean Gardens – Tradition, Symbolism and Resilience*, Hollym, 2018



Nebari development



Exposed roots

Trees For Sale

Evergreens include native, Shimpaku, Itoigawa junipers, various pines, mtn hemlock, spruces, moderately priced. Sizes vary from shohin to all one person wants to carry. Also varieties of maples and elms and accent plants. Call 503 704 3891 *Editor*



February Haiku

Frost in the meadow
Pine needles bright with crystals
Best seen through window

Ron Yasenchak

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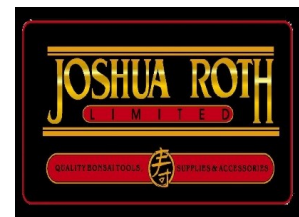
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The Bonsai Society of Portland meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

The Milwaukie Center

5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive, Milwaukie OR 97222

Enter parking lot from Rusk Road

Visitors are always welcome!

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