



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

October
2022

Monthly Meetings:

October 25 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Work on your own tree, bring trees, tools

November 12-13 Pacific Bonsai Expo, Bridge Yard, Oakland, California

November 29 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting,

NOTE: Monthly meeting is 5th Tuesday to avoid Thanksgiving weekend

Greetings BSOP,

We're finally getting some fall weather, and I can't wait to see some color change on the bonsai.

Thanks to everyone who purchased a Telperion Farms legacy shirt earlier this year. BSOP donated our \$360 profit from the sales to the Santiam Canyon Wildfire Relief Fund.

Our club elections are next month, and our election committee has approved our candidates which are myself (Andrew Robson) for President, Ben MacBeth for Vice President of Programs, Patrice Morrow for Vice President of Membership, Brandon McMullin as Treasurer, and Jeffrey Robson as Secretary. More info about our club elections in the following newsletter.

It's a great time of year to be working on bonsai. Here at RAKUYŌ, we're starting our deciduous work now that we're seeing some color change. It's a great time of year for conifer work now, especially if you have some larger bends to make before the cold arrives later this year to give them a chance to recover. Hope you're enjoying the much needed rain and change of season!

Cheers, *Andrew Robson* BSOP President



Seasonal tip. Do you know - Nutrients are a significant part of bonsai care during winter. Proper winter preparation should start now during autumn. During the growing season trees produce sugars and carbohydrates which help them use during winter to stop themselves from freezing. Therefore, it's very important to give your bonsai trees enough fertilizer throughout autumn to help them get enough nutrients to be ready for the cold. It is a simple and easy thing we can do for our bonsai to prepare them for the dormancy period.



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

September 2022 BSOP Meeting

The club had the opportunity of a presentation by Dave de Groot. He led us through stages of conifer development using examples from his own trees over many years of bonsai artistry.



Dave's early bonsai work began when he lived in Louisiana, so bald cypress was a popular subject as specimens were readily available. He described how the design evolved over the years as the tree developed.

After the conifer development talk, Dave discussed styling strategies for some club member trees.



Examples of member trees on display at the meeting showing the results of years of careful work.

All photos courtesy of Jim Baggett



Hinoki Cypress in Bonsai

The hinoki cypress, *Chamaecyparis obtusa*, is really a “false” cypress (while the Cupressus genus is the “real” cypress). It is an evergreen coniferous tree native to Taiwan and southern Japan. hinoki cypress needs a place in full sun during the growing season. In winter it also needs much light. Protect the trees against hard frost and icy winds. Water as soon as the soil gets dry, but don't keep the roots soaking wet all the time. Use lime-free water. In Winter water less, but never let the rootball dry out completely. The foliage likes humidity and can suffer when exposed to hot dry wind.

The foliage must regularly be trimmed in order to remove excess and overlapping fan-shaped shoots which would shade the inner and lower twigs. If the inner leaves are not exposed to sufficient sunlight they will die and not regrow. The branches of the hinoki bonsai take some time to keep their wired positions. It will be necessary to rewire them several times. Styling can be done at any time of the year.

Repot every two to four years, very old specimens can wait even longer. The roots grow quite quickly and can be pruned considerably. Use a well-draining soil mix, but in hot climates add a bit more humus for water retention. Hinoki cypress does not like lime and prefers slightly acidic soil.

Chamaecyparis can be propagated from seed, softwood cuttings and by air-layering. Seeds need a cold pre-treatment and can take a year to germinate. Softwood cuttings are best taken in late summer. Bonsaiempire.com



Hinoki cypress — *Chamaecyparis obtusa* — is a luxurious, emerald green tree with compact, soft needles. It is often used in much of the beautiful architecture and woodwork of traditional Japanese structures.

Hinoki cypress is a coastal, low-elevation, elongating species. It prefers a lush, high-moisture, and high-rainfall area where it can grow to impressive heights.

In bonsai, the hinoki cypress is capable of representing a multitude of forms and shapes. It has phenomenal bark, a soft presentation, and gives you more enjoyment than hassles.

Because the hinoki cypress has the ability to move a lot of water, it can tolerate fairly intense heat. However, the hotter the temperature, the more shade the hinoki cypress will need.

At temperatures of 95°F or above, the hinoki cypress will require 50% shade, meaning full sun in the morning and full shade in the afternoon.

