



the **TREE LINE**

the official monthly
publication of the

BONSAI SOCIETY of PORTLAND

Upcoming Events

December
2021

Monthly Meeting:

January 25, 7-9pm, BSOP Monthly meeting, Milwaukie Senior Center
Yearly business presentation, Awards, Program

Greetings BSOP,

It was great to see many of you at our recent holiday party, I hope you enjoyed the auction and all the holiday cheer! Looking back on 2020, it was a real treat to be able to start up in person programming again in a safe environment for our members, and moving forward we are delighted to offer a zoom option for those out of town or who can't attend meetings in person.

I'm excited about next year with the club, and I hope you are too! Looking ahead, we're hoping to get back to some of our bigger events like a show and possibly rendezvous-style conventions again. More details to follow on that. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for the Pacific Bonsai Expo, taking place in Oakland, California on November 12 and 13, 2022. This is going to be a major exhibition of beautiful bonsai, likely the best offerings we have on the west coast, and we hope you are able to attend.

Now that some winter temperatures are finally arriving, here are a few considerations for winter protection of bonsai in Portland.

1. Move shohin and accent plants to protected area during freezing temperatures. This could be a greenhouse, unheated garage or sunroom.
2. Protect sensitive species from cold, hemlocks, pomegranates, trident maples and shore/black pines should be protected from temperatures below 28°. Again a greenhouse or unheated garage will suffice. Mediterranean species like olive should be protected from freezes.
3. If using a greenhouse or cold-frame, keep it as cool as possible as long as temperatures are above freezing. That means most of the year the doors should be fully open with good ventilation, so plants don't wake up prematurely and miss the full benefits of dormancy. Close them up when below freezing temperatures come.
4. For plants that can take more cold, like ponderosa pines, Rocky Mountain junipers, Japanese maples and beech, feel free to keep them outside but move them to the ground. You'll gain about 7° of warmth from earth heat versus if they were on a bench, which can make a big difference in winter protection.
5. Keep a constant eye on the weather, snow can actually be beneficial for bonsai as it helps to insulate the pots, although too much accumulation can bend branches with small sized wire, so brush it off if we get snow and it accumulates. Freezing rain is very

dangerous, as it can destroy large branches and fine twigs. Consider moving bonsai under cover if this occurs.

Hope you have a very happy holiday season, we look forward to seeing you in late January for our next monthly meeting.

Cheers, *Andrew Robson* BSOP President

BSOP November Monthly Meeting

Scott Elser presented a tree critique. Members brought their trees that were well developed.



Scott Elser discussed a series of member trees, taking the audience through his analysis. He explained the problems with each tree and how to remedy them as well as the strengths of each tree and ways to build on them. Taking advantage of Scott's years and years of design experience, members will be able to take their trees to the next level.



Attending members had the opportunity to view all the trees brought for the critique.



Pacific Bonsai Expo

An Exhibition of Extraordinary Bonsai

The Bridge Yard, Oakland, California

November 12-13, 2022

The Event

The Pacific Bonsai Expo is a juried exhibition featuring 70 outstanding bonsai displays and a selection of the community's top vendors.

Jurors Bjorn BJORHOLM, Ryan Neil, and William N. Valavanis will select the trees. The exhibitors are the judges. Your trees are the stars.

It's an event not to be missed.

www.pacificbonsaiexpo.com



VISION

The goal of the Pacific Bonsai Expo is to showcase beautiful and inspiring bonsai displays. Traditional two- and three-point displays are welcome, as are novel, non-traditional displays.

We have selected a fall date for the exhibit in order to highlight mature conifer foliage, and either fall color or winter silhouettes for deciduous trees.

Anyone is eligible to submit, and all entries will be reviewed by the panel of jurors, Bjorn BJORHOLM, Ryan Neil, and William N. Valavanis.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submission Period: February 1 - April 30, 2022.

1. Take a photo of your tree or trees that includes all display elements, and that will give the jurors a clear idea of the impact of the display.
2. Provide species and height for each tree in your display.
3. For deciduous trees please provide a photo of the tree in winter silhouette.
4. Send submissions to: pacificbonsaiexpo@gmail.com between February 1st and April 30th, 2022.

