

PUGET SOUND



**Bonsai**

ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1973

- 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.
- Coming in March—our first guest demonstrator and workshop opportunity—John Thompson will be here on March 22nd. The workshop will be at Bonsai Northwest starting at 10 am. The demonstration is that evening — come at 7 pm with the demo at 7:30 pm.
- Remember—Dues for 2010 are due and may be paid at any meeting or by mailing them to the PSBA's post office box can be found at the top of this page.
- 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.

Puget Sound Bonsai Association

March, 2010

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

Volume 37—Number 2

## PSBA New Clippings



### The President's Desk: Grant Rauzi

What a great kickoff to our 2010 club year! From the first weeks there are already some great things to report:

During the initial meeting of the new 2010 Board of Directors we were able to fill all positions. New committee chairs are as follows:

- ⊙ Community Relations: Elsa Durham
- ⊙ Newsletter Assistant: Shaun Leibfried
- ⊙ Raffles: Jeannine Rakos
- ⊙ Spring Show Coordinator: Pat Negron
- ⊙ Study Group Coordinator: Don Guilliams
- ⊙ Workshops & Mentors: Wayne Brewer

Our first big event of 2010 was the **Northwest Flower and Garden Show** which was held at the Convention Center in Seattle February 3-7. This year's exhibit resulted in a *silver medal award* and some incredible interest by the greater than 50,000 convention attendees – a huge success in our organizational mission of generating awareness and appreciation for the culture and art of bonsai. Chairperson Don Guilliams deserves credit for a long year of planning, logistics and organizing to make the exhibit a success. This year PSBA teamed with member Tony Fajarillo, owner of Active Landscape, Inc., to assemble a stunning display of Japanese landscaping. Many thanks to Don's stellar team of organizers and docents!

Our first general meeting on February 22 featured a roundtable session on **repotting**, led by members of the Boon Manakitivipart study group including Ken Wassum, Linda Breeden, Doug Bradley, and Tom Knoblauch. The multi-media program approach also included a video of Boon repotting his Lodgepole Pine, which is a multi-season project for the PSBA. (Who knows, this magnificent pine may become an item for the 2011 Convention hosted by PSBA?) Now is the time of year for repotting – if you missed the opportunity to witness the February roundtable session, you can find some photos and tips on our PSBA website <http://www.psba.us>.

We are excited to announce that our next general meeting on March 22 will feature **guest artist John Thompson**, who is a recognized authority on native oaks, and enjoys working on juniper and boxwood as well <http://www.psba.us/thompson.html>. His demo will be on propagation and grafting, including multiple techniques and layering options. This is the first opportunity on this timely subject for members in a long while, so I encourage everyone to be at this next meeting. A workshop class will also be held on the day of the meeting at 10 a.m. at Bonsai Northwest Nursery. The work and lecture will be driven by the class participants and the experiences they want most in working with John, including grafting on their own trees, or simply working on design of one of their own collection. Contact workshop chairman Wayne Brewer [wayne.j.brewer@boeing.com](mailto:wayne.j.brewer@boeing.com) to sign up for the workshop. Fee: \$40 – a great opportunity!

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 ([pnegron@earthlink.net](mailto:pnegron@earthlink.net)) if you are interested in helping with the show in these truly beautiful surroundings.

Great news! The **Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection** in Federal Way, which has been closed to the public since spring of 2009, will be open (6 days only!) on Mother's Day Weekend May 7, 8, and 9 and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday following Mother's Day in conjunction with the Buds & Blooms Spring Garden Festival. For more information see [www.visitfw.org](http://www.visitfw.org), or call 253-924-5206. (See page 5 for more specifics.)

Mark your calendars: Puget Sound Bonsai Association proudly presents its **2010 Annual Bonsai Auction** on June 5 from 1-4 p.m. Like last year, the auction will be held on the grounds of the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection in Federal Way. Over 50 trees will be auctioned and parking is free! [www.psba.us](http://www.psba.us)

The theme for the **2011 Convention**, which PSBA will host, has been chosen: "Elegance in the Emerald City". The convention will occur Labor Day weekend, September 3-5, 2011 in downtown Seattle. More details will be coming in the near future from convention chairperson Don Guilliams [guillie@comcast.net](mailto:guillie@comcast.net). In the meantime plan to attend the 2010 convention (see page 5).

Reminder: your *membership dues* for 2010 are due now. Our fiscal year is the calendar year – membership is updated January 1, and if unpaid by the February meeting all membership privileges were suspended. If you missed the cutoff, contact Carol Sangster ([csangster@chubb.com](mailto:csangster@chubb.com)). We want to include you in our 2010 membership roster.

See you in March!

