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# EUGENE BONSAI SOCIETY

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Society website: [www.eugenebonsai.org](http://www.eugenebonsai.org)

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## Monthly Meeting

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- No December Meeting -
- No January Meeting -

## Details

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When: 6:30pm - Help Table  
7:00pm - Meeting

Where: Eugene Garden Club  
1645 High St.

Parking: Limited space is available across the street. Please don't park in the spaces beside the Garden Club building.

## Officers

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President - RaeAnn Chamberlin

Vice President - Tom Fincel

Secretary - Kelly Edmondson

Treasurer - Dean Burkhart

Directors - Richard Johnston,  
Brian Paterson, Sam Rogers

Webmaster - Adam Fleischer

Exhibit Co-Chairs - Bruce Pratt, Bill Elliot

Newsletter - Adam Fleischer



## Message from the Editor

This month's issue of the newsletter will be on the brief side, but does include important 2016 Workshop details that should allow you to start making plans.

Also in this edition is an article highlighting Society Member Tony Meyer. For those of you who were not able to attend November's meeting, Tony has had one of his trees accepted in the venerable Pacific Bonsai Museum (formerly known as Weyerhaeuser's Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection).

I hope you enjoy learning about Mr. Meyer and his tree as much as I did!

Last but not least, I wanted to pass along my personal thanks to all the Members who brought trees to the Second Annual EBS internal Exhibition and to all those who helped organize the event as well as those who provided feedback. I think everyone in attendance learned a great deal that night!

Happy Holidays, and see you at the February Meeting!

-Adam



## Asian Celebration

When: February 20th & 21st  
 Where: Lane County Events Center  
 Hours: 10am to 7pm (Saturday)  
 10am to 6pm (Sunday)

It may be December, but February will be here before you know it! The Eugene Asian Celebration is our best opportunity to interact with the public and to increase awareness and appreciation for bonsai.

Each year, the EBS sets up several tables to highlight member trees. We also call on volunteers to help set up before hand, tear down afterward, and sit at the tables during the Celebration to answer questions.

If you are interested in helping out this year or think you might want to showcase one of your trees, please get in contact with Bruce Pratt at:

[mcriverrat@msn.com](mailto:mcriverrat@msn.com)

## 2016 Workshops Finalized!

The club has scheduled 3 workshops with 3 different bonsai teachers this spring for your benefit and bonsai education.

The first is set for [Sunday, February 28th with Alan Taft](#) of Portland. This is a BYOT event (Bring Your Own Tree), all species are welcome. It will be held at the EPUD meeting room at 33733 Seavey Loop Road, and will run from 9 am to 4 pm. Cost is only \$60 for the full day. 8 participants. Bring trees, wire, tools, pots, soil, and any other supplies you may need. The club's wire collection will be available for your use for an extra \$15. This workshop is being tailored for people at the beginner or intermediate bonsai level.

The second workshop is on [Sunday, March 13th with Lee Cheatle](#) of Portland. This is a bring your own trees event, any species. It will be at EPUD and will run from 9 am to 4 pm. Bring trees, wire, tools, pots, soil, and any other supplies you may need. The club's wire collection will be available for your use for an extra \$15. The cost is \$60 for the full day. 8 participants. Beginner and intermediate level students are welcome.

These first two workshops in February and March will be a great time to get help with repotting a tree if that is something you would need to do. Make sure you bring all of the soil components that you would need, as well as screen and pots.

For our third class, we are very happy to announce that we have been able to schedule [Michael Hagedorn for Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>](#). Michael has apprenticed in Japan and has prepared trees for the top Japanese bonsai shows. He is widely known the world over as a premier bonsai artist and teacher. At this class, 7 participants will have the opportunity to do some seriously good bonsai work on their trees. It will be at EPUD and will run from 9 am to 4 pm. The cost is only \$110 for the full day. Bring your own trees and all of the supplies you may need. Don't miss this one!

Payment for the workshops is due by the end of the monthly club meeting prior to the workshop. Checks should be made out to the Eugene Bonsai Society, and mailed or given to Treasurer Dean Burkhart.

Observers are welcome and encouraged to attend all of these workshops at no charge. They are a great opportunity to see and learn how bonsai are grown and styled. If you have any questions, or to sign up for any of these workshops, please contact Tom Fincel at [FincelsNW@aol.com](mailto:FincelsNW@aol.com).

Don't miss these great opportunities to work on your trees with such knowledgeable teachers at such reasonable prices!



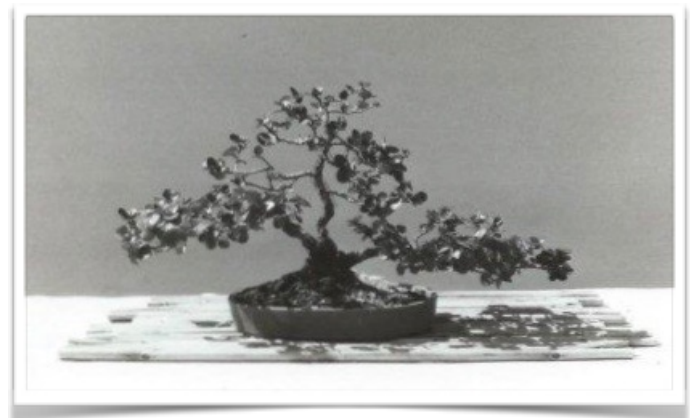
Tony Meyer (left) donates carissa grandiflora bonsai to Pacific Bonsai Museum curator Dave De Groot

-Photo by Joan M. Claffey

### ***In the Beginning***

It is important to remember that bonsai is a living art and as such, the art can change. Sometimes the change comes from the vision of the artist, other times the change comes as a necessity to save the tree's health. In either event, a bonsai's story is ever unfolding. This is something Tony Meyer has experienced with a very special Natal Plum.

This bonsai was started in approximately 1965 as a triple-trunk upright style from cuttings or seedlings by Muriel Leeds with Yuji Yoshimura as instructor. The photograph at right shows its condition, as it appeared in the catalog of the "Public Bonsai Auction of the Muriel R. Leeds Bonsai Collection" by The National Bonsai Foundation Inc., in March 14, 1987.



The Natal Plum as pictured in 1987 -Photographer unknown

Tony Meyer purchased the bonsai at this auction.

### ***A tree reborn***

In September, 1987 Meyer moved overseas for two years, leaving the bonsai in the care of a gardener friend. The friend suffered personal difficulty, and the tree was neglected. In 1989, when Meyer returned, the left trunk as pictured above had to be removed, and the survival of the bonsai was in question. Dan Chiplus, then Deputy

Curator of the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum in Washington D.C., assisted Meyer in nursing the bonsai back to health. Meyer and Chiplis brought the right trunk down over the edge of the pot to form the cascading trunk in the design as pictured below (photos by Joan Claffey). In 1991, Nick Lenz created the cobalt blue container for the



bonsai in its new design. Meyer named the bonsai “Perfect Offering” because of a plum held forward on its cascading branch as if in an open hand. When Yuji Yoshimura visited Meyer in about 1992, he commented about the transformation: “Much better, much better.”

Tony Meyer is currently a member of the Eugene Bonsai Society in Eugene, Oregon where he resides with his wife, Joan Claffey. Tony has also been a member of the Brookside Bonsai Society of the Potomac Bonsai Association, in Chevy Chase, Maryland, since 1980.

Species:	Natal Plum ( <i>Carissa grandiflora</i> ): “Perfect Offering”
Age:	Approx. 52 yrs. Training: approx.. 49 yrs.
History:	Started as a triple trunk upright from cuttings or seedlings circa 1965 by Muriel Leeds with Yuji Yoshimura as instructor. Redesigned as twin trunk cascade in 1989 by Tony Meyer and Dan Chiplis.
Description:	Foliage is dark green; white flowers and deep purple plums are seasonal.
Pot:	Designed by Nick Lenz in 1991 the pot is cobalt blue with an 8” diameter top, 4.5” diameter bottom, and 5” high.