



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society

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

August 2010 Newsletter

NEXT EVENT

Celebrate Summer!

The Annual PBS Picnic And Flea Market

At The Grealish Farm

Saturday, August 21, 2010 Starting at 11am



Look at your bonsai collection, think about what you'd like to sell. Then daydream about what you really want to buy, raid the piggybank and come on out! Bob & Rose Grealish have an idyllic country location, where you can admire superior bonsai, horsetrade with your fellow PBS members and pick up tips and trees. Not to mention munchies and a swimming pool. Bring chairs, a table if you want to sell stuff, plus the customary \$10.00 PBS table fee and something delicious to share with old and new bonsai friends. (a tithe for the President in the form of a brownie is always appreciated!) The Society provides snacks and soft drinks.

The directions are enclosed on pages 3 & 4. See you on August 21st!

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



The Pittsburgh Bonsai Society Newsletter

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Published periodically (10 issues a year) by PBS for members and other bonsai enthusiasts. It's our sixth decade of advancing the art of bonsai in the Tri-State area.

Deadlines:
Generally one month prior to issue date

Submissions:
Please submit Photos or Artwork in JPG format and Copy in Microsoft Word.

A Note From Bob:

It certainly has been hot, hasn't it? Trees are in their summer slow period, so I think it's a good time to do some carving, wiring and refining. I find I've spent a lot of time this year pruning trees over and over and getting them into decent shape for the reception we had on the 4th of July; but looking at them again there are many could be refined. Decent shape is one thing, but with a little wiring, carving and some more pruning, they could be a lot nicer.

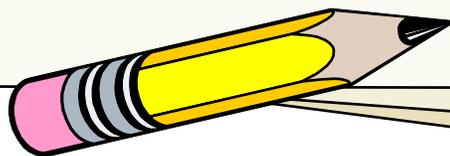


photo by Doreena Balestreire

Many of the foliage masses have grown together and could use some space. There are branches that could be moved and given shape that I've just been putting off for years. Some of those pines need to be completely wired so that the branches harmonize with each one another. Some of those stumps need to be carved. To me, this is the kind of work that bonsai is all about. I spend years working on some trees developing branches, buttresses, tops, ramification, etc., and then it's time to work with the tree to turn them into a real bonsai.

In many cases I've been thinking about the tree for years, and now it's time to 'do' bonsai without thinking. When I take the time to set a tree on the table in front of me and focus on it, I'm often surprised how obvious styling solutions are. I think we are often ambivalent about our trees. Should it be upright or leaning? Should this branch come off? Which one of these tops should come off? Then suddenly, when we sit down WITH the tree and clear our mind of conflicts, rules and values, it all becomes obvious. The decisions, which were often arbitrary to begin with, become clear. And the fun begins

Bob Grealish



For your Bonsai supplies support

the store that exists for the society



Bonsai In The Burgh

724-348-4771

Pots, wire, tools, soil, plants



The Beharys "Our Story"

We are Regina and Russell Behary from Clairton. I consider myself to be the gardener and Russell will tell you he is the manual labor force.

Round about 25 years ago I realized that I didn't have enough room on our city lot to plant all the specimen trees I would have liked. I decided to try those "little trees" in pots. We went Hechinger's and purchased a mugo pine in a gallon pot, and a Sunset Book on Bonsai. Before the mugo died in a year or so, I added a "San Jose" juniper which continues to thrive.

I worked on my own until about 1990 when I realized I needed help to progress in the art. I dragged family members to a couple of weekend events and in 1993. I took my juniper to Phipps Conservatory to be critiqued. With some encouraging comments from Keith Scott, I was spurred to continue on. In the next few years we joined the Society and started attending the Tuesday evening sessions at the Swissvale library and later at Keith's home.

The last two summers I have been working on my own once again, putting to use all I have learned. I am measuring and cataloging the trees in my small collection and deciding what type trays each should be planted into when the right time comes around. Russell, hopefully, will be building a bench or two,

During the last 15 years we have had great times with the many talented people of the Society. The members are a reliable source of information on all aspects of this ancient art, willing to share their knowledge at any time. We both look forward to many more years as members of this wonderful organization.



photos by Regina and Russell Behary

Road Trip Report

By Jay Miller

On Saturday July 10 th, a light crowd, (actually Dave Steidl, Frank Dileo, Carole & Jim Harland and Jay Miller) arrived at Dave Ruffaner's Karamatsu-en Nursery in Worthington, PA. Beverages and treats revived those who braved Route 28. Dave's nursery is located in a protective glen; dappled sunlight shown over Dave's permanent poly houses, the in-ground bonsai and display benches. Both pines and larches as well as Japanese maples seem to thrive in this location. But Garmin doesn't. Armand Latour and Dave Metzgar were later rumored to be in Ebensburg!

