



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

May
2022

Monthly Meetings:

June 28, 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Advanced Deciduous Techniques, Andrew Robson, Milwaukie Center

July 16 9am-12 noon BSOP Summer Picnic / Swap Meet and Summer Vendors

August 23 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Member Tree Critique

Greetings BSOP,

May has been a fantastic month for our club. A huge thank you to all of our volunteers, panelists and registrants who came out for Farm to Table. It was an incredibly successful weekend, and at the end of it Dave DeGroot mentioned to me that it was the best convention that he's ever attended. We had 100 people from Oregon, Washington, California and beyond, and in addition to our excellent teachers, Chris & Lisa Kirk made the weekend one not to forget. A few days after the meeting, Jonas Dupuich gave a fantastic program to our club on decandling black pines.

Seasonally, make sure you decandle your black pines if you need to do so, the deadline for our climate if you live in Portland is June 1st for most trees, shohin can be done the first week of June. We are still a couple weeks away from starting deciduous work, as we've had a cold spring and the spring flush hasn't yet hardened off.

Hope you enjoy our warmer weather. We're due for some sun after this very long cool Spring.

Cheers,

Andrew Robson BSOP President



Decandling a Japanese black pine

Decandling is a great technique for refining selected pine species trained as bonsai. At its most basic, decandling refers to the removal of spring growth with the aim of stimulating summer growth.

From Bonsai Tonight, Jonas Depuich's website.



April Monthly Meeting

Dennis Vojtila discussed the refinement stage development of deciduous bonsai. Dennis' decades of experience in growing and styling deciduous bonsai gave club members information not commonly presented, as early development is more likely to be the topic where branch structure and placement are a primary concern. This talk discussed development of fine branch detail and correction of defects that have arisen through loss of a branch or other mishaps.



Dennis brought a variety of trees to show his development techniques



Branch refinement through the fractals of broccoli



Trident maples and Japanese larch seedlings were available for purchase

Photographs courtesy of Jim Baggett



BSOP Library News

BSOP Library Gains Another New Book!

New to our inventory: *Italian Bonsai Dream Book* by Mauro Stemberger. This is a unique book, offering text in both English and Italian. And pictures... oh, the pictures! Paraphrasing the internet description of the book: There are 205 color pages that include QR codes. When scanned, the codes will take you to videos on YouTube that provide more in-depth information than any book could provide.

You may have seen Mr. Stemberger in *Bonsai Focus* and BCI's *Bonsai & Stone* magazines. He was born in Italy and has been practicing the art of bonsai since age 14 (about 1992). He has studied with many European bonsai masters and won many prizes, most recently the 2021 BCI Excellence Award at UBI-IBS show in Arco with a Scots Pine 'Buddha'. Check the website italianbonsaidream.com for more information on Mr. Stemberger and his *Bonsai Dream*.

Thanks, Greg Brenden, for the recommendation!

Jan Hettick

Assistant Librarian

BSOP Members Bonsai at the Portland Japanese Garden

I visited the Portland Japanese garden yesterday, and was beyond impressed with the bonsai on exhibit there by some of our club members. Go see them if you haven't already. Find them in the patio, and on the outside deck above the gift shop. *Trisha Bonapace*

Ulmus (Elm)

The Chinese elm is the most popular of the elm trees for bonsai purposes, although other elms are also suitable for Bonsai.

The Chinese elm is often confused with the Japanese zelkova. Mature Chinese elms develop a scaling bark with orange patches while the zelkova's bark stays smooth. Chinese elm leaves have a more glossy surface and zelkova leaves are often narrower and more pointed.

The Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) also resembles the Chinese elm. It is native to Eastern Siberia, Middle Asia, Mongolia and Northern China, has larger double-toothed leaves and develops a deeply furrowed bark. The Siberian elm is very frost-hardy, robust, can tolerate droughts better and is resistant to the Dutch elm disease.

From bonsaiempire.com



Genus overview

Genus of about 45 species of deciduous, semi-evergreen trees occurring in woodland, thickets and hedgerows in Northern temperate regions. Ulmus have alternate, ovate to elliptic toothed leaves usually with very unequally sized bases. Most species display good fall colour.

