



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

September
2022

Monthly Meetings:

Sept 27 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Conifers Design by David de Groot

October 25 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Club Work Session, bring your own tree to work on, Andrew Robson

November 12,13 Pacific Bonsai Expo, The Bridge Yard, Oakland, CA

Greetings BSOP,

Hope you're enjoying these cooler nights as our weather begins to shift into the fall season. It's been a hot summer, and I know my trees at Rakuyō are ready for a break. This month we have David DeGroot in town for a program on conifer design. David was the curator at the Pacific Museum for decades, and his book *Principles of Bonsai Design* is a must have for your bonsai library.

For the October meeting, we'll be having a club work session. Bring your trees that need work and work amongst your peers. I'm looking forward to bringing something to work on and share myself. We're also looking towards November where we'll be doing a show and tell program of the trees that went to the Pacific Bonsai Expo. More on that later.

But that brings up something big, please consider attending the Pacific Bonsai Expo on November 12th and 13th in Oakland, California. This will be the largest bonsai event in North America this year, and in Ryan Neil's words the best show to date in North America. Our club, like many clubs on the west coast, has sponsored the event to promote more bonsai events closer to home. With projected numbers equal or greater to the US National Exhibition, and a great showing of vendors (many from our neck of the woods) it's going to be a blast. Congrats to our club members who entered and had trees accepted, BSOP will have a strong showing.

That's all for this month, hope to see you at the monthly meeting.

Cheers, *Andrew Robson* BSOP President

Hakone grass in bloom
Subtle reminder of Fall
Gentler weather comes





An Exhibition of Extraordinary Bonsai

NOVEMBER 12 - 13, 2022

A juried exhibition featuring 75 outstanding bonsai displays and a selection of the community's top vendors. It's an event not to be missed.



PACIFICBONSAIEXPO.COM

VENUE:



210 Burma Rd. Oakland, California



Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline, an East Bay Regional Park District Facility

BSOP August Monthly Meeting

The August meeting was a lesson in critiquing trees. Andrew started with slides of show trees and encouraged members to voice their opinions regarding the various qualities of the trees. Following this discussion, Andrew evaluated trees that members brought to the meeting.



Vine maple, *Acer circinatum* up for evaluation



Oak grove saikei

Members brought a wide variety of plant material showcasing how great the Willamette Valley is for growing bonsai.





Even flowering species were represented



Vendors were present with trees, pots and supplies. *Photos courtesy of Jim Baggett*

STATUS OF THE BSOP LIBRARY

BSOP has one of the best libraries in the bonsai world. Well, there has been no actual research that I know of, but it feels right! We have 1327 items in our library, which is located on the stage at Milwaukie Center. Of those, 394 are actual books about our hobby. We also have 918 magazines, including ABS from 2001, BCI's Bonsai magazine since 2000 which became Bonsai & Stone in 2007, and International Bonsai from 1979 to 2000, when it went digital. We also have a complete set of Bonsai Today/Bonsai Focus from the beginning of time (May 1979). The exception is Bonsai Today 147, 2013 S/O, if anyone has that issue to donate it would be welcome. There are also 15 DVDs in the collection, including 6 from Bonsai Boon. You long-time members will remember when Boon came to Portland fairly regularly.

***Speaking of donations,** a huge THANK YOU goes out to the many people who have donated books and magazines over the years. Often the donation is an important book that the librarians missed. Sometimes a donation is a third or fourth copy of something we already have, in which case that item goes on the auction table with any sale proceeds going to BSOP. (BTW, donations are tax deductible.*

***Club members are invited to borrow books,** magazines and DVDS for 30 days, from one meeting until the next. Renewal is possible for one more month if there are no reservations. This huge and valuable resource is currently rather under-used, so I encourage you to check it out (pun intended). The library is open before each meeting, from 6:00 to 6:45 when we need to clear the stage for program setup. A detailed list of books can be found on the BSOP website under Member Services. You can even reserve books on the website by filling out the form or sending an email to Jan at the address below.*

Any questions? Suggestions? Comments? We'd love to hear from you!

Jan Hettick, janhettick@comcast.net

Spruce in Bonsai

General information about the Spruce Bonsai tree

Their needle-shaped leaves are four-sided and attached singly to the branches. They stay on the tree for 4 to 10 years. The cones hang downwards. The branches bend downwards at their base but their tips point slightly upwards. Spruces are not easy to style as bonsai because wired branches tend to go back in their old positions again and again.

There are wonderful examples of spruce bonsai nevertheless, especially of the Japanese species *Picea jezoensis* (Ezo spruce) and *Picea glehnii* and the European *Picea abies* (Norway spruce). The North-American *Picea engelmannii* is another good species, beside many interesting dwarf cultivars of diverse spruce species which are sold for garden purposes. *Picea glauca* 'Conica' (Alberta spruce) however is often tried but rarely makes good bonsai. The *Picea mariana* (black spruce) is widespread across Canada. Lastly, the Colorado blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) is a popular species used in the US. If you need help identifying your tree, take a look at our [Bonsai tree identification](https://bonsaiempire.com) guide. bonsaiempire.com

Colorado spruce, *Picea pungens*

The spruce needs full sun during the growing season. In winter place in semi-shade and frost protection is recommendable when the tree is planted in a bonsai pot, because frozen roots can't provide water while the evergreen foliage continues to transpire and can desiccate.

This Colorado spruce, *Picea pungens*, was collected from the Rocky Mountains and is estimated to be 500 - 800 years old. The height is 29" and the width is 34" Part of the Mirai Collection.



