



# the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly  
publication of the

**BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND**

## Upcoming Events

November  
2022

### Monthly Meetings:

November 29 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting,

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

December 10 2 - 4pm BSOP Holiday Party

January 24 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Annual Business Meeting

### Greetings BSOP,

November is a busy month for BSOP! I've just returned from the inaugural Pacific Bonsai Expo and it was probably the best exhibition of bonsai we've had in North America to-date. As a club we definitely sponsored something special and I'm happy to report that the PBE will be a regular occurring event.

It was great to see so many BSOP members at the show, Portland and the Pacific Northwest had a really strong presence and showing. Congrats to Randy Knight for winning best-in-show for his stunning ponderosa pine. Additionally, Patrice Morrow, Bob Laws, Scott Elser, Dennis Vojtilla, Paul Krasner, Howard Greisler, Michael Hagedorn, Matt Reel, Ryan Neil and myself shared some really beautiful displays making Portland really proud and represented.

Thanks to those who made it out to see the show, you saw something really special. If you didn't get a chance to attend the show, the exhibit book is available for pre-order and will help support future expos. Go to the [pacific bonsai expo website](#) to order and add to your bonsai library.

For this month's meeting, we have our club elections which we'll take care of first thing. The slate of candidates are myself (Andrew Robson) for President, Patrice Morrow for Vice President of Membership, Ben MacBeth for Vice President of Programs, Brandon McMullin for Treasurer and Jeff Robson for Secretary. After elections, we will move on to a short photo/slide presentation about the Pacific Bonsai Expo and members exhibits, and we'll end the meeting with a few demos from club mentors.

Next month is our holiday party, and along with that our club auction. This is an opportunity to sell more elevated items than what typically shows up at our monthly silent auctions, so if you have any nice bonsai or pots that you're looking to sell please consider bringing them to the holiday party. BSOP will provide savory snacks, and we'd love you to bring and share your favorite holiday sweets.

Looking onward to January and February, we have some exciting programs lined up for 2023. Shohin master Daisaku Nomoto from Japan will be giving a shohin demonstration at our January meeting - and the following Saturday and Sunday Jonas Dupuich and I are hosting a shohin seminar with him called Shohin School.

In February, American legend Bill Valavanis will be coming to Portland to give a presentation on Japanese maple bonsai. It's a great time for the club, and I'm looking forward to what we're working on for the future.

Cheers, *Andrew Robson* BSOP President

## Help Wanted for Library Inventory

Several volunteers are needed to complete an inventory of BSOP library materials. We'll aim for between Christmas and New Years, but final date will depend on when the space will be available and when people can come help. At the last inventory in 2021, we had two teams of 3 people each, and the process took about 2 1/2 hours. I hope some of you big, strong people can help out, because those books get heavy after a shelf or two! Or maybe we can do shifts if we get enough volunteers. So, if you can help with the inventory, please contact me ASAP and let me know the best time for you to help:

Jan Hettick [janhettick@comcast.net](mailto:janhettick@comcast.net) 503-504-7760

## In Anticipation of January Shohin School

小品盆栽 & 豆盆栽 - Shohin means "a small thing", indicating it being even smaller than Bonsai. Although no exact rules were ever formulated, a tree is considered to be a Shohin Bonsai when under 10" (25cm) tall.

Experts believe that you must be able to hold the Shohin tree in one hand, indicating the exact measure of the height of the tree is not strictly important. [bonsaiempire.com](http://bonsaiempire.com)



Hand and tree of Daisaku Nomoto





# October 2022 BSOP Meeting

The October meeting provided an opportunity for members to bring a tree to work on and receive help from member with years of bonsai experience.



Some members worked by themselves pruning and shaping their trees. Others got hands on assistance from the seasoned and experienced.  
*All photos courtesy of Jim Baggett*







A few words of advice can avoid mistakes that can take years to correct later. A different perspective can open up new ways of looking at a tree and its potential future.





# Saikei

*Saikei* (栽景) literally translates as "planted landscape." Where bonsai focuses on tree first and pot second, saikei creates a natural scene. Containing a number of trees and optionally rocks, auxiliary plants, even figurines, the artist strives to create a whole greater than the sum of its parts. From mountain to seashore to placid meadow, nature provides endless inspiration for the saikei enthusiast.

