

PUGET SOUND



ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1973

PSBA News Clippings



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

Fall is here and getting our bonsai ready for winter is on our agenda. For those of you who might have questions: if you are in a study group you have help at hand; for those who are not, our monthly meetings would be a good opportunity to ask questions of other club members. Also, if you do not yet belong to a study group, talk to Kathy Blanchard, who will be happy to assist you in making arrangements.

SOMETHING NEW IS ON THE HORIZON! As many of you know we have three study groups led by renowned bonsai artists Boon Manakitivipart, David De-Groot, and Michael Hagedorn. Boon and Michael both travel to and from Seattle on a regular basis, so why not leverage this arrangement by inviting them to be guest artists at our club meetings on a regular basis?

Boon, David, and Michael will each select a specimen tree and over the course of several years, will take us through the development of design and stages of refinement until they are satisfied that they have created an acceptable bonsai. For those of us who are new to bonsai, they will also demonstrate the "do's" and "don'ts" of selecting a juvenile tree in a gallon-size nursery pot and show us what styling is suitable for that particular tree. This means that the tree or trees being worked on will not be raffled off at the end of our meetings. The first such experience will be with Boon at our October meeting.

I believe this is going to be an exciting program for PSBA, and will have the additional benefit of easing the task of scheduling guest artists. Grant Rauzi and John Muth came up with this idea and our board of directors has endorsed it. Thank you, Grant and John.

I would like to thank Wayne Brewer, and all of you who helped, for another successful PSBA showing at the Aki Matsuri Festival. I understand Wayne had twelve students take his hemlock workshop and a great time was had by all! Without Wayne's devotion to bonsai and PSBA this event would not have been possible. Thanks again, Wayne.

If you are a new member, be sure to sign up for the next New Member Workshop, which will be held at Bonsai Northwest on October 11th at 10 a.m. Please register soon with Greg Hill (go2ghill@aol.com) to reserve a spot, as this valuable workshop will fill up quickly.

October 18th is the annual maple viewing at Seattle's Japanese Gardens. Please contact Kathy Blanchard for details.

Our guest artist for October is Boon; you won't want to miss him. At our November meeting, we will hold elections for board officers. More information will follow.

Thought for the month: "Never look down on anyone, unless you are helping that person up." —Jesse Jackson

- Remember you can check the club out on the Web at www.psba.us. Current and past newsletters are available on that site.
- Hopefully many of you are attending the PNBCA convention being held in Victoria, B.C. October 1st-4th. Look for a report in the November newsletter.
- See page 3 for information on the October demo artist, Bonsai Boon. Workshop information is also on page 3.
- If you are new to PSBA, remember that you have a free lesson in bonsai — contact Greg Hill at go2ghill@aol.com.
- Coming in November is the chance to see suiseki displayed at the South Sound Gem, Opal and Mineral show at the Puyallup Fairgrounds from the 13th to the 15th. You'll be able to see a preview of our members' display if you come to our October meeting.
- Our November artist and possible workshops will be with our own John Muth of Bonsai NW. Remember our November meeting is our business meeting at which time we need to elect new officers.

Now Is The Time For

By Glenn Gardner

Now is the time for all Puget Sound Bonsai Members to step up to the plate and be active in the government of the association. Our membership has fallen so low because all we want to do is sit back, wring our hands, and reminisce about the good old days when we had a real spring show and other activities to interest people in our art.

Ah the good old days when we had a larger membership and could find enough people to fill the official chairs. Now the nominating committee cannot find enough people willing to sit on the board or to take elective office, and we are on the verge of not having enough officials to run a board meeting. The need is for a Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three board members. If there is any possibility that you could be interested in taking one of these positions please call Wayne Brewer (425.391.2772 or wayne.j.brewer@boeing.com) and make his day by agreeing to take an elective office.

The tendency in cases like this is to cut back on programs to save money, thinking we can survive that way. Our programs, workshops, first class demonstrators, and exhibitions have, in the past, been the mainstay of the association. I, for one, would like to find a "Reset" to press and restore the association to say 1985 when we had some enthusiasm for bonsai and the study of the art.

Certainly now is the time to come to the aid of our association. Please contact Wayne or any officer with ideas and help you might have to offer.

