



# the **TREE LINE**

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

## Upcoming Events

December  
2022

### Monthly Meetings:

January 24 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Annual Business Meeting, Shohin Master Daisaku Nomoto Demonstration

February 28 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, American legend, Bill Valvanis, presentation on Japanese maple

March 28 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Club repotting workshop

April 25 6-9pm BSOP Monthly meeting, Dan Robinson, presentation on carving

### Greetings BSOP,

It was great to see everyone at the holiday party, I hope you had as much fun as I did, and the auction was a huge success. A big thank you to everyone who volunteers and makes club meetings and events possible! The executive board is working on our calendar for next year, and we have some really exciting programs lined up. We should have a full schedule published on the website by New Years.

In January, we'll have Daisaku Nomoto who is a shohin bonsai master from Japan at the meeting to do a club presentation on shohin. He'll be around the following weekend for a non-club event Jonas Dupuich and I are privately hosting called Shohin School.

The following month Bill Valavanis will be in town to give us a program on Japanese Maple bonsai.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season, and see you in 2023!

Cheers, *Andrew Robson* BSOP President



## 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



## Saikei Correction

Some forest plantings, penjing, hon non bo, and natural scenes can be saikei, but saikei as originated by Toshio Kawamoto and taught by his apprentice Masahiro Furukawa here in Portland, must be at least one tree, one rock, one auxiliary plant and the suggestion of water. These four elements define a saikei.

It is true that Mr. Kawamoto wanted to fulfill a beginning bonsaist's need for quickly established plantings to be appreciated, but more importantly, he wanted to help heal the bonsai community that was so devastated by the destruction of so many bonsai by the government during World War II.

*Joanne*

*This clarification of saikei is much appreciated. Editor*

## Help Wanted for Library Inventory

Still need help for library inventory between Christmas and New Years.

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

# Hemlocks

Some of the more popular types of hemlock bonsai include **Japanese hemlock, western hemlock, mountain hemlock, and Canadian hemlock.**

*Tsuga diversifolia*, commonly known as the northern Japanese hemlock, or in Japanese, kometsuga, is a species of conifer native to the Japanese islands of Honshū, Kyūshū, and Shikoku. In Europe and North America, the species is sometimes employed as tree for the garden and has been in cultivation since 1861.

*Tsuga diversifolia*, was described in 1881 by Maxwell Tylden Masters (1833-1907). in *Journal of the Linnean Society, Botany*, 18th edition. Its Japanese name is コメツガ (*kome-tsuga*). The epithet is derived from the Latin roots *diversis* (different, differing, or variable) and *folia* (leaves), a reference to the length of the needle-like leaves. This species is endemic to Japan, widespread in northern and central Honshu, with additional populations in Shikoku and Kyushu. It inhabits moist slopes and ridges of mixed montane and subalpine forests at elevations of 2,300 to 8,200 feet (700 - 2,500 m) above sea level. The climate is cool with snowy winters and high summer rainfall, with annual precipitation ranging from 40 to 100 inches (1,000 - 2,500 mm). It is highly frost hardy and wind tolerant. [conifersociety.org](http://conifersociety.org)



*Tsuga diversifolia* foliage detail



*Tsuga diversifolia* planted in Morris arboretum in Philadelphia, Penn. in 1954, photo 2020

*Tsuga diversifolia* - Northern Japanese hemlock - 58 cm [crespibonsai.com](http://crespibonsai.com)

*Tsuga sieboldii*, commonly called southern Japanese hemlock, was described in 1855 by Élie-Abel Carrière (1818-1896). Its name in Japanese is simply ツガ (*tsuga*) and in Korean 송나무 (*solsong namu*). Indeed, the Japanese name for this particular species was assigned by Carrière as the genus name for all hemlock species. One of the previous describers of this plant, Philipp Franz von Siebold (originally naming it *Abies tsuga*, etc.), was rewarded with the specific epithet *sieboldii*.



*Tsuga sieboldii* foliage detail



*Tsuga sieboldii* planted in Morris arboretum in Philadelphia, Penn. in 1944, photo 2020



Bonsai - southern Japanese hemlock *Tsuga sieboldii*. Age - about 120 years. Exhibition of Bonsai in Aptekarsky Ogorod a branch of the Botanical Garden of Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia, November 2017.

Western hemlock, or Alaska-spruce (*Tsuga heterophylla*), is a common conifer that grows in the cool, moist forests of northwest Oregon. *Tsuga* is the Japanese name for the western hemlock. Its specific epithet (species name) *heterophylla* refers to its variability in needle length. Western hemlock grows best in cool, moist conditions where there are large amounts of organic matter in the soil. Where rainfall is over sixty inches a year, Western hemlock thrives. The species is tolerant of shade and can become the dominant species in mixed conifer communities in the absence of fire disturbance. Once established in the shady understory of sun-tolerant species, Western hemlock may persist for some time until its dense canopies and roots prevent the growth of sun-loving trees. For these reasons, undergrowth is noticeably absent from hemlock-dominated forests.



A 'Cliff Bonsai'—Western Hemlock Styling tree height 24" / 61 cm [crataegus.com](http://crataegus.com)



Above, Western Hemlock. Below, Detail of Western Hemlock branch and cone. Photo by Susan McDougall USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Canadian Hemlock grow in Hardiness Zones 3–8. It grows at a slow to medium rate to a height of 40–70' and a spread of 25–35' at maturity. It needs 6–8 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight and prefers acidic, loamy, moist, sandy and well-drained soils. It is not drought-tolerant.

Canadian Hemlock also called Eastern Hemlock is unique for a number of reasons: They very much prefer a rich and moist organic growing medium. I almost killed mine by transplanting it into a coarse, inorganic medium. Replacing it with topsoil restored the health of the tree. They can tolerate practically any light condition from full shade to full sun. For bonsai development, several hours of direct morning sun is good for promoting backbudding and branch development. Full direct sun tends to cause the foliage to lose it's rich green colour.

Despite their delicate and almost “weak” appearance, they heal over wounds better than any conifer I can think of and better than many deciduous trees. This makes grafting easy on *T. canadensis*. The branches are very flexible however they are extremely weak at the crotches. They will suddenly and heart-breakingly tear from the trunk with little notice during heavy (or even moderate) bending operations. However, their capacity to rapidly callus over wounds means that a branch will more often than not survive, even if you have torn half of the base away from the trunk. [bonsainut.com](http://bonsainut.com)





Dwarf hemlocks.



## 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*

In Eastern California, the U.S. Forest Service is using controlled fires in Jeffrey pine forests to try and make them more resilient to climate change. Credit: Bob Berwyn [insideclimatenews.org](http://insideclimatenews.org)



### December Haiku

Fragrant forest pine  
Climate change puts trees at risk  
Have so little time

*Ron Yasenchak*

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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**

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