



# the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly  
publication of the

**BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND**

## Upcoming Events

April  
2023

### Monthly Meetings:

April 16 9am-1pm Mentorship 101, Basics Class

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

May 21 9am-1pm Mentorship 101, Basics Class

May 23 6-9pm BSOP Monthly Meeting; Jonas Dupuich- Pine De-candling- Lecture, Demo and Workshop

### Greetings BSOP,

I hope everyone is having a nice spring and had a great repotting season. Our trees here at RAKUYŌ are just starting to leaf out, and with the spring push they're enjoying gives us a bit of a break in the bonsai garden aside from a few things.

1. Protect spring growth from frost and hail, both can be quite damaging to the plants.
2. The emergence of spring means the emergence of pests. Keep an eye out for aphids and other insects that might feast on your new spring growth. Spray any trees with issues, I use Tree & Shrub from BioAdvanced/Bayer.
3. Keep an eye out for fungus, as our wet spring is the optimal time for fungal attacks. Any trees that have issues should be sprayed with the appropriate chemicals that treat those issues. Always read the labels for fungicides to make sure you're using the right product, and to get the proper dosages and safety precautions.

Other than that, enjoy the beautiful growth your bonsai are having or about to have. It's been a long winter, so I'm sure we're all excited to see our bonsai active again. Since there isn't much to do in spring, I'd recommend visiting local bonsai gardens in our area. Michael Hagedorn, Matt Reel and myself all are open by appointment only, but welcome anyone!

The Portland Japanese Garden opens their bonsai display this month, and has stellar bonsai showcased from the Pacific Northwest. Mirai is nearby and has a fee to visit, but is a beautiful garden to experience if you haven't been already!

Our friends at the Pacific Bonsai Museum have an exciting exhibition coming up on abstract bonsai that should be a real treat, and is great to visit anytime regardless of special exhibits. At RAKUYŌ we welcome visitors from all over the world every week, and I constantly hear from out of town visitors how lucky we are to have so much bonsai activity within our metro area and beyond. I highly recommend you take advantage of the fantastic local gardens and resources we have here in town, they are some of the best in North America.

Cheers, *Andrew Robson* BSOP President

# March Meeting Recap, Upcoming Events, and Spring Show Reminder!

Greetings BSOP Members! We had a blast at our March meeting with our Club Repotting Whack and Chat event. It was a day filled with fun, laughter, and lots of dirty hands! Our members brought in their bonsai trees that were in need of repotting, and we all gathered around to learn and share our knowledge and skills. It was a fantastic opportunity to bond over our mutual love for bonsai and exchange tips and tricks on repotting techniques. I want to extend my gratitude to all the members who participated and made the event a resounding success!

But hold on to your hats, because we have an even more exciting program lined up for April. World-renowned bonsai artist, Dan Robinson, will be visiting our club to do a special presentation and demo on Deadwood Carving. Dan Robinson is a master in the art of creating breathtaking bonsai trees with deadwood features that evoke a sense of timeless beauty and natural aesthetics. This is a rare opportunity to learn from one of the best in the field, and we highly recommend marking your calendars for this event, which will take place the April club meeting at the Milwaukie Center. Be prepared to be inspired and awed by Dan Robinson's expertise and artistry!

But wait, there's more! As we gear up for the warmer months, I want to remind our members of our upcoming Spring Show, which will be held on June 11th at the Portland Nursery located at 9000 SE Division St. It's going to be a fantastic event where our members can showcase their beautiful bonsai trees to the public and celebrate the arrival of spring. It will be an informal show, but gift card prizes will be awarded by the nursery to the best trees. Setup will begin at 8am, and teardown commences at 4pm. We encourage all members to participate and make this event a grand success. It's a wonderful opportunity to share your passion for bonsai with the community and connect with fellow bonsai enthusiasts.

In conclusion, I want to express our appreciation to all our members for their continued support and active participation in our club's activities. I hope you enjoyed the March meeting as much as I did, and I am looking forward to an exciting April with Dan Robinson's presentation on Deadwood Carving. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Spring Show on June 11th at Portland Nursery. See you all there!

Wishing you healthy and beautiful bonsai!

***Benjamin MacBeth***, Vice President of Programs

## BSOP Library Notes

### Just ordered for the BSOP library

(Hopefully this book arrives before the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting)

Dave De Groot's 2nd edition of the masterpiece *Principles of Bonsai Design*. Reported to be better than ever, with added valuable content and superior new layout & design. Enjoy 500 photos and drawings to support Mr. De Groot's in depth discussions of bonsai art and aesthetics, traditional Japanese and Chinese bonsai styles, new naturalistic bonsai styles in the West and elsewhere, and much more.

"Perhaps best of all", says Stone Lantern, "are the detailed discussions that cover where technique and art come together; branch structure, deadwood features, initial styling, container selection, refinement, display and collection."

"Whether you're a novice or a skilled practitioner, this one-of-a-kind book will help you improve your bonsai knowledge, your bonsai techniques and your enjoyment of the art of bonsai."

Be sure to take a look at the BCI Bonsai & Stone Appreciation magazine for Q1 2023. It has a feature article on the Pacific Bonsai Expo in Oakland, CA in November 2022.

***Jan***

# Mentorship 101 March Meeting

We had another great class in March. The boxwoods we featured were an urban yamadori donation to the program and were greeted enthusiastically by the students. This class is especially fun to be with in a dirty potting exercise. I encourage any BSOP members to drop into the class to observe and possibly pick up some bits of bonsai knowledge. We can be quite entertaining. The next meeting is on April 16<sup>th</sup> and the May meeting will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> at the Milwaukee Center from 9 am to 1 pm.

