



the **TREE LINE**

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

Upcoming Events

June
2021

Virtual BSOP Meeting:

June 22 7-9pm, Young Choe speaks on Kusamono

National Meeting:

September 11-12, 2021, US National Bonsai Exhibition. Rochester, NY 14445

President's Report

Greetings BSOP,

Hope everyone is enjoying this beautifully dry spring, my bonsai certainly are. Here at RAKUYO we've been busy pruning back deciduous plants now that the first flush of growth has hardened off. This is the main busy season for working on deciduous bonsai. Vigorous plants can be pruned back now, and should regrow for a second cut this summer. It's also a great time to perform airlayers, take cuttings, and wire deciduous plants.

We're looking forward to resuming in person meetings this fall, starting in September. More details on that will follow as we will follow guidance from the CDC and BSOP medical advisors on how to meet safely as a large organization. We're still hoping to do an outdoor summer event and should have details about that out very soon. Hope everyone is staying safe, healthy, and enjoying this beautiful pacific northwest weather.

Cheers,

Andrew Robson, President, Bonsai Society of Portland



Olea sylvestris
90 cm

Meleda Bonsai
Studio

Bonsai Heresy, A Book Review

It's been a couple of years since I've read Michael Hagadorn's first book, *Post-Dated: The Schooling of an Irreverent Bonsai Monk*. It was a delightful book chronicling Michael's adventures and misadventures as an apprentice to Mr. Shinji Suzuki while living in Japan. A fun, widely accessible book that I read on my way to Japan for the Kokufu in 2018. My husband, who doesn't practice bonsai, was delighted with it as well. I believe our trip was enhanced by some of the stories and it certainly gave me the courage to introduce myself to Mr. Suzuki when I saw him at the show.

Michael's latest book, *Bonsai Heresy*, is an entirely different story. I don't know why I was surprised, since the subtitle, *56 Myths Exposed Using Science and Tradition*, really sets the stage nicely. After reading the first chapter, I decided that I'd better pull out my notebook and start taking notes. This is a book that draws on many years of experience, combined with a respect for the scientific process and anecdotal precedent. It refuses to be pigeonholed, and insists on looking at all sides of an issue, including cultural, artistic, horticultural and historical factors. I haven't read anything quite like it. There is so much good, solid information for bonsai practitioners of all levels of experience, and it's presented in an intriguing, easy to follow style. This is a man on a hunt for answers and he takes you along on that journey. I was struck by the humility in his approach; he's not afraid to make mistakes. He learns from them, and then shares that earned knowledge with his lucky readers. I've read my share of technical bonsai related volumes that lecture from a certain perspective. This is not one of them. This is a culmination of the meeting of a curious soul with a wise and accomplished bonsai artist who's seemingly unfettered by ego.

Highly recommended; your trees will thank you!

by *Patrice Morrow*

BSOP MEMBER BENEFITS

From the BSOP Policy and Guidelines; Personal one-time ads for such things as home sales may be presented to the Membership Chair for distribution via email on a space/time available basis. Please allow a minimum of 14 days notice.

Contact Patrice Morrow/ Membership Chair, at tm4170399@aol.com with your message that is prepared and ready to be sent, along with your desired date of distribution. This will be sent to all members of BSOP, except for those that have opted out of club emails.

Realistically, I often can process these in a more timely manner than the 2 weeks mentioned above, but please plan ahead as much as is feasible. Approval of content and timing are at the discretion of the Membership Chair. This is a service that is intended for bonsai related messaging.

Advertising in the monthly newsletter can also be arranged for members. Please contact me for details.

Preparing trees for show

NOVEMBER 29, 2011 by JONAS DUPUICH

Late fall through early winter is show season in Japan. Depending on how many trees a bonsai professional has to show – or sell – October through February can be a busy time. Within just three weeks, I helped with trees bound for four different events. Show preparation can entail anything from needle plucking to repotting to detail wiring. And once show trees are ready to go, work begins on the sale trees.

My favorite task during the season is show wiring. On several occasions, I've been given a tree and told to make it look pretty without using heavy wires. Depending on the tree, this can be a confounding task. The first tree I worked on was a cascade black pine.



Japanese black pine



Japanese black pine – show prep complete

After removing old needles and trimming a few long needles, I began tweaking the branches, most of which were wired last year. I quickly realized I didn't have a great idea of what I was trying to do so I let Mr. Tanaka complete the work on the tree. When the branches were set, I oiled the pot and applied moss to the surface of the soil. Here's a photo of the finished tree.

The next tree I worked on was a large black pine with long needles. The tree was in good shape, but stray needles and branch pads lacking definition detracted from the tree's overall look.



Black pine – before



Happy with the result



Show prep complete

Tanaka tweaked a few small branches and added a guy wire – for the most part, subtle changes. Here’s how the tree ended up.

Sometimes simple tasks can make a big difference. The deadwood on the white pine below was quite dark before I treated it with lime-sulfur.



White pine with lots of deadwood



Needles plucked – getting ready to add moss

I also plucked stray needles from a large white pine bound for Taikan-ten.

On the other end of the spectrum, some trees were wired from bottom to top. This isn’t normally done just before an exhibition, especially ahead of shows like Kokufu and Taikan-ten. The practice can, however, be acceptable for regional shows – especially if the tree’s owner requests it.



Mr. Tanaka and Peter Tea working late to finish wiring a large white pine.

The show prep that really caught my attention was the work that went into an old multi-trunk trident maple. The first step involved removing all of the leaves.

I would have thought this job wouldn’t take a long time, but when there are hundreds of leaves on hundreds of branches and great care must be taken to avoid breaking branches, the task can take a surprisingly long time.

It’s a perfect job for Mr. Tanaka, a third-year apprentice at Aichi-en who by coincidence has the same name as our oyakata.



Mr. Tanaka removing old leaves

Once the leaves were removed, Mr. Tanaka pulled out an electronic toothbrush and scrubbed the branches with water to remove green build-up wherever it appeared.



Electric toothbrush technique



So many branches

The result was a beautiful trident maple. Some moss and an oiled pot completed the work, and the tree looked great at Taikan-ten. I'll post pics of these trees as exhibited before long.



Carpinus orientalis 70 cm
Meleda Bonsai Studio



purple plum

Trees For Sale

Evergreens include native, Shimpaku and Itoigawa junipers, black and lodgepole pines, mountain hemlock and spruces, moderately priced, variety of sizes from hold in your hand to all one person wants to carry. Also varieties of maples, varieties of elms, boxwoods and accent plants. Pine candles are clipped. Call 503 704 3891 to see the trees.

Editor



Bonsai Garden
Univ. of Arkansas

June Haiku

Springwork is coming
New life, now beauty unfolds
Time to be gardening

Ron Yasenchak

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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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Newsletter: Peter Pelofske

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Raffle:

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Spring Show:

Summer Picnic: Joe Johannesen

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Webmaster: Karl Holmes

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