



- Remember you can check the club out on the Web at www.psba.us. There is information there about speakers and club doings.
- 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.
- The penjing demo will be at CUH on June 23rd at our regular June meeting.
- Watch your mailbox in July for a reminder about the potluck and PSBA's 35th anniversary.

PSBA News Clippings



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

It is amazing how time waits for no one! By the time you read this our 3rd Annual Auction, held this year at the Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection, at Weyerhaeuser in Federal Way, will have occurred! It is also possible for some of you that PSBA's Annual spring Show, being held May 18 at the Japanese Gardens in the Seattle arboretum will have come and gone by the time you read this newsletter! If so, I know all of you would've had a good time at both events!

Mark your calendar for June 23, 2008, which is our June meeting. At that meeting we will be treated to a penjing demonstration by Mr Tian, a Penjing Master from China, who will be here visiting the Seattle Chinese Garden Society. They have graciously offered us this opportunity! The meeting will be at our usual spot at the Center for Urban Horticulture (CUH).

As many of you know PSBA was founded in 1973 and we will celebrate our 35th Anniversary at our potluck on July 27 by being treated to 3 simultaneous demonstrations of like material, by 3 of our own bonsai artists! We will either raffle the 3 pieces of art or we may auction them! Don't forget to get your yummy recipes ready as well as those items you want to sell...Mark your calendars for July 27, 1-5pm at CUH.

There is another important date to mark in your calendars: September 19, 20 & 21 in Spokane, Washington. PNBCA's Annual Bonsai Convention, being hosted this year by the Inland Empire Bonsai Society promises to put together another chance to see some of the Northwest as well as gather together to learn from and to enjoy other bonsai enthusiasts. (For those of you who may be new to PSBA, the PNBCA Convention Host Club shares the net proceeds with other bonsai clubs that come under the umbrella of PNBCA. The percentage of monies shared by each club depends upon the number of the club members that have registered for the convention... so the more of our members who register and attend the bigger the percentage PSBA will receive.) More details are available online if you type PNBCA into your search engine. There is also a link on our PSBA website if you go to "other bonsai links".

In closing I would like to say on behalf of PSBA thanks to Jane Wilson, a long time PSBA member who has been absent and has rejoined the club, for her generous donation of 6 nice Japanese black pines.

My thought for the month: "I hear and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand." Confucius

PSBA's SHOWTIME IS ALMOST HERE!

The Spring Show for Puget Sound Bonsai Association is coming to the Seattle Japanese Gardens May 18th 10 am to 5pm. Setup time is Saturday May 17th 6pm to 8pm; this is mostly to help with tables and possibly tents. Bring your trees in on Sunday morning 8 am to 9:30 am and check them in with Morgia Belcher.

Trees are needed for the exhibit; please notify Pat Negrón at 206-522-4092 or e-mail: pnegrón@earthlink.net or you can call Jana Loyd at 206-364-1972. We would like to have the tree name in both common name and botanical name if possible by Friday the 16th so the signs for the trees can be made. Remember, this is your time to showoff your bonsai. If you have mame plants, please notify Alice Chen at 206-682-6996; or e-mail her at: alicechenseattle@yahoo.com or Ruth Fogata, 253-858-2701 or email: mateofogata@msn.com.

We need a few more docents to help on Sunday May 18th between 10am to 5pm to sell bonsai plants. Please notify Pat Negrón if you can help. There will be another notice sent our in the next week via email with more instructions.

If you have any questions please let Pat Negrón know.

—PNBCA CONVENTION 2008 — **SEPTEMBER IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON**

It is time to make plans to attend the Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs 2008 convention. It will be held September 18-21 at the Red Lion Hotel in Spokane, Washington. They have a very friendly web site. Just do a search for PNBCA and go to the 2008 Spokane Convention and you will find complete registration details on speakers, workshops, hotel accommodations, and meals. Registration begins on Thursday evening at 5 pm to be followed by an demonstration by Walter Pall at 8 pm. The convention continues Friday and Saturday and concludes Sunday with a brunch from 11:30 to 1 pm. There is a special room rate for the convention and the rate is good for a room whether you have one person or 4 persons to a room. Remember that when you register with PNBCA, you need to tell them that you are from the Puget Sound Bonsai Association, and a share of the profits from the convention will then return to our club treasury. Enjoy this chance to learn and have fun while you see something of the Northwest. This is the first time Spokane has hosted the convention, so we hope PSBA will be well represented.

