



- Remember you can check the club out on the Web at [www.psba.us](http://www.psba.us). There is information there about speakers and club doings as well as directions to the Center for Urban Horticulture. You can also print out a map to CUH from that same site.
- Our potluck is scheduled for Sunday, July 27th which is a week later than usual—CUH conflict caused us to go to the later date—see page 2 for details.
- If you haven't already made plans to attend the Pacific NW bonsai convention held in September in Spokane, check out the details by going to our PSBA website and clicking on the link to the convention.
- Reminder—PSBA does not meet in August..
- Look for a **PSBA News Clippings** in your email box come the beginning of September!

## PSBA News Clippings



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

The calendar says we have already enjoyed spring! As I write I'm not sure what the weather has in store for us! I know we all have been given grace on late repotting!

Speaking of spring, how many of you made it out to our annual spring show May 18th? NOT VERY MANY! It was a beautiful day and a lot of people strolling through the Japanese Gardens and all were treated to a very nice PSBA Bonsai show! Thanks to the FEW who always steps up to help out! It can be more fun if more of the membership would only step up and help as well!!

By now most of you know that the Penjing demonstration scheduled for our June 23 meeting had to be canceled. Thanks to David DeGroot a program on Satsuki Azalea's made for an enriching evening. Thanks again Dave.

Now comes the test...July 27, 1-5 PM is our annual Potluck at CUH...bring your favorite dish/dessert/salad/or appetizer...and come out to help celebrate PSBA's 35th Anniversary...see you there...and don't forget this is also your chance to sell some of those bonsai/pots/etc...

To help celebrate our 35th, Sharon and John Muth and Glenn Gardner will be doing a bonsai demonstration at the same time; we will either auction the 3 demo trees, do a silent auction or raffle (maybe do one of each!). In any case there will be lots of fun!

#### SOME REMINDERS:

September 13/14 the annual Aki Matsuri at Bellevue Community College...Our Chairman Wayne Brewer can use some help, so step up and contact Wayne and offer your help

September 18,19,20,21 PNBCA Annual Convention...check out their website.

September 22, 7-10 pm general meeting...Grant Rauzi and Don Guilliams are working on having Walter Pall as our Guest Artist

October 12--new member workshop-- New members who have not had a workshop need to contact Greg Hill ([go2hill@aol.com](mailto:go2hill@aol.com)) and get signed up or see him at the potluck for details.

November ...stay tuned.

My thought for the month:

"Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose."

## PSBA July Potluck and Bazaar

Our annual summer potluck will be held at the Center for Urban Horticulture on Sunday, July 27th from 1-5 pm. All members and their families are welcome for fun and fellowship. Starting at 1 there will be 3 simultaneous demonstrations by Sharon Muth, John Muth, and Glenn Gardner. PSBA is celebrating 35 years of activities and we look forward to their demos. There will be an auction of their trees and other raffle items will be available. If you have items for raffle please give them to Pat Negron.

There is always a bazaar so come to sell or buy trees, pots, tools, books, anything you wish. All monies from the bazaar go to the seller. Contact Grant Rauzi for the number of tables you will need ([grantr@microsoft.com](mailto:grantr@microsoft.com) or 425.788.7988).

The historian's books will be available to browse through. Anyone who has pictures or articles that may be of interest should plan to bring them and give them to our historian, Edd Kuehn.

Plan to bring a potluck dish according to your last name:

A-F—HOT DISH

G-K—DESSERT

L-R—APPETIZERS

S-Z—SALAD

Be sure to bring serving utensils for your dish and remember to take your dish home when you leave. Appetizers are usually served at 2 pm and the main course about 3 or 3:30 pm with dessert to follow.

The club provides plates, forks, napkins, and beverages.

Please wear your name badge and remember to have fun.

## Boon Manakitivipart Writes about July Bonsai Care

As summer heats up, bonsai slow down and sometimes come to a complete stop. The most important work now is keeping trees well watered.

**Watering:** Watch out for excessive heat and water accordingly. Protect bonsai in small or shallow pots by ensuring a layer of clean sphagnum moss covers the entire surface of the soil to help the tree retain moisture. In particularly warm areas, place trees under 30-50% shade cloth or otherwise protect them from the hot midday sun. Deciduous trees and white pines are especially sensitive to heat. Remove fertilizer cakes for trees in summer dormancy.

Check the amount of water each tree takes in. If you are not sure how dry the soil is, dig down about 1 inch and check. Since color of akadama becomes lighter as it dries out, and darkens when it gets wet, it is a great aid in helping determine water needs.

Flowering and fruiting trees such as pyracantha, apple, wisteria, winter berry and rose, need a lot of water. Insufficient water will cause these trees to drop their fruit and can affect the production of next year's fruit.

Shohin and small size trees (chuhin) can be placed on a tray with porous gravel to help increase the moisture. For root-over-rock trees, place a towel over the soil and the stone. Wet towels help to cool down the stone and protect the roots.

Place water loving bonsai, like wisteria, bald cypress, etc., in a shallow pan or saucer to keep the roots soaked. Do not submerge more than the bottom quarter of the pot.