Hinoki cypress can tolerate cold temperatures down to 20-25°F as long as it's a bigger tree with a larger soil volume. However, if your hinoki cypress is smaller or lives in a shallow tray, you might see some tips die or some portions of the tree struggle and suffer in these colder temperatures.

Hinoki cypress is a light to moderate fertilizer consumer at best. It's a slow, delicate growing tree, so you want to respect that by not trying to make it do something that goes against its natural tendencies. The hinoki cypress prefers light applications of fertilizer when it's in its refinement stages, and moderate applications when it's in its development stages.

In the spring you should fertilize moderately as growth emerges up until you start to see the tree shutting down for summer dormancy. During the hottest part of summer, typically mid-July through August, you do not need to fertilize. You can then resume moderate fertilizing through the fall to help the tree amass its vascular tissue and continue to perpetuate its strength.

Hinoki cypress bonsai pruning for structural and design purposes should be done in Spring, prior to the onset of growth, or in the early fall, prior to the onset of vascular productivity.

However, when it comes to refinement, you can prune once in the late Spring or early Summer to keep the tips refined and slow the rate of growth to hold the shape of the tree.

If you do refinement pruning in late Spring or early Summer, be sure to offer hinoki cypress a shady spot to recover so that you don't expose that interior foliage to intense sunlight and run the risk of damaging the tree.

Repotting your hinoki cypress is best done in the mid to late Spring, prior to the onset of growth. Right as those tips are starting to show signs of growth, you should repot using one part pumice, one part lava, and three parts akadama soil mix.

Akadama is both highly moisture retentive and nutrient retentive, while the pumice and lava allow the hinoki to exist inside of a bonsai container for a prolonged period of time, as the roots grow more slowly with this tree. During the repotting process, you can reduce a significant amount of root mass, but never bare-root it. Always leave a portion of the native root system untouched. When you reduce the roots never prune the foliage. When the roots are reestablished, you can heavily reduce the foliage at the right times of the year.

Hinoki cypress can be wired in the early fall, prior to the onset of growth. If you do plan to wire during the spring or summer months, stick to refinement wiring, using small wires, and making only small moves. Structural and styling wiring in the hotter months run the risk of damaging branches and increasing the potential for branch dieback. *bonsaimirai.com*



Hinoki Cypress is one of our favorite species for bonsai here at Eisei-en. It grows natively in Japan at low to medium elevations and produces tall, straight trunks with cloud-like foliage pads. Hinoki Cypress bonsai are quite easy to develop and maintain, requiring simple maintenance tasks at strategic times throughout the year. Hinoki can be designed as formal upright, leaning, cascade and bunjin style bonsai, among many other styles.

Pruning Hinoki Cypress bonsai can be done in one of three ways - either with scissors, by pinching, or a combination of the two. Each technique produces a slightly different aesthetic outcome. For example, scissor pruning each shoot will produce a softer, more naturalistic appearance, whereas pinching the foliage by hand will produce a more palm-palm like effect. The combination method is a great middle-ground for those seeking a more refined look, while still maintaining some naturalistic effect. Allow the new growth to fully elongate in spring through early summer. In early June, perform the first round of pruning/pinching. A second flush of growth will then occur and should be left alone until late summer, at which point it can be pruned/pinched again.

Wiring and styling of Hinoki Cypress bonsai can be done at any time throughout the year. However, keep in mind that the more invasive the work, the more you will want to avoid the hottest and coldest times of year to perform the work. For example, if you plan to heavily bend branches into place, this work is best done in the fall. If, on the other hand, you are simply detail wiring a Hinoki Cypress bonsai, this can be done at any time throughout the year, including mid-summer and deep winter.

Stylistically, Hinoki Cypress bonsai tend to look best with the branches dropped downward on sharp angles, hugging the trunkline. This is particularly true when creating the formal upright style (*chokkan*). bjornbjorholm.com



Trees For Sale

Evergreens including native, Shimpaku, Itoigawa junipers, various pines, mtn hemlock, spruces, moderately priced. Sizes vary from shohin to large trees. Also elms and maples.

Call 503 704 3891 *Editor*



Hinoki cypress as bonsai and in the landscape



October Haiku

Fall colors galore
Vibrant reds, golden yellows
Later, see no more.

Ron Yasenchak

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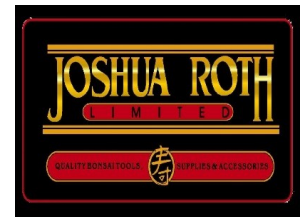


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6707 SW Pine Street, Portland, OR 97223

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