This month the class will be working with Dwarf Alberta Spruce. It will be another potting exercise in cleaning and removing flaws to set the tree up for a bright future. We will throw in some design technique and finish by putting the trees in a Tony Hackenbruck pot which he so generously gifted to the Mentorship. Another donation this month of bonsai shears from Steve Wilcox will be used for the first time. Often, we use tools that are not the best for bonsai, so this gift is so greatly appreciated by the mentors and the students. Thank you Steve and Tony.

A shout out to our mentors Roger Case, Keith Wingfield, Lee Cheattle, Brandon McMullin, Brandon Myren, David Mesa, Patrice Morrow and our newbie Shelly Svoboda for their tireless efforts to support the M101 with hours of their time spent on mentoring, coordinating, and schlepping and for donating material to us. We absolutely could not offer this quality program without them. Thank you mentors.

Enjoy the photos taken by Roger.

*Joanne Raiton*, Mentorship Chair







Mentorship photos by Roger Case

# Pacific Bonsai Museum

## Step inside the *Avant-garden* of bonsai

*'Avant-garde'*—from the French word meaning "advance guard"—is a term used to describe artists who are inventive, unorthodox, and ahead of their time.

See the results of experimental techniques pushing horticultural limits to achieve radical designs in our 2023 special exhibition, *Avant-garden*.

Starting May 13, eleven works will be presented by daring artists who have evolved their bonsai practice through experimentation, innovation, and a willingness to take risks. See works by **Ryan Neil, Michael Hagedorn, David Crust, Nick Lenz** and others that challenge what bonsai can be.

See bonsai trees like never before: in non-traditional vessels using repurposed materials; in different planting orientations; and bonsai that explore subject matter other than the traditional "nature and our relationship to it" theme.

Challenge your expectations of what a bonsai should look like and glimpse into the future and what lies ahead for an ancient art form.

Step inside the *Avant-garden* of bonsai where anything is possible, and be inspired! Exhibition runs May 13 to Sept 10, 2023.



Percy Hampton's Japanese wisteria



Avant Garden Doug Fir

Mallards wandering  
Looking for perfect nest site  
Like finding the front

## BonsaiFEST! returns May 13 and 14

Come all bonsai-fans and bonsai-curious to be wowed and inspired at Pacific Bonsai Museum's fourth BonsaiFEST! on Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day weekend) from 10am to 4pm each day. See hundreds of beautiful bonsai on exhibition in Pacific Bonsai Museum's 2023 special exhibition, *Avant-garden*—showcasing bonsai artists pushing the botanical and artistic boundaries of bonsai like you've never seen before—and in the Puget Sound Bonsai Association (PSBA) Spring Show which includes a *mame* (“ma-may”) exhibition of the tiniest bonsai around.

Watch live bonsai-making demonstrations, take a Docent-led tour, or take an audio tour with your smartphone. Buy bonsai and bonsai merch from Robert Cho's Asia Pacific Gardening and from Pacific Bonsai Museum's pop-up shop featuring pins, stickers, books, cards, gifts, and more for the nature-lover. Enjoy fun food and beverages from Yummy Catch and The Village Perk. Kids and families can use our Art Station with bonsai coloring sheets and have a bespoke poem written just for you.

Activities and admission are free. (Suggested donation of \$12 for those who are able to support the Museum.) Free parking is available across from the Museum at the Garden Parking Lot. More at [pacificbonsaimuseum.org](https://pacificbonsaimuseum.org)

***Katherine Wimble Fox***, Pacific Bonsai Museum



Pacific Bonsai Museum



Purple plum, *Prunus cerasifera*, grove in bloom. Includes a crab apple, *Malus*, with redder leaves.

See pussy willows  
January to April  
Vary like bonsai



### Haiku

Flicker calls in Spring  
Loud and strident, heard afar  
Yelling for a mate

#### PRE-BONSAI PLANTS · BONSAI TOOLS

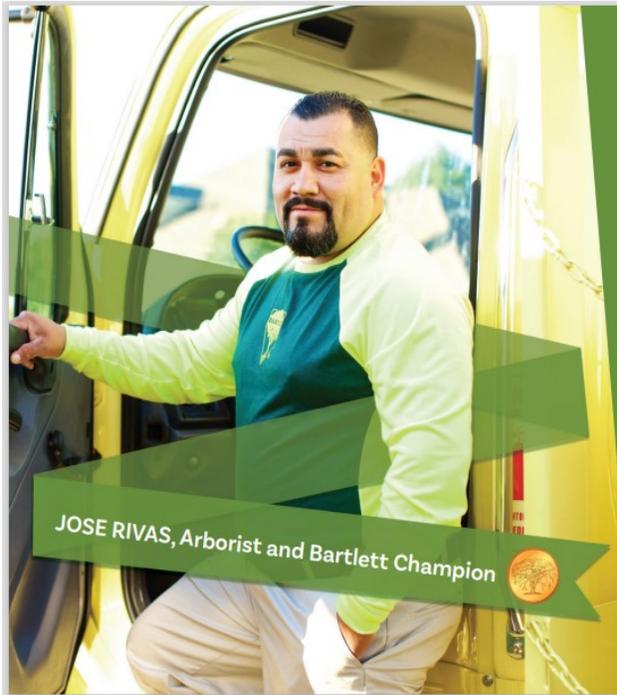
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The Bonsai Society of Portland meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

**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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Spring Show:

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Contact information is on the BSOP website [www.portlandbonsai.org](http://www.portlandbonsai.org) under Services/Members Only/Membership Directory