

PUGET SOUND



ASSOCIATION

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PSBA News Clippings



The President's Desk: Grant Rauzi

Greetings to all PSBA members, especially new members, and friends;

The other day, I woke up to grey and wet morning and I was reminded of the cruel, harsh reality.... fall had arrived. Walking out the back door to check my bonsai, I could feel the chill in the air, a bit of a shock after a really pleasant, and unseasonably warm September. I am also imagining that the response from my trees was about the same. Needless to say things are changing out here, but the warm days certainly did a lot for late growth and development. Let's hope for a colorful Autumn and good football weather.

As a club, we are soon to be wrapping up another great year. Just think about all our PSBA great events and fun activities at the end of this summer alone:

- We hosted the Pacific Northwest Bonsai Clubs Association (PNBCA) **Convention XXII "Elegance in the Emerald City"** at the famous and historic Fairmont Olympic Hotel in downtown Seattle **September 3-5**. It has been acknowledged that Chairman Don Guilliams and his dedicated and tireless committee members set a new standard for conventions in the northwest! We featured internationally known artists: Michael Hagedorn, Boon Manakitivipart, Ryan Neil, Suthin Sukosolvisit, our Artist in Residence, Peter Adams, a private display room dedicated to Suiseki, an outstanding Exhibit Room and an upgraded Vendor Room.

Prior to the convention we enjoyed a **sunset cruise to Blake Island** on Elliott Bay with entertainment and BBQ salmon dinner, with all the featured artists on board.

- Another huge success was our formal display at the **14th annual Aki Matsuri (fall festival) celebration** of traditional Japanese cultural arts which took place at the main campus of Bellevue college September 10-11. This show led by Chairman Elsa Durham would not have been possible without the help of David DeGroot who guided the artistic vision for the show and of Carol Sangster and Christophe DeGoix who also provided trees, time, travel and muscle to put the show together and take it down, as well as docent for the show.

- Check out the club on the Web at www.psba.us. Current and past newsletters are available on that site.
- Print out the last page of this newsletter and keep it handy to remind yourself of upcoming events.
- Put the October meeting (October 24th) on your to-do list.
- David DeGroot is our speaker for October. He will be revisiting the azalea he has in training.
- Note that the Michael Hagedorn study group has trees on exhibit at the Pacific Rim collection on the Weyerhaeuser campus in Federal Way. The exhibit is open from October 8th to the 23rd. After three years of preparation involving time, dedication, and effort, the group is ready to present its first public exhibition. Trees to be exhibited include Japanese five-needle pine, Shimpaku juniper, dwarf wisteria, Korean hornbeam, and more. This is the final special exhibit at the Pacific Rim in 2011. Plan to come out and enjoy a fine display this October.

- We also look forward to hosting an exhibit October 16th in the annual **Maple Viewing Festival** at the Seattle Parks and Recreation Japanese Garden in the Seattle Arboretum. (Editor's note: you will get this newsletter after the fact; I hope you got the email that announced the need for trees and help as well as how to attend, using your PSBA name badge.)

October is traditionally a time of year many people consider giving via United Way and other venues. Reminder: we are a non-profit organization dedicated to the education of its members and the general public in the art and culture of bonsai. Donations to PSBA are a source of revenue for the club. If you have raffle items that you wish to donate, they are tax deductible; call or email **Jeanine Rakos** (253.249.1270 or jbrakos@hotmail.com).

Bring your friends and potential new members to our October and November General Meetings at the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture building in Seattle. Our guest artists and demonstrations are sure to be contagious!

See you at the October meeting when we welcome David DeGroot as our speaker/demonstrator!

Don't Forget Our October 24th PSBA Meeting!

David DeGroot

The club is pleased to have David as the guest artist for a demonstration on an azalea at our October 24th meeting. David curates the Weyerhaeuser Company's Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection. He maintains over 100 trees and operates several education programs (the current special exhibition is listed on page 1 on the left side). In addition to teaching and encouraging special exhibitions at the Pacific Rim, he has written many articles for major bonsai publications and is the author of *Basic Bonsai Design*, now in its 3rd printing. Although formally educated in music, Dave developed an interest in bonsai in 1969 while a student in Milwaukee. His interest matured in New Orleans as an active member of the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society. He left music and started his own bonsai design and consulting business. The Pacific Rim fortunately lured him to the Pacific Northwest where he has been for the last 10 years. We look forward to learning from our local bonsai master.

November Elections

Each year PSBA holds its annual business meeting and election of officers at our November meeting. This year's meeting will be held on November 28 at 7 pm. We will hold elections and consider a change to our By-Laws. We need a quorum of members in order to conduct this business, so please plan to attend or send your proxy with another member.

The By Law item is as follows:

1. Article 3.1--amend to reflect six officer-directors instead of five.
2. Art. 5.1 should read: The officers of the corporation shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, "New Member Chair (or chairperson)", and the immediate Past-President, all of whom shall have been elected by the member. (no other changes this art)
3. Art. 5.2: add "New Member Chair" to the list of officers.
4. Article 5.9 would define the duties of the new office. I suggest: "New Member Chair. The new member chair shall be a member of the Board and shall: a) be responsible for new member workshops; b) be responsible for the mentoring program (that matches new members with experienced members); c) be responsible for any other training and orientation programs intended to introduce new club members to the organization and the art of bonsai; and d) in general perform all duties incident to the office of New Member Chair and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President and the Board."
5. Current article 5.9 would be re-numbered to 5.10 and the current article 5.10 would be re-numbered to 5.11.