Far more books have been written about bonsai than saikei, but *Bonsai, Saikei and Bonkei* by Robert Lee Behme, 1969; *Miniature Living Bonsai Landscapes (The Art of Saikei)* by Herb L. Gustafson, 1994; *Saikei and Art, Miniature Landscapes*, Lew Buller, 2005; *Forest Bonsai* by Craig L. Hunter, 2017; and the classic *Saikei: Living Landscapes in Miniature* by Toshio Kawamoto, 1967 provide a variety of perspectives. Toshio Kawamoto is credited with developing the art of saikei in the late 1940s.

In bonsai, development of nebari, trunk, branch and twigs determine the success of a design. In saikei, trees need interesting shapes, but they are one component of the landscape. They need to fit in, look like they belong in the natural scene. This allows the use of smaller, younger trees which can age gracefully in a tray landscape, perhaps to be eventually selected for bonsai.

It is tempting to compare saikei to landscape penjing, but the similarities may be more apparent than real as the two arts come from different origins and have different goals. Both can have trees and rocks, but are driven by different cultures and philosophies. Landscape penjing can exist with few or no trees, while trees in saikei are important.





What is Saikei “Sigh – Kay” Saikei consists of two Japanese words, 'Sai' meaning a plant and 'Kei' meaning a view or a scene Saikei has developed a harmony in presenting miniature landscapes and has matured from a horticulture approach to thickening bonsai into an independent and evolving art form which is easy on the pocket but has a significant wow factor when the balance and harmony is achieved.

Students often say that what they like about Saikei is its ability to take you out of yourself, to provide a place of peace in a frantic world. It can be argued that through Saikei it is possible to visit places without leaving your back garden, for some it is a reminder of places they have visited on holiday. For me it is a mix of the technical and artistic challenge with the peaceful presence of these compositions. Saikei is different things to different people. [davesavage.com](http://davesavage.com)

Hon non Bo, the Vietnamese art, seemingly related to saikei, produce some phenomenal creations in a tropical climate, with frequent rain and high humidity. Reproducing these in a climate with hot dry Summers would face huge difficulties. Bonsai and saikei vary with locations around the world for good reasons. Choosing plant material locally adapted allows greater artistic achievement, because it is easier to maintain healthy trees.







Also known as “forest plantings,” Saikei are miniature landscapes. Using stones and seedlings on a tray or flat surface the artist adheres to the basic tenants of bonsai, but with a greater freedom in composition. It is a more natural interpretation of bonsai.

The literal translation from the Japanese for Saikei is “living landscape.” It is the creation in miniaturized form of entire scenes from nature. Whether you want to recreate a Western Colorado style red rock and pine landscape or a South Florida tropical bog, you can realize your vision on a tray that is just 15 inches in diameter.

Since an individual bonsai tree can take several decades to be fully mature the practitioner could spend half a lifetime on a single tree. In saikey there is no need to wait for trees to be fully mature before they can be appreciated. Frequently seedlings from two to four years old are used. This makes saikey an easy and not too time-consuming planting for someone new to the hobby.

The techniques involved in forming and caring for saikey are basically the same as those practiced in bonsai. Pruning, trimming, wiring, reporting, etc. are essential saikey activities. For this reason a beginner can begin learning bonsai by creating saikey and learn proper techniques on inexpensive material. Working with “pre-bonsai seedlings” can free one to experiment and let their creativity flow. For people who enjoy plants in their natural environment, and who love nature’s own compositions of trees, rocks, mountains, and springs, saikey can be a very satisfying pursuit.

Gordon Van Wechel , <https://virginiabonsaisociety.com/saikey/>

## 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. Includes the two saikei shown here.

Call 503 704 3891 *Editor*



Above: Purple plum saikei includes one crab apple, five trees total  
Left: Ume saikei with three trees.  
Both are over a decade in the pot.



### November Haiku

Put your tools away  
Do not follow every rule  
Nature teaches best.

*Ron Yasenchak*

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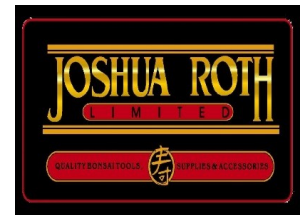


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6707 SW Pine Street, Portland, OR 97223

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!

**Board of Directors**

President: Andrew Robson

2nd VP-Membership: Patrice Morrow

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1st VP-Programs: Reid Parham

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Past President: Joe Johanesen

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Ambassadors:

Auctions: Dane Burrell

Audio/Visual: Reid Parham

Facilities Coordinator: Reid Parham

Fall Show:

Formal Display: Scott Elser

Heritage: Steve Leaming

Hospitality: Brandon McMullin

Library: Barbara Devitt, Jan Hettick

Mentorship: Howard Greisler

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:

Webmaster: Karl Holmes

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