Remember to rotate your trees at least once a month.

The following are suitable trees to work on this month.

- Japanese black pine – wiring
- Junipers
- Azalea
- deciduous trees

## Home Made Fertilizer Cakes

--The author is a PSBA member who wishes to remain anonymous--

In two recent workshops with Boon and Peter Warren, the subject of fertilizer cakes came up in both. My home made cakes seemed to be the desired product, and I was asked to share the recipe.

Before I get to that, I also want to recommend reading *Teaming with Microbes: A Gardener's Guide to the Soil Food Web* by Jeff Lowenfels & Wayne Lewis. I will pull information from there as well as from Boon's Intensives.

Organic fertilizer cakes are used to feed the microbes present in the soil mix. As you will re-discover in the book, it is the microbes that make the nutrients available to the plant. Soil structure plays an important roll in the health and number of microbes. Also, all plants except for annuals thrive in fugally dominated soils. There must be sufficient drainage and oxygen for roots and microbes to be healthy. The bonsai mix used here is Akadama, pumice, and lava.

In shallow bonsai pot culture, the fine organics have the potential of clogging the soil structure and drainage needed for health. That is why the cakes are placed on top of the soil to act like natural leaf litter to the microbes. The cakes can also can be removed to control the timing of nutrient availability -- a tool that can be used to develop smaller leaves.

Boon's recipe is 5 parts cottonseed meal, 3 parts fish meal, 1 part bone meal, and 1 part blood meal; add fish emulsion & water; mix to the consistency of ice cream and scoop onto the tree. Use a sorbet scoop, or spoon it on. The secret to this is the fish meal needs to be pelletized to get the ingredients to stick together; it also cuts down on the odor.

From the book or your nursery supplier you will find other organic substitutions. The Japanese cakes are based on rape seed, but I haven't found it available here. Ingredients to help feed the fungus might be included, such as 1 part kelp meal, soybean meal, or the book suggests the best is powdered baby oatmeal.

### **Home Made Fertilizer Cakes — continued from page 4**

Then we get into actively aerated compost teas (AACT). These modern brewed compost teas are available at some nursery outlets. Used as a drench, it supplies a high concentration of microbes to the soil, which helps if it has been stressed by using chemical fertilizers (like putting salt on a slug) or fungicides, or sitting on that hot bench all summer. Or perhaps you might use it, in early spring after repotting.

So my recipe: Cotton Seed Meal -5 parts, Alaska Fish Pellets - 3 parts(does have some other ingredients in it), bone meal - 1 part, blood meal - 1 part, kelp meal - 1 part, DR Earth Compost Starter - 1 part. Add fish emulsion and water, 1 tablespoon non-sulfured molasses, a few tablespoons of screened sphagnum moss (the Adobe brick effect). This I let sit over night in a warm dark space, then I add fresh brewed AACT to the right consistency to scoop onto the trees. I then water all the bonsai with the AACT.

For those who don't have access to the compost tea, I have found the DR. Earth products contain some beneficial soil microbes. The amount to put on depends on size, season, health, etc, but in general you are not going to burn your trees with this. Begin fertilizing a few weeks after repotting, a few scoops at first, adding more as the weeks go on.

In spring I dry unused fertilizer rolled in logs of wax paper, then break off as needed. Keep adding fertilizer to the surface through the season, clustering older cakes together, so at some point they can be recognized as the oldest and removed. If cakes are removed for cultural reasons, clean the surface and add more soil mix if needed. By the end of summer, the surface should be mostly covered with little cakes of fertilizer. The microbes will feed on this and supply nutrients to the plant down to temperatures around 50F (although life doesn't stop at 40). So when winter comes, remove the cakes and clean the surface of your bonsai..

## Puget Sound Bonsai Association

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

Phone: 253-851-9636  
psba.us

The PSBA News Clippings  
Is published nine times each year by the  
Puget Sound Bonsai Association: P.O.  
Box 15437, Seattle, WA 98115-0437.  
The newsletter is published in order to  
share general information about bonsai  
techniques, events, and other items of  
interest to members. It is provided free of  
charge to our members. Hard copies are  
mailed once or twice a year to all  
members. Members with e-mail addresses  
will get all others via e-mail. Members  
without e-mail may pick up hard copies at  
meetings. If you are not receiving e-mail  
copies, please contact Carol Sangster at  
csangster@chubb.com.

Editor: Morgia Belcher 253.851.9636 or  
morgia@centurytel.net

Production Editor: Jana Loyd

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

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Seattle, WA 98115-0437

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## Calendar of Events:

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|------------------------|--|
| <b>July 27</b>         | <b>1-5 pm—Potluck at CUH<br/>PSBA celebrates 35 years!</b> |
| <b>August</b>          | <b>No meeting—no newsletter</b>                            |
| <b>September 18-21</b> | <b>PNBCA Convention in Spokane</b>                         |
| <b>September 22</b>    | <b>PSBA meeting—Walter Pall ?</b>                          |

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