

PUGET SOUND



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PSBA New Clippings



Puget Sound Bonsai Association

April, 2010

P.O. Box 15437, Seattle, WA 98115-0437

Volume 37—Number 3

- Remember you can check the club out on the Web at www.psba.us. Current and past newsletters are available on that site.
- Plan now to attend our annual bonsai auction to be held the first Saturday in June at Weyerhaeuser's campus in Federal Way. See page 4 for details.
- Plan now to attend the 2010 PNBCA convention to be held in Bremerton. See page 5 for details.
- A note from your editors: April's edition is late. Morgia is on jury duty and it is more time consuming than imagined. Thanks to Shaun Leibfried for her help! Also, we send a special thanks to Dennis Howke who takes the newsletter and gets it up on the website. He manages to work his magic in ways your editors don't fully understand but really appreciate. Also a big thanks to Jana Loyd who gets hard copies out to members who do not have access to the internet.
- April's meeting on the 26th will feature Michael Hagedorn as he works on a Zelkova which will not be raffled off, as he will work on it at 2 or 3 more meetings. There will be other items for the raffle.

The President's Desk: Grant Rauzi

It's hard to believe that spring is already here – some may say it came to the Northwest even earlier this year! The crazy weather of 2010 continues to challenge us all to spend the right efforts, at the right times, on the right trees in our collections! Our club of course will go forward with our planned events and hope that the season will complement the stage of growth we desire to show in our displays.

As I write this article, we are in the middle of the **Sakura-Con 2010** on April 2-4; this is the thirteenth annual anime convention. I hope many of you had a chance to check it out – it's an amazing gathering at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center with over 100,000 square feet of exhibit halls and more. Presented by the Asia Northwest Cultural Education Association, Sakura-Con is the oldest and most well attended anime convention in the Pacific Northwest. Member attendance for Sakura-Con 2009 was over 16,000 individuals, with most members attending all three days (for a potential turnstile count of over 48K)!

What better venue to hold a display and presentation by PSBA in keeping with our mission dedicated to education in the art and culture of bonsai? Chair **Jeannine Rakos** organized a wonderful exhibit, closely collaborating with **Wayne Brewer**, who performed a demonstration on Saturday as well. Members of PSBA contributing as cultural presenters included: Edd Kuehn, Rick Hlavka, Don Guilliams, Mark Kidder, Sally Montejano, Joel and Jan Schwarz, Grant Rauzi, Jay Randell, Mark Kidder and Margaret Holton. New members who join our PSBA as a result of this exposure to bonsai are the direct result of these members' efforts – thanks to you all.

Our last general meeting, on March 22, featured **guest artist John Thompson**, who is a recognized authority on native oaks, and especially enjoys working on juniper and boxwood, as well <http://www.psba.us/thompson.html>. He offered a workshop to club members earlier in the day at Bonsai Northwest, then gave an excellent demo at the evening meeting on propagation and grafting, including multiple techniques and layering options. We hope to collect and post pictures on our website.

The April 26 general meeting will include a demo by **guest artist Michael Hagedorn** from Portland, Oregon <http://crataegus.wordpress.com>. Michael will also lead a workshop 1 pm-4pm on the same day. Contact workshop chair Wayne Brewer to sign up. The cost is \$40 paid in advance.

Our next big event is the **Annual Spring Show** at the Japanese Garden in the Seattle Arboretum on May 16 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Please contact coordinator **Pat Negron** if you are interested in helping with the show in this truly beautiful place and surroundings.

Mark your calendars: The **Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection** in Federal Way, WA., which has been closed to the public since spring of 2009, will be open for several days over Mother's Day Weekend in conjunction with the Buds & Blooms Spring Garden Festival. See page three of this newsletter for dates and times. For more information see www.visitfw.org, or call 253-924-5206.

Remember: Puget Sound Bonsai Association proudly presents its **2010 Annual Bonsai Auction**, June 5 from 1-4 p.m., to be held on the grounds of the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection. Over fifty trees to be auctioned and parking is free! www.psba.us or contact chair **Don Guilliams** for more information.

Enjoy our beautiful spring days.

Grant

Now is the Season: *Spring is Here*

By Ken Wassum

(Editor's Note: We welcome Ken Wassum who will alternate a column with Glenn Gardner so that we can have a "Now Is The Time" article every month we publish. Thanks to these two PSBA members who are willing to write for the newsletter.)