Aki Matsuri and PSBA

PSBA owes its thanks to all members—especially Wayne Brewer—for participating in and getting our association's name out there at the Aki Matsuri festival which was held at Bellevue College in September. We appreciate all the work that went into the festival on behalf of PSBA. Also a special thanks to Sam Momii for his donation of maple trees.

Bonsai Boon is October's PSBA Artist

Boon's start in bonsai was the result of a birthday gift: a small juniper bonsai. Before long, he joined the Bonsai Society of San Francisco, the club through which he took his first beginner class in the spring of 1989. Anxious to learn as much as possible about bonsai, Boon studied with as many teachers as he could find in California.

Serious study began when he hosted Akio Kondo, Kihachiro Kamiya's first apprentice. Mr. Kondo arrived as what the Japanese call a first-year professional, and stayed at Boon's home for one year.

In 1993, the Golden State Bonsai Federation awarded Boon a Teacher Development Scholarship; two years later, he received the Ben Oki International Design Award for styling a Sierra juniper. In 1995, Boon received several informal offers to study bonsai in Japan.

Several months later he traveled to Japan where he studied bonsai for one year as an apprentice with Yasuo Mitsuya. Following his apprenticeship, Boon returned to Japan twice a year to continue his study with Kihachiro Kamiya until his passing in January, 2004.

In 1998, Boon founded and became the teacher of Bay Island Bonsai, and started his business, Bonsai Boon. PSBA is hoping to have a Monday afternoon workshop with Boon (prior to his demo that evening). Contact Wayne Brewer if you are interested 425.391.2772—cost is \$40.



Bonsai Boon on October Care for Bonsai

October is an important month to continue fertilizing both deciduous and coniferous bonsai. The fertilizer, which trees receive at this time of the year, will help keep them strong through winter.

Deciduous trees: Reduce the amount of fertilizer deciduous trees receive when their leaves begin to change color. When most of the leaves have color, pull all of the leaves off to give the weaker, interior buds more light in winter. Increased sunlight and good air circulation will greatly increase the strength with which the buds will open the following spring. For maples, pull the leaves forward with your finger or tweezers. Beech care differs slightly: use tweezers to pull the leaves backward to avoid breaking new buds. Do not wait for the dead leaves to drop off by themselves. Remove any remaining fertilizer when you remove the leaves.

Light pruning and wiring can be done after the leaves are removed. It is much easier to wire deciduous trees without leaves. But because new buds break off easily, wire your trees carefully. Do not wire trees that have gone completely dormant. This can lead to bleeding if you make a minor crack in a branch during styling.

Use aluminum wire on smaller branches and copper wire wrapped with paper for larger branches. Aluminum wire is easier to apply and remove.

Because the Bay Area is sometimes subject to warm spells in winter, some deciduous trees may sprout before spring arrives. If this happens in Puget Sound, just let the tree grow. New shoots can be cut off before repotting or before spring arrives.

Broadleaf evergreens: Old leaves will turn yellow and drop off. Pick off old leaves and clean the surface of the soil. Although late spring is the best time to work on broadleaf evergreens, it is okay to wire or lightly cut back broadleaf evergreens. Wait until spring to wire satsuki - the branches will be less brittle then. Heavy cut back and restyling should be done in February or March.

Fall Wiring: Bonsai wired in fall need protection from wind and cold. Bending may cause cracks in which ice can form. The expansion of ice in a small crack or fissure can damage live tissue and kill branches. When the temperature falls below 50° F, put the tree under an eave of the house or in an unheated greenhouse.

Do not use dormant spray (lime-sulfur) on recently wired trees. Lime-sulfur can penetrate open wounds and kill live tissue.

Trees to work on in October include: Junipers-Olive-Oak-Japanese white pine-Ponderosa pine-Lodge pole pine and any high mountain pine.-Spruce-hemlock-cypress.

**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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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)

Questions about the publication should be
directed to the editor. Permission to
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P.O. Box 15437
Seattle, WA 98115-0437

Mark Your Calendar For These Events:

Friday-Sunday October 2-4	PNBCA convention held in Victoria, B.C.
Sunday, October 11 10 am start time	New PSBA Members Workshop held at Bonsai NW. Contact Greg Hill (go2ghill@aol.com) for details.
Sunday, October 18	Maple viewing at the Seattle Japanese Gardens
Monday October 26 7 pm	PSBA meeting at CUH—Demo and possible workshops with Bonsai Boon
Monday November 23	PSBA meeting at CUH—Demo and possible workshops with John Muth