Grant

## Bonsai Gentrification

By Michael Hagedorn ([www.crataegus.com](http://www.crataegus.com))

There is an area of northwest Portland that used to be an industrial area, and the old buildings are now seeing a revival as rather posh living spaces. I don't normally think of bonsai when looking at old factories and warehouses, but when I was walking around them last December I did start thinking of bonsai.

Portland is not unlike many cities in the US where overseas jobs cut off the local industries and left industrial husks of buildings behind. The old buildings are quite beautiful, in fact, if you look at them with your head tilted and eyes squinting a bit. The bricks and stones from the first half of the 20th century still bear the rough marks of adjacent walls that are no longer there...altered roof lines that are a bit patched together...and patinas from paint and weather that cover one surface and not another. Twenty years ago most would have said that they had definitely seen 'better days.' Now that the buildings are refurbished, many would have to squint to ever imagine the new lofts and restaurants and microbreweries as the original warehouses, so great is the change.

And old buildings are not unlike old bonsai. I was lucky to have come across many old bonsai in Japan, when I was an apprentice of Shinji Suzuki, which had the same feel as these antique buildings. Many had been bonsai for generations, and yet had 'gone to seed', so to speak. Some had been passed on to people without an interest in bonsai, or someone had taken ill and could not care for them, or they simply had not been repotted or worked on for a decade or two. They felt like these old industrial buildings in downtown Portland: Their structure was good, but they were out of service. Time and changing hands had made them unnecessary, unwanted. And that neglect hid their merits. But with a little elbow grease and thought and patience---like those buildings in Portland---they were transformed.

When we worked on forlorn, orphaned trees in Japan it was like we put on our carpenter's pants and tool belt. We could see what had been done before to them, and we tried to make them come alive again. We tried to offer a reinterpretation, a revival, to good 'bones.' (Often a trunk is called a 'bone' in Japanese, a bit of bonsai lingo.) It simply felt good to dust off an old tree and make it a bonsai again.

A couple years back I was happy to acquire a couple of neglected spruces from the Seattle area. One was a collected Engelmann and the other an Ezo clump. They were a bit long in the tooth, and had been growing freely and gangly and without much restraint, but they also had good bones. And when I began working on them I was thinking about these old warehouses in Portland's Pearl District, and how, if I was lucky, these old spruces might resemble new residential lofts. No such luck. But such is the stuff of inspiration. (They still look like trees, which is probably a good thing.)

Best wishes in bonsai,

Michael Hagedorn



## **John Thompson: San Jose, California**

John's experience and bonsai collection encompass a wide range of species and styles. He is a recognized authority on the development of bonsai techniques for Native Oaks. He especially enjoys working on collected specimens of Oak, Juniper and Boxwood. Collecting from the wild as well as the neighborhood and maintaining a growing ground for development of material yield a stream of interesting pre-bonsai for his avocation. JT emphasizes the active "Doing of Bonsai," and incorporates the natural forms that exist around us with the unique characteristics of the individual tree. He believes in touching and enjoying his trees every day. PSBA is happy to welcome him back to the Pacific Northwest once again. We hope our membership will take advantage of his expertise and take part in the workshop on Monday, March 22nd at Bonsai Northwest. Workshops are limited to 8 participants but observers are welcome to attend (there is a small charge for observers). You can contact Wayne Brewer to find out whether there are still openings for workshop participants. Wayne can be reached via email at: [wayne.j.brewer@boeing.com](mailto:wayne.j.brewer@boeing.com).

Plan now to attend his demonstration that evening at the Center for Urban Horticulture. We meet at 7 pm and he will begin by 7:30 pm. We have not had a speaker who emphasized propagation techniques in a long time (maybe ever) and we look forward to learning from John. We are pleased to have this opportunity.

## **Bonsai Auction Coming in June**

Put the date of June 5, 2010, on your calendars and plan to attend PSBA's annual auction of bonsai trees/material. The hours are 1-4PM at Weyerhaeuser's Pacific Rim Collection site. There should be over 50 trees to be auctioned off. This should be great fun!

## 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 web site 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 also at Bonsai Northwest from 10 am to 1 pm. Again the price will be \$40 and needs to be paid prior to that date. We need 8 participants. Please sign up at our March meeting on the 22nd. You can also contact Wayne Brewer at [wayne.j.brewer@boeing.com](mailto: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 collections 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.

## Puget Sound Bonsai Association

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Monday, March 22 10 a.m.—1 p.m.	Workshop with John Thompson Bonsai Northwest, Tukwila
Monday, March 22 7 p.m.—10 p.m.	PSBA meeting at Center for Urban Horticulture Guest artist John Thompson
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
Friday—Sunday May 7, 8, and 9	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