EXHIBITOR'S FAQ

Is it free to submit a tree to the jury?

- Yes, it is free to submit a tree for consideration.

Is there a fee to display my tree at the exhibit?

- Yes, exhibitors will pay an \$85 fee for each display.

Can I get a waiver for the exhibitor's fee?

- Exhibitor's fees are required for all accepted entries. If you are affiliated with a bonsai club, your club may sponsor an entry on your behalf. Contact the organizers for additional information.

Who are the exhibition jurors?

- ◆ Bjorn Bjorholm, Ryan Neil, and William N. Valavanis are the jurors responsible for determining which trees are accepted for display. To learn more about the jurying process, see [Exhibit Tree Selection and Judging](#).

Who are the exhibition judges?

- ◆ Exhibitors will be the sole members of the judging panel. To learn more about the judging process, see [Exhibit Tree Selection and Judging](#)

I have a tree for the exhibit, but I need a pot/stand/accent/etc. Can I rent or borrow one for the exhibit?

- ◆ The organizers are not able to provide display elements for exhibitors. We recommend you contact your local bonsai nursery, bonsai professional, or bonsai club for help locating items for your display. See a list of [Northern California bonsai professionals and organizations](#).

Do I get free passes if my tree or trees are accepted for the exhibit?

- Yes. Exhibitors will receive one weekend pass ahead of the event.

What are the dimensions of the display space?

- Display table dimensions are 72" L x 29.5" W x 29" H. Contact the organizers if you feel that your tree will not fit in this space.

Will I have help setting up my display at the event?

- Exhibitors are responsible for setting up their own displays. If you need a cart to move your tree, we suggest you bring one. Although volunteers will be onsite to help with setup, we cannot guarantee they will be available to help with specific displays.

When do I need to bring my tree?

- Exhibitors are required to bring all items for their display to The Bridge Yard between (9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Friday, November 11, 2022).

When can I take down my display?

- Exhibitors can pack up their displays after 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 13th.

Are there size limits for the trees I can submit?

- We expect most submissions to be between 4" and 40" tall measured from the top of the pot to the top of the tree. If you have a tree that is outside this range you can contact the organizers to see if we can accommodate your tree.

Can I submit more than one tree for consideration?

- Yes, there is no limit on the number of submissions an individual can submit.

Are bonsai professionals eligible to submit trees for the exhibition?

- Yes. We strongly encourage bonsai professionals and hobbyists to submit trees for consideration.

Can a single tree win more than one prize?

- Yes. Although submissions are not eligible to win more than one of the four exhibit prizes (Best in show, Best conifer, Best deciduous, and Best broadleaf evergreen), any tree is eligible to win one or more sponsored prizes, including the winners of the four exhibit prizes.

Will my tree be photographed?

- Yes. Photography will be allowed during the exhibit, and the organizers will photograph exhibited trees for use on the event website or in a commemorative album.

Will there be security at the event?

- Yes. The event will have professional security guards onsite continuously Friday morning through Sunday evening. Volunteer security staff will be on duty when the event is open to visitors.

Pacific Bonsai Museum

2515 S 336th Street, Federal Way, WA 98001

World War Bonsai: Remembrance & Resilience

The Pacific Bonsai Museum presented this exhibit to remember this part of the World War II experience, reminding us of the internment camps, the life lived in them and the importance of bonsai to some of the inhabitants. The history of bonsai in relation to World War II has never been told before in the formal setting of a museum exhibition.

Through bonsai, finding strength

In Japanese culture, pine trees symbolize strength, resilience and longevity, so when Juzaburo Furuzawa's relatives in Japan learned of his incarceration in the Topaz camp in Utah and the Tule Lake Segregation Center in California, they sent him black pine seeds. He sowed these special seeds in the only container available to him, a tin can. He tended the seeds until they germinated and then he patiently nurtured the young seedling during the three years of his incarceration. When Furuzawa was finally released at age 42, he took his small bonsai with him and continued to care for it into his old age.

Furuzawa went on to become an important San Francisco Bay Area bonsai practitioner and teacher. One of his former students, John Uchida, purchased this Japanese Black Pine from Furuzawa in 1981. Uchida donated this bonsai to the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection (now Pacific Bonsai Museum) in 1990.



