



# the **TREE LINE**

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

## **Upcoming Events Cancelled** September 2020

### **September Words From the President**

This fall/winter we will be electing new representatives for our executive board. If you have ever wanted to be a part of the decision making process for BSOP, please contact our nomination committee, headed by Reid Parham. Reid can be reached at [reid.parham@gmail.com](mailto:reid.parham@gmail.com)

Seats that are open include the President, Treasurer, and Secretary. We have interested parties under consideration for the President and Treasurer positions, but Secretary is still open.

As we go through another 2020 event with raging fires driven by strong and gusting winds, I hope for the safety of our entire bonsai community. We were saddened to hear of the destruction of Telperion Farms, but are thankful that lives were spared. If you are able, please consider supporting the 2 Go-Fund-Me campaigns that are available.

Be safe everyone, *Joe Johansen*



From  
Crataegus.com,  
Michael  
Hagedorn's  
portfolio

# Programming Report

Well, it has been a few months, but since you have already read the heading then you might be able to intuit what this is about — OUR SEPTEMBER PROGRAM! Your Bonsai Society is going virtual with Zoom teleconferencing and/or YouTube streaming. This will continue for some indeterminate period, as the Milwaukie Center remains closed and BSOP remains committed to safeguarding the health of our community.

Join us at about 7 pm on Tuesday, September 22 for Scott Elser's enthusiastic return to the BSOP stage. Information regarding how to connect and watch the livestream will be coming in email and also on the BSOP website. I will have the stream started up shortly after 6 pm to make space for a little social hour and to give folks time to troubleshoot any connection or audio issues.

Scott's presentation will cover what we should be doing to our trees as we move full on into fall, with an emphasis on October. After a brief discussion on fertilization, Scott will cover aspects of what to prune, and what not to prune this time of year. He'll have lots of live examples from his own collection covering deciduous and fruiting trees, as well as pines, junipers, and elongating species. He will also take into consideration trees that are in a more developmental phase as well as those that are in refinement. With the club's camera, we should be able to show some close detail on all of these.

I am excited to see and hear from you soon. Please accept all of my best wishes and goodwill toward you and your families as the fires threaten our region.

*Reid Parham*, VP, Programming

## September 2020 Mentorship

If we knew where we were going, we would know how to get there!

This concept applies to life, to bonsai and to mentorship. At this point, we still need to watch out for what we inhale, trying to hide from the virus and the smoke. Advice from virtually all scientists, physicians and public health experts strongly suggests that we must remain vigilant with masks and social distancing. For how much longer? Nobody really knows. And the Milwaukie Center, appropriately, remains unavailable. If we knew when conditions would sufficiently improve, we would know how and when to restart the two mentorship programs. We continue to consider a host of options, both in person and online. I remain confident that mentorship will be back.

As for bonsai, learning all the techniques, of course, is essential. However, what is at least as essential is to learn to see a tree's future. What does the tree offer? That determines what techniques are needed and when they are needed. That ability, in my mind, is more critical and more difficult to master, than the technical aspects. If we knew where we were going, we would know how to get there. I would suggest viewing trees in the wild and, in your minds, making them better. It sounds weird, but it can be useful.

As for life, oh, forget it. But I guess it's never too late!

Remember to hose down your trees to get the ash off the leaves!

Cheers, *Howard*

## ***An email from the BSOP Board of Directors:***

Along with everything else happening in 2020, this is the year we elect new BSOP board members for a 2-year term. Two current board members (VP of Programs Reid Parham and VP of Membership Patrice Morrow) are willing to serve another term. However, we need to find members to fill the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and President.

The BSOP Bylaws describe the duties of these positions. Use the following link and click on BSOP Constitution. The Bylaws start on Page 3.

<https://portlandbonsai.org/s/2019-01-22-constitution-and-bylaws.pdf>

The people currently serving in these positions would be happy to answer any questions that you have about what is entailed in the jobs. We would also be willing to work with incoming officers for a few months until they learn the ropes. You can reach them via email at:

Laura Hudson, secretary - [llh2747@yahoo.com](mailto:llh2747@yahoo.com)

Patty Myrick, treasurer - [verdillia@comcast.net](mailto:verdillia@comcast.net)

Joe Johanesen, president - [frjj1@msn.com](mailto:frjj1@msn.com)

If you are interested in helping the club as we navigate into the future, please contact us.

Bonsai Society of Portland, Inc, 6707 Southwest Pine Street, Tigard, OR, 97223, United States

## **Thank You Club Members!**

A sincere and heartfelt “THANK-YOU” for the donations that members have generously provided to the club over the last several months. While expenses have declined, there are still costs involved in running the club and maintaining certain basic necessities. We recognize and appreciate your generosity !



Pinus sylvestris/ Scots Pine bonsai from Wirral Bonsai Show from [bonsai4me.com](http://bonsai4me.com)

# The Satsuki Azalea For Bonsai

**History:** These fine plants have been bred and selected for over 300 years in Japan. The first book of azaleas called *Kinshuku Makura* was published in 1692. There were four volumes covering more than 337 kinds of azaleas, 162 were Satsuki. The original plants were *Rhododendron indicum*. As mutations or sports appeared, the gardeners would propagate that sport by cuttings and the mutation was given a new name. The names given were very descriptive, such as things to do with the mountains, colors or the moon. Satsuki is a Japanese word which best describes the time of flowering. Sa means five and tsuki means moon. In other words, the fifth month of the lunar calendar. This is about when the Satsuki flower, mid-May to mid-June.

