



- Remember you can check the club out on the Web at [www.psba.us](http://www.psba.us). Current and past newsletters are available on that site. If you missed seeing the March **PSBA Newsclippings**, look it up by going to the website and clicking on newsletters.
- Take part in the new member workshop for new PSBA members by registering with Greg Hill at [go2ghill@aol.com](mailto:go2ghill@aol.com).
- With spring in the air make plans to attend some of the bonsai shows and conventions—see page four for a list.
- Remember PSBA will meet Monday, April 27th. The demo will feature David DeGroot working on an azalea. We look forward to seeing him in action.
- Memberships should have been renewed by now—if you wish you can check on your membership status at the April meeting.
- Now is the time—read Glenn Gardner's article on page 2.



## PSBA News Clippings

### From the President's Desk by Matt Fogata...

By now April 1st may have come and gone, but the impact of our current economic times is truly felt! The Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection closed to the public April 1, 2009, as it was announced by Weyerhaeuser in March. What a shame for this display of bonsai— an educational source, a one of a kind collection of bonsai and a unique treasure for us here in the Pacific Northwest. Let us all hope this is only temporary and thousands will again have the opportunity to visit the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection, truly one of a kind!

Spring is coming and so is our PSBA Spring Show, May 17, at the Seattle Japanese Gardens. I hope you are planning to contact Vice President Grant Rauzi to not only let him know you have your bonsai ready to show, but also to let Grant know what you can do to help...Grants' email and telephone information is in our PSBA directory, or contact me [mateofogata@msn.com](mailto:mateofogata@msn.com) or 253.858.2701.

Something new! We are going to introduce an open discussion forum to our website. This is an idea introduced by Ken Wassum, who also graciously offered to be the forums' host. Ken is working on the details...stay tuned...

June 6, 2009 — PSBA's Annual Auction will soon be upon us...same place/same times...contact Don Guilliams, for information on putting bonsai into the auction and/or to HELP out.

Somehow even with all the uproar that has taken place, David DeGroot, has generously agreed to do an azalea demonstration as our guest artist for April. We will not only be treated to an exciting program, but the RAFFLE, will be YOUR chance to OWN a one of a kind azalea by David; don't MISS OUT!

Pat Negron graciously offered to be Community Relations Chairperson during the interim, as we look for a volunteer. Please talk to Pat and she will fill you in on the duties (which are quite easy). Congratulations to our new Study Group Coordinator, Kathy Blanchard. ( As you all know, Kathy is the person who does all the work setting up and taking down for our meetings...please don't hesitate to stop and help her out.)

Thanks Pat and Kathy!

In closing:

We must not forget: we all started at the bottom, and as our interest in bonsai grew, so did our knowledge, skills, tools and the materials we now use, so we must not forget to help those less knowledgeable, less skilled, and who may be, using lesser quality material; because if we don't, it could get lonely....

HAPPY EASTER Everyone!

## **Now Is The Time**

**By Glenn Gardner**

Spring growth is getting under way and now is the time for starting to groom your bonsai. Pruning is finished and the plants are beginning the growth of the spring and summer. Grooming is the process which controls this growth to promote ramification of branches and twigs so necessary for successful bonsai development.

Generally branches and twigs are trimmed to obey the one-to-two rule. A branch or twig grows from a primary or secondary branch and if left alone will continue to extend reaching for the sun. This will develop long internodes with little interest or use. At each node however, buds form, which if left alone will develop leaves and then twigs growing from the parent branch. Usually two or more twigs develop at the node and if left alone they will grow into branches. Now there are three or more elements growing from the node, the original branch and the cluster of twigs. Applying the one to two rule, these elements will be reduced to two. One of the elements can be the continuation of the original branch and all twigs except one are removed or the original branch and all but two twigs are removed. These twigs are allowed to grow. The retained twigs usually are growing at an angle to each other. The two twigs saved are usually in a horizontal plane and growing at an angle to each other. The twigs are permitted to grow until they produce new buds at the tip and the process is repeated. Judicious selection of the twig to save is dependent upon the desired movement of the branch. Wiring can be avoided if the selected buds are in the direction and plane desired for the design. All of this is to reduce the length of the internodes and encourage ramification.

