



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

...to disseminate knowledge, encourage others
and create interest in the art of bonsai

August 2007 Newsletter

Summertime...

Is time for the
Gathering of The Faithful at the:

Grealish Farm

(The Annual PBS Picnic and Flea Market)!!!

WildestDream Dept: Think about what you'd like to sell, daydream about the ideal tree to buy, confiscate the vacation money and come on out! Bob & Rose Grealish have a truly wonderful country location, where you can drool at a truly superior bonsai collection, horsetrade with your fellow PBS members and pick up tips and trees. Not to mention munchies and a swimming pool.

The directions are enclosed. See you on August 18th, 2007, from 10 am "on"

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Please check our website: <http://pittsburghbonsai.org>

This Year's Spring Show "A Message From Our President"

I wish to thank everyone who helped with the Spring Show. Several of you were there all three days and we could not do the show with out that type of commitment from our membership.

It was great that we had people for set up as well as tear down and in between. Again thank you for your help.

Those of you who could not attend you missed out on seeing outstanding trees on display, and there were

many very nice sale plants being sold. I think someone spent their entire IRS refund check.

I feel that the show was a success, but the membership needs to decide if this show is for us, or do we want as many people to view our trees as possible. If we want more people to view our plants we need to find a location that has a very high volume of people there all the time. Any ideas please let me know. Also the show for next year needs someone in charge, any volunteers?

Bob Dietz



Some Photos From:

Our Ohio Road Trip!



Dawes Arboretum



More Dawes Arboretum Photos



**Celebrate Summer at our Bonsai Flea Market & Picnic
Saturday, August 18th, 2007**

10 am "On"

The Grealish Farm

This is a great opportunity to buy, sell or trade bonsai trees, training stock, tools, pots, soil, wire and countless other bonsai - related items.

Bring chairs, a bathing suit and a table & the \$5.00 fee if you want to sell stuff.

Ample parking, snacks and beverages will be available. However, please feel free to bring something to share with your friends, old and new.

**Bob & Rose Grealish's House:
39 Henry Road, Tarentum, Pa.
Phone: 724 265-4535**



Directions

From Pittsburgh:

Route 28 North to the Cheswick Exit. At end of ramp, turn right and go to the first stop sign. Turn right on Russelton Road (at Bocheck's Auto Repair). Go 7.4 miles, through Rural Ridge and Russelton and past the Red Belt sign There will be a sharp left bend and go across a small bridge to the stop sign. Turn right on Saxonburg Blvd. (There's a Culmerville gas station across the street.) Go 1 mile to Henry Road (small green sign on left, easy to miss!). Turn left and go 1 mile to the brick farmhouse on the right. 39 Henry Road sign on house, mailbox across from driveway, driveway past house.

From Route 8:

Go east on Bakerstown Road (Red Belt) to Saxonburg Blvd (Culmerville gas station on right). Turn left on Saxonburg Blvd and go 1 mile to Henry Road (small gree sign on left, easy to miss!) Turn left and go 1 mile to the brick farmhouse on the right. 39 Henry Road sign on house; mailbox across from driveway, driveway past house.





Mike's Corner

Tips and Suggestions from Mike Stern

“Shaping An In Ground Tree”

As the tree grows, anticipate what shape the tree will have. If you have young young trees that are flexible consider bending and wiring them when they are young to establish the trunk with movement. Small bends on a thin tree will not be very noticeable when it ages. Put large distinct bends in the tree. Left and right front and back. Think in 3 dimensions. Do not leave the wire on too long as the tree will quickly grow around the wire. Keep an eye on it. If the tree already has a thick unbendable trunk, anticipate where you would like branches. Since trees tend to form dominant leaders lower branches can get shaded out and weakened. A lower branch that you anticipated as a side branch may die back or get shaded out as the top grows.

Since most branches will tend to want to grow vertical bend them down when flexible enough to bend. (Do not bend them when they are green and fragile.) Establishing horizontal or drooping branches early in the process will be well worth it when you dig the tree out of the garden. If you merely let them grow wild you will have vertical growth, fewer low branches, less fine branching, and fewer options.

One of the strategies that I use is to bend the leader down to the ground (if it is flexible enough). When this is done a deciduous tree is likely to push out dormant buds at the bend which is now the new top of the tree. This will then become the new leader. The original leader now becomes a horizontal, drooping side branch or a sacrifice branch to be pruned later. On a pine, the branch at the new top will become the new leader in time.

The more branches that you can retain the thicker the trunk. However, there are times that you will have to prune branches or bottom branches become shaded and weak. Also some of the fine branches may become too thick.

If you let the tree grow wild with no shaping you will have a fat trunk. However, the branching may be disappointing. I want to be able to dig the tree out of the ground and have numerous choices of lateral branches. I want to place it in a pot without having to wait years for side branching to develop.

More to come in the next installment.





Pittsburgh Bonsai Society
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Calendar of Events



- August 18.....Sat. 10 am-“on”....Annual Picnic & Flea Market The Grealish Farm**
- September 19.....Wed. 7pm“Phoenix Graft” Demonstration: Phipps Garden Center**
- October 17.....Wed. 7pm“Hands-On Workshop BYOT” Phipps Garden Center**
- November 14.....Wed. 7pm“Winter Care” and Elections Phipps Garden Center**

All PBS meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Phipps Garden Center, starting at 7:00pm.
Emergency Phone: 412 441-4442.

Phipps Garden Center is located at the edge of Mellon Park in the Shadyside section of Pittsburgh. At the Phipps Garden Center sign on Shady Avenue, just south of the intersection of Fifth and Shady Avenues, turn into the cobblestone driveway. Park in the metered lot. Walk 50 yards farther down the cobblestone lane. The Garden Center is the red brick building on your left.