**Use for Bonsai:** Satsuki azaleas growing in nature form bushes. There is no apical dominance, therefore no main stem. They are formed most frequently in the style of an aged pine tree. There are two ways to do this. One is by taking one from nature off the garden and shaping it into a bonsai. The other way is to begin with a cutting and wire the main stem. It is not difficult to shape the trunk of a two to three year old whip. By the time it is five years old, it will begin to have good form and around ten years, it will be well on its way to becoming a nice bonsai.

**Foliage and Flowers:** Even if Satsuki did not flower at all, they would be valuable as bonsai because of their intense green foliage and superb trunks. The leaf size is rather small and in scale with the overall bonsai look. The leaves have good color and substance. Satsuki naturally form well buttressed bases with attractive surface roots. The flowers come in a multitude of petal forms and colors. The basic flower has five petals which are fused together for some distance from the base and together form the corolla. There are typically five stamens. Extreme variations include semi-double and double flowered as well as hose-in-hose. The wild *R. indicum* generally has flowers of a pale orange-red color. But the Satsuki hybrids have colors ranging from orange, through pink and red, to crimson and purple as well as white. The color patterns are complex and combinations of colors and patterns are often found on one plant and even on one flower.

**Wiring and Trimming:** The plant should be allowed to dry somewhat before starting to wire, about three or four days. This will make the trunk and the branches more flexible. Satsuki are notoriously brittle. Wiring best done during March or April and again in October or November. Trimming is done three times a year: in early spring around the flower buds to remove foliage that would hide the flowers: after flowering to remove the spent blossoms and trim each branch back to two leaves, shaping the overall plant: and finally in autumn to remove entire branches that have become out of place.

**Potting and Soil:** The best time to pot up or repot an established azalea is mid-March to the end of April. Deeper pots are better and should have generous drain holes. Soil or the growing medium used for azalea bonsai must drain well and be able to retain some moisture. Constantly wet soil hinders the root growth and will eventually kill the plant. The medium used most in the Pacific Northwest is 50% medium barkdust, 20% pumice or sand, 20% peat and 10% dirt! Apply a good all around fertilizer in early spring, but stop a month before flowering time. Use a high phosphorus fertilizer in the late summer and early fall. Stop fertilizing by the end of October.

*Ron Yasenchak*

# Some Satsuki Azalea Bloom Variations



# August 2020 BSOP Lava Sifting





Photographs courtesy of Jim Baggett.



## Kusamono: The softer side of bonsai

This is such a delightful article about Kusamono as practiced by Young Choe, who I remember so vividly from her presentation to BSOP during one of our recent ( pre-COVID-19) monthly meetings. She's truly an artist at the top of her game!

For the full article and more pictures, click on: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/kusamono-the-softer-side-of-bonsai/2020/07/28/1ee152b0-cc3a-11ea-bc6a-6841b28d9093\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/kusamono-the-softer-side-of-bonsai/2020/07/28/1ee152b0-cc3a-11ea-bc6a-6841b28d9093_story.html)

*Patrice Motrow*

## Cascade Sourced Substitute for Akadama

Local American 'akadama' is now offered for purchase. Medium sieved quality grain is priced at \$20.00 for 35 pounds as a special introductory price for BSOP. Also heat treated small grain suitable for shohin is available. Order soon as supply is limited and seasonable. Handmade native clay bonsai ceramics are also available. Call Mark Vossbrink (503) 998-4150. You can grow an American tree in Oregon akadama in American clay bonsai pot.

## Trees For Sale

Evergreens include native 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. Serissas are flowering and vigorous now. Also maples and elms.

Call 503 704 3891 to see the trees. Please wear your mask.

*Editor*





### **September Haiku**

Moon goodnight is long.  
Stars now peering through leaf roof.  
Join white water's song.

*Ron Yasenchak*

Kusamono photo

*Anomatheca laxa* (False Freesia)

By Young Choe

Pot by Steven Ittel

## Pondering the Merits: Which Tree Is For You

Though plum and damson are charming,

How can they compare with the steadfast green of pine and oak?

Though pear and apricot are sweet,

How can they measure up to the sharp fragrance of bitter orange and green tangerine?

In truth, the colorful and short-lived are not equal to the light-hued and longstanding:

And easy beauty does not measure up to slow but steady growth.

From *Master of the Three Ways* by Hung Ying-ming

A photograph of Vaughn Chandler, a Bartlett Champion, wearing a yellow hard hat, safety glasses, and a high-visibility green shirt. He is smiling and leaning against a tree trunk. A green banner across the bottom of the photo reads "VAUGHN CHANDLER, Bartlett Champion" with a gold medal icon.

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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**

President: Joe Johanesen

2nd VP-Membership: Patrice Morrow

Secretary: Laura Hudson

1st VP-Programs: Reid Parham

Treasurer: Patty Myrick

Past President: Jan Hettick

**Committee Chairs**

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Auctions: Dane Burrell

Audio/Visual: Lime Allen

Facilities Coordinator: Reid Parham

Fall Show: Patrice Morrow & Jan Hettick

Formal Display: Scott Elser

Heritage: Steve Leaming, Brandon Myren

Hospitality: Brandon McMullan

Library: Barbara Devitt, Mir Isaac

Mentorship: Howard Greisler, Joanne Raiton

Newsletter: Peter Pelofske

Portland Nursery Show Reid Parham

Photographer: Jim Baggett

Raffle:

Social Media: Scott Tice

Spring Show:

Summer Picnic: Joe Johanesen

Vendor Coordinator: Reid Parham

Volunteer Coordinator: Patrice Morrow

Webmaster: Karl Holmes

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