



# the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly  
publication of the

**BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND**

## Upcoming Events

May  
2023

### Monthly Meetings:

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

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

June 11 9am-1pm Mentorship 101, Basics Class

June 11 BSOP Spring Show at Portland Nursery 10:00am - 4:00pm, Division St.

June 23 6-9pm BSOP Monthly Meeting; Young Choe presents Kusamono discussion  
and demonstration

July 22 9am –12pm BSOP Swap Meet, Milwaukie Center Pavilion

### Greetings BSOP,

As temperatures in Portland are getting warmer, it's time to start thinking about protecting certain trees from strong sun and temperatures. The best way to control the sun is by having your bonsai in an area getting full sun throughout the day and controlling the levels with shade-cloth. For most deciduous trees, 50-60% shade cloth is ideal in our climate.

At RAKUYŌ we don't just have deciduous under shade cloth though, but also hemlocks, redwoods, spruces, and firs. This seems to really help these species, and perhaps 30-40% might be a target range for them. Pines and junipers can be and should be out in the full sun for as long as possible. If you don't have shade cloth, you can get similar results by having your deciduous and shade loving conifers in morning sun and afternoon shade, while keeping the pines and junipers in the sunniest part of your garden/yard.

Also remember with spring heat, watering can be at its most critical point of the year. Active growth tips means trees are using water more than other points of the year, so we are at more risk of under watering than in the summer when the growth on our plants slows. Keep a good eye on things in the high spring temperatures we have forecasted!

If you have any tropicals like ficus, you might consider moving them outside as the temperatures look to be getting above 50° for the lows.

Cheers, *Andrew Robson* BSOP President

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

Greetings fellow bonsai enthusiasts! I am excited to share with you the highlights of our April meeting, where we had the pleasure of hosting the world-renowned bonsai artist, Dan Robinson. Dan conducted a carving demo on his Pine tree to explain his philosophy for design of the tree, which included a focus on the interest in the deadwood. During the demo, he shared various techniques and tools used in the process, and our members were thrilled to learn from one of the best in the field. It was a fantastic opportunity to witness the artistry of a master and learn from his vast knowledge and experience.

As we move forward, we have more exciting events planned for our members coming in May and June. In May, we have Jonas Dupuich visiting for our meeting to conduct a Pine Decandling lecture and workshop. Members are encouraged to bring a multi-flush pine and their tools to the meeting to follow along and complete the decandling on their own material. Jonas Dupuich is a well-known bonsai artist, author, and founder of the Bonsai Tonight blog. He has a wealth of knowledge on the subject of pine decandling, and we are eager to learn from him.

In June, we have Young Choe visiting to do a demonstration on the creation of accent plants. She will be discussing species regional to the Pacific Northwest and how to pair them in display. Young Choe is a well-respected artist and has worked for many years with the US National Arboretum. Her expertise and artistry in accent plants will give us valuable insights into creating beautiful and harmonious displays.

Young will be leading an accent plant workshop on June 25 at the Milwaukie center. Members will need to bring their own containers and tools, and the cost of the workshop will include plant and other materials for the workshop. Keep an eye out for the email blast for signups and to secure your seat for this incredible workshop opportunity with Young!

We also 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. Setup will begin at 8 am, and teardown will commence at 4 pm.

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. The Sign-Up genius link was sent out in an email blast for members to sign up for volunteer positions and to give us an understanding of approximately how many trees will be displayed. Registration is not required.

In conclusion, we hope you're as excited as we are for the upcoming events in our club. We had a fantastic April meeting with Dan Robinson's demo, and we're looking forward to learning from Jonas Dupuich and Young Choe in May and June, respectively. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Spring Show on June 11th. We'll see you all there!

To locate the BSOP Spring Show Sign Up, please use the previously emailed link from **SUG** or Google Sign Up Genius/ Find a Sign Up, then enter [tm4170399@aol.com](mailto:tm4170399@aol.com) as the sign up creator's email.

***Ben MacBeth***  
Vice President of Programs

# March BSOP Monthly Meeting

Dan Robinson gave a power tool carving demonstration on a large pine. It's been some years since the club has had an opportunity to learn these techniques from Dan.



Dan makes the chips fly



A closer look at Dan's work



Dan explains his process



Seasonal Kusamono display



Silent auction with lots of choices. *Photos courtesy of Jim Baggett*



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# Mentorship 101 April Meeting

April was the month of the Alberta Spruce. It was quite a challenge for the students to convert a nursery plant that was originally offered by the nursery as a Christmas tree, but they came through as usual. Our students are amazing and a joy to be with.

We are done with our repotting now and on May 21st we will take up the "clip and grow" method often used on broadleaf evergreen and deciduous and then possibly throw in some wiring of these not so flexible trees. Rather than featuring one tree, we will have three, an elm, a cherry and an azalea.

This next class will be organized a little differently than past classes. We will do the clipping and wiring, but there will be a bonsai rodeo with mini lectures by all the mentors. Much of the content will be a review of lessons already taught with some new hints, tricks and cautions thrown in.

Some mentors will be presenting new subjects that we thought would be helpful to the students. There will be talks by Brandon Myren-collecting, Shelly Svoboda-pots, Roger Case-wiring, Brandon McMullin-tools, Keith Wingfield-plant maintenance, and Lee Cheatle as host. As Lee likes to say, "Yeehaw."

Once again, members are always welcome to drop in as silent observers.

Enjoy the photo taken by Roger.

*Joanne Raiton*, Mentorship Chair



# Defoliation

Why do we defoliate bonsai after the spring growth has hardened off? Defoliation is an important technique for redirecting energy, maintaining balance and creating fine branching, especially on deciduous bonsai. In addition it allows sunlight to penetrate into the core of the canopy keeping the fine growth healthy. If completely shaded for a period of time, this growth would weaken and die.

Defoliation is important for all size classifications of bonsai. It is especially critical for shohin bonsai that already are being designed with minimal branches compared to their larger cousins. When you are crafting a bonsai to be between 6-8 inches or shorter, it is essential to have every branch healthy, vigorous and growing strong. It is important to know the correct defoliation techniques by species.

Multi-flush species can handle a full defoliation, meaning all leaves are completely removed. Single-flush species can only handle a partial defoliation meaning individual leaves are either cut in half, 1/2 of a pair of leaves growing opposite each other is cut completely off or the outer leaves of a canopy are removed leaving the small interior leaves.

Here is an example of a partial defoliation of the shohin bonsai Japanese maples. This is a single-flush plant that will not reliably push a second flush of growth. My personal experience tells me a full defoliation can be risky with *Acer palmatum*. Bonsai work is never done! This little guy stands at just under 7-1/2 inches tall and has been with us for over a decade. We are working on improving the fine ramification and want the canopy denser when it is in winter silhouette.

*Jeffrey Robson*





## Bonsai Display at a botanical garden in Gijon, Spain



*Buxus sempervirens*



*Buxus balearica*



*Euonymus japonicus*



*Ligustrum vulgare*



*Ulmus minor*



*Picea abies* 'Nidiformis'



*Juniperus chinensis*

I enjoyed looking at these nice trees, but most aren't exceptional by BSOP standards. We are fortunate to practice where bonsai professionals are available.



A real find in the silent auction



Nice trunk, probably tamarisk



**Haiku**

Long cold rainy Spring  
 Now hot winds and blazing sun  
 Should not have complained

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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](http://www.portlandbonsai.org) under Services/Members Only/Membership Directory