Water, sun, and fertilizer have the greatest influence on plant growth. By now the leaves have reached full growth and are hardened off. Daily watering of deciduous trees is recommended if the days are hot and the soil of the plants dries rapidly. Watering depends upon the rate of drying of the soil of the plant and the condition of the plant. A droopy plant or one with the edges of the leaves getting brown, is not getting enough water. The soil in the container should not dry more than one inch below the surface of the soil. Generally water is applied once a day in the morning to get the most benefit of the photosynthesis process of the plant. There must be sun to cause water to be absorbed by the roots and transferred to the leaves (transpirational pull) for photosynthesis, the process whereby the plant manufactures food. Since there is no sun at night, the roots will be standing in water all night with no benefit for the plant.

Plants should be placed in sunny locations but not all plants will survive in full sun, especially in the late afternoon when the temperature is highest. These plants should have morning sun with partial shade during the hottest part of the day. This is a factor of the micro environment of the plant growing area. Too much shade will cause long internodes because of the plant reaching for more sun.

Fertilizing depends upon the plant, the desired rate of growth, and the type of fertilizer used. Mature plants probably can get by on less fertilizer than younger plants under development. Too much fertilizer will cause long internodes or can actually burn the plant. It is wise to follow the instructions of the fertilizer manufacturer and through trial and error, develop procedures for fertilizing your plants. Watering and fertilizer are greatly dependent upon the micro-environment of the growing area.

Suffice it to say the, that it is incumbent upon the grower to learn the requirements for water, sun, and fertilizer of each plant in the collection and then develop a system of controlling these requirements for the best results.

## **An Opening in the Michael Hagedorn Study Group**

There is an opening in the Saturday Michael Hagedorn Study group which meets three times each year at Bonsai Northwest in Tukwila. If you are interested in becoming a member of this study group, please contact Sharon or John Muth. This is an opportunity for anyone in the club who might be interested in an in depth approach to a mature tree in your collection. Sharon or John may be contacted at 206.242.8244 for additional details such as cost and dates of the workshops. Workshops last on Saturdays from 8:30 am to 5 pm.

## **Weyerhaeuser Announces The Closure Of The Pacific Rim Bonsai**

Weyerhaeuser Company has announced that the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection, located at its corporate headquarters in Federal Way, will be closed to the public as of April 2. The Collection of 60 trees from six Pacific Rim nations has been in operation for 20 years. More than 30,000 people visit the Collection each year.

"The decision to close the Collection is part of a continuing response by Weyerhaeuser to the extraordinary economic uncertainty and the need to continue to reduce general and administrative expenses" said Ernesta Ballard, senior vice president, corporate affairs.

Curator David De Groot said the Collection will be re-opened for one weekend in May, Mother's Day weekend, for the city's Buds & Blooms festival. He said during the closure the collection of bonsai will be kept intact and well maintained, with the hope that it will one day be put back on public display. "We therefore are saying 'so long' rather than 'goodbye,' he said.

## **A New Suiseki Study Group Formed**

Last week, three co-founders (Joel Schwarz, Rick Stiles, and Wayne Brewer) launched a suiseki study group as a division of PSBA. Their mission statement is:

- 1) Collect our own stones around Washington State with guidance from experienced collectors.
- 2) Make our own daiza.
- 3) Study Asian stone arts.
- 4) Exhibit to the public, particularly at bonsai and suiseki conventions.
- 5) Keep a casual tone among our membership.

They expect a large membership and the logistics with an inaugural meeting time and place are yet to be established. We are scouting opportunities and seeking suggestions. Watch for announcements in the **PSBA NewsClippings** and at PSBA meetings. You may contact Wayne at [wayne.j.brewer@boeing.com](mailto:wayne.j.brewer@boeing.com).

## **Suiseki To Be Displayed At Sakura Con (Cherry Blossom Convention)**

Wayne Brewer and Jeanine Rakos are arranging a bonsai and suiseki display at the Sakura Con convention to be held the 10th through the 12th of April at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in downtown Seattle. The art show room connected with this anime convention has its own hours and security (Friday and Saturday from noon to 9 pm. Our PSBA exhibit is not open to the general convention goers on Sunday.) Docents and volunteers that have ID tags will pick up convention name tags in room 213 at the programming table. Look for the convention website to be posted on the PSBA website along with the chance to view examples of anime. There is such devotion to all things anime that a national convention was established to celebrate it. Look for cost details on the convention website (just type "**sakura con**" into a search engine). Contact Wayne Brewer (see above article) if you are interested in volunteering.

