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ASSOCIATION

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PSBA News Clippings



The President's Desk: Grant Rauzi

Summer Greetings to all,

Summer is fully underway, and many members are vacationing, so we don't sponsor meetings or workshops during this period. But September is upon us soon and there will be a packed calendar of events and activities (be sure to see the last page of this newsletter for dates) to enjoy and further your knowledge while taking part in the local art and culture of bonsai.

First of course is 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.**

What a fabulous venue!

- Featured internationally known artists: Michael Hagedorn, Boon Manakitivipart, Ryan Neil, Suthin Sukosolvisit
- There are several workshops by our featured artists with a seat or 2 still available, so be sure to review the details elsewhere in this newsletter and/or on the web page to get yourself a beautiful bonsai: <http://www.psba.us/2011PNBCA.html>
- Lots of opportunity to participate – even though the hotel is sold out – you don't even need to be registered for the convention to join the sunset cruise to Blake Island on Elliott Bay with entertainment and BBQ salmon dinner, with all the featured artists on board to meet and get to know over the evening. Call 206-676-3145 for reservations.
- Other highlights: our Artist in Residence, Peter Adams, a private display room dedicated to Suiseki, an outstanding Exhibit Room and an upgraded Vendor Room.

- Check out the club on the Web at www.psba.us. Current and past newsletters are available on that site.
- Convention update is on page 3.
- Don't forget to visit the Pacific Rim Collection in Federal Way.
- In the fall: September 26th—Peter Adams is our demo artist at 7 pm. October 24th—David DeGroot will revisit azalea care. November 28th is our annual PSBA business meeting with a Dan Robinson demonstration.
- Aki Matsuri is the weekend of September 10-11th. See page 5.
- If you are a new member please contact Elsa Durham (still.floating2@gmail.com or call her at (206) 322-8988) about the new member workshop on October 9th at Bonsai Northwest from 1-3 pm.

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. The Convention is also a source of revenue for the club via several raffles to be held during the conference. If you have raffle items that you wish to donate (they are tax deductible) call or email **Carolyn Higgins** carolynhiggs1@verizon.net or phone her at 360.424.3984. .

September 10-11 is the 14th annual Aki Matsuri (fall festival) celebration of traditional Japanese cultural arts and takes place at the main campus of Bellevue college. PSBA will provide a bonsai exhibit open during all festival hours, and there will be a sale of bonsai material as well. This is a wonderful festival and we are dedicating our exhibit in honor of Wayne Brewer who for many years has been the driving force behind our success in participating in the event. Please contact this year's chairman **Elsa Durham** (still.floating2@gmail.com or call her at 206-322-8988) if you can help as an exhibitor, docent or bonsai class assistant.

September 26 is the first General Meeting of the fall season at the University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture building in Seattle. Our guest artist of the event will be **Peter Adams**. We are excited about the demonstration he will be giving the assembly, and there will be a raffle following the presentation of his work. Don't miss it!

Bring your friends and potential new members to any and all our September events. Share your interest in bonsai and let's foster new enthusiasts in this wonderful culture and art.

See you in September!

Grant

[Donations are Still Being Accepted for PNBCA Convention XXII](#)

Each year our PNBCA convention has a number of raffles which are featured during meal times. Carolyn Higgins is in charge of this year's raffles and she would appreciate a list of your donations for this year's raffles. You may either send your list to her by snail mail or email. She would like to know what you wish to donate as soon as possible. Her contact information: carolynhiggs1@verizon.net or phone her at 360.424.3984.

Final Update on PNBCA Convention XXII

PNBCA Convention XXII, to be held at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel in downtown Seattle beginning Saturday September 3, has over 100 registrants to date and the hotel rooms are sold out all three days. However, there are a few workshop openings available if you have not yet registered.

There is limited space available in workshops on Saturday for corokias with Mike Hagedorn and Sharps Pygmy maples with Ryan Neil. On Sunday there are limited openings in the shimpaku juniper workshop with Suthin. On Monday there is an opening for shimpaku juniper with Ryan.

Single day registrations are still available for convention goes all day Saturday and Sunday.

A sunset cruise to Blake Island with a BBQ salmon dinner and entertainment at Tillicum Village on Friday evening will be one of the highlights. Our Headliners, Suthin, Boon, Mike and Ryan, will be on board to visit with everyone. The cost for this sunset cruise, dinner and entertainment is at a reduced rate of \$60. Reservations can be made by calling Peter Robinson at 206.676.3145. You don't have to be registered for the convention to join the sunset cruise.

Peter Adams will perform as Artist in Residence. We will also feature the first of its kind exhibit—one dedicated solely to suiseki and featuring stones from the Pacific Northwest. Both the exhibits and the vendors are open to the public.

We are soliciting raffle items for the convention. If you have tax deductible items you wish to donate please call Carolyn Higgins at 360.424.3984 or her email is carolynhiggs1@verizon.net.

Now Is The Time For Bonsai On Exhibit

By Ken Wassum

The PNBICA convention is coming up in a week or so, and with that comes the exhibit. I always hope to have a tree in the exhibit, especially when PSBA hosts the event. As a bonsai hobbyist with unbridled passion for the art, but limited skill, it is always a crap shoot whether I have anything suitable to display. Given that context, here is what I have learned over the years to increase my chances of having a tree in the exhibit I can be proud of.