SOME MAY BONSAI CARE SUGGESTIONS

BONSAI BOON MANAKITIVIPART

Spring Wiring-Deciduous Trees: The middle part of May is a good time to wire deciduous, fruiting and flowering trees. Although heavy bending must be done with caution as the cambium can easily be separated in spring, slight cracks or light breaks in a branch heal quickly because the sap is active.

Because deciduous, flowering and fruiting trees grow fast this time of year, aluminum wire works best for most branches while copper wire wrapped in paper works for heavier branches. Quick growth means that the wire will stay on for a short amount of time. Aluminum wire is easier to unwind than copper wire and it will not stain the bark or branches of these trees.

Different styles of deciduous trees require varying degrees of movement. Attractive curves in the trunk and/or branches raises the value of these trees. The majority of deciduous and fruiting trees from nurseries usually have straight trunks and branches and poor nebari that is not suitable for high quality bonsai. One of the best ways to produce quality deciduous trees is to start from small seedlings or cuttings and train the trees when they are young. After making curves in the trunk of a young tree, plant it in the ground to thicken the trunk and train the branches once the trunk reaches an acceptable size. The other is to air layer them. Most flowering and fruiting trees can be wired and trimmed at the same time. The new growth left on the trees will be mature enough to carry flowers and fruit the following season.

Spring Conifer Care: Junipers respond best to copper wire. Be careful when you wire junipers with thin bark, such as needle juniper and California juniper, and avoid heavy twisting. Although junipers with thick bark can handle bends better than those with thin bark, too much bending in spring can damage the cambium enough to kill a branch.

Before pinching a juniper, make sure you know the proper care for the variety you are working on. For scale junipers, including shimpaku, California and sierra junipers, pinch off new growth shoots only after they elongate at least one inch past the branch's outline. A lack of long shoots may indicate that the tree is not particularly strong, or that it is too early for pinching. If the majority of a scale juniper's growth is juvenile, this often indicates that the tree is under stress or has been pinched too much. Leave these trees alone until mature, scale foliage returns. Again, you only pinch a finished tree.

Needle junipers are scarce in the United States. These varieties are pinched with sharp scissors, leaving about 1/8 - 1/4 of an inch of new growth. The new growth will be slightly lighter in color than the old growth. This time-consuming process can be completed 2-3 times a year, depending on how fast the tree grows. In summer and fall, stronger growth can be controlled by pulling out the center of new shoots.

San Jose and procumbens junipers may have both scale and needle growth. In Japan, mature trees are first pinched as needle junipers, and pinched through the rest of the growing season as scale junipers.

Cryptomeria too is pinched like needle junipers, only this variety is more touchy. If scissors are not sharp, cut branches may die back to the previous intersection. If growth becomes too dense, small branches will die. Cryptomeria branch pads are shaped like needle juniper pads.

Keep Japanese black pines well watered and fertilized in preparation for decandling. These trees must be in great shape to respond well to decandling.

Japanese white pines need less fertilizer than black pines, and can be over-watered as easily as under-watered. Too much water can cause root rot and long needle growth. Too little water will stunt growth and weaken the tree.

Turning trees: We should turn our trees 180 degrees once a month. Or 90 degree every other week. This will keep our tree in god balance. Every branch will get the same amount of sunlight.

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Calendar of Events:

- May 18: PSBA's Spring Show held at Seattle's Japanese Gardens
- June 23: PSBA meeting—penjing demo at Center for Urban Horticulture
- July 27 1-5 pm—Potluck at CUH
PSBA celebrates 35 years!
- August No meeting—no newsletter
- September 18-21 PNBCA Convention in Spokane
- September 22 PSBA meeting—program to be announced

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