Japanese Black Pine *Pinus Thunbergii*
Bonsai since 1942.

Artist: Juzaburo Furuzawa, Berkeley, CA



The same Japanese Black Pine displayed in an enclosure representing an internment camp.



Golden Atlas Cedar *Cedrus atlantica* 'Glauca aurea' Bonsai since 1957
Artist: Mas Imazumi, Berkely, CA

Imazumi was known for a unique technique for creating a cascade-style bonsai. He would drill a hole through a trunk allowing him to bend the thick trunk downward into the cascade form. The resulting small circular hole eventually healed.

Sierra Juniper *Juniperus occidentalis* Bonsai since 1957
Artist: Mas Imazumi, Berkely, CA

This is the first bonsai ever collected by Mas Imazumi. It is noted for the delicate lacy texture of the extensive dead wood and the swirling movement of the live wood which rises from the roots.



Japanese Larch *Larix kaempferi*
 Bonsai since 1976
 Artist: Taki Nagasawa,
 Kent WA

After the war, Nagasawa returned to Seattle and farming produce. His first bonsai lesson was with Kelly Nishitani a bonsai pioneer and respected teacher in the Puget Sound area. In 1960, Nishitani opened the Green River nursery in Kent, WA, specializing in bonsai. In 1973 he became a charter member of the Puget Sound Bonsai Association. Also in the 1970s, he studied in Japan with Toshio Kawamoto, creator of saikei, the Japanese art of miniature living landscapes.



Mountain Hemlock *Tsuga mertensia*
 Bonsai since 1986
 Artist: Taki Nagasawa, Kent WA

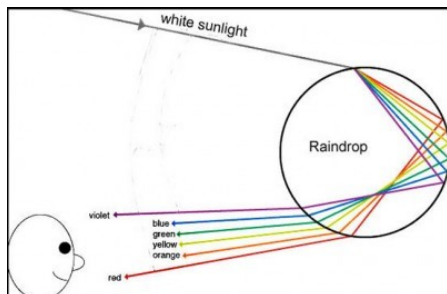
Answering the call of his country
 Takeyuki "Taki" Nagasawa was born in Seattle in 1913. His father was a truck farmer in Woodinville who grew fruit for regional markets. The oldest of five children, Taki helped run the family farm until the entire family was incarcerated in 1942, first at the Puyallup Assembly Center, and then at the Minidoka Camp in Idaho. He enlisted while incarcerated and served in the 442nd RCT.



Shore Pine *Pinus contorta* var. *contorta*. Bonsai since 1970.
 Artist: Masahiro Furukawa
 From Japan to Portland, OR

Masahiro Furukawa was born in Nagasaki on January 21, 1945. On August 9th, 1945 the second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Masa, an infant, somehow survived. Drawn to horticulture and bonsai, he studied under Toshio Kawamoto, creator of saikei in 1966.

In 1979, he moved to the U.S. to teach bonsai. In 1980, he opened Japan Bonsai in Portland OR offering bonsai, supplies and classes. He became a beloved and respected teacher to local students until his passing in 2012.



Big dewdrops on grass
 Winter sun illuminates
 Rainbow hues sparkle

My Tree of Choice— The Mountain Hemlock

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves. *John Muir*

John Muir dedicated his life to the natural history of the High Sierra. He wrote about places where the spirit of nature abounds. His writings always refer to the beauty of trees he saw on his treks through the mountains. "The hemlock is the most beautiful conifer I have ever seen...How wonderful that, with all its delicate feminine grace and beauty of form, the lovely tree up here, exposed to the wildest blasts, has already endured the storms of centuries of winters!"

Here in the Cascade mountain range of Oregon, the Mountain Hemlock is also a beautiful tree and one of the main species of conifers that survive the rigors of timberline. The West has so many alpine species of conifers that at first you think you will never tell them apart. Yet each one has distinctive qualities. The Mountain Hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*) can be distinguished from others as soon as you are close enough to lift a spray of foliage under your palm and observe the beautiful star-shaped pattern made by the needles when looking directly down upon the shoots. The dense foliage covers the delicate branches all around.