Ulmus species and in particular *Ulmus parvifolia*/Chinese Elm are often confused with *Zelkova* species, in particular *Zelkova serrata*/Japanese Elm. *Zelkova* are classed as a separate genus to *Ulmus* as they have fruits that are unwinged as opposed to the winged fruits of *Ulmus*. *Zelkova* also differ in that they have single-toothed leaves whereas *Ulmus* have double-toothed leaves.

The most common *Ulmus* species used for bonsai is the Chinese Elm /*Ulmus parvifolia*, however there is no reason why any of the many *Ulmus* species cannot be used.



Chinese Elm Bonsai/Harry Harrington

Notes for bonsai cultivation

Ulmus parvifolia/Chinese Elm are often sold as indoor bonsai and as such are acclimatised to indoor growing conditions, however Chinese Elms are temperate trees and fully frost hardy. Chinese Elms grown indoors (or in climates with very mild winters) will remain evergreen whereas outdoor cultivation results in a deciduous tree.

Though Elms should be able to cope with the adverse growing conditions indoors, they are never as vigorous as their outdoor counterparts. To be entirely frost hardy, your Chinese Elm **must** spend the Autumn outside to harden up for the Winter; never place a Chinese Elm that has been grown indoors straight outside during the Winter,

I am reliably informed that given protection from cold winds and mulching of the pot with straw, soil or bark, Chinese Elm bonsai will actually cope with temperatures of -10°F. (Zone 6 Winters). Chinese Elms planted in the ground will survive in zone 5 Winters; that's temperatures down to -20°F (-28°C).

Watering

During periods of strong sun, high temperatures or strong growth in the Spring, trees can need far more frequent watering.

Feeding

Once buds open in Spring, feed weekly with high nitrogen for first month then every two weeks until late summer with balanced feed.

Repotting

In Spring as buds extend annually. Elms have very strong and vigorous root systems that need annual root pruning. Rootbound Elms will grow poorly.

Pruning

One of the main attractions of Elms is the great contrast that can be achieved between a thick trunk and the delicacy of very fine growth at the tips of the branches.

Allow shoots to extend 3 or 4 nodes then prune back to 1 or 2 leaves as required.

Pruning of large branches during the Spring and Summer can cause heavy calluses; if necessary, the size of the scar can be reduced by carrying out major pruning work in late Summer and Autumn.

Wiring

In mid-summer though indoor trees can be wired mid-winter particularly if out of leaf. Care should be taken as bark marks easily. Healthy trees can also be defoliated during Winter (if necessary) and mid Summer to enable easier wiring.

Propagation

Sow seed outdoors in Autumn or Spring. Greenwood cuttings in Summer. Hardwood cuttings in Winter. Air-layering after spring growth has hardened.

Pests and diseases

Elm bonsai are not affected by Dutch Elm Disease as the beetle requires the volume of wood only available to it in fully grown mature trees. An attack (if it were to happen) would easily be dealt with by systemic insecticides and fungicides on a potted tree in comparison to the problems associated with eradicating Dutch Elm Disease on a fully-grown tree in the ground.

Watch for aphids, leafhoppers and gall mites

Styles

Suitable for all forms and sizes- especially good for the broom form which replicates the natural shape of Ulmus.



Ulmus minor
European field elm



Ulmus parvifolia
Chinese elm

English elm
bonsai

Taken from bonsai4me.com
Harry Harrington's website



Chinese elm



Elm

Trees For Sale including the trees pictured above, evergreens including 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

Call 503 704 3891 *Editor*

Zen Principle #7, Accept that painful things may happen (*Sometimes branches die*)

#11 Do not be Judgemental. (*See how the tree wants to grow*)

From Maikoya Kimono Tea Ceremony



May Haiku

Bonsai rules like Zen
Follow them all faithfully
Break one now and then

Ron Yasenchak

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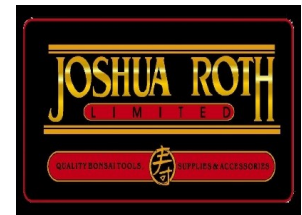


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6707 SW Pine Street, Portland, OR 97223

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