Spring is here and our trees are actively growing. By the time this article gets to print the repotting season will be over for all but a very few types of trees. Shimpaku and Needle Junipers can be repotted in late spring, and with proper aftercare they do fine. However, by April the window will have closed for pines and deciduous trees.

Each season brings with it a need for the artist to tend to his or her trees. Knowing what to do is the trick, and this depends on the type of tree and its stage of development. But in any case, spring brings with it a need for watering and fertilizing.

As the weather warms increase watering. As our trees begin active growth their need for water increases. Never let your trees dry out completely as it will stress them. If you are using a free draining mix of akadama, pumice, and lava, you will need to adopt a more frequent watering schedule. If you are using organic components, like bark or compost, in your soil mix, then you may need to water less.

When watering your trees it is best to do so in the morning or evening. I always try to water the foliage too. Certain trees, especially Mt Hemlocks and Shimpaku juniper like to have their foliage wetted as they naturally grow in misty, moist areas. It also helps to reduce the chance of insect infestation, especially spider mites.

Many artists neglect to fertilize their trees adequately. After repotting, wait at least 4 weeks to begin fertilizing. Again, what gets fertilized and when depends on the type of tree and the stage of development. Trees early in their development (still growing the trunk and branch structure) can be fertilized early. It is ok to have big leaves or long needles as they help the tree grow.

I am a big fan of organic cakes and I make my own using cottonseed meal, fish meal, bone meal, blood meal, and kelp meal. (To keep my Labradors from eating them I sprinkle the top with the hottest red pepper I can find. However, my neighbors are telling me they now see Clara and Ruby in lunch line at the local Indian Curry Shop, so maybe they have developed a taste for hot food.....) Other artists use Miracle Grow or other commercial fertilizers. Which ever you use it is important to fertilize correctly.

Refined trees need greater care in fertilizing. With Black Pines I begin adding cakes in mid-March. Every couple weeks I remove older cakes and add new ones. The goal is to get the tree very strong so that when I remove candles the tree responds with lots of buds. By the time I get to candle removal time the entire surface of soil is covered with cakes. (Once I cut candles I remove all fertilizer until the new needles have hardened off.) This allows the new buds to grow shorter needles. Then I begin feeding again in August, September, and October. I usually remove the cakes for the winter.

For refined white pines wait until the candles have opened and the needles hardened off. Then you can fertilize, but use less fertilizer than with Black Pines. Most other pines, like Shore Pines, Mugo Pines, and Scots Pines can be treated like White Pines. As with White Pines, I fertilize lighter than I do with Black Pines.

For refined deciduous trees, I wait until the leaves have hardened off. If you fertilize while the leaves are still new you will get big leaves. This is OK with a tree that is still developing, but for refined trees it is best to wait.

As with most worthwhile endeavors, attention to detail is important. Bonsai is no exception. I have found that when I pay attention to my trees by applying what I learned, my trees are happy and I am happy.

PSBA Auction 2010

On Saturday, June 5th, PSBA will hold its 5th Annual Auction from 12pm to 4:30 pm in the courtyard of Weyerhaeuser's Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection. David DeGroot has graciously offered the facilities to us. The Auction will feature—live auctions, a silent auction, critiques of auctioned trees, a bonsai demonstration and a free buffet.

Our professional auctioneer, Steve Hardy, will return and will be assisted by Ken Wassum. Dan Robinson, our past auctioneer, will give a professional critique of the 65 trees in the auction from 12pm to 1 pm.

Glenn and Kitty Gardner will again oversee the silent auction, and Wayne Brewer will style a tree in the demonstration area from 12pm to 1 pm. This tree will then be offered in the live auction.

This event has gained in popularity every year and is one of the highlights of our PSBA year. Please plan to attend this festive event and spend a fun afternoon with your friends, fellow club members, and members of the general public who will attend this event.

Leave your credit cards at home and bring your wallet with plenty of cash!

PSBA's Annual Show

Our spring show is almost upon us and there is an urgent need for members to step up and volunteer to help out. At this point we have very few volunteers signed up. The show is Sunday, May 16th, from 10 am to 5 pm at the Japanese Garden in the Arboretum. Set up starts at 8 am that day. If you'd like to volunteer to help set up or take down or be a docent during show hours, please contact Vice President Pat Negron at p.negron@earthlink.net or give her a call at 206.522.4092. The show offers us a great opportunity to expose the public to bonsai but it requires work and many hands to make it happen. Watch for a Newsclippings early in May for more details and suggestions for preparing your trees for display at the show.