Norway spruce, *Picea abies*

Picea bonsai are members of the large evergreen coniferous tree genus *Picea* (spruce) and the family *Pinaceae* (pine). The tree is native to the Northern Hemisphere (boreal and northern regions), where it is also popular as a Christmas tree. In their natural habitat, this tree can grow up to 60 meters tall, and typically has a lifespan of 40 to 60 years. However, the oldest spruce tree is believed to be over a thousand years old. It is found at lake Quinault, and has a girth of seventeen meters.



Repotting

It is recommended to repot a *Picea* bonsai biannually, especially when they are still young. Older and mature trees can be repotted once in four to five years, or sometimes at even lower frequency, since older trees have slower growth. The best time of the year to repot a *Picea* bonsai tree is early spring, before the new sprouts appear or, alternatively, late autumn.

Picea bonsai species does not tolerate massive loss of the root mass, so root pruning should be done carefully and in moderation. No more than a third of the roots should be removed at once, regardless whether it is a youngling or an adult bonsai tree. The roots form a large ball, and therefore it is recommended to use a deeper pot than the one typically used for repotting other bonsai species. It is recommended to use a standard soil mix which contains structurally stable grains and can drain well. After repotting, the tree should be protected from exposure to full sun. bonsaitreegardner.net

Engelmann spruce, *Picea engelmannii*

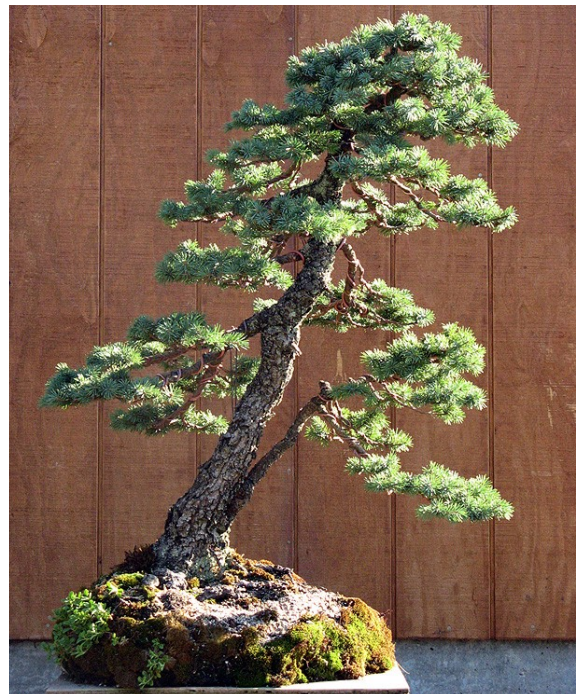


Engelmann Spruce (*Picea Engelmannii*) is a great candidate for bonsai! Featuring short green needles, flaky bark and rugged character only found in a collected tree. These trees come from high in the mountains, so they will not do well in low elevations without extended cold dormancy. *Back Country Bonsai*

I really like Engelmann spruce. It reminds me so much of Ezo spruce, which my teacher had a love affair with in Japan and so there were quite a few of them in his collection.

I think spruce have a very quiet feeling, like a snowfall. It's tempting to look for big gnarly trunks with lots of movement for spruce as we do for a lot of conifers, like juniper or pine, and that is certainly nice. And yet spruce is also great as a much simpler upright form with a more naturally tapering trunk.

CRATAEGUS



Black spruce, *Picea mariana*

Picea mariana, the black spruce, is a North American species of spruce tree in the pine family. It is widespread across Canada, found in all 10 provinces and all 3 Arctic territories. Its range extends into northern parts of the United States.

The spruce is an evergreen coniferous tree genus which is widespread in the northern hemisphere. Spruces can become 60 m (200ft) tall when mature and have a typical conical shape. The branches grow whorled. Their needle-shaped leaves are four-sided and attached singly to the branches. They stay on the tree for 4 to 10 years. The cones hang downwards. The branches bend downwards at their base but their tips point slightly upwards. Spruces are not easy to style as bonsai because they hardly backbud and wired branches tend to go back in their old positions again and again. However, *Picea mariana* is among those that can make a good bonsai.



Stand of black spruce
near Inuvik, Northwest
Territories, Canada



Black spruce

Help Wanted - Bonsai maintenance

BSOP member living in SE Portland (Sellwood) is seeking someone with bonsai experience to help water and care for personal collection while traveling. Looking at occasional fall, winter care now with summer / fall '23 involving more frequent visits during certain times. Hoping for someone in the area - Pay is per visit and negotiable.

Please text Patrice at 925-989-3613 or email morrowpatrice3@gmail.com



Engelmann Spruce Seedlings

Trees For Sale evergreens

include native, Shimpaku, Itoigawa junipers, various pines, mtn hemlock, spruces, moderately priced. Sizes from shohin to large trees.

Varieties of maples. Call 503 704 3891 *Editor*



Spruce

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September Haiku

Brightly full moon shines
Sends our vision to the ground
Shadows, dancing pines.

Ron Yasenchak

Est. 1978



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D Burnett

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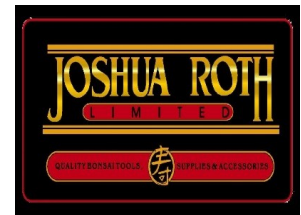
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6707 SW Pine Street, Portland, OR 97223

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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Volunteer Coordinator:

Webmaster: Karl Holmes

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