## **Upcoming Bonsai Events**

### **Saturday, April 25th and Sunday, April 26th — Anacortes, Washington**

The North Sound PSBA Study Group presents bonsai on display at the Anacortes Garden Fest. The hours are 10 am to 5 pm. The bonsai will be on display at the Anacortes Depot Art Center.

### **Friday, May 1st and Saturday, May 2nd— Sequim, Washington**

#### **The Dungeness Bonsai Society's 33rd Annual Exhibition of Trees**

The show will be held at St Luke's Episcopal Church at 525 North 5th Street in Sequim. This is a Friday and Saturday show that is open from 10 am to 5 pm with nearly 90 beautiful trees. There will be live demonstrations each day as well as video presentations, sales tables, and helpful club members. Admission is free, parking is free, and the Sequim Irrigation Festival runs at the same time, providing plenty of things to do and see.

### **Thursday thru Sunday, June 11-14, 2009 — Boise, Idaho**

#### **The American Bonsai Society (ABS) Convention**

This convention has been cancelled.

### **Friday thru Sunday, June 19-21, 2009**

#### **Bonsai Clubs International (BCI) presents "Survivors of the Storm"**

In the botanical garden at City Park in New Orleans, Louisiana the BCI will have its annual meeting and present several world bonsai masters from around the world and the USA. Demonstrations and workshops will feature pomegranate, bottle brush, boxwood, crape myrtle, and more. There are some great hotel rates and a beautiful venue in the famous city of New Orleans.

### **Thursday October 1st thru Sunday, October 4th, 2009**

#### **Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association Convention XX**

The PNBICA will hold its convention at the Harbour Towers Hotel in Victoria, B.C., Canada. Guest artists presenting workshops and demonstrations will include Qingquan Zhao from China, David Easterbrook of Montreal and British Columbians David Rowe and Tak Yamamura. Full information and registration forms can be found at <http://www.victoriabonsai.bc.ca> or by contacting George Heffelfinger at 3140 Tarn Place, Victoria, BC V8R 3N8, Canada. There is also a link on our PSBA website under "Other Bonsai Links" and then looking under Bonsai Clubs for Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association.

### **Saturday, October 31st thru Monday, November 2nd, 2009**

#### **Asia Pacific Bonsai and Suiseki Convention and Exhibition**

This will be held in Chung Hua, Taiwan, and features 500 bonsai and 300 suiseki. There are several featured artists. Registration is \$100US and there are tour packages for \$500 to \$1100US which include registration plus hotel and land transportation as well as side tours. Contact Mr. Min Hsuan Lo @ mail 2000.com.tw or search for the convention by typing in 10th annual convention of Asia Pacific Bonsai.

## Puget Sound Bonsai Association

Puget Sound Bonsai Association  
P.O. Box 15437  
Seattle, Washington  
98115-0437

Phone: 253-851-9636  
psba.us

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copies, please contact Carol Sangster at  
csangster@chubb.com.

Editor: Morgia Belcher 253.851.9636 or  
morgia@centurytel.net

Assistant Editor: Shaun Leibfried

Production Editor: Jana Loyd

Mailing Labels: Carol Sangster  
(csangster@chubb.com)

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## Calendar of Events:

**Friday, April 10-Sunday, April 12th—Sakura Con at the Washington Convention Center in downtown Seattle**

**Sunday, April 19 — New PSBA Members Workshop held at Bonsai NW— contact Greg Hill (go2ghill@aol.com) for details or see last month's newsletter**

**Monday, April 27 —PSBA meeting at CUH—program is David DeGroot working on an azalea, which will then be raffled off**

**Sunday, May 17—Spring PSBA Show at the Seattle Japanese Gardens**

**Set-up from 8am to 10am**

**Show is open from 10 am to 5 pm**

**Saturday, June 6— Annual PSBA Auction to be held at Weyerhaeuser's Pacific Rim site in Federal Way**

**Monday, June 22—PSBA meeting at CUH—Chinese Penjing Artist Mr Tien**

**Sunday, July 26—Annual PSBA potluck held at CUH**

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