A leisurely drive up Rt 422, past the Great Butler Fair found us at Mike Stern's. Mike's growing area is bathed in direct sunlight, both in-ground and display areas. His collection is eclectic, with more

unusual deciduous trees, raised from seeds, Stupka clones and cuttings plus air layerings. A delicious lunch punctuated with bonsai tips and techniques softened the

news that Joe Stupka had to bow out of a tour, citing family reunion scheduling.

Both Dave and Mike indicated they will host another Road Trip, with a longer notice to Society members. When the news comes, don't make any other plans. It's a nice trip, great trees and great prices.

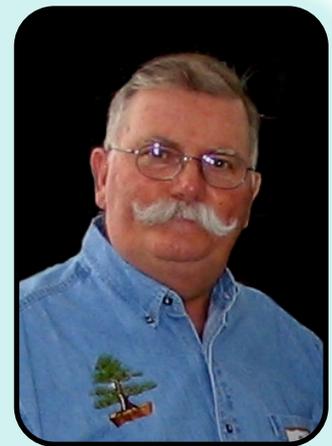


Photo by Cindie Bonomi

2010 US National Bonsai Exhibition

By Karen Eckley



photo by Cindie Bonomi

Dick and I attended the National Exhibition in Rochester, N.Y. this past weekend, and what a treat it was! An old friend of PBS, Bill Valavanis, despite a broken foot, did great job of organizing the event, which is held every two years.

There were 226 selected bonsai exhibited, from 27 states, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

The Satsuki azaleas were (surprisingly) in full bloom, and an apple tree from Michigan sported a life sized apple.

Along with the usual trees like larch, pine, Hinoki, maple and juniper, were a dwarf jade (2 ½ ft, a “Too Little Fig” from Florida, a couple of stately bald cypress, a “Limber Pine” from Oregon, a Banyan, and many Shohin compositions which were displayed fetchingly. Many trees had Japanese scroll paintings behind them, and the tables and companion plants were each unique. A Japanese artist painted and sold her creations as a kind of demo.

Unfortunately, photographs were not allowed of the show trees, but a memorial album could be purchased for \$50.

Like our annual Spring Show, there were items for sale. These included homemade pots, slices of wood on which to place a tree, (some with lace-like carved perimeters that sold for hundreds and thousands of dollars), and viewing stones which evoked a sense of quiet peace.

We noted the prices of bonsai-able material (like larch seedlings 4” going for \$20 all the way up to finished trees which sold from \$120 to \$4,700. In general, much pricier than what we sell.

The highlight of the Exhibit for us was the demo on Sunday. A 3 ½ ft. prostrate juniper was worked on by the Japanese master Kunio Kobayashi, who has 70 apprentices in Japan and a museum.

We had a front row seat and were mesmerized for the next 2 ½ hours. He pushed, pulled and often held 3 tools in one hand, using them almost simultaneously to complete a work of art that promptly sold for \$600. We would have liked to have been the buyer!

Before our eyes that “bush” had been transformed into a living sculpture.

It was a wonderful weekend for us. To be among Bonsai, whether it be in Japan, Rochester, or at our own Spring Show, fascinates and inspires us.

Our next Bonsai venture will again be in Rochester: The 2010 North American Bonsai Symposium will be held Sept 10-12. It is a weekend of workshops, critiques, dynamic demos, and bonsai fellowship. Workshop trees are Larch, Juniper, Buttonwood, Cedar, Pitch Pine, and Bald Cypress. For more info contact me at katanee@yahoo.com



photo “I think” from Karen or Dick’s cell



Pittsburgh Bonsai Society
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2010 Calendar of Events

Aug 21.....Sat11amPicnic at the Grealish Farm
Sep 15.....Wed.....7pm.....Horticultural Topic
Oct 20.....Wed.....7pm Kelly Adkins Demo & Workshop
Nov 17.....Wed.....7pm.....Bob Grealish: Zen & Bonsai
Dec 15.....Wed.....6:30pm.....Annual Holiday Party



All events, unless otherwise noted, will be held at the Phipps Garden Center, starting at 7:00pm.

Other Announcements: Sep 30 Oct 3, 2010 International Stone Appreciation Symposium
Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey, Grantville, PA
Web: <http://www.StoneShow2010.com/registration.html>
Email: StoneShow2010@aol.com
Glenn Reusch 540 672-5699 or Sean Smith 717 957-4172