This year we are electing the following officers. The nominating committee has made the following recommendations to the membership.

Vice-president (we need someone to step up). If you are willing to serve or if you wish to nominate someone, contact Grant Rauzi.

Secretary—Joel Schwarz

Treasurer—Rebecca Raellen

Board of Directors (3 year terms)— Jeanine Rakos and Kathy Blanchard

New Member Registrar—Sally Montejano

New Member Chair—Elsa Durham (currently on the Board of Directors and willing to serve)

Aki Matsuri

By Elsa Durham, Chairperson

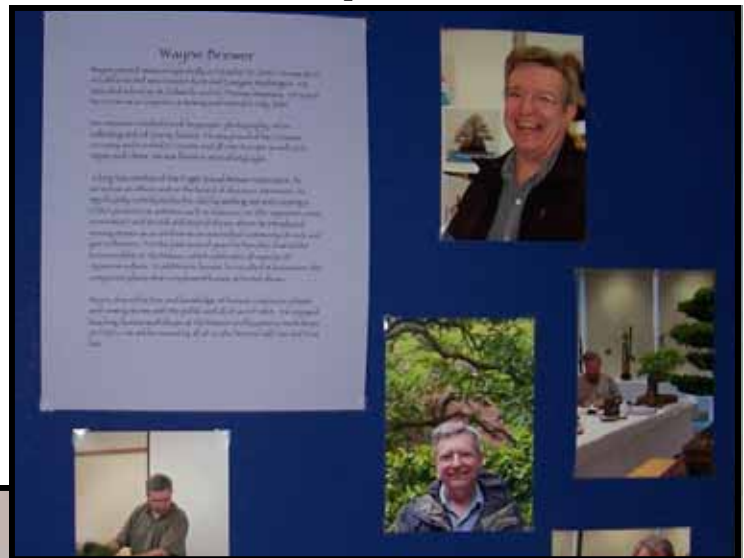
Aki Matsuri (Fall Festival) is a celebration of Japanese culture and presents a wide range of performers, displays, vendors and activities over a 2-day period at Bellevue College during the second or third weekend of September. This year there was an estimate of 20,000 attendees.

The Aki Matsuri bonsai display was presented as a memorial to Wayne Brewer this year by his study group, Yama Taki. The Yama Taki group staged a formal display of 15 trees which included two bonsai that had belonged to Wayne. The bonsai were displayed in a large room along with the ikebana which created a room of peace and quiet beauty amid the rather boisterous activities elsewhere.

This show would not have happened without the artistic guidance of David DeGroot. David, Carol Sangster and Christophe DeGoix provided the time, travel and muscle necessary to stage this show. I would like to thank all three for making the show possible.

In addition to the display, there was an afternoon, beginning workshop on bonsai design. I would like to thank Jay Randall and Josef Leibfried for their help in teaching this course. All the participants left with broad smiles and a completed tree. Below are some pictures from Aki Matsuri 2011.

This year's show was a tribute to Wayne Brewer who died in 2010.



Now is the Time...

By Ken Wassum

Fall is in the air and the needs of trees have changed with the season. With cooler weather and less sun (although it is hard to imagine less sun than we had this last summer.....), trees will need less water than they did during the summer. This is where watering can be tricky. Trees need enough water to be strong and healthy, but too much water can result in root rot. If the soil is damp a half inch or so under the surface of the soil then there is no need to water. On the other hand, light rain may not really dampen the whole root ball, especially trees with a canopy of leaves so you should not assume that your trees do not need watering. The only way is to check. I view watering as a way to do a daily check-in with my trees.

You should still be giving your trees fertilizer to make them strong for winter. Once the deciduous trees lose their leaves you can stop fertilizing. Generally by mid November there is little need to fertilize conifer or deciduous trees. With the colder weather and dark days, trees are not doing much photo-synthesis. But for trees to survive the winter and come to life in the spring, they must be strong, and to be strong they need fertilizer in the early fall until cold weather comes.

This is the time when you can cut back most trees. With pines it is a good time to balance the strength of the tree. The top of the tree and the ends of the branches are the strongest parts of the tree. Strong buds on the top of the tree or the ends of the branches can be cut back. The goal is to equalize the strength of the trees by removing very strong buds so that all the buds are about the same size.

Old needles can be removed on strong trees. On black pines last year's needles can be pulled. On white, ponderosa, and mugho pines, old needles should be cut to avoid stressing the tree. (If there are old brown needles these can be pulled off.) Last year's needles should not be pulled or cut if the tree is weak.

Fall is the perfect time of the year to cut back trees, removing heavy branches to where there are healthy and vigorous finer branches. This will help to keep your trees refined. If you just trim the tips of the foliage or branches you will not have good bonsai since you will have heavy, course branches rather than fine, ramified branching.

Finally, this is the time to make sure you have your repotting supplies ready. Winter can sneak up quickly here and the time to repot most trees in the NW is January to early March. It is always difficult to try to find the right soil components at the last minute.

Most of all have fun!

Puget Sound Bonsai Association

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Monday, October 24 7 pm—10 pm	David DeGroot demonstrates using an azalea .
Monday, November 28 7 pm—10 pm	Dan Robinson discusses collecting bonsai material and PSBA holds its annual election of officers/business meeting.
Watch your snail mailbox	Membership dues for 2012 may be paid at the November meeting or via snail mail.

