



- Remember you can check the club out on the Web at www.psba.us. There is information there about speakers and club doings.
- Pay your dues if you have not already done so. Notices were included in previous newsletters and the new Membership Roster is being prepared. Mail dues to the address on our masthead.
- Dues are: \$30 for single renewals and \$40 for couples. New memberships are \$40 for singles and \$50 for couples.
- Directions to the Center for Urban Horticulture are on the www.psba.us web site under "Directions". You can also print out a map to CUH from that same site.
- Remember it's time for spring shows around the Northwest.
- The PSBA show is May 18th.
- Yakima has their show May 24th at the Yakima Arboretum.
- Portland's show is Mother's Day weekend May 10-11th at the Japanese Gardens.
- The Seacrest Bonsai Club has their show at the Best Western Brookings, Oregon, Inn and Conference Center on May 24th and 25th from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 4pm on Sunday.

PSBA News Clippings



~Puget Sound Bonsai Association~
March, 2008
P.O. Box 15437, Seattle, WA 98115-0437
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From the President's Desk by Matt Fogata...

Easter just flew by and before we know it the last Saturday in April (April 26th) and our annual PSBA auction will be upon us! We will be holding our auction at Weyerhaeuser's Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection, in Federal Way, Washington, on Saturday April 26, 2008.

From: 10 AM-Noon... Your trees must be checked in—this is important if you are putting trees in the auction

From: 10 AM-Noon... Silent auction items must be checked in.

From: 12-1 PM..... Bidders need to pick up their bidding cards and register.

From: 12-1 PM... Trees may be previewed and refreshments will be served.

From: 1-4 PM... It's auction time! The fun begins!!

Be sure to contact Don Guilliams, guillie@comcast.net, if you are planning on putting anything into the auction. This would also be a good time to pitch in and help. We sure could use 12 or so members to help. You may also contact me mateofogata@msn.com.

April 28, 7-10 PM... Our regular PSBA meeting will be held at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Because May 18th is our annual spring show, we want everyone to bring in a tree that you are going to show. There will be members available to help you prepare your tree for showing, as well as answer your questions! This is your show, so don't forget to bring your tree!

The PSBA Spring Show is May 18, 10am- 5pm, at the Seattle Japanese Gardens.

June 23 from 7-10PM... PSBA holds its June meeting/demonstration at CUH. We are in for a treat! The Seattle Chinese Garden Society will be having a Penjing master from China, visiting in June, and they have offered to give us a Penjing Demonstration! You won't want to miss this one!

July 27 is our Annual Potluck and because PSBA is celebrating it's 35th anniversary we will have a special demonstration...save the date.

September 18-21, 2008, is the PNBCA Annual Convention. This year the Inland Empire Bonsai Society in Spokane, Washington, is hosting the convention. Look at their schedule of events, guest artists and material; it promises to be a good one! You can view the info on PNBCA's website. There is a link to that site from our PSBA web site (www.psba.us).

Remember for every PSBA member that registers for the convention, our club receives a percentage of the convention's net revenue.

Thought for the month:

"People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said; but, they will remember how you made them feel!"

NOW IS THE TIME...

By Charlie Anderson

Well by now you should have a good fertilizing schedule working for your trees. If you're like I am you are just about finished with your repotting. The only trees we are still repotting are our pines. It is also getting close to the time when you have to watch the growth of the candles on your pines. Once they reach about one to two inches (depending on how vigorous is the growth) then I pinch them back to about a quarter of an inch or less. If I have more than one candle growing in the same area I pinch the largest and go back each week or two and pinch back the remaining candles. Candle pruning or pinching is necessary for the growth of smaller needles and for the back budding most of us want on our pines. Obviously if I want a branch to elongate I do not pinch back the candle but let it grow without pinching.

This is also the time when our Northwest spring growth is starting on all our trees and this means you have three important tasks ahead of you. First, is pruning back the growth so that you don't get too many long internodes. If the plant has three new leaves, I usually pinch or cut back the center leaf. If the plant has new growth of a long branch I cut back to two or three leaves. It's a good time to also prune for the shape you envisioned when you designed the tree.

The second task is to really check your wiring to make sure it is not cutting into the bark. I have had trees that I checked and they were okay but one week later the wire was cutting into the bark. This is especially true of your deciduous trees. Remember, wire scarred trunks or branches can take years to repair, while checking the wire only takes a few minutes each day.

The third task has to do with defoliating. Defoliating is cutting or removing the leaves from a tree in order to achieve smaller leaves or to achieve a balanced growth... We are talking about deciduous trees and especially trident maples. (Continued on page 3)

NOW IS THE TIME...continued from page 2

This should only be attempted on healthy trees. If you have a tree with vigorous growth in one area and somewhat weaker growth in another, I recommend that you only defoliate the vigorously growing area. On some trees I have achieved smaller leaves by only cutting off the larger leaves and leaving the smaller ones. Remember when cutting the leaf for defoliating or for trimming you cut at the base of the leaf leaving the petiole (leaf stem) on the tree. The new leaves will sprout from the base of the petiole where it is attached to the branch.

Finally something to think about – I recently had a long talk with a Japanese bonsai grower and he has stopped using any wood bark or other organic material in his potting soil. The reason, he said, was because he had a lot of sow beetles at his bonsai and while they usually aren't eating bonsai, they do eat and help breakdown the bark in the mixture. He said that he found that roots can attach to the bark and the beetles would ruin these roots as they worked the bark. He now uses only inert material like akadama, lava rock, decomposed granite (Dg), pumice and hardened clay. This means that he must fertilize more often but he has eliminated the sow beetles.

THIRD ANNUAL PSBA BONSAI AUCTION

The third annual bonsai auction will be held Saturday, April 26, at the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection in Federal Way in the new tent area. In successive years this event will always be held at Pacific Rim on the last Saturday in April.

We are pleased to announce that Charlie Anderson, club member and west coast bonsai artist, will conduct a demonstration on a tree from 11 to 1 pm simultaneously with public viewing of the auction trees. Charlie's tree will be offered for sale at the auction.

Snack food items and music will be featured as in the past.

We are fortunate to have secured the talents of Dan Robinson and Matt Fogata as auctioneers again this year. Our club's goal in hosting this event is not to make money, but rather to facilitate the exchange of quality material among various participants, to introduce to the public the beauty that is bonsai, and to have some fun.

Please contact me, Don Guilliams, at 206.282.0846 with respect to material you wish to offer for sale at the auction or silent auction. You will retain 80% of selling price and 20% will go to PSBA.

Puget Sound Bonsai Association

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Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events:

- April 26: Bonsai Auction at
Federal Way's Pacific Rim Collection
- April 28: PSBA meeting—preparing trees for show
at Center for Urban Horticulture
- May 4th: PSBA Board Meeting
- May 18: Spring PSBA Bonsai Show
at Seattle Japanese Gardens
- June 23 7-10 pm—General Meeting at CUH
Penjing Demonstration

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