A young Mountain Hemlock is all feminine grace with a slender leader that nods over. The limbs even in quite large trees will clothe the tree almost to the base. Long and slender, the branches are held out like a dancer's arms, curve gracefully out and away and down like the fingers of a hand extended but relaxed. The bark even on rather young trees is broken and rough. On old trunks it is hard, thick, red-brown or purplish-brown, and deeply furrowed between the narrow rounded ridges.

When the annual snowfalls occur on Mount Hood, Oregon, the Mountain Hemlock bends with a lithe young strength to endure six months of constant pressure. All of its boughs, twigs and ultimate twiglets drooping farther and farther until at last the whole tree is completely burdened. Such is the appearance of the Mountain Hemlock growing up the slopes of the Cascades where the climate is good for skiers and seldom severe. But at timberline, all the hemlock's delicate feminine grace and beauty give way to a more grotesque but majestic form. The trunk, creeping along the rocks or struggling erect, may be no taller than a person. Gone is the slender spire-like crown, the whiplash leader. Instead, the crown may be completely flat, or shaped like a dome, often wider than tall.

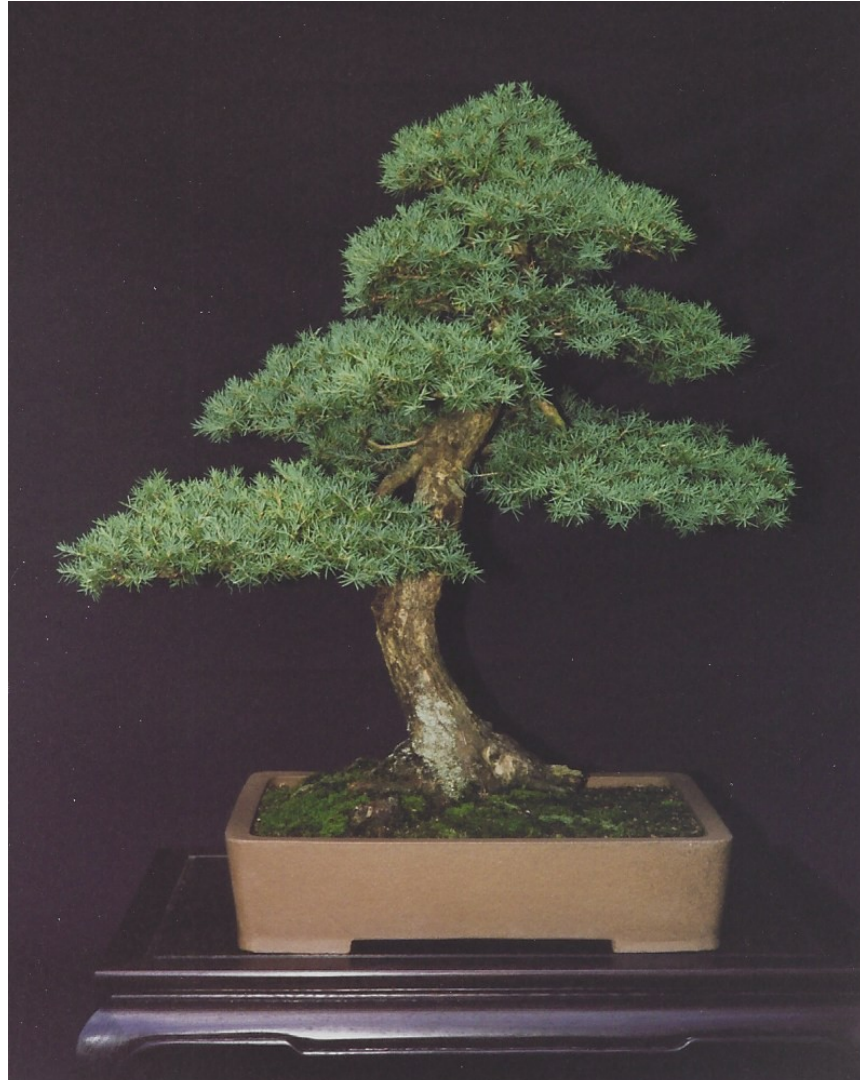
It was here at timberline that two of my favorite Bonsai were gathered over forty years ago. We don't use shovels at this elevation. Instead a good crowbar and pick are better suited for moving the large boulders and gravel which completely encase the lower trunk and roots. Frequently only a single root will be found. It can trail for three feet or more. Very carefully separated from the rocks it may be coiled in a circle and packed with moss and burlap for the trek back down the mountain. Rescued from the harsh environment it is critical to take every precaution to ensure the tree will survive at a much lower elevation.