To be exhibit-worthy a tree must be in the peak of health, and a well-draining soil mix is mandatory for healthy bonsai in this soggy, cool climate. To be well-draining a soil mix needs to have like-sized roundish particles to create tiny spaces for oxygen. Air is as important to roots as is water. To achieve like-sized particles I sift my soil components, which consist of akadama, pumice, and lava. I discard the dust and super-fine bits, and end up with two sizes of soil. Small size is for mame and shohin, and medium size is for larger bonsai. Many feel this is "just too much work", but I have learned that good soil is a must, and bad soil means unhealthy trees.

While we wire trees to "style" them, a more important function of wiring is to arrange branches so they get proper exposure to sun and air. Branches that get shaded out by a branch above them get weak, and eventually they die. Wiring allows the artist to arrange branches so they get optimal exposure. So I have learned that I need to use wiring to maintain the health of my trees, not only to style them so they look attractive. When the exhibit is approaching it is time to do some "touch-up wiring" so the tree looks the best it can.

I have to remind myself to rotate my trees so all sides get adequate sunlight. To do this you can either rotate the tree 180 degrees once a month or 90 degrees every two weeks. I do the once a month regimen. Trees that haven't been rotated are usually identified by a bountiful layer of moss and algae growing up the shady side of the tree!

Final touches for an exhibit tree include a thorough cleaning of the bark, especially juniper and deciduous trees. I have been taught to moss the soil for an exhibit. To do this I first have to find good moss. There is "good moss" and "not-so-good moss" for bonsai. Good moss is fine textured, and "great moss" is that fine silvery colored moss that is very hard to find. Once I have collected good moss, I scrape off the top ¼" to ½" of soil from the tree. I then apply a layer of sifted sphagnum moss, and lay down my moss. This is firmly pressed into place and well watered. Ideally this is done several weeks before the exhibit to allow the moss to look more natural, followed by a prayer that local birds do not then pull up all the moss for their nests..... I then sprinkle some fine sized lava into the spaces in-between the moss.

Whether you are registered for the convention or not, I hope you come to the exhibit. It is free, and it is the finest exhibit of bonsai in the Northwest. This is a chance to see really good bonsai. One of the lessons of my teacher is that I cannot do good bonsai unless I see good bonsai, and this is a chance to see good bonsai.

Hope to see you there!

[Aki Matsuri](#)

The bonsai display at Aki Matsuri (Fall Festival) is dedicated to Wayne Brewer this year. Aki Matsuri is September 10th (10 am to 6 pm) and 11th (10am to 4:30 pm), the weekend following the Convention. As always, it is held at Bellevue College Main Campus. PSBA's presentations will also include a beginner's workshop on Saturday afternoon, September 10.

Aki Matsuri celebrates all aspects of Japanese culture. In addition to bonsai, there are taiko drums, dojo (puppet shows based on Japanese folk tales), tea ceremonies, martial arts demonstrations and over 80 exhibit and food booths, and much, much more. You can go to www.enma.com for directions and a complete listing of this year's activities. Thousands attend each year. For PSBA members, it is a wonderfully entertaining way to explore Japanese culture beyond bonsai.

For the past 5 or 6 years, Wayne Brewer shouldered the responsibility of representing PSBA at Aki Matsuri with a bonsai show and workshop. This year, we are dedicating the bonsai show to him.

PSBA needs docents for the show, assistants in the workshop, donations of bonsai and/or bonsai related material to sell. If you would like to show a bonsai (space is limited), help at the show or workshop, or donate items for sale, contact Elsa Durham at still.floating2@gmail.com or call her at (206) 322-8988. After helping PSBA, be sure to make time to visit the other exhibits and demonstrations. There is a link to complete details/maps/schedule at enma.org or enma.org/2011/special_events/bonsai/htm.

2011 PSBA Potluck—Good Food, Good Trees, & a Good Time

This year our PSBA potluck featured lots of good bonsai as well as good food. Here are a few pictures from the day. Chairperson, Helen Wattley-Ames (assisted by Jeannine Rakos, Jana Loyd, and Pat Negron) organized and put on a very pleasant day for everyone. Thanks to each of them! Vendors had trees and pots for sale and there was plenty of good food as well as a delightful display of trees and stones organized by Edd Kuehn.



Someone scored a new tree for his collection!



Lots of visiting—a chance to socialize!



Trees and stones to admire and talk about!

Puget Sound Bonsai Association

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News Clippings
P.O. Box 15437
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**September 3-5, Monday,
7PM**

**Monday, September 26,
7PM**

**Sunday, October 9, from
1-3PM**

**Monday, October 24,
7PM**

**Pacific NW Bonsai Convention 2011 at The
Fairmont Olympic Hotel in Seattle—more
information at www.psba.us.**

**Peter Adams Demo at our regular September
meeting at the Center for Urban Horticulture.**

**New member workshop to be held at Bonsai NW
following the PSBA Board of Directors meeting**

**Dave DeGroot demonstration—he will be
continue to work on the azalea he has designed .**

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