PNBCA Convention 2010

This year the Evergreen Bonsai Club will host the PNBCA convention at the Bremerton Convention Center on September 17, 18, and 19th. Workshops will be conducted by John Conn, David DeGroot, Michael Hagedorn, Kathy Shaner, and Anne Spencer. Convention prices, hotel arrangements, and a convention schedule are available by going to the website for the Evergreen Bonsai Club of Bremerton. Remember that a portion of convention profits come back to each club based on how many club members attend the convention. Plan now to attend!

Michael Hagedorn Workshop

PSBA will offer a workshop with Michael Hagedorn on Monday April 26th at Bonsai Northwest from 1pm to 4 pm. Again the price will be \$40 and needs to be paid prior to that date. We need 6 participants. If you are interested in attending, please contact Wayne Brewer at wayne.j.brewer@boeing.com.

Weyerhaeuser to Open Bonsai Collection

— One Weekend Only —

The Weyerhaeuser Company's Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection is pleased to announce the re-opening for 6 days only this May. It will be open to the public during the Federal Way Buds and Blooms spring garden festival over Mother's Day weekend (May 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th). Visitors can once again enjoy the collection's world class bonsai and some special demonstrations. Come out and let Weyerhaeuser know how much PSBA members appreciate the collection. At the same time enjoy bonsai in a beautiful woodland setting.

During the six day opening, the hours will be 10AM—4PM, except on Saturday and Sunday when the hours are 10AM—5PM, the festival days. Other venues that will participate are the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, the West Hylebos Wetland Park, and PowellsWood Garden.

Spring Shows Coming to the NW

There are several shows being held by various bonsai clubs in addition to our own spring show (see page 4 for information on the PSBA show). These shows are always a good excuse to get out of town and see how other clubs are doing and to see what plants do well somewhere else.

Dungeness Bonsai in Sequim will hold its annual show Friday, May 1st and Saturday, May 2nd at St Luke's church in Sequim. If you type "Dungeness Bonsai" into a search engine you will get some specifics or a contact for more details which I did not have when this edition went out.

The Portland Bonsai Club will hold their show on Mother's Day weekend May 7-8 from 10 am to 7 pm at the Portland Japanese Gardens. They always put on a great display and usually have bonsai and bonsai related items for sale just outside the gardens. There is an admission charge to the garden. Details can be obtained from the Portland Bonsai Society web page.

The Seacrest Bonsai Club will present their 32nd Annual Exhibition of Beautiful Bonsai on May 29 and May 30th from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 10-4 on Sunday at the Magnuson Brookings Inn Resort. It is at 1143 Chetco Avenue in Brookings, Oregon.

There may be other shows in the Northwest that your editor has not yet discovered. Look for additional shows in the May 1st newsletter. In the meantime, if you know of a show, contact Morgia Belcher at morgia@centurytel.net so that it can be included in the next newsletter.

PSBA Is a Non-Profit and Accepts Donations

Our president, Grant Rauzi, recently was notified that his employer has donated \$680 to PSBA from the Microsoft Matching Gifts Program. Grant applied for these matching funds and our organization benefits as a result. If you work for a company that has such a program, please consider donating to PSBA which is a non-profit (501 c) organization.

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 reprint articles is granted to other bonsai
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 where expressly prohibited or noted
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News Clippings
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Monday, April 26 10 a.m.—1 p.m.	Workshop with Michael Hagedorn Bonsai Northwest, Tukwila
Monday, April 26 7 p.m. – 10 p.m.	PSBA meeting at Center for Urban Horticulture Guest artist Michael Hagedorn
Mothers' Day weekend	Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection open to public as part of Buds and Blossoms Festival in Federal Way
Sunday, May 16 10 a.m.—5 p.m.	Spring Show Japanese Gardens, Seattle Arboretum
Saturday, June 5 1 p.m.—4 p.m.	PSBA Annual Auction Pacific Rim, Weyerhaeuser campus, Federal Way
Monday, June 21 7 p.m.—10 p.m.	PSBA meeting at Center for Urban Horticulture
Sunday, July 25 1 p.m.—5 p.m.	PSBA Annual Potluck, Center for Urban Horticulture