I like to believe that all of the many trees that have been collected from the mountains of the West truly evoke the spirit of Bonsai. We bring back to our comfortable homes the memory of the wonderful peace and tranquility of the high mountains in our trees that we will care for and nurture throughout our lifetime.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ronald Yasenchak has been involved in Bonsai for over 35 years. He is a graduate forester of Southern Illinois University and retired as Director of Constructing, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He now devotes his time to his Bonsai collection and golfing. He has returned to Portland with his wife Becky.

Mountain Hemlock,
collected from Mount
Hood and trained as a
Bonsai for twenty years.



BSOP MEMBER BENEFITS

From the BSOP Policy and Guidelines; Personal one-time ads for such things as home sales may be presented to the Membership Chair for distribution via email on a space/time available basis. Please allow a minimum of 14 days notice.

Contact Patrice Morrow/ Membership Chair, at morrowpatrice3@gmail.com with your message that is prepared and ready to be sent, along with your desired date of distribution. This will be sent to all members of BSOP, except for those that have opted out of club emails.

Realistically, I often can process these in a more timely manner than the 2 weeks mentioned above, but please plan ahead as much as feasible. Approval of content and timing are at the discretion of the Membership Chair. This service is intended for bonsai related messaging.

Advertising in the monthly newsletter can be arranged for members. Please contact me for details.



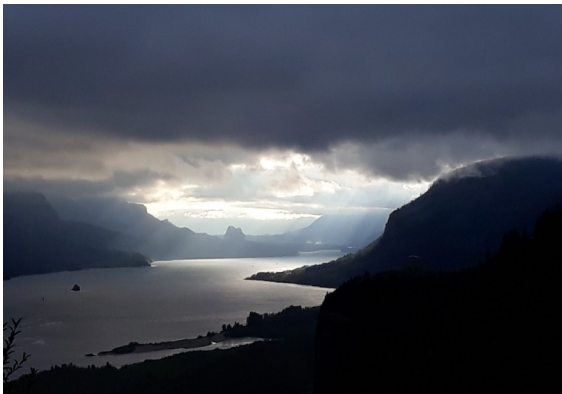
Winter at Lan Su garden.



It's chrysanthemum time at the Lan Su garden.

Trees For Sale

Evergreens include native, Shimpaku, Itoigawa junipers, various pines, mtn hemlock, spruces, moderately priced. Sizes vary from shohin to all one person wants to carry. Also varieties of maples and elms and accent plants. Call 503 704 3891 *Editor*



December Haiku

High above gray sky
Dark clouds dancing in the wind
Snowflake passes by

Ron Yasenchak

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Me? Obsessed with trees?
Yes. Yes, I am.

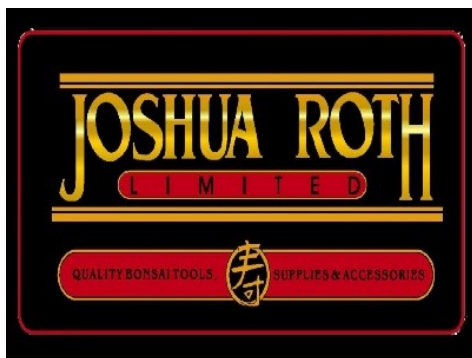
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EVERY TREE NEEDS A CHAMPION.

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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

Secretary: Brandon Myren

1st VP-Programs: Reid Parham

Treasurer: Brandon McMullin

Past President: Joe Johanesen

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Audio/Visual: Reid Parham

Facilities Coordinator: Reid Parham

Fall Show:

Formal Display: Scott Elser

Heritage: Steve Leaming, Brandon Myren

Hospitality: Brandon McMullin

Library: Barbara Devitt

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 under Services/Members Only/Membership Directory