



# the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly  
publication of the

**BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND**

## Upcoming Events

June  
2023

### Monthly Meetings:

June 25 8:30-5, morning and afternoon sessions Young Choe workahop

June 27 6-9pm BSOP Monthly Meeting; Young Choe presents Kusamono discussion and demonstration

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

September 26 6-9pm BSOP Monthly Meeting; Todd Schlafer presents Spruce Styling

October Fall Show Date to be announced

### Greetings BSOP,

I hope everyone is having a great Spring! Warmer than average temperatures have really pushed a lot of growth here at Rakuyo, and we've been busy keeping up with watering and growth management.

All of our black pine bonsai should be decandled by now, if you're reading this and haven't done any decandling yet, it's likely too late, otherwise your tree will regrow with very very short needles and may not be able to be decandled next year.

It's a great time to start working on deciduous bonsai if you haven't already, doing defoliation and leaf cutting for the species that need it. I hope your spring ends well and we all transition to a nice summer, hopefully it stays cooler than the previous two summers, fingers crossed!

Cheers, *Andrew Robson* BSOP President

## Library Policy

This is a reminder that library books are due back the month following check out. That means anything checked out at the May 23 meeting will be due back at the June 27 meeting. If you have an overdue book, please be sure to bring it back on June 27, or contact me to see about how to get it back into circulation.

Now here is the great part of the "next meeting" return policy: Any items checked out at the June 27 meeting are not due back until the next regular meeting on September 26! (The library is not open during July and August functions.) So load up on some great summer reading. If you don't feel like reading there are some fantastic photo books from which to get new ideas. There is even a funky fiction murder mystery! Truly something for everyone.

*Jan Hettick*

# Bonsai Society of Portland Program Report

Dear BSOP Members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and filled with excitement for the upcoming BSOP events. As always, we strive to provide you with enriching experiences and opportunities to deepen your knowledge and appreciation for this wonderful art form. In this edition, we have some thrilling updates to share with you, so let's dive right in!

## May Meeting: Jonas Dupuich Recap

Last month, we had the pleasure of hosting Jonas Dupuich, a renowned bonsai expert and pine specialist, at our May meeting. Jonas shared invaluable insights and advanced techniques on developing pines during the spring season. From refining branch structure to encouraging trunk development, his presentation left us all inspired and eager to apply these techniques to our own bonsai trees. We express our heartfelt gratitude to Jonas for his enlightening session.

## June Meeting: Kusamono Creation by Young Choe

The anticipation for our June meeting is building up as we eagerly await the arrival of Young Choe, a prominent figure in the bonsai world. During the meeting, Young Choe will be creating captivating kusamono live on stage. As an added bonus, her creations will be part of a raffle, giving lucky members the chance to take one home and enhance their own bonsai display. You won't want to miss this extraordinary opportunity!

## Reminder: Young Choe Workshop at Milwaukie Center on June 25th

For all the enthusiastic members who signed up for the highly anticipated Young Choe workshop, we want to remind you that it will be taking place at the Milwaukie Center on June 25th, the Sunday before our June meeting. Remember to mark your calendars and note from your confirmation email whether you are in the morning or afternoon session. A reminder email will also be sent out in the days before the event. Participants are kindly requested to bring their own containers (bring multiple that you can choose from), while the club will provide the necessary soil and plants for the workshop. This promises to be an educational and hands-on experience that will undoubtedly elevate your bonsai display.

## July Meeting: Summer Swap Meet

Please take note of an important change regarding our July meeting. Rather than our usual time, the July meeting will be held on July 22nd, with setup starting at 8 am in the pavilion. The swap meet will end at 12pm. We kindly request all members to adjust their schedules accordingly, as we don't want anyone to miss out on this gathering. Let this serve as a call to all vendors to prepare your inventory for what promises to be a busy day!

There will be a very limited number of tables available at the pavilion, so vendors are highly encouraged to bring their own. If you are vending, please be mindful of the setup and teardown times as we only have the space reserved for a limited time. Vending space will be first come, first serve, but should be plentiful.

That wraps up our updates for this month. I hope you're as thrilled as I am about the upcoming events. As always, your participation and support are what make our bonsai community so vibrant. I look forward to seeing you at the June meeting.

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

# May BSOP Monthly Meeting

Jonas Depuich gave a presentation on Black Pine decandling and other aspects of Black Pine development. He used slides and live trees to explain techniques that work and why they work. The thorough discussion covered various stages of tree development. It was well attended as BSOP members value this type of information.





Jonas gave members advice on their trees





A full house of BSOP members learning about Black Pine



Members working on their own pines



Quality trees at the silent auction



*Quercus cerris* / Turkey Oak  
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*Acer campestre*  
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**8<sup>TH</sup> U.S. NATIONAL BONSAI  
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Bonsai is so much more than just a tree in a pot. Just like the other Japanese traditional art forms of ikebana & suiseki, bonsai is also meant to transport us to another place when viewed and contemplated. What we hopefully craft are representations of trees we have seen or would see in nature, only in miniature so that they can be brought up close and personal.

Shinto is considered to be the source of Japanese culture and aesthetics. With its emphasis on the wholeness of nature and character in ethics, and its celebration of the landscape, it sets the tone for Japanese aesthetics. Becoming part of everyday life in Japanese aesthetics comprise a set of ancient ideals that include wabi (transient and stark beauty), sabi (the beauty of natural patina and aging), and yugen (profound grace and subtlety). These ideals, and others, underpin much of Japanese cultural and aesthetic norms on what is considered tasteful and beautiful. We are striving to create bonsai that eventually exhibit these traits helping us achieve our design goals in this traditional and classical art.

Therefore, leaves must be in proportion to the size of our "finished" bonsai to help tell a credible story. The flair of the trunk at the level of the soil and the radial surface roots give the impression of not only a stability and a well ground tree but also advanced age. Fine taper and ramification in the trunk and branches also lend credence to the image of the "old tree" we are



trying to present to the viewer. These characteristics can be easily achieved with patience and dedication to the proper techniques applied religiously every season compounding over time.

We all can create amazing bonsai just like the Zelkova in the photograph below. This stunning bonsai stands at just about 24 inches. It was trained in the classical Hokidachi style (broom style). To me it is very much a representation of a tree you would see in an open field or pasture. I passed thousands of deciduous trees looking just like this as I drove around the midwest but we can see them in every state in wide open spaces. This Zelkova was exhibited in the 77th Kokufu Bonsai Exhibition and it has the award of "Important Bonsai Masterpiece". It exhibits a great base with good trunk flair and nebari, a thick trunk, fine taper, super ramification and dense canopy. These characteristics all combine to make this a worthy bonsai for that award and they combine to give the impression of an ancient deciduous tree.



Bonsai like this just don't happen if left to their own devices so I'd encourage us all to find time to work on our bonsai- remember they need us or they will only be trees in pots.

*Jeffrey Robson*



# A SUMMER BONSAI SOLSTICE

Wednesday, June 21, 5 to 8pm

An open house for the summer solstice. This is one of only two nights a year when we stay open past 4pm. Come take in the light and beauty of our woods and bonsai, have a stroll, meet up with friends, take a gorgeous photo, and smell the fresh air of a summery evening.

Not only is the LIGHT beautiful on a summery evening in the Museum, but this year you can also delight in SOUND. We are welcoming Mary Clymer to the Museum who will lead two, complimentary sound bath sessions starting at 5:30 and 6:30pm. Relax and enjoy a sensory healing experience for the mind, body, and soul in the peace of Pacific Bonsai Museum. The sound bath will incorporate cues for dynamic breathing and crystal singing bowls. Come rejuvenate your mind, your breath, and feel your natural vibration.

Try Tai Chi! International Tai Chi gold medalist Viola Brumbaugh will lead two, complimentary sessions starting at 6 PM and 7 PM. Come watch, or join in.

We will be offering bonsai-making demonstrations throughout the evening by some of our most knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers. Watch the magic of shaping, wiring, and pruning a miniature tree.

We will also have our pop-up shop open that evening so you can pick up prints, pins, stickers, cards, and more.

Free admission (with suggested donation of \$12 for adults who can support the Museum).

More at <https://pacificbonsaimuseum.org/events/a-bonsai-solstice-2023-2/>

**While you are here, see [Avant-garden!](#)**

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



“Composition is in the box”, Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), In training since 2015, Bonsai by Ryan Neil, Sculpture by Spencer Staley.



Kusamono by Young Choe



**Haiku**

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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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Mentorship: Joanne Raiton

Newsletter: Peter Pelofske

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Photographer: Jim Baggett

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Spring Show:

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Webmaster: Karl Holmes

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