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**FORMER WEYERHAEUSER BONSAI COLLECTION CELEBRATES 25 YEARS;
WELCOMES NEW STAFF**

October 7, 2014 – FEDERAL WAY, WASH. – For the past 25 years, the Pacific Bonsai Museum (formerly the Weyerhaeuser Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection) has been home to world-class bonsai originating from around the globe. The Pacific Bonsai Museum is a hidden treasure that celebrates bonsai as a fine art. As the museum celebrates its 25th anniversary, the PBM is proud to announce the addition of two new staff members. Kathy McCabe joins as executive director and Aarin Packard joins as curator, succeeding Dave De Groot. De Groot is retiring this year after serving as the founding curator dating back to the museum's opening in 1989.



Kathy McCabe comes to PBM from the Cascade Bicycle Club where she served as deputy director for three years. Kathy's diverse background has a common thread of leading mission-driven organizations. Passionate about community building, arts, education and health, her background extends beyond CBC, including roles as executive director at Highline Schools Foundation and manager of regional services for Seattle Children's Hospital.

Kathy holds a BA in public administration from Miami University and an MHA from Arizona State University School of Business and serves on the board of Pronto Cycle Share.



Aarin Packard, a California native, was first introduced to bonsai by his father at a very young age. In high school he began studying bonsai with his close friends as a hobby which he continued throughout his academic studies.

Aarin graduated from California State University Fullerton where he majored in Anthropology. He then received a Master's degree in Museum Studies from The George Washington University in Washington D.C. While in grad school, Aarin worked for the Institute of Museum and Library Services as well as the Botany Department at the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution.

After graduating from G.W. in 2006, Aarin was hired as the Assistant Curator of The National Bonsai and Penjing at The U.S. National Arboretum. In addition to caring for the Museum's bonsai collections for the last 8 years, Aarin has had the opportunity to study bonsai with numerous teachers in the U.S. as well as Japan.

Aarin is moving to Federal Way with his wife Emily, and young son Ethan. Aarin and Emily are expecting a new addition to the family this spring.

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“Kathy and Aarin bring such a wealth of collective talents that will really benefit the future of the Pacific Bonsai Museum,” said Kit Severson, board chair. “They both have big ideas and creative vision that will make PBM a destination for a wide range of audiences.”

ABOUT PACIFIC BONSAI MUSEUM

The Pacific Bonsai Museum features outstanding bonsai from the Pacific Rim nations of Canada, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and the United States.

Weyerhaeuser Company opened the Collection in 1989, in conjunction with the Washington State Centennial celebration. The Collection was established to symbolize Weyerhaeuser’s long-term commitments to its customers, its community, and its forest resources. At the end of 2013 the corporation gifted the entire collection to a new non-profit, The George Weyerhaeuser Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection, now known as the Pacific Bonsai Museum.

There are currently about 100 trees in the Collection, about 60 of which are on display in the viewing area, while the others are held in reserve in a “growing area” that is not open to the public. Trees are periodically rotated between the growing area and display area in order to add variety and seasonal interest to the exhibit. Many of the trees are well-known to those familiar with the art, having been featured in books or magazines. Several of the trees have won awards for quality and many are the work of nationally or internationally famous artists. All have been nurtured with care and